

MEMO

To: Karen Strege, State Librarian **To:** State Library Commission
From: Darlene Staffeldt, Statewide Library Resources Director **From:** Karen Strege, State Librarian
Re: Interlibrary loan clerk payments to the University of Montana and Montana State University.
Date: January 26, 1999

Since the late 1970s, the State Library has given \$3500 to the Renne Library and \$3500 to the Mansfield Library to help fund interlibrary loan activities. This program was first funded by Federal LSCA monies and then by Coal Severance Tax.

The State Library is reviewing all its activities to determine if we are using our resources to meet our goals of becoming 1) the information center for state employees, 2) a catalyst for developing excellent public libraries, and 3) encouraging the development and maintenance of resource-sharing systems among all Montana=s libraries. When we reviewed this expenditure, we determined that the circumstances promoting its original distribution have changed. The State Library originally intended to help pay for a clerical ILL position in recognition that both Renne and Mansfield libraries were the only net lenders in the state. Although the University libraries still play a critical role in delivery of interlibrary loan services in Montana, other libraries now play equally key roles. These payments were also started before the Legislature allocated funds to support the interlibrary loan program in Montana.

Therefore, because the circumstances surrounding this expenditure have changed, the State Library would like to reexamine these payments. We believe that the funds should be used 1) to purchase a statewide membership in Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR), which would allow the Montana libraries to qualify for many discounts and cost effective group cooperative purchases or 2) be redistributed to the three largest lenders - Renne Library, Mansfield Library, and Parmly Billings Library.

I would like the Commission to consider this potential change for FY 2000. We have written to the Deans of both University libraries to alert them of this potential change. Enclosed with this memo you will find their responses. I would ask that the Commission take one of the following action steps:

1. Reaffirm that the State Library should continue to pay the two universities the \$3500 for their support of the Montana interlibrary loan system. OR

2. Direct the State Library to discontinue this expenditure to the universities and further direct the State Library to pursue a statewide membership with BCR. OR

3. Direct the State Library to discontinue this expenditure to the universities and further direct the State Library to redistribute these monies to the three largest lenders: Renne, Mansfield, and Parmly Billings Library.