

## **MEMO**

**To:** State Library Commission  
**From:** Karen Strege  
**Re:** Commission Mission/Goals  
**Date:** April 2, 1999

The following is what we believe to be the latest version of the Commission's mission statement and goals.

### Mission Statement:

The Montana State Library Commission was created by the Montana Legislature in 1929. The Membership includes five members appointed by the Governor and one member each appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction or their designee. Each term of appointment is for three years. The Montana State Library Commission is responsible for all the programs and services offered by the Montana State Library, library development in all Montana public libraries, and the distribution and administration of all federal and state aid to libraries.

The Commission believes that open access to information is the key to the development of an educated citizenry that is required for a strong democratic society. The Commission values human development, intellectual freedom, public service and network development for continuous learning.

The Commission is a catalyst for active, positive and progressive development and support of all libraries in Montana. The Commission advocates for strong libraries in Montana and encourages multi-type library cooperation throughout the state.

### DRAFT Outcomes & Activities :

1. To promote the status of libraries in Montana, the Commission will increase its advocacy activities in 1999.

Activities will include:

Attendance at local events, such as legislative debates or receptions, to promote libraries in counties, cities or in the state through the legislative process.

Attendance at appropriate events during the upcoming legislative session to promote libraries through the legislative process.

Attendance at appropriate events to promote libraries in the federal government.

Commission representatives will meet with the Governor annually to report on the status of Montana libraries.

Commission representatives will meet with the Superintendent of Public Instruction annually to report on the status of Montana libraries.

Evaluation will include:

Commission reports and evaluations of all activities at each meeting.

An assessment of activity impact at the October 1999 meeting.

2. The Commission will increase the quality of public library service in Montana.

Activities will include:

Decide adoption of the proposed standards by the end of 1998.

Advocate and network with appropriate others to advocate for proposed legislation in 1999.

Evaluation will include:

An assessment of the legislative endeavors.

A review of the impact of proposed standards at the October 1999 meeting.

3. The Commission will increase its attention to administrative duties.

Activities will include:

Reviewing and updating, as needed, all Commission policies and bylaws.

Evaluating the State Librarian.

Reviewing the need for a program evaluation of the State Library.

Evaluation will include:

All activities accomplished by the October 1999 meeting.