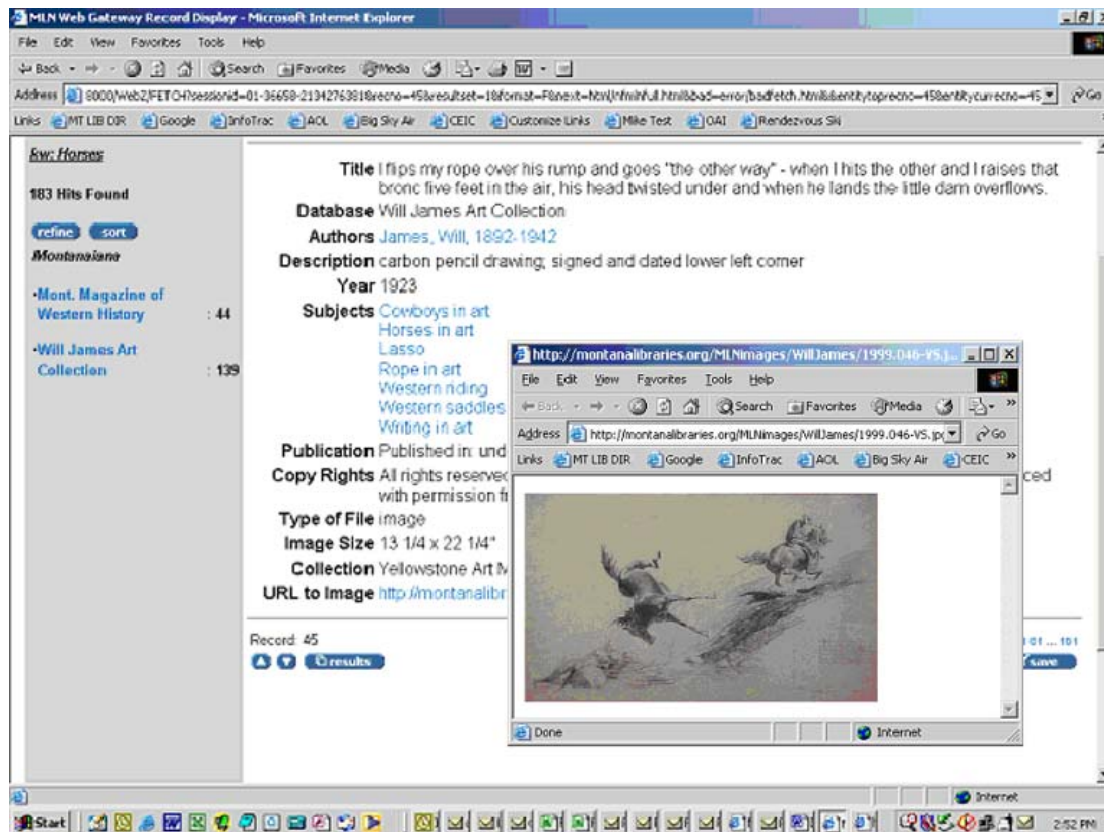


## MLN Reading Cowboy News January – February 2002



### Montanaiana Material On the MLN Gateway

The Will James collection at the Yellowstone Art Museum is now online on the MLN Gateway. Will James (1892—1942) was a prolific artist and illustrator, chronicling Montana from a cowboy's perspective. His sympathetic pen and brush left a legacy of paintings and illustrations, many of which live at the Yellowstone Art Museum.

Through the good efforts of Magi Malone, formerly at the YAM, and Mike Price, here at the Montana Library Network, you can now search the Will James Collection (by title, subject, media, etc) using the MLN Gateway interface. Because this database is in the Gateway, you can also search the "Montana: The Magazine of Western History" index, the Gale indexes, OCLC's WorldCat, and the broadcast searchable online Montana library catalogs. Mike worked with Molly Holz, Assistant Editor at the magazine, to bring you this information.

Follow the links to the MLN Gateway from <http://montanalibraries.org>, select "Montanaiana" under the Groups listings, or select the "Will James Art Collection" or the "Mont. Magazine of Western History" individual links. Because the Will James and Mont. Magazine of Western History" indexes are in the MLN Gateway, they can be searched independently or in conjunction with any of the library catalogs or magazine indexes also available through the Gateway.

And be sure to stop by the YAM next time you're in Billings, or the Historical Society when you're in Helena, and say, "Thanks for making these great resources available to our patrons!"

