

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

March 1, 2008 through April 30, 2008

Prepared for June 11, 2008 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of Briggs, Gunderson, Madison, Meier, Miles, and Stanton, as well as 100 volunteers.

Goal One – Content – *MSL/MTBL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

- In March and April, three books and one issue each of ***The Montana Magazine of Western History*** and the ***Montana Outdoors Magazine*** were completed at both MTBL recording studios: MAR- ***Copper Chorus: Mining Politics and the Montana Press, 1889-1959*** by Dennis L. Swibold; ***Give Me Mountains for My Horses: Journeys of a Backcountry Horseman*** by Tom Reed; ***So, This Is America!*** by Elfi Hornby; ***The Story of Mary MacLane By Herself*** by Mary MacLane; ***Seaman, The Dog Who Explored the West with Lewis and Clark*** by Gail Langer Karwoski; ***A Gift to Share: The Story of Moritz*** by Barry J. Schieber; ***An Open Heart: A Story About Moritz*** by Barry J. Schieber; ***A Peaceful Mind: Travels with Moritz*** by Barry J. Schieber.
- Low Complexity Mastering system software upgrade began March 6th in our local recording studio. Completion of this upgrade is anticipated by the end of May.
- We have experienced a variety of perplexing and difficult technical problems that influenced the local recording program as well as staff and volunteer workflow during the months of March and April.
- Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) produces a cassette audio version of Time magazine for our Montana patrons. The quality has been an issue until recently when Iowa started recording the master in digital format. Our patrons are very pleased about this improvement.
- Montana patrons will soon be surveyed regarding adding these additional magazines to our free magazine loan service: Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery, Audubon, Cowboys and Indians, and Woman's Day.

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

- The Lobe Library digital project with Audible.com is increasing in popularity with our patrons. Circulation is starting to pick up.
- The National Library Service digital download pilot project is now in its expansion phase. This has enabled us to add more patrons to direct digital download book services.

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

- Opportunities in March and April included presentations to: Lions 37N District cabinet members, Billings, regarding our services and that of Low Vision Montana (an endorsement was received for support of a mobile low vision information and service unit that will travel around the state in the future); Capital City and the Anaconda Chapters of the Montana Association for the Blind (MAB) regarding our services and that of the Montana State Prison Recording Studio.

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

- In March, the Regional Librarian participated on the National Library Service Digital Transition Advisory Committee (DTAC), as Chair of the Western states Conference of Regional Libraries.
- An instructional meeting was held in March between the Regional Librarian and Butte patron, Donna Ryan, who is the 2008-2009 representative for patrons of the Western state Conference of Regional Libraries. This meeting successfully prepared Donna for participation as a contributing member of the National Library Service Collection Development committee in May in Washington, D.C.
- Ham Radio Operators March newsletter carried a free volunteer recruitment announcement for us.
- Met in April with the Montana State Prison recording team and Librarian regarding current recording performance evaluations (excellent) and instructed teams on recording, monitoring and reviewing techniques.

Goal Five— Sustainable Success – *MSL/MTBL 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.*

- In March, over 1,000 audio book copies were processed for offerings on WebXess to other National Library Service Regional libraries for their patrons.
- Staff completed first aid and CPR training. Safe and efficient evacuation of staff and volunteers was performed during an agency wide drill.
- The semi-annual circulation and readership reports were completed for the National Library Service in April, covering the time period of Oct. 1, 2007-Mar. 31, 2008. Circulation of audio books was slightly decreased as a direct result of patron loss due to deaths. Circulation of audio magazines and descriptive videos was greatly increased over the prior year.