

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) January 21, 2012 – March 20, 2012

Prepared for April 11, 2012 Commission meeting
by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian.

This report represents accomplishments of MTBL staff: Bickel, Briggs,
Gunderson, Landry, Meier and Stanton and 90 volunteers.

Goal One – Content – *Montana State Library (MSL)/MTBL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

The following recording projects were completed during this reporting period:

2 magazine issues each of- **Montana The Magazine of Western History** and **Montana Outdoors**.

2 books -- **Montana Women Homesteaders: A Field of One's Own** by Sarah Carter and **Here Rolled the Covered Wagons: An Historical Tour of the Northwest** by Albert and Jill Salisbury.

A total of 544 book pages were recorded in the MTBL Recording Program.

Goal Two—Access – *MSL/MTBL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.*

Sixty-six new patrons registered for MTBL services during this reporting time period.

Circulation Manager, Carolyn Meier, directed the mailing of 22,577 audio books and magazines to patrons, including a return of 19,018 audio books, for an overall total of 41,545 audio books and other materials processed during this time period.

This included Machine Lending Agent Claudia Bickel's supervision of distributing, receiving, repairing and cleaning of 411 processed players and accessories.

The Collection weeding process received NLS approval to return 6,368 cassette book copies for recycling. Additionally, over 6,000 cassette book copies have been listed for the March Xess process and will be awaiting approval for recycling.

A total of 1,287 new digital copies were received into the collection during this reporting time period.

BARD book and magazine downloads by individuals and institutions totaled 2,125 for the months of January and February. There were 85 BARD digital books "downloaded on demand" by staff for non-BARD patron reserves. There are currently 25,232 NLS-produced titles in BARD and 11,082 NLS-produced Braille titles in Web-Braille. A priority for NLS in 2012 is to combine Web-Braille services in to the BARD web-site to offer a "one-stop" website for patrons.

The "Bits of Gold" Newsletter Winter issue was distributed to patrons in March:
http://msl.mt.gov/Talking_Book_Library/archive/1_WINTER_BG_Vol_111_2.pdf

Goal Three—Consultation and Leadership – *MSL/MTBL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.*

The MTBL Supervisor was actively involved in working with CMS, an MSL contractor, to offer leadership in finalizing MSL's LSTA Five Year Evaluation for the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

MTBL Supervisor attended a Chief Officers of State Library Agencies' sponsored Loblolly planning meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, in February. The meeting focused on feasibility of an open-source software system for all Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Orientation of MTBL services was offered to two new MSL employees and one new MSL Library Commissioner.

The National Library Service (NLS) announced the appointment of Karen Keninger as the new Executive Director of NLS, starting at the end of March, 2012.

A total of 296 MTBL brochures, applications and related materials were requested and mailed to individuals, various institutions, schools and public libraries during this time period.

Goal Four—Collaboration – *MSL/MTBL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.*

One new volunteer signed up with MTBL: Cheryl Smith, Clerical/Filing in LISD.

In February, MTBL Supervisor collaborated with Exploration Works Education Director to provide vision simulator cards and Braille materials for the "Oh Eye See Vision Works!" exhibit and weekly student classes in Helena.

In January, Christie Briggs, MTBL Supervisor, and Diane Gunderson, Coordinator of MSL Volunteers, were guests on "Community Pulse", an HCTV program for Helena residents. Information about the Montana Talking Book Library and its Volunteer Program was shared. This aired the last week of January, the first week of February. Due to public relevancy, HCTV agreed to air this piece intermittently on an ongoing basis.

An Outreach presentation was made in February to thirty-five Helena members of the National Organization of Retired Federal Employees (NORFE).

Outreach postcards were mailed to University and College Student Disability Service offices in February to update them on new digital services.

Readers' Advisors Claudia Bickel, Martin Landry and Sandra Stanton gave a presentation on digital library services to the Montana Association for the Blind's (MAB) Capital City Chapter (Helena) in February.

Goal Five— Sustainable Success – *MSL/MTBL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer; it is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes), and successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.*

Diane Gunderson marked her twenty-fifth Anniversary in state government on February 17th. She started in the Montana State Law Library in 1987, was hired at the Montana State Library in 1989 and hired in the Montana Talking Book Library in 2002. Diane's contributions to MSL and MTBL services are deeply appreciated.

Claudia Bickel marked her first Anniversary at the Montana Talking Book Library on February 3rd as a new Readers' Advisor and Machine Lending Agent. She is doing an outstanding job in both areas.

Martin Landry, Readers' Advisor since April, 2010, recently received the "Julie Klauber Award" from Keystone Systems, Inc., for outstanding service to MTBL and our Montana patrons. As this year's winner, Martin receives a trip to the April, 2012, KLAS Users Conference in Columbia, South Carolina, courtesy of Keystone. A job well done!