

**Montana State Library Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

**December 13, 2000**

**Helena, MT**

**Attendees:** Mike Schulz, Cheri Bergeron, Rosemary Garvey, Al Randall,  
Dorothy Laird

**Commissioners**

**Absent:** David Johnson, Mary Doggett

**Guests:** Debbie Schlesinger, Bridgett Johnson, Lois Fitzpatrick

**Staff:** Karen Strege, Darlene Staffeldt, Amanda Broadwater, Jim Hill, Sue Crispin, Kris Schmitz, Suzy Holt, Mike Price, Bruce Newell, Sue Jackson, Christie Briggs, Sarah McHugh, Moriah Haley, Lena Zeeck, TJ Abbenhaus, Katrina Scheuerman

**Announcements and Introductions**

Vice Chairperson Rosemary Garvey noted that Commissioners Johnson and Doggett were unable to attend due to illness. Garvey called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Bruce Newell introduced Mike Price, the new Information Technology staff member working on the Montana Library Network (MLN) project. Jim Hill introduced Katrina Scheuerman, who replaces Pam Smith's position, and TJ Abbenhaus, the new GIS programmer/analyst. Darlene Staffeldt introduced Sarah McHugh, the Technical Services and Systems Supervisor. McHugh introduced Lena Zeeck, the new Clerical Services Assistant. Christie Briggs introduced Moriah Haley, the new Reader's Advisor in the Talking Book Library.

**Minutes Adoption**

It was noted that the minutes from the October meeting inaccurately stated an introduction to McHugh. Mike Schulz moved to approve the minutes with the mentioned correction. Al Randall seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

## **State Librarian's Report**

Strege reported that her activities had largely revolved around preparing for the upcoming legislative session. She also attended meetings out of state to represent Montana on the BCR board, and to attend the Western Council of State Librarians' meeting.

### ***Program One Updates***

Staffeldt announced that the Library Development Team, NRIS, and MLN are joining efforts to expand the Have Laptop Will Travel lab from 12 to 30 laptops. Staffeldt summarized the findings of the walk-in and Internet surveys, which resulted in staff responses from 26 agencies, and the formation of a core focus group from those respondents who gave their contact information. TBL has completed some reorganization with their positions to provide more efficient services, and is now fully staffed.

### ***Program Seven Updates***

Hill reported that when the strategic plan was adopted, the structure to support that plan was not put into place. The two identified facets of the program relate to services to users and policy, planning, and outreach. Staffing and funding for the positions in the program are currently undergoing assessment, however, the staff is supportive and excited to move forward.

Sue Crispin noted that reports on plant species of special concern and ecological and watershed findings have been completed. The web developer position has been hired, however, the weed zoologist position is still open. Through partnerships, a stewardship type of position has been developed, which will be held by Cedron Jones. Heritage is seeking an applicant with GIS and biological background for the biological data coordinator position. Additionally, Margaret Beer has resigned to pursue another opportunity in Utah. The Precious Heritage book is available on sale for only \$20 through the end of the month, and Crispin encouraged everyone to let their libraries know of the sale.

## **LSTA Reports**

### ***Projects Update***

Sue Jackson reported that the FY 99 allotment has been expended. The annual report is due the end of December, and will highlight the MLN and the Summer Institute programs.

The Madison County Library Improvement Project (LIP) has been completed. The project participants submitted with their final report an indication of many thanks and

much appreciation. The ballot initiatives were partly successful in that the consolidation was approved, however, the funding to consolidate was not approved.

The Montana grants have been awarded, and those projects are in various states of progress. The funds for the MLN shared catalog project on the Hi-Line have been expended and the equipment has been purchased. The Summer Institute 2001 is scheduled for June at Montana Tech, and the program is currently being planned.

Bob Cooper reported that the Lake County project has decided to add some membership slots to include representation from the tribal community. A survey is being sent to patrons through direct mail to registered voters and with power bills. The survey is due January 19, and the board hopes to determine the needs of the people from the results. Additionally, the board is exploring partnerships with the Lower Flathead Foundation, which is very active in the county.

