

State Library Commission Meeting

**December 9, 1998
Helena, Montana**

Attendees: Dorothy Laird, Mike Schulz, Cheri Bergeron, David Johnson, Hal Stearns, Mary Doggett, Rosemary Garvey

Guests: Debbie Schlesinger, Janice Bradley, Bruce Newell, Betsy Allen

Staff: Karen Strege, Darlene Staffeldt, Amanda Christen, Kris Schmitz, Bob Cooper, Sue Jackson, Jim Stimson, Suzy Holt, Sue Crispin

Introductions and Announcements

Darlene Staffeldt introduced Bob Cooper as the new statewide technology librarian. Additionally, Suzy Holt has been hired as a supervisor in the Library and Information Science Department.

Minutes Adoption

Mary Doggett moved to accept the minutes as presented. Cheri Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

State Librarian's Report

Karen Strege reported that the State Library hosted an education summit meeting. The outcomes were to divide into smaller groups to explore cooperative ventures and to meet again. Mike Schulz has offered to help with these meetings during the session, since Strege's schedule will be full during that time.

In October the application for the Gates Foundation grant was turned in, but there has been no further news. Strege has been invited to Seattle in January to meet with the Gates foundation.

Strege attended the Western Council of State Librarians meeting in Hawaii in November. The Council will meet in Big Sky, Montana, on June 12. Strege reported that the State Librarians of the WLN states met via teleconference, regarding the WLN merger. The group suggested a two-entity structure and will negotiate with WLN/OCLC to see if such a network could be brought forth with this merger.

Strege reminded members that the previous legislature had considered mandatory filtering. She predicted that more legislation will be forthcoming to require all school

libraries, and perhaps, public libraries to install filtering software on computers that offer Internet access. Strege requested that the commission direct her to work actively against any legislation that has to do with these items, as this ties into the issue of local control.

Stimson reported that the GIS manager recruitment effort has been extended for another 60 days, with focus on areas outside of Montana in hopes of attracting fully qualified applicants. The NRIS systems administrator has not yet been filled, either, and will be left vacant for approximately six more months before another earnest attempt to recruit is made.

Sue Crispin and Duane Anderson are contacting other agencies for feedback and ideas upon which NRIS services can be improved. Additionally, a meeting with DEQ director Marc Simonich went well, with positive feedback from him and his administrators. More meetings will be forthcoming with other agencies, as well, to establish contacts with the new leadership in NRIS.

LSTA

Jackson reported that the new Sheridan Library is almost complete, but had problems with the carpeting and poor lighting in some areas. The open house is scheduled for February 7. Title II funds are still being held for the Dillon Library, while they negotiate changes and expenses with the contractor.

All agreements for LSTA connectivity must be in place by January 15, 1999. Dillon is the only library in Phase 1 without an agreement, and they were hoping to have it in place by the end of their building project. Approximately five libraries in the state do not have access or plans to obtain access. Of the 14 libraries invited to participate in Phase 2, nine have declined to participate. Agreements have been sent to the other five. By January 15, all agreements should be in place.

E Rate

Magi Malone reported that discounts have been coming out in waves. The Stanford and Polson libraries received discounts in the first wave, but only schools were part of the second wave. It's difficult to determine how libraries were selected and to predict which libraries will be next. MSL is encouraging libraries to fill out the paperwork for fiscal year 2000, even though they have yet to see discounts from the previous year's paperwork.

FY 1999 Projects

Strege reported that the Advisory Council has made a recommendation that the commission spend most of the LSTA money to support the Montana Library Network, and highlighted some minor changes made since the first time the proposal came before the commission. Strege noted that all figures were estimates only, and that the Networking task force has recommended approval of the project, as well.

Bruce Newell reported on a related proposal that has been submitted to Senator Burns' office requesting additional funds for this project. The proposal requested \$36 million over a five-year period. The project included a variety of things, included access catalogs, linking regional libraries with a data communications protocol, magazine indexes, access to Montana laws, etc.

Review of Commission Policies and Bylaws

Strege reported that the policies distributed previously were part of the subcommittee's work and schedule for action, which was approved by the commission. Strege recommended that all five policies should be repealed, as they are either outdated or covered elsewhere.

Staffeldt summarized the two policies being considered for adoption, regarding library federations and depository libraries. A Talking Books Library circulation policy was presented for reading, and action will be taken at the next meeting.

Networking Task Force

Strege reminded members that the task force recommended \$1000 be spent to form and reimburse a committee to evaluate the last copy fiction pool. Strege summarized the report and the committee's evaluation, and recommended the commission cease funding for the pool, and relegate ownership to the Parmly Billings Library, as well as thank Parmly and staff for their years of service to the state.

The commission thanked the subcommittee for their work and evaluation of the pool.

Request to Senator Burns' Office

Strege and Newell met with Burns' field representative, Betsy Allen, who encouraged MSL to submit a proposal to Burns' office to fund the network that has already been proposed. Concurrently, Bill Cochran was encouraged by Dwight McCay to do the same thing. Newell and Cochran developed the proposal on Strege's behalf, and included a breakdown of priorities over the 5-year plan, with costs.

Betsy Allen noted that January, February, and March will be important months in the federal legislature, in that the offices will start prioritizing requests from Montana.

