

Building Montana's Infostructure

To fuel economic development, citizens, and businesses need accurate, current, and extensive information. This proposal is designed to ensure that Montana's citizens can compete nationally and globally by developing businesses and job skills through information resources provided by local libraries.

First funded by the 55th legislative, the project allows libraries to subscribe to an extensive magazine database. The database includes full-text articles from 5,812 magazines and journals in all subject fields, including health and business. The business source provides information on companies, markets and industries, market trends, mergers and acquisitions, current management theory, and company overviews.

All performance measures indicate that the citizens of Montana use and value this product. 289 Montana libraries participate and the number of user searches doubled from 2000 to 2001 to almost 647,000. Citizens can access this information through their libraries or from their homes or offices.

The average cost of a periodical published in the US is \$473. This average includes the price of general titles such as "Time" and very specialized journals such as the "Physics Today" and "Oil and Gas Journal". The product's cost is \$570,000 per biennium. The costs for one library to annually subscribe to all the periodicals available through the product would be approximately \$2,749,000. Public libraries that serve 10,000 would pay \$12,543 annually to subscribe to the product. Most Montana libraries could not afford this product without the state's support.

Currently, state funding from the coal severance tax (CST) is \$235,000, the general fund accounts for \$165,000, and libraries pay a total of \$106,155.

MSL anticipates that product's cost will rise about 9.5%, the percentage of the price change for all periodicals in the U.S. from 2000 to 2001. Therefore, the MSL Commission requests the Governor approve the following amounts for the current product with inflation: \$257,325 from the CST, \$180,675 from the general fund, and \$116,240 from local libraries. All of the amounts include a proportional 9.5% inflationary adjustment.

The Commission also wishes to increase the funding in this project to purchase additional information products. These additions would bring Montana to par with other states that offer significant more information to all its citizens and help support the Governor's economic development programs. Idaho has recognized the importance of information to its economy and provides approximately .5 million annually for these information resources without requiring a local match.

Therefore, the State Library requests an additional \$200,000 from the coal severance tax. Increasing the cost share to libraries will add another \$75,000 to fund the project. In addition, the Commission is considering reallocating part of the existing appropriation received for encouraging resource sharing among libraries, to add another \$180,000 to this package. The additional \$455,000 will allow Montana citizens to have access to

critical information in such important areas as agricultural, government and law, grants, personal finance, and business development resources. The State Library intends to survey library staff about the information needs of their users and seek products that meet the needs of Montana citizens and businesses.

Information is the fuel of the new economy, and the state must ensure that Montana citizens and businesses have an adequate supply. This proposal will begin to “fill up the tank” so that our economy can move ahead.

Total Funding request:

From Coal Severance Tax	\$	457,325
From General fund		180,675
Sub total from legislature		638,000
Reallocated from interlibrary loan monies		180,000
Local libraries		191,240
Grand total for statewide database(s) Product		\$ 1, 009,240