### ***Montana Library Network***

Bruce Newell distributed an outline of goals for the project that have guided his work. The union catalog has been functional since July, and the Havre Hill public library holdings are currently being added. The ILL portion is functional, but work continues to see that it will properly load-level. ILL protocols may have to be revised as a result of the new system. Work continues on the western Montana project, and partnering with the Missoula public library is being considered. Nick Vrooman has been contracted to write a grant for \$230,000.

OCLC has been asked to provide a firm cost for a statewide OCLC membership by February 1, in order to get the information and funding requirements in place in time to allow schools to participate.

Bruce demonstrated the e-book that the State Library purchased. Black and white models cost \$300, and color models are \$700. Some models come with an Ethernet card so that a docking station is unnecessary. Some libraries are circulating e-book versions for their patrons, because electronic format is essential for some materials, otherwise the information is obsolete.

## **Legislative Update**

### ***Budget Items***

The Montana Legislative day is scheduled from 5:00 – 8:30 on January 11. Dave Walter will be speaking about *Jerks in Montana* and cowboy poet Arnold Hokanson will be presenting poetry as the spirit moves him. Sponsors of the event are the Nature Conservancy, Montana Library Association, and the Montana Association of the Blind. Conservation Beef® from Lt. Governor-elect Ohs will be served, along with other Montana favorites such as beans and potato salad in a chuck-wagon theme. The

committee who arranged the evening was comprised of Susie Merrin, John Finn, John Heldt, and Kris Larson, and they have done a great job.

Karen Strege, Lois Fitzpatrick, Jim Hill, Sue Crispin, and Darlene Staffeldt have been traveling the state in different groups to visit librarians, library supporters, and legislators to talk about libraries and library issues. In Billings, no legislators attended, however, all meetings have been very successful.

### ***Budget Items***

Our budget subcommittee will be comprised of members John Witt, Kenneth Miller, Rose Buzzas, Greg Jergeson, Art Peterson, and Royal Johnson.

The proposal for the periodicals database falls under a new proposal because it was a line item in the last session's budget. The proposed state aid program has been eliminated. MSL will try to coordinate with the other subcommittees in order to minimize the separate briefings. If the funding for the periodicals database is eliminated, Montana Library Association (MLA) will attempt to pass a cat and dog bill to obtain funding. These are typically difficult to pass, however, considering the impact on citizens statewide, it may be successful.

### ***Statute Changes***

Representative Bob Lawson has agreed to sponsor the bill regarding federation changes, and a Senator from Big Timber is likely to sponsor the district bill.

Bills of interest to the commission include one entitled "Restrictions to Access to Materials." Strege has not yet heard from the attorney, but believes that it would require libraries to guarantee no child will have access to obscene, inappropriate, or harmful materials, and the commission would have to deny state aid to any library that could not make that guarantee. Further, if access to a site was blocked, a patron could ask the librarian for access, and the librarian would have two business days to determine whether the patron could access that site at the library.

Lois Fitzpatrick suggested presenting this bill as a privacy violation, as well as having a fiscal bill attached to the measure, which might also assist in defeating the bill. Fitzpatrick expressed concerns that this is a "stepping stone" bill, considering that an Acceptable Use policy has already been established, the next step may be requiring filters. Another concern is that it will result in libraries refusing to offer Internet access at all.

A bill proposed by Jack Wells would allow parents and legal guardians to have access to the library records of their child. Parents now have access to those records if the materials are overdue, but not before, unless the child gives written permission.

The Local Committee on Government and Local Funding has proposed a 230-page bill that would, among other things, eliminate library board authority over revenues collected by the library. Dorothy Laird, Bette Ammon, and Ron Farman all testified on behalf of libraries against this part of the proposal, however, it wasn't enough to change the minds of the committee.

Darlene Staffeldt, Lois Fitzpatrick, and Jim Heckel met with the Great Falls City Manager, who sits on that committee. He agreed to present the committee with supporting arguments if they could make argument for why libraries should be treated differently than other districts. Other potential supporters include Harold Blatty from Stillwater County, who is also on the committee, and the MACO, and possibly the League of Cities and Towns.

### **LSTA FY2001 Budget**

Because several fiscal years are being represented, the report may appear confusing. Some FY00 expenses were paid out of FY99 funds, and FY01 expenses paid from FY00 funds. Because Congress has not yet passed the budget for FY01, the budget report is speculation. The FY02 budget will have some carry over, but it is hoped that it will be smaller than in previous years. Strege recommended the surplus of the budget be spent on the MLN budget. Also represented is a placeholder for the Lake County LIP project, which will be asking for continued funding. The estimate for the State Library evaluation is going to be variable, because many states are saying it is costing much more than they had estimated. Again, Strege recommended the additional balance be shifted to the MLN budget.

The State Purchasing Department released the RFP for the evaluation, and that is available on the web page. Vendors were given until December 8 to ask clarifying questions, and responses are due January 23. The Library Advisory Council will convene to develop criteria and judge the responses.

### **Commission Goals and Objectives**

Randall reported that he had attended a legislative "coffee" meeting and the Broad Valleys and Tamarack meetings on shared catalogs. He will be more actively involved in federations, as he is now the acting director of the Lincoln County Library.

Bergeron reported that she had attended a Library Link meeting, met some interesting people, and saw a broad mix of types of libraries and museums.

Laird attended the Tamarack federation meeting at which Newell and Cooper spoke about shared catalogs. She noted that libraries are wondering what happened to the competitive LSCA/LSTA grants.

Schulz has been working with Helena High School librarian Nikki Whearty to develop a survey of school librarians regarding staffing levels and technology. The grant will cover some of the postage, as well as someone to analyze the numbers and results.

### **Federation Annual Reports**

Staffeldt presented the annual reports and noted that a comparison chart had been provided. Contracted services seemed to be used to describe two different services, and commissioners requested splitting the category and better defining it for next year's report.

Schulz suggested that although Staffeldt does a great job of presenting the annual reports, it would be nice to have the federation coordinators in attendance to present their own reports and share the projects they are doing.

Discussion followed regarding adding some competition to the reporting process, the absence of up-to-date information on web pages, Gates' library foundation training, BCR workshops, and the access to web-page building and maintenance training. It was suggested that federation headquarters close out their fiscal year earlier to avoid the problem of libraries receiving the monies after their fiscal year has closed.

### **Federation Coordinators' Report**

Debbie Schlesinger distributed reports that were submitted from all federations. At their meeting, coordinators discussed federation bylaws, the legislative reception, legislation, initiatives, library information sheets, obscenity bills, and welcomed Al Randall into the coordinators' role.

The commission expressed their thanks to Marlene Palmquist who did a great job, but now has left due to personal reasons.

### **Action Items**

#### ***Appointment of Officers***

Bergeron nominated David Johnson for Chairperson. Laird seconded the motion. Garvey nominated Laird for Vice Chair, and Bergeron seconded the motion. The motions carried unanimously.

Bergeron moved to approve the 2000 budget with the remainder of the balance to be added to the Montana Library Network (MLN) budget. Schulz seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Randall moved to approve the 2001 budget with the additional balance remainder to be added to the MLN budget. Laird seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Laird moved to withhold support from bills LC0265 and LC0387, and direct the State Library to support bills LC0247 and LC0246, and continue to work with the Interim Local Government Funding and Structure committee to exempt libraries from the harmful consequences of their proposed bill. Schulz seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Schulz moved to accept the Federation Annual Reports as presented. Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Randall moved to hold commission meetings in 2001 as proposed below:

February 14  
April 11  
June 20  
August 9  
October 10  
December 12

Schulz seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned**