



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian, and staff
Subject: Talking Books Policy Review
Date: September 11, 2023

The following policy recommendations are presented for Commission action.

22-1-103 (6) Montana Code Annotated authorizes the State Library Commission to provide library services for the blind and for individuals with physical disabilities. For more than fifty years, the Montana State Library has served as a regional library of the National Library Services (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled of the Library of Congress. In April 2022, the Commission adopted a contract for service model to provide Talking Book services to qualifying Montanans. Since July 2022, the MSL has contracted with the Utah State Library for services including Readers Advisors as well as machine and book lending. The contract meets the service requirements of the NLS. Therefore, it is no longer necessary for MSL to maintain separate lending policies outside the scope of the contract.

Staff recommends that the Commission rescind the following Montana Talking Book policies:

- [Digital Loan Policy for the Montana Talking Book Library](#)
- [Montana Talking Book Library – Loan Policy](#)
- [Montana Talking Book Library – BARD Policy](#)

After receiving no additional comments, staff recommends the Commission adopt the Montana Talking Books Institution Policy as presented in August.