

State Librarian's Report
November 26, 2007 through January 18, 2007
Prepared for February 13, 2008 Commission Meeting
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Goal One – Content – *Montana State Library (MSL) acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

- Worked with Digital Library staff in the revision of the “Digital Library Transition Plan” and patron survey questions. After the news story prematurely broke about the State Library “closing its doors,” we received input from the public, state employees, and from the Governor’s office about our plan to close the reading room, limit access to our stacks, and offer our collection digitally. Overwhelmingly, we heard good news – specifically, that the State Library is a vital tool in the work of Montanans and that limiting physical access to our collection would be a detriment. But Montanans, both near and far, saw real value in making our entire collection available digitally as well. We have amended our plan to keep our current services available. This means that the reading room, with newspapers and magazines, will continue to operate; the public access computers will continue to be available; and patrons can still come in and wander our stacks. This change in our plan does affect our ability to offer more digital resources, but it only means we will need to move forward more slowly, as funds (the Governor’s office has offered to help us look for additional funds) and staff time allow. In short, Montanans will have all that they have come to expect about the State Library, with much more in terms of digital services becoming available.
- Helped to bring the Governor in to record the book FIRST DOG for the Talking Book Library patrons.
- Met with representative of the Montana Association for the Blind regarding future opportunities to provide Newslines services to more of Montana’s blind and physically handicapped citizens.

Goal Two—Access – *MSL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.*

- Meet weekly with Managers to follow up on issues, answer questions, seek information and/or provide guidance.
- Continue to work with Legislative Fiscal Division analyst as well as Governor's Budget Office Analyst to prepare follow up on agency goals and objectives for the Governor's office and interim Legislative Finance Committee meeting report(s).
- Worked with staff to begin to prepare a proposal to apply for a "Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant. Trying to include a partnership with Idaho, Wyoming, North and South Dakota's State Libraries as well as the Library school at the University of North Texas.

Goal Three—Consultation and Leadership - *MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.*

- Signed numerous contracts as we moved the administration of the Montana Shared Catalog from the Missoula Public Library to the State Library.
- Consulted on library funding issues, Fulfillment Task Force issues, dealing with problem patrons, hiring and evaluation of new public library directors, public library standards, LSTA long range planning, library legislation, state aid for libraries, Professional Education and Employment scholarship job issues, and other public library issues with local trustees and public library directors.
- Participated in December State Library Commission meeting.
- Prepared for Fulfillment Task force meeting.
- Met with Governor's cabinet every Tuesday.
- Participated in eRIM Steering Committee meeting(s). eRIM stands for electronic records and information management. This Committee was put together by the Secretary of State and Chief Information Officer for the State and it serves the State of Montana in the adoption and recommended implementation of electronic records and information management policy.

Goal Four—Collaboration - *MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.*

- Met with a staff committee to plan participation, as well as presented at a general staff meeting, the Governor's 2010 initiative to reduce fuel and energy consumption. We are moving forward with lots of efforts to reduce our energy use without harming our services.
- Met with Robin Trenbeath, Geospatial Information Officer of Montana, and visited about statewide GIS issues including but not limited to the portal at the State Library, improving relationships, the imaging theme plan, and forthcoming GIS conference.
- Help staff announce the new www.askMontana.org virtual reference program available to all Montanan's 24/7.
- Participated in a Bibliographic Center for Research Board meeting in Denver.
- Attended the Montana Government Information Technology Conference
- Participated in Montana Land Information Act Council meeting.

Goal Five— Sustainable Success - *MSL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer; it is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes), and successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.*

- "Celebrated" the retirement of Jim Hill, after eight years with the State Library as NRIS Director, Digital Library Director and Chief Information Technology Officer, he will be missed.
- Hired Sibyl Govan as Digital Library Director; Sibyl has been with the State Library as the NRIS Projects Manager and she brings to this new position her new Master in Public Administration degree, the knowledge, skills and abilities we were seeking as well as a great desire to move the Digital Library forward in providing great services to our citizens.
- Working on LSTA FY'08 budget proposal(s)

- Beginning to work on executive planning process budget request issues for the 2009 legislative session process. I have been approached by both Montana Association for the Blind and Montana Library Association regarding projects they would like us to seek funding for.
- Continue to work on first drafts of three Managers and State Librarians work plans.
- Worked with lawyer on a couple of personnel and contract issues.
- Assisted with review and development of the revised digital library transition strategy