

Brief Outline
State Library update for Spring 2005 Federation meetings:
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LEGISLATURE

State Library's **budget**: The Governor's recommended budget for the State Library was approved by the subcommittee. The recommended budget is a basic budget for the State Library and does include all of the appropriate database monies, return of some of the interlibrary loan reimbursement monies, return of a little of the federation monies, as well as return of the technical position that was cut from the library development department. HB 2 passed out of the House (52 to 48) on March 21, 2005. **HB 2 is scheduled to be heard on the Senate Floor on April 7th and 8th.**

SB129 - Library district changes include 1) add public library districts language to the state aid statutes; 2) establish a clear procedure in the law to allow existing libraries to join a district at establishment; 3) allow public library district trustees to hold title to property for library purposes; and 4) allow public Library districts to establish a library depreciation reserve fund for the replacement and acquisition of property and capital improvements necessary for the library. Bill has passed out of Senate and House and is currently waiting to be signed by the Governor.

HB184 - Federation law changes include: 1) remove language providing copies of Montana Code Annotated to each Federation headquarters; 2) Give the responsibility for the establishment of the federation to the State Library Commission; 3) remove requirements for contracts between libraries within Federations; 4) Eliminates the requirement for a headquarters library and allows the membership to elect a federation coordinator and a board of trustees. Bill has passed out of both houses, has been signed by the Governor, and a chapter number has been assigned.

Also watching **SB98, Montana Land Information Act** establish funding for statewide GIS efforts at both the state and county levels, funding to the Department of Administration, data to State Library's digital library NRIS databases – bill has passed, been signed by the Governor, and a chapter number has been assigned.

SB180 An act authorizing the state archives to charge agencies a fee for storage and processing of their records. Passed the Senate and is waiting to be heard in the House Appropriations committee.

SB301 – an act revising the laws governing local government mill levies. Special library levies into all-purpose levy. Passed the Senate 2/22/05, had a hearing in House Local Government committee on March 22, 2005, but no executive action taken yet. We have concerns but has been hard to fight because we express our concerns and then bill authors say that is not the case that libraries will still be able to levy monies for library services, they will just be "collected" as all purpose levy.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 19. SJ 19 Passed from the Senate and House, and has been sent to the Governor for signature.

Pay plan bill HB 447: Increase state employee pay. This bill is now law. This law provides based on 2,080 hours, provide the greater of a 3.5% or \$1,005 pay increase in FY 2006 and the greater of a 4% or \$1,188 pay increase in FY 2007. It also would increase the monthly State share of insurance premiums to: \$506 in January 2006; and \$557 in January 2007. Signed by the Governor and a chapter number has been assigned.

HB 482 Revised allocation of funds to the coal tax shared account. This bill if passed would potentially increase the State Library's piece of coal tax by \$33,000 yearly. The bill has passed the House, has been scheduled for hearing in the Senate Finance and Claims Committee. If the bill passes both the House and Senate then it would still take a motion for an amendment to HB 2 for it to actually get to the State Library's budget.

On January 31st The Montana library Association and Nature Conservancy sponsored a very **successful "Evening at Montana Libraries"** event at the State Library for the Legislators. The State Library staff worked very hard and did a wonderful job of putting this event together. We especially want to thank the planning committee which included: Diane Gunderson, Sara Groves, Gerry Daumiller, Janet Hunter, Darlene Patzer, Jamie Harmon, Bob Cooper, and Bette Ammon from MLA. Over 60 Representatives and Senators attended as well as over 98 librarians and other guests. Thank you to everyone for their support and participation.

Continuing Education and Training opportunities:

Trustee education program kick off on April 15. Board training session. Train the trainer type activities.

Montana Library Association meetings in Billings Montana, April 23-26, 2005

Summer Institute(s) in Butte on June 13 to 15th; and in Billings from June 16 to 18th. Return of Sandra Nelson and more help with planning for your libraries.

Fall workshop scheduled for September 30th and October 1st in Great Falls Montana with a variety of topics to be covered.

Other "events/happenings" at State Library

Two PEEL scholarships being offered to Montana potential librarians.

Library stipends available for Montana Libraries who want to hire professional librarians.

Remodeling has begun and the finished project will result in a new larger conference room and more office space on the second level. Project will be completed by August 9th, maybe sooner.

Have filled the Systems Administrator position as well as the NRIS project manager but still advertising, interviewing, and or finalizing the hiring for a library systems specialist, web manager, and database manager within the Digital Library. Intention is not to fill my former position at this time in order to have the funding to provide better compensation for the

existing staff. Retained some old responsibilities, promoted Bob and asked him to take on some of my old responsibilities, as well as retaining some of his old responsibilities. Still working the changes out.

Moving staff to a board band pay system. Allow for more flexibility in assignment of wages within market ranges.

MsDI put together legislative district snapshot describing the district in many economical and demographical ways: <http://msl.state.mt.us/districts/index.htm>.

Commission approved LSTA funding for the following projects based on the following criteria:
Projects: TBL, LDD, and Administration, Technology Consultants, Montana Library Network, Marketing, Montana Shared Catalog, Children's services, FY05 Summer Institute, FY06 Summer Institute, Networking Task Force, Fall workshop, Trustee Training, and OCLC Group Catalog.
Criteria: The proven statewide impact of each project; Staff resources available for project management; Sustaining worthwhile current projects; The priority of issues given by the library community during the long-range planning process.