

State Librarian's Report  
April 4, 2009 through May 18, 2009  
Prepared for June 3, 2009 Commission Meeting  
By Darlene Staffeldt

As it was a very short time since our last meeting, I am presenting you with abbreviated "highlights" for all programs via this report.

Briggs and Gunderson met with **new librarian, Desirée Dramstad**, at the Montana State Prison (MSP) Library to do an orientation of the MSP Recording Program and tour the new Outreach Building.

Library Information Services (LIS) is nearing completion on the first year of an estimated five-year project to **digitize our legacy state publications collection**. By the end of June, through our partnership with the Open Content Alliance, approximately 600,000 pages will be digitized and made available online both through the Internet Archive's site: <http://archive.org> as well as our own Montana Memory Project. We are in the process of completing the Invitation for Bid process to begin a second year of digitization which will commence in early July.

**Author tour:** Robert San Souci made 15 presentations at Kalispell-area elementary schools the week before the MLA conference. Mr. San Souci is a renowned children's author who talked to audiences of up to 100+ students about how he gets his ideas, writing and editing steps, and getting his work published. The local school librarians helped with scheduling the author's presentations, transporting him from school to school, and providing him lunch each day so he could eat on the road between programs. From all accounts – we heard from superintendents, principals, librarians, students, and the author – it was a very successful tour.

**National Library Legislative Day** (May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) in DC was a good adventure for Marsha Hinch, Della Dubbe, and I. We had good visits with staffers in Senator Baucus' and Representative Rehberg's offices. We had a good visit with staff and Senator Tester at his office. We pushed the messages that our Congressman

should continue to provide Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding to libraries, support the funding for school libraries , approve the reauthorization of the LSTA, continue to support the E-rate exemptions, and other library related issues.

In April, the Montana Talking Book Library (TBL) gave two **library tours** to the East Helena Radley School 4<sup>th</sup> Graders. Attending these tours were 4 adults and 43 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. [The actual thank you cards from the kids are pretty cute. I will pass them around at the Commission meeting.]

The 2008 Collection Management **Honor Roll** was formally announced at MLA. This year, 77 libraries received certificate awards: 12 academic, 51 public, 10 school, and 4 special libraries.

A new **on site training** was offered by Lauren, at Pathfinder Federation meeting, on Intellectual Freedom in Montana Libraries/ Managing Censorship Challenges. This is an important topic, the training was well-received, and Lauren hopes to repeat it and perhaps develop training on related topics, like policies and materials selection.

We accepted the resignation of **Ann Retzinger**, State Publications Librarian. We will be holding this position open at least until budget shortfall decisions have been made.

**Montana Shared Catalog (MSC):** Nearly 100 MSC member librarians, staff and visitors attended the MSC 2009 Spring Member's Council meeting hosted by the Bozeman Public Library on May 7th and 8th. The nine new Montana libraries that have been approved to join the MSC were introduced. When these libraries are added, the MSC will have 99 member libraries (including branches), with over 1,000,000 titles and nearly 3,000,000 items in the catalog database. The membership voted to fund an additional MSC staff person and approved the FY2010 MSC budget. Gary Rautenstrauch, SirsiDynix CEO, joined the meeting and after saying a few words, entertained numerous pointed questions ranging from company health/viability to technical issues with the Symphony software which drives the MSC.

**Government Information training** offered in the MSL OPAL room in partnership with Jennie Burroughs, Government Documents Librarian from U of M Mansfield Library. Jennie's presentations are \*excellent\*, the first session was well attended and feedback is very positive, and program materials/archives are available on the program website:

<http://iddtrainingresources.pbworks.com/Government-Information-for-Librarians>

In late March, **Lorna McMurray** started as part time temporary assistant in the Talking Book Library program. Lorna does numerous tasks as she manages the front desk and incoming phone calls for TBL.

Reymer attended **E-rate** training recently in Chicago. It was a good session. We also had conversations with our Congressional delegation on E-rate issues.

**National Library Service** is gearing up for May-August beta testing of the new digital cartridges and machines by 8 talking book libraries in the nation (Montana is not one of these). Briggs continues involvement in the Open Forum sponsored weekly by NLS in preparation of the digital services.

The Natural Heritage Program staff released an updated version of the **Montana Field Guide**. This version includes an enhanced media section which has images for all species as well as calls for many species. Additionally, in response to staff and user comments, this rollout significantly improves performance and response time of the application.

Reymer has been helping with the Manhattan Community Library **strategic planning** process.

Staffeldt worked with First Lady Nancy Schweitzer's staff to organize five of our School/Community libraries to accept the First Lady's **Scholastic Summer Challenge**. The Challenge is to help get kids excited about reading and encourage them to read four or more books this summer.

As part of the Scholastic Summer Challenge, Scholastic has donated 500 books to fourth and fifth grade students, the age at which studies show children's reading drops dramatically. Fourth and fifth grade students at five Montana School and

Community Libraries (Broadwater, Frenchtown, Manhattan, