

MLN Commission Report
April 2006 — June 2006
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LDD Goal 2: To ensure that all Montana citizens have access to quality library services.

1. MLN staff worked with Montana Historical Society and other MSL staff to explore digital content and metadata management workflows.
2. Newell spoke as member of reactor panel, April 19, to 92 libraries, on an Urban Libraries Council telephone seminar titled "Fresh eyes on the business of libraries: Customers, service models, and brand".
3. Maggie Meredith and Newell met with Hi-Line Shared Catalog members, in Havre, to discuss pilot Montana Library Card project. Commissioner Caroline Bitz was also in attendance.
4. MSL staff met with Department of Administration, Information Technology and Services Division staff, to discuss state capitol campus data communications infrastructure. There are single points of failure which might be economically backed up with redundant devices or communications paths.
5. Staff attended the Montana Library Association meeting in Missoula.
6. Newell attended his last Members Council meeting in Dublin, Ohio. Met with OCLC staff to discuss pilot Montana Library Card project. Newell was elected by the Members Council to a six-year position on OCLC's Board of Trustees.
7. Networking Task Force meeting, June 2, Helena. Topics discussed:
 - a. MSL Plan. Staffeldt and Newell shared the MSL strategic plan website with the task force. Task Force members expressed overall satisfaction with the plan's direction, and with MSL's pursuit of necessary new funding.
 - b. Montana Memories Project. Steven McCann, Digital Projects Librarian at the University of Montana, spoke generally about digital library content, metadata, and managing digital repositories. The Task Force suggested trying to find MSL funding for purchasing CONTENTdm, and moving forward with this fledgling project.

The NTF suggested that MSL "Stimulate the growth of digital content in a sustainable manner, by:

- Offering workshops and training
- Pursuing grants
- Purchasing statewide repository software license
- Forming a digital content interest group at MLA

- Updating our inventory of who has or is creating digital content
 - Updating our inventory on potential digital content creators
 - Providing leadership
 - Providing marketing
- c. Montana Content Cooperative Pilot. Charly Bauer, OCLC, via speakerphone described the Montana Content Cooperative Pilot project. Participation in this pilot project is open to any Montana library, encouraging libraries to catalog and make available a wide variety of digital content. This opportunity, to bloom, will require considerable marketing and some training. The pilot begins in July and runs through December.
- d. Montana Shared Catalog. Sarah McHugh reported that nine new libraries have been added to Shared Catalog since January 2006:
- i. Bigfork High School Library
 - ii. Bigfork K-8 Library
 - iii. Billings Clinic Medical Library
 - iv. Darby Community Public Library
 - v. Frenchtown High School Library
 - vi. Lima Public Schools Library (beginning stages)
 - vii. Montana DEQ Planning Division Library
 - viii. North Valley Public Library
 - ix. Office of Public Instruction (beginning stages)
 - x. TRIC/PLUK Library

The immediate deadline for applying for new-library financial assistance is June 30, 2006. The NTF recommended an annual application deadline (in the fall), as a means of achieving operational efficiencies and more efficient budgeting of LSTA funds. Successful applicants would be notified in February or March the following year.

- e. Ask-a-Montana-Librarian project. Betsy Garlish, Montana Tech, reported on the Ask a Montana Librarian virtual reference. Twenty-four libraries are working together to provide cooperative online reference services, using OCLC's QuestionPoint software. A new feature of this project supports 24 hour service; Montana libraries are invited to incorporate this service onto their Web pages.
- f. Fulfillment generally—
- i. NCIP Fulfillment project. Newell mentioned there will a meeting in Great Falls, Friday, June 9, 2006 at 10:00 in which this project will be discussed. Over the telephone, Jennifer Pearson, from OCLC discussed the Niso Circulation Interchange Protocol (NCIP) pilot project. She said they have been talking to Newell and others about doing a pilot with MT in order to facilitate the discovery, request, delivery (D2D) process and working with library vendors to initiate new ideas for delivery services. The discovery would include World

Cat using a new search product. The delivery is allowing patrons to research request and check in and check out. OCLC expects the project to begin August and it will run six or eight months.

- ii. Newell talked about ILL protocols. Draft fulfillment guidelines were discussed. He envisions two sets of protocols, the first being ILL protocols and the second being fulfillment protocols. Brown asked where this is going, and identified funding as being necessary for improvements in processes and outcomes. It was decided that a task force revise this draft, and that special note should take place of non returnables.
- iii. Staffeldt discussed MSL's request for State general funds to support this project. Staffeldt and Kris Schmitz were scheduled to meet with the Governor's office Monday morning.
- g. Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement. Staffeldt mentioned there is a formal hearing scheduled June 8, 10:00 a.m. re ILL rules in Montana. She asked that any comments re ILL hearing be sent via email to Julie Stewart at MSL by June 16, 2006.
- h. Training Calendar. Lauren McMullen, MSL's new training coordinator, demonstrated the new statewide event calendar—to applause and expressions of gratitude. <http://calendar.mtlib.org/>
- i. NTF membership. Staffeldt thanked and applauded Bray as she moved to a large library. This means this is her last meeting on the Network Task Force. Bonnie Williamson represented Federation coordinators and is no longer a Federation coordinator, so this is her last meeting also. Staffeldt asked the committee to submit any recommendations for new categories of membership to either Newell or herself.
- j. Newell said that some of the topics for the next meeting would be a discussion of MP3 audio books, computer thin clients, new contract with OCLC pricing, statewide database request for proposal, and a report back from fulfillment task force.