Public Library Standards

Strege asked the commission to take action on these standards that have been presented and discussed previously. Strege recommended that the commission adopt the document as presented, and understand that MSL staff will continue to make the document more "user friendly" and educational. Strege further recommended that the commission make a subset of standards mandatory in order

for libraries to receive state funding, with an effective date of 2001. Strege requested the commission direct MSL staff to draft rules needed for implementation, should the standards be voted mandatory, and finally, to direct the LDD staff to help libraries meet those standards.

Strege also recommended that the commission thank the parties who were instrumental in developing the standards, and to direct the Law Revision Task Force to study the distribution of state aid, and make any legislation suggestions in time for introduction to the 2001 legislature.

Meeting Dates

Strege explained that the meeting dates were based on meeting the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of August, which is the third Wednesday due to conflict with a convention.

Mary Doggett moved to accept the proposed meeting dates. Members discussed whether to have out of town meetings, and possible locations. Janice Bradley extended an invitation for the commission to meet in Lewistown. The commission accepted the invitation, and MSL will work with Bradley to determine which meeting will be held in Lewistown. Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Election of Officers

Doggett and Laird were both nominated for Chair, and both declined.

Mike Schulz was nominated for Chair, and the motion was seconded by Bergeron. The motion carried unanimously.

Nomination opened for Vice-Chair, and Bergeron nominated Mary Doggett. No further nominations were received, and the motion carried unanimously.

Federation Narrative Reports

Staffeldt summarized the narrative reports and recommended acceptance by the commission.

Bergeron moved to accept South Central's narrative report, and Johnson seconded the motion. After discussion, it was decided to accept all reports simultaneously. Bergeron withdrew the motion, and Johnson withdrew the second.

Bergeron moved to accept all of the federations' narrative reports. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Federation Reports

Bradley reported that the coordinators did not meet as a group prior to the commission meeting, in part due to travel schedules. In addition, the agenda did not seem to warrant travel this time, and as representative, Bradley encouraged them to travel to Helena for Legislative Day on January 15.

Bradley distributed a report, composed of reports from each federation on their activities. Bradley reported that the federation coordinators requested adding the trustees, as well as the coordinators, to facilitate telephone contact with trustees.

Discussion followed regarding the purpose of federation coordinator meetings, and how those meetings' purpose mesh with those of the commission.

Montana Committee for the Humanities

Laird introduced Mark Sherouse, director of the MCH, who came to discuss the new Center for the Book.

Sherouse noted a number of links between the MCH and the MSL, including founding members. Sherouse gave some background on MCH, and noted that in November, MCH was designated as the Center for the Book. Sherouse distributed a copy of the proposal, which convey the ideas and possibilities for the new center. He explained that among the things being proposed is developing a web site, a read along program, and a statewide heritage literature program to help create interest and promote appreciation.

The commission thanked Sherouse for coming and presenting the ideas and upcoming projects.

Executive Planning Process

Strege reported that the Governor's budget included \$400,000 for a statewide database license, and noted that the Governor has been very supportive. There is some apprehension about support in the education subcommittee because of their traditional unwillingness to increase agency funding. The natural resources committee will also be seeing this proposal due to the partial funding with coal tax money. MSL is going to ask for a joint committee, to present to both subcommittees at the same time.

Strege encouraged all to get in touch with subcommittee members to express support for this proposal.

Staffeldt reported that MLA mailed the three statute changes approved by the commission. Every librarian in the state will get the actual drafts and the accompanying fact sheets.

MSL and the commission are hosting a reception for legislators on January 15, from 5:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the State Library. MLA and others are contributing funding for this reception, and no state dollars will be used.

Action Items

FY1999 Projects

Schulz moved to accept the recommendation for using LSTA funds, as outlined in the December 4, 1997 memo. Garvey seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was amended to include the proposals for the year 2000. Garvey seconded the amended motion. Because confusion arose with the inclusion of dates, the motion was amended again to accept the recommendation for using LSTA funds in its entirety. Garvey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Policy Repeals

Doggett moved to repeal all the policies listed under commission notebook "Tab S." Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Policy Adoption

Schulz moved to adopt the policy concerning library federations. Garvey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Johnson moved to adopt the proposed policy, listed under commission notebook "Tab T." Doggett seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Public Library Standards

Strege noted that under the subset of standards, the requirement that a library must have a telephone should be added.

Garvey moved to accept the recommendation of the State Librarian in its entirety. Bergeron seconded the motion, and motion carried, with Schulz opposing the motion.

Last Copy Fiction Pool

Bergeron moved to accept the committee's recommendation, as outlined in their report. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried, with the understanding that Strege will clarify the language.

Request for Federal Monies

Schulz moved to wholeheartedly support the proposal outlined in the November 23, 1998 memo to Senator Burns. Garvey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Legislative Request regarding Filtering

Garvey moved to authorize Strege to speak on behalf of the commission concerning filtering issues. Doggett seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Outcomes and Activities

Bergeron moved to accept the commission's outcomes and activities as stated. Schulz seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Literature Sampler

Strege summarized articles contained in the literature sampler.

Other Business

Laird passed the gavel and authority of the Chair to Chair-elect Schulz.

Meeting Adjourned