

**FUFILLMENT TASK FORCE (FTF)
MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2008 MEETING
HELENA, MT**

Meeting called to order by Darlene Staffeldt at 9:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Gale Bacon, Bill Cochran, Patricia Collins, Della Dubbe, Mary Guthmiller, Marsha Hinch, John Meckler, Ron Moody, Bruce Newell, Ann Rutherford, and Carolyn Wells. Colet Bartow attended part of the meeting.

Not in Attendance:

Honore Bray, Jodi Moore, and Martha Thayer.

Staff:

Ken Adams, Tracy Cook, Bob Cooper, Sarah McHugh, Lauren McMullen, Maggie Meredith, Darlene Staffeldt, and Julie Stewart.

Introductions

Introductions were made.

Questions on Interim Reports

Handouts that had been sent to the Montana State Library (MSL) via email were distributed. These included a report from Sarah McHugh on a phone call with Georgia Pines, report by Bruce Newell entitled "What Would A Statewide Library Card Look Like", and a map Bill Cochran asked NRIS to prepare. Cochran reported that he wanted a visual aid to show population in Montana as it relates to the holdings of public libraries.

Executive Planning Process (EPP)

Staffeldt explained the budget process. She will be going to the Governor's budget office in February to present MSL's general budget and legislation needs for consideration during the 2009 legislative session. In today's meeting, she would like to get direction from the FTF as to what it would like to propose in terms of budget and legislation needs that address the work of the Task Force. . At the last FTF meeting it was decided to repurpose the Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement monies (\$200,000). Today the decision needs to be made how best to repurpose that funding. For the meeting with the budget office Staffeldt needs to have a good idea of the money she will be requesting.

Staffeldt has been approached by the Montana Library Association Board to consider a request for continued database funding, school library funding, and library construction

funding. She asked the MLA Board to talk to Linda McCullouch at the Office of Public Instruction regarding school library funding. She has also been approached by Montana Association for the Blind to carry a bill on its behalf. The Governor's Office has indicated its interest in providing some additional monetary support for digitization, which would be one time money. This too will be part of the conversation in February. Staffeldt is hoping to have a recommendation from the FTF as to whether to repurpose the ILL money and/or request more money. Today's meeting needs to come up with some specific direction for Staffeldt to consider, but not necessarily the full details. The FTF needs to focus on what it would like to have Staffeldt talk about with budget office.

Discussion of statewide library card options

Newell referred to the report distributed at the meeting entitled "What Would a Statewide Library Card Look Like". His philosophy is that whatever we come up with be comprehensive, not just databases and courier systems but puts everything together. He suggests that the FTF needs to plan everything so it all falls in place. The measure is that the people in the larger towns and the people in small towns all get good library service.

McHugh and Adams have talked to other states to get ideas of how they are handling statewide library cards. In all of the phone conversations except for Georgia Pine, they really didn't have an active statewide library card in place.

Cochran stated that while Parmly Billings Library would be supportive of the decisions and path the FTF takes, Parmly is dealing with significant funding and staffing issues that precludes its participation in a statewide library card system at this time. Parmly may be interested in participating at a later date.

Rutherford said that Newell's report brings out that it is voluntary. She thinks this is a good plan and feels if Billings doesn't join right now, the FTF can still look at the possibilities. Rutherford asked if any money ideas have been added to Newell's report.

Staffeldt mentioned that at the last legislative session she asked for \$2 million/yr for basically everything that is listed on page four of Newell's report and MSL didn't get any of that money. She agrees that if this is the direction we want to go, she can go to the budget office and tell them we have a plan to repurpose ILL money and ask for a matching \$200,000. She stated that we have to have statewide buy-in and have other libraries understanding what will be happening

Moody suggests trying to first decide what a level one proposal would be, and then add a little more funding to create a level two proposal, and possibly even a third level.

The discussion about a statewide library card came down to these possibilities:

- Have Statewide Library Access
- Limit check out to three items
- Being part of statewide library access would be voluntary to all libraries
- Involve print only documents
- Depend primarily on patron pick up
- Have patrons responsible for return costs

Discussion continued about whether a statewide library card was the right way to go. Perhaps the money needed to be repurposed for OCLC, statewide database bases, and/or Montana Shared Catalog.

Cooper said he thought there may be some confusion between discussion of a consortium of libraries and the tools used by such a consortium. The Montana Shared Catalog, the Partners, AskMontana, and the libraries participating in the Montana OCLC Group Services contract are examples of consortia. SIRSI, OCLC services, Follett, Question Point, etc. are just operational tools such consortia use to accomplish their goals. He stated the FTF needs to not worry about the tools which will change dramatically from time to time. He believes the future strength for libraries centers on their being part of a collective. He suggests there is danger, for instance, in smaller libraries going it alone in the volatile world of integrated library systems. A consortia of libraries like the Montana Shared Catalog is in his opinion better positioned to cope with the challenges that lie ahead. There are definite advantages to Montana libraries being able to present themselves as a unified group. If we want the legislature to help libraries, we would be well-served by such a consortial strategy. He encouraged the FTF members to think about Montana libraries working together, rather than focusing on the available tools.

After much discussion about how to best repurpose the monies, whether it is a statewide library card, courier services, or other ideas, it was agreed upon that Staffeldt would go to the budget meeting in February and ask for the following:

1. MSL would repurpose the \$200,000 ILL reimbursement funding by putting \$100,000 toward MSC operations to lower the cost for libraries to participate, and \$100,000 toward OCLC costs to lower the cost of participation in the Montana OCLC group services contract.
2. Ask for \$300,000 in new money putting an additional \$100,000 toward MSC, and \$200,000 toward OCLC costs.
3. Ask for \$100,000 one time funds to conduct a pilot courier services project.
4. Staffeldt would explain the long range plan includes:
 - Statewide OCLC contract
 - Federated search
 - Statewide authentication
 - URL resolver

- MSC new members
- MSC ongoing costs
- Courier service contract(s)
- Non-courier delivery service(s)

Staffeldt said that most of the libraries which are part of the MSC Partners had indicated to her or other MSL staff that they are okay with the repurposing of the ILL funds as they too will see benefit from the reassigned funds.

Adams said that the MSC represents over 80 libraries and they want a courier service.

Newell reiterated that all libraries need to support this legislation.

Dubbe asked where the FTF is on the statewide library card?

Cooper suggests having MSL work on implementation strategies for a statewide library card type of access. We want to think about this carefully. He mentioned that the FTF was pulled together for a particular job which was to recommend directions related to resource sharing. The Montana State Library should take on the operational role of working on the statewide library access concept with appropriate involvement of the state's libraries.

Staffeldt should know by the end of February what the Governor's Office will be doing regarding our requests and will keep the FTF informed.

Staffeldt mentioned the next FTF meeting would probably be the beginning of March and could possibly be a telephone meeting. She again stated she would keep the FTF informed of the happenings with the Governor's Office and the budget process.

Meeting adjourned.