

MONTANA LIBRARY NETWORK REPORT JULY 2001

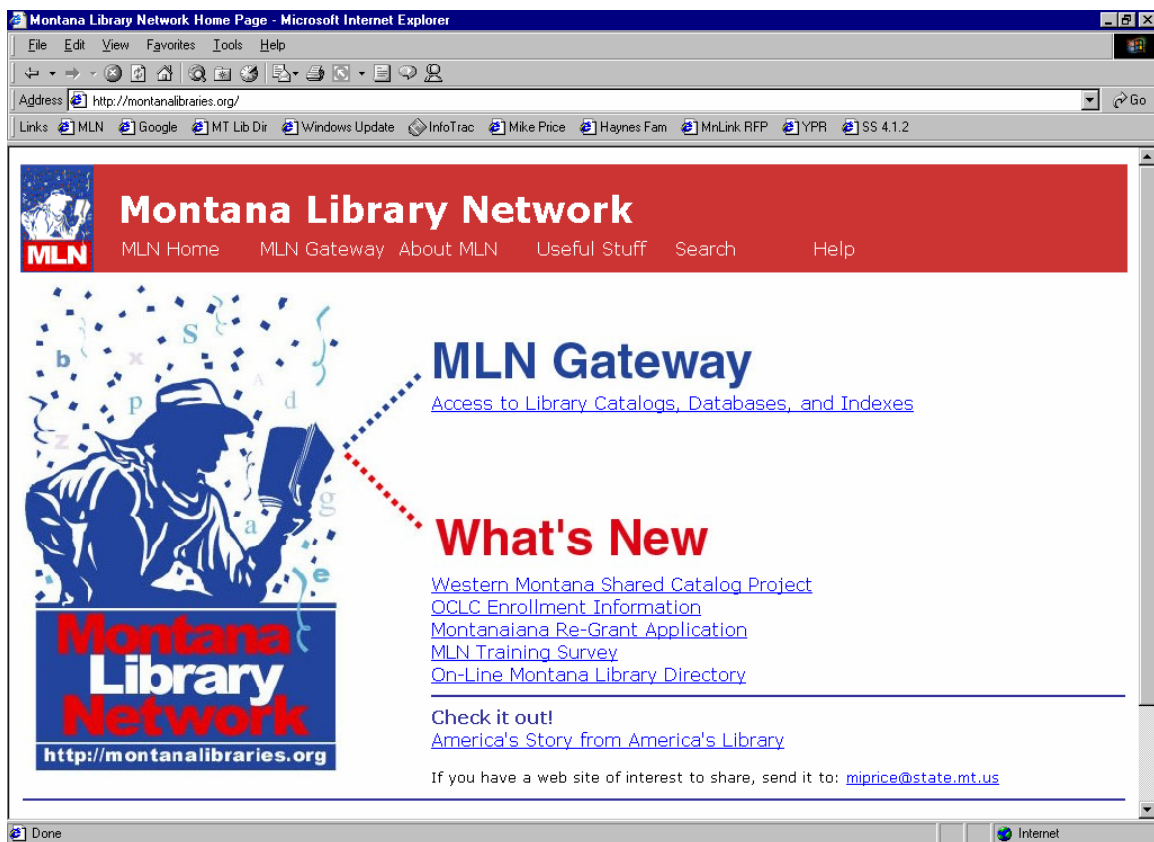
Bruce Newell bnewell@state.mt.us (406)444-9816

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Updated and simplified MLN Web interface
- Shared catalog projects
- OCLC training calendar set
- WorldCat usage
- SiteSearch sunset date set

MLN WEB INTERFACE

We have changed the navigational menu on the MLN Web site (Mike did the work, I kibitzed). We've added a keyword search feature and a "Check it out!" link that changes each time the MLN homepage is refreshed. We've consolidated some menu choices and started reviewing the overall organization of the site.



This is the first step. We know the MLN site needs more help- and tutorial-related content (as does the MLN Gateway proper). The library standards information and links need to be freshened up and expanded. We're going to add a page listed and linking Montana libraries' Web sites and catalogs, outside of the Montana Union Catalog/MLN Web Gateway links. We're always open for suggestions...let us know what you think.

SHARED CATALOGS

Bonnie Williamson, Havre-Hill Librarian, reports that the Highline shared catalog project is nearing completion and all the project (LSTA) funds will have been spent.

The Western project has been moving along nicely. Three Forks and Bozeman Public libraries have written an agreement and are ready to begin consolidating catalogs. Fifteen other western Montana libraries have joined in releasing a request for proposal to purchase a shared catalog. Initial participating libraries (and their locations) include:

- Bitterroot Public Library (Hamilton)
- Boulder Community Library (Boulder)
- Dillon Public Library (Dillon)
- Flathead Valley Community College Library (Kalispell)
- Hearst Free Library (Anaconda)
- John Gregory Free Library (Whitehall)
- Kalispell Regional Hospital Library (Kalispell)
- Missoula Public Library (Missoula)
- Montana Historical Society Library (Helena)
- Montana State Library (Helena)
- Montana Department of Transportation Library (Helena)
- Plains Public Library (Plains)
- Polson Public Library (Polson)
- St. Ignatius School/Public Library (St. Ignatius)
- Thompson Falls Public Library (Thompson Falls)

The RFP, for which responses are due September 5, can be viewed at: <http://www.discoveringmontana.com/doa/ppd/ifbsrfps/cat01.htm> We will have selected a vendor by the end of September and have catalogs up and running in participating libraries during February, 2002.

OCLC TRAINING OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2001

We'll be taking the MLN/OCLC training show on the road in October and November. Rick Newell and Sam Sayre, from OCLC-Western, will be the two trainers, ably aided and abetted by MLN and MSL staff. Training will include:

Tuesdays

MLN Gateway and efficient searching tips for WorldCat (hands-on)
Interlibrary Loan Protocols (lecture)

Wednesdays

OCLC Web-based interlibrary loan, day one (hands-on)

Thursdays

OCLC Web-based interlibrary loan, day two (hands-on)

Fridays

CatExpress (hands-on)

Web-based ILL training will include teaching librarians how to use OCLC's Custom Holdings feature. Custom Holdings allows libraries to build a quasi-automatic routing

sequence into their online ILL management. Custom Holdings organizes preferred locations from which to borrow into groups, then the specific routing sequence is generated in a random fashion from these groups. Routing sequences can be set manually, but Custom Holdings saves libraries a considerable amount of time and allows us to promote ILL load leveling among Montana libraries. For more information see: <http://www.oclc.org/oclc/ill/holding.htm>

We listened carefully to what folks said last year about wanting more time and hands-on opportunity, and have worked hard this time around to build in more time to practice skills with an instructor available. Classes are available to all Montana OCLC librarians, subject to available space.

Dates and locations are as follows:

October 2—5	Missoula Public Library
October 9-12	Manhattan School
October 23—26	Kalispell Regional Hospital
Oct 30—Nov 2	MSU-Billings Library Great Falls Public Library
November 13-16	Sidney Public Library –or- Dawson Community College (watch for a future announcement)

Enrollment will begin in late August. Montana librarians will be able to sign-up online or by completing paper enrollment forms and mailing or faxing them to MLN. Enrollment will be limited to space available, first come, first served. For this reason, libraries will be initially limited to one staff member per class. A waiting list will be kept to allow a second staff member to attend, space permitting.

Classes are free, save transportation, food, and lodging. Maps and instructions for finding classrooms will be available on the MLN Web site at the time the training enrollment begins.

FY02 OCLC ENROLLMENT

A comprehensive mailing including enrollment forms for both the MLN/OCLC statewide contract, and the Gale/InfoTrac databases, was sent out in late May. Fiscal year 2002 OCLC enrollment figures totaled 218, slightly up from 214 for fiscal year 2001. From this number 29 libraries dropped OCLC membership (or have not yet reenrolled) and 33 new libraries came on board. We'll follow-up on those libraries dropping OCLC membership to better understand why they decided not to enroll this year; in many instances it may simply be that they intend to reenroll but have not yet done so.

FY02—FY03 GALE ENROLLMENT

In addition to the \$400,000 from the Legislature, we have raised nearly \$98,000 from Montana libraries toward our two-year contract with Gale for InfoTrac. This leaves us somewhere between \$20,000 and \$30,000 short; we have yet to receive an invoice from Gale for FY2002—FY2003 InfoTrac services.

There are quite a few school libraries that have yet to enroll or reenroll. We will contact them again in early September. Sixteen public libraries have yet to enroll, we have contacted each one with a friendly reminder.

We sent the OCLC and Gale enrollment forms out in the same mailing. I'm not sure if that made it easier or more confusing for libraries; I'd welcome comments regarding this in the future. It is clear that we need to get the enrollment forms to libraries, especially school libraries, much earlier. We pledge to do so with the OCLC enrollment forms next year, and the periodical index forms in 2003.

OCLC WORLDCAT USAGE

WorldCat usage was slightly up from April in May and sharply down for June, about what I'd expect given the cyclical nature of database use. Reference work seems to slow down as school lets out, in public libraries as well as in academic and school libraries. As we complete our first full year of WorldCat use we begin to see the cycle of use rise through the school year, dropping in December for holiday and then again through the summer. It will be interesting to note whether the peaks in the cycle increase next year; I'd be disappointed if they did not.

I continue to recommend holding off raising the number of simultaneous WorldCat users (from 10 to 20) until we see the need to do so. We're watching the situation closely and anticipating, in all likelihood, increasing our license in the fall.

Reporting Period: June 2001

Overview--Inst Lvl--Sub/Hyb Indv Acct

Institution : MONTANA STATE LIBR
Symbol : M2B

	Jun	May	Apr	History Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
. Authorizations	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
. Sessions	742	960	816	743	581	533	356
. 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	2288	2780	2359	2397	1678	1521	900
. Documents Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
. Port Limit	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
. Avg Ports	2.08	2.40	2.43	2.31	2.02	1.83	1.76
. Max Ports	8	9	8	10	10	10	10
. Port Capacity 0 - 25%	71.43	61.46	59.93	65.28	75.22	80.49	87.36
. Port Capacity 26 - 50%	26.42	35.10	37.01	31.36	22.72	18.39	8.43
. Port Capacity 51 - 75%	1.89	2.81	2.70	2.15	1.20	0.38	1.40
. Port Capacity 76 - 99%	0.27	0.63	0.37	0.67	0.52	0.38	1.69
. Port Capacity 100%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.34	0.38	1.12

FirstSearch ©1997 - 2001 OCLC as to electronic presentation and platform. All rights reserved.

SITESHARCH IS DEAD, LONG LIVE SITESHARCH

In a surprising move, OCLC announced that they're going to discontinue their support of SiteSearch in December 2002. The SiteSearch software suite is what we use to run the MLN Gateway. We're looking at our alternatives in light of a forthcoming planning cycle for MLN and our ongoing technical requirements. I'll keep you informed as we learn more.