

October 27, 2008

Dear Montana Librarians;

In late summer, you received a letter dated August 22nd that detailed proposed revisions to the Information Access Montana legislation. In that letter, and also at the recent fall Federation meetings, I mentioned that the State Library will conduct a poll of the library community in order to gather information and ideas.

As previously stated in my August 22nd communication and to serve as a reminder here, please read below the proposed legislative revisions that the State Library Commission is planning to seek during the 2009 Legislative Session.

- We are proposing to amend sections 22-1-301, 22-1-328, 22-1-329, and 22-1-330 MCA.
- In Section 1 (MCA 22-1-301), we want to clarify the definition of “public library” in Montana.
- In Section 2 (MCA 22-1-328), we propose a change to the interlibrary loan reimbursement program language that would establish a statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. This would allow the Commission to administer funds appropriated by the legislature to support and facilitate a broader scope of resource-sharing options among libraries in Montana. This change would give options but would not dictate direction. It could mean that individual libraries would no longer receive direct interlibrary loan reimbursement checks from the state. Instead, the door would be open to use the available funds for other resource-sharing opportunities.
- In Section 3 (MCA 22-1-329), we propose to change the state multilibrary card program to a statewide library access program. This would allow the creation of a voluntary statewide library access program whereby a participating library may allow access to the library’s materials and services by users from another library’s service area population. This change would mean that a separate physical card would not be necessary; the patron’s local library card would suffice. This change would also mean that a library could choose whether or not it wanted to participate in the statewide library access program depending on its users needs and wants. This change mostly refers to physical materials, not necessarily to locally-purchased subscriptions for electronic materials.
- Section 4 (MCA 22-1-330) changes the titles of the programs for which the State Library Commission would retain rule making authority in accord with the other changes proposed above.

Again, the proposed legislation revisions would make more options available. An administrative rules process would then be required to dictate the change in distribution of the funds.

The Montana State Library will take a formal poll of the following questions from October 27th through November 7th.

Please respond to the questions below via the following:

- Online survey
http://msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/commission/2009LegislationSurvey.asp,
- or via an email message directed to Darlene Staffeldt at dstaffeldt@mt.gov,
- or by a letter sent to the attention of Darlene Staffeldt, Montana State Library, 1515 East 6th Ave, Helena, MT 59620-1800.

Poll Questions

(1) If your Senator or Representative were to ask you if you support this statue change, would you respond:

- a. Yes. If yes, please continue on to question (2).
- b. No. If no, please comment as to why you cannot support this statue change at this time.

(2) If the legislation is changed, and if an administrative rules process is initiated to repurpose the current funding (\$200,000), would you like to see the approximately \$200,000 (annual) that is now used for interlibrary loan reimbursement repurposed for:

- a. the statewide OCLC bill and the Montana Shared Catalog.
- b. the statewide OCLC bill only.
- c. other. I would recommend that the money is repurposed for: (please specify your suggestion)