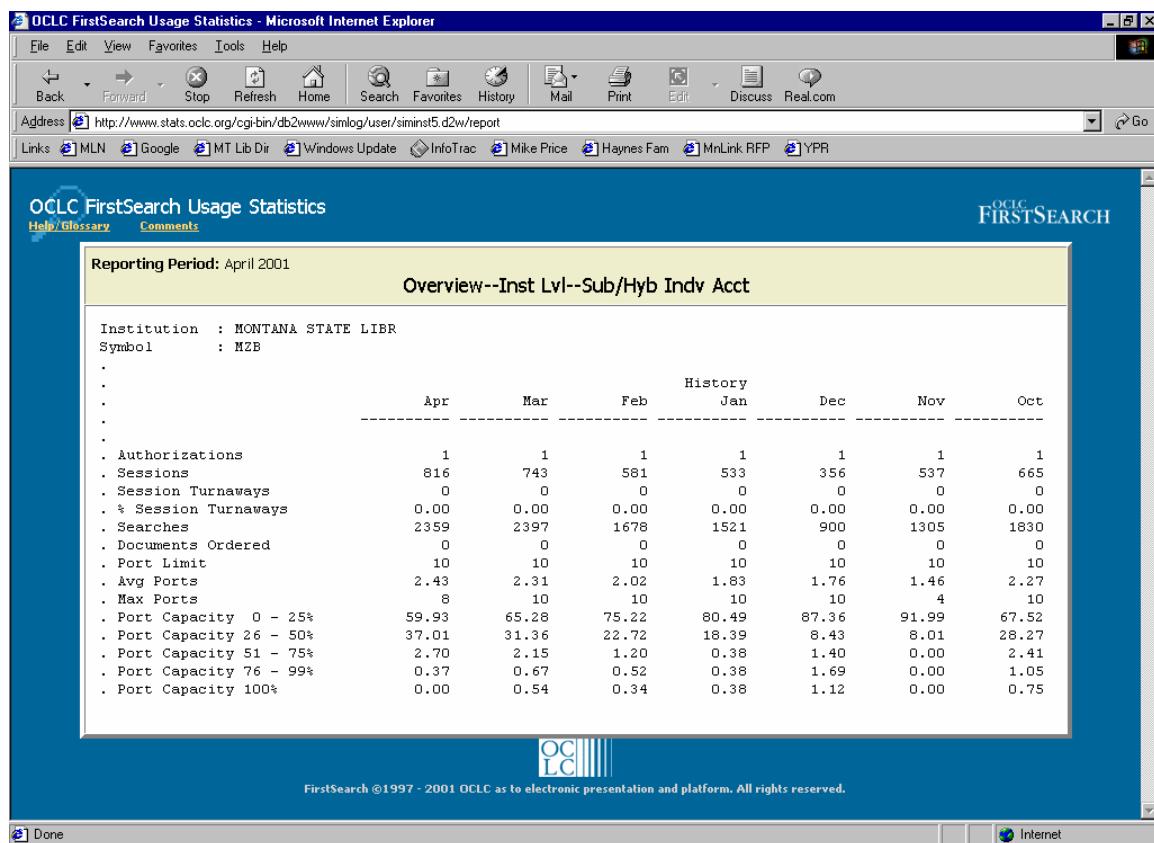


MLN Report June 2001

Bruce Newell (406) 444-8916 <mailto:bnewell@state.mt.us>

WorldCat usage is up from January and February of this month. The number of sessions is up, as is the number of searches. We have yet to turn anyone away, but I note that the average number of ports in use continues to inch up. I think we'll be okay for the remainder of this fiscal year (through June 2001), but, and this is a sign of success, we'll need to increase our license next year.



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer window displaying the 'OCLC FirstSearch Usage Statistics' report for April 2001. The report is titled 'Overview--Inst Lvl--Sub/Hyb Indv Acct'. The data is presented in a table with columns for Apr, Mar, Feb, Jan, Dec, Nov, and Oct. The table includes various metrics such as Authorizations, Sessions, Session Turnaways, % Session Turnaways, Searches, Documents Ordered, Port Limit, Avg Ports, Max Ports, Port Capacity 0 - 25%, Port Capacity 26 - 50%, Port Capacity 51 - 75%, Port Capacity 76 - 99%, and Port Capacity 100%. The report also shows a history section for the last seven months. The OCLC logo is visible at the bottom of the page.

	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct
Institution : MONTANA STATE LIBR							
Symbol : MZB							
.
.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
. Authorizations	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
. Sessions	816	743	581	533	356	537	665
. Session Turnaways	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
. % Session Turnaways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
. Searches	2359	2397	1678	1521	900	1305	1830
. Documents Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
. Port Limit	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
. Avg Ports	2.43	2.31	2.02	1.83	1.76	1.46	2.27
. Max Ports	8	10	10	10	10	4	10
. Port Capacity 0 - 25%	59.93	65.28	75.22	80.49	87.36	91.99	67.52
. Port Capacity 26 - 50%	37.01	31.36	22.72	18.39	8.43	8.01	28.27
. Port Capacity 51 - 75%	2.70	2.15	1.20	0.38	1.40	0.00	2.41
. Port Capacity 76 - 99%	0.37	0.67	0.52	0.38	1.69	0.00	1.05
. Port Capacity 100%	0.00	0.54	0.34	0.38	1.12	0.00	0.75

A **training calendar** is still in the works, and more important than ever. I wish I could report that we have (as promised earlier) a complete and accurate training calendar stretching out in advance several years; I cannot. We simply have not had the time necessary to pull this together. This is, however, what we're aiming for and it is near the top of our agendas.

Mike continues to work on the **Montana Library Directory**. We're getting closer to being able to begin working on Phase III, where we provide full search capabilities to the directory. It will be possible, for example, to search for public librarians named "Smith" in Sagebrush Federation. See: <http://montanalibraries.org/Directory/mldhome.asp>

The **MLN Gateway**, Montana's 'virtual union catalog' continues to grow and now includes Havre-Hill's, Flathead County's, and the State Library's online catalogs.

A screenshot of a Microsoft Internet Explorer window displaying the MLN Web Gateway Catalogs & Articles interface. The title bar reads "MLN Web Gateway Catalogs & Articles - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The toolbar contains Back, Forward, Stop, Refresh, Home, Search, Favorites, History, Mail, Print, Edit, Discuss, and Real.com. The address bar shows the URL "http://161.7.8.15.8000/WebZ/Authorize?sessionid=0". The links bar includes MLN, Google, MT Lib Dir, Windows Update, InfoTrac, Mike Price, Haynes Fam, MnLink RFP, and YPR. The main content area has a blue header with "Catalogs & Articles", "New Search", "Review Your Searches", "View Saved Records", "Help", and "Exit". Below the header, there are two search options: "Do a QuickSearch" and "Search". The "Search" option has checkboxes for "Montana Union Catalog" (checked) and "Article Indexes". A "Go!" button is next to the search bar. To the left, a sidebar says "Select a Group to Search" with options: Academic Library Catalogs, Public Library Catalogs, Special Library Catalogs, Article Indexes, and Montana Union Catalog (which is selected). To the right, a table lists various library catalogs and article indexes. The table has three columns: Bozeman Public Library, Havre-Hill County Library, OMNI MSU Libraries; Business Index, Health Reference Center Academic, Sidney Public Library; Expanded Academic Index, Lewis & Clark Library, University of Montana Libraries; Flathead County Library, Montana State Law Library, WorldCat; General Reference Center Gold, Montana State Library, (empty). At the bottom left is a "Create a New Group" link. The bottom status bar shows "Done" and "Internet".

We've experienced some problems with the MLN Gateway server freezing, and think we've now come closer to fixing this situation by (at the advice of folks at OCLC) automatically restarting the server daily at 3:00 a.m. Time will tell if this somewhat heavy-handed 'fix' really works, it seems to be improving the Gateway's reliability.

The **Shared Catalog Project** continues to gain momentum. Jefferson County libraries chose to share Lewis & Clark's catalog and circulation system. Three Forks will be sharing Bozeman Public's system. A request for proposal should be out in July for the remaining fourteen participating libraries. Bob Cooper and Sarah McHugh have both been an enormous help in moving this project along.

OCLC contract news: We have negotiated a new three-year, fixed-price, statewide contract with OCLC. Contract amounts are:

FY2002 (July 1, 2001–June 30, 2002)	\$405,458
FY2003 (July 1, 2002–June 30, 2003)	\$452,268
FY2004 (July 1, 2003–June 30, 2004)	\$511,042
Total	\$1,368,768

The OCLC enrollment forms have gone out in the mail, as have the Gale/InfoTrac forms. Both Mike and Diane deserve great credit for helping us get this mailing out and the database set up to receive enrollments. We're getting a good response on both and hoping for some modest growth in the number of OCLC subscribers. The subscription deadline is June 8 so, at the time of this writing, I can't report success or failure. You can read all about it at: <http://montanalibraries.org/2002enroll/CoverLetter.htm>

We have made progress with the **Montanaiana projects**; much of the credit belongs to Sue Jackson who has been doing a great job ramrodding this project. We received seven proposals for fiscal year 2002 Montanaiana projects, and these proposals are being reviewed and evaluated as I write this. The fiscal year 2001 projects are slowly moving along; we trust they will be completed this coming fall.

We have been taking a hard look at how we actually mount these resources on the MLN Gateway server. We've looked at several alternative software applications for making this easier for project participants and expect to make a final decision in the first week of June.

Mike and I have been to Dublin, Ohio, for the **OCLC SiteSearch Users Group**. We came back with a lot to mull over, including what appears to be an effective way of making the MLN pages available to users with impaired vision. We will work hard to make the entire MLN Web site ADA compliant, a date has not been set to begin what will almost surely include a major revamping of our entire Web site.

We learned that the MLN Gateway is actually pretty well suited to audio Web page readers; we hope to test this and make changes in the web site this calendar year.