### Montana Shared Catalog Contract Signed; Implementation in Full Swing

We have signed the agreement, between the Missoula Public Library, the State Library, and Sirsi, for the delivery of the Sirsi UnicornConsortia Montana Shared Catalog (MSC). Pre-implementation meetings with MSC project managers and Muriel Lynne Bartholomae, head of our Sirsi implementation team, are scheduled during the week of February 4, in Missoula. We will have an implementation timeline next week, which will be mounted on the MLN Website.

On Friday, February 8, we've scheduled a meeting to discuss, modify, and approve a MSC Members Contract, which will be signed by all MSC member libraries. This draft contract and other related documents are available to MSC members via the online Montana Library Directory. For information about the MSC Member Contract, please contact Bruce Newell, at (406) 444-9816 or [bnewell@state.mt.us](mailto:bnewell@state.mt.us).

### OCLC WorldCat Use Up November & December, 2001

**OCLC FirstSearch Usage Statistics**  
 Reporting Period: December 2001  
 Overview--Inst Lvl--Sub/Hyb Indv Acct

Institution : MONTANA STATE LIBR  
 Symbol : MZB

	Dec	Nov	Oct	History Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun
. Authorizations	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
. Sessions	1009	1471	1370	941	932	837	742
. 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	2977	4401	4292	3056	2802	2217	2288
. Documents Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
. Port Limit	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
. Avg Ports	3.05	3.50	3.09	2.46	2.40	2.24	2.08
. Max Ports	10	10	10	10	9	8	8
. Port Capacity 0 - 25%	51.44	38.68	47.96	58.87	62.12	64.64	71.43
. Port Capacity 26 - 50%	35.88	44.80	40.73	37.41	34.01	33.33	26.42
. Port Capacity 51 - 75%	5.95	10.27	6.13	3.19	3.22	1.79	1.89
. Port Capacity 76 - 99%	5.15	4.01	3.14	0.43	0.64	0.24	0.27
. Port Capacity 100%	1.59	2.24	2.04	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00

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On average, the number of Montana WorldCat users continues to increase. We've had no session turnaways; however we 'hosted' our maximum number of users ("Port Capacity 100%") on several occasions. I welcome this evidence of increased use; WorldCat continues

to provide access into Montana libraries' holdings, and provide access to the World's libraries for our librarians and library users.

### **Survey Data Gathered Online**

Mike Price, working with Diane Gunderson and Karen Strege, has worked to make it possible for the State Library to gather information over the Web from Montana libraries. Using the framework provided by the Montana Library Directory, Mike built Web-based questionnaires to gather public library statistics and interlibrary loan data. Results of these surveys will be available shortly.

Additionally, Diane and Mike worked to capture survey information from Sagebrush and South Central Federations. Nancy Brennan, Colstrip Bicentennial Library Director, prepared a survey that was distributed to Sagebrush and South Central libraries. Libraries were asked to answer a wide variety of questions about their library. We helped Nancy compile this information and are beginning to use this information as part of a Sagebrush Federation planning, a process that includes considerations preliminary to Sagebrush libraries' possible participation in the Montana Shared Catalog.

### **Shared Catalog Travels in Eastern Montana**

Suzanne Reymer, MSL's Statewide Technology Librarian based out of Billings, has traveled to Lewistown, Miles City, and Sidney with Bruce, demonstrating and answering questions about the Montana Shared Catalog Sirsi UnicornConsortia application. Sirsi's Montana Account Manager, Rick Branham, accompanied us. I think everyone was impressed by Sirsi's iBistro catalog, and WorkFlows staff application. These are wonderful software applications. The question, now, is which libraries want to share a catalog, and which libraries can afford it?

### **Long Range Plan Draft**

We've been busy working with other MSL staff, and librarians from around Montana, on the State Library's long-range plan. MLN is incorporated into Library Development's plan, which makes perfect sense. Everything we do is about library development. We're excited about the planning process to date, and have unbridled enthusiasm for what the future holds for MLN and Montana libraries.

### **MLN/OCLC Statewide Contract**

We expect to mail out invoices in late-February for libraries' share of next year's MLN/OCLC statewide contract. This year's billing, for copy-cataloging libraries, is built on the following components:

- A base-rate determined by relative library size;
- A variable rate determined by the relative number of CatExpress transactions; and
- Caps to keep maximum transaction charges within bounds, and to provide a fair rate for libraries primarily using LaserCat instead of CatExpress for cataloging.

A detailed explanation of this new, we believe equitable and manageable pricing scheme, will be available mid-February on the MLN Website. The Networking Task Force poured over countless spreadsheets and labored long and hard to make Fiscal Year 2003's pricing workable for everyone.