

State Librarian's Report
March 26, 2008 through May 23, 2008
Prepared for June 11, 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.*

- Continued to work with Digital Library staff, Governor's office and Commission regarding the revision of the "Digital Library Transition Plan" and follow up issues.
- Received regular updates from Sarah McHugh, Special Projects Librarian on the downloadable e-book project.

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.
- Provided "moral" support while our excellent information technology staff worked through the issue of a major hacking of our interactive website databases. See more details in Digital Library report. The staff did a fantastic job dealing with this issue.

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

- Prepared for and participated in the Montana Library Association Conference.
- Participated in April and May State Library Commission meetings.
- Consulted on Montana Shared Catalog opportunities and challenges, interlibrary loan issues, salary ranges and classification scales for library positions, Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) long range planning, library legislation, state aid for libraries, and other public library issues with local trustees and public library directors.

- Prepared for and participated in Western Council of State Libraries Spring Board meeting in Utah, also expended my stay in Utah to attend workshops at the Mountain Plains Library Association meeting. Discussions and workshops included but not limited to how to improve the statistics program via partnerships and better communications between Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and the State Data Coordinators; drafting memorandum of understanding between National Library Services(NLS) and our regional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped services; availability of funds for staff exchanges and continuing education events; as well as an excellent session on how to use or not use power point to provide great presentations.
- Prepared for and participated in Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) spring board meeting in Washington, DC. We had good discussions and updates on e-rate, broadband, library services and technology act funding and usage guidelines, National Library Services funding and transition planning for the talking book library program movement to digital products, possible future Gates foundation funding for libraries, as well as other topics.
- Prepared packets and attended the American Library Association's Library Legislative Day(s) in Washington DC. After a day of briefings, Nora Smith, Honore Bray and myself were able to visit with all three of our Congressional Members and their Staff Member. We had good visits in all three offices, one was more social then issue driven but none the less we did get an audience with all three. We focused most of our time on the appropriations issues which included full funding of the LSTA monies to state grants program and full funding of the National Library Services transition to digital program.
- Met with Governor's cabinet every Tuesday, except 04/29/08 and 05/13/08.
- Participated in eRIM Steering Committee meeting(s). eRIM stands for electronic records and information management. Worked with a subcommittee on standardized vocabulary.

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

- Participated in the Tamarack meeting in Stevensville.
- Participated in a Bibliographic Center for Research (BCR) Board meeting in Denver. The board adopted a new program plan that includes some potential new business opportunities for Montana's libraries. BCR's new mission is "BCR brings libraries together for greater success by expanding their knowledge, reach and power."

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.*

- Participated in staff first aid training, which is part of our effort to get all staff appropriate training to improve our safety and emergency response program.
- Continued to work with staff, Network Advisory Council and others from the library community on our LSTA FY'08 budget proposal(s).
- Finalized two of three Managers work plans; third one will be completed by end of June.