

# Memo

To: Darlene Staffeldt  
Montana State Librarian

To: Montana State Library  
Commission

From: Bob Cooper, Chair  
Network Advisory Council

From: Darlene Staffeldt  
Montana State Librarian

Date: April 2, 2008

Date: April 7, 2008

Re: Recommendations from the Network Advisory Council meeting of  
March 21, 2008

The Network Advisory Council at its March 21, 2008 meeting approved the following recommendations to be forwarded to the State Librarian and the State Library Commission:

**Primary Recommendation #1: Council recommends acceptance of all six new applicant libraries into the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) and provision of LSTA funding to cover eligible start-up costs for these libraries as per the MSC application process.** The approved applicants are:

Billings Catholic Schools Libraries  
Lincoln County Libraries  
Philipsburg Public Library  
Power Public Schools Library  
Roundup Community Library  
Whitehall School District: Whitehall Elementary, Middle School, and High School Library

Additional MSC- related recommendations:

- MSC explore the possibility of establishment of a “rainy day” fund to assist member libraries with emergency situations.
- MSC update business plan to include E-content.

**Primary Recommendation #2: Council recommends that MSL move ahead with revised LSTA Downloadable E-content pilot proposal and second try at the RFP process to obtain a downloadable E-content service for 14 Montana libraries which have agreed to contribute funding to this pilot project.**

Additional Downloadable E-content recommendations:

- MSL to send RFP amendment letter putting Downloadable E-content vendors responding to MSL RFP's on notice to supply content for download to multiple media player formats which would be in compliance with Montana's requirements.
- Because of vendor pricing and potential Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) issues, take schools out of the mix for this initial pilot and encourage access through participating public libraries.
- Have MSL staff review which libraries have committed money to this project and which of those would lose out if MSL does not continue with this pilot. There remains a need to evaluate what is there for all libraries as it appears that the available products are not completely compliant with what Montana libraries and citizens need.

**Primary Recommendation #3: Council recommends Montana State Library negotiate a new OCLC Group Services sole source contract for FY09-FY11.**

Additional OCLC Group Services contract recommendations:

- Recommend that MLNCAT (Group Catalog) and Z39.50 First Search Gateway services which have been effectively superseded by other OCLC advancements be dropped from the OCLC Group Services contract to reduce costs to Montana participants.
- Recommend that in the current cost formula for participating libraries the cost criteria for special libraries be changed to be the same as the cost criteria for public libraries.
- The current cost formula for participating libraries should be maintained for FY09, with the exception of the cost criteria applying to special libraries. A revised cost formula reflecting future Montana needs and appropriate categories of use be researched, reviewed with participating libraries, and implemented during the second year of the contract. A Cost Formula Review Committee of the Council will coordinate this effort.
- Because OCLC is recognized by the Council as the core services unit for libraries, MSL should obtain state or federal funding to pay the OCLC costs for all Montana libraries.
- Pursue the possible inclusion of other products/services like ILLiad, CONTENTdm, and QuestionPoint under the Montana OCLC Group Services contract. The anticipated benefit to libraries by including these

products/services would be possible discounts and/or fixed price increases for the life of the contract. The cost of any specialized products lacking sufficient statewide use would be borne by the individual libraries that use them.

**Primary Recommendation #4: Council recommends MSL pursue the recommendations put forth by the Fulfillment Task Force as regards repurposing of ILL reimbursement funding, additional funding of the Montana Shared Catalog, and full payment with state or federal funding of OCLC costs for all Montana libraries.**

Additional Fulfillment Task Force related recommendations:

- In order to move forward the Fulfillment Task Force recommendations, MSL should facilitate the building of a large coalition of library support including but not limited to: Montana Library Association, University of Montana, Montana State University, Montana Office of Public Instruction, all six Montana library federations, all in-state shared catalogs serving Montana patrons, etc.

**Primary Recommendation #5: Council recommends approval of the proposed FY 08 LSTA budget.**

Additional LSTA FY 08 budget related recommendations:

- MSL should continue to vigorously pursue additional General Fund support for MSL staff currently funded by LSTA. The Council wants State of Montana employees to be funded by the State of Montana.
- Implementation of the Fulfillment Task Force recommendations are vital and should be reflected in all proposed LSTA budget planning as well as the MSL General Fund budget planning.

**Primary Recommendation #6: Council recommends MSL use LSTA or General Fund monies to totally fund the cost of the AskMontana virtual reference service for FY 08.**

Additional AskMontana related recommendations:

- It is requested that MSL and/or the AskMontana consortium of participating libraries report back to the Council in one year the results of this additional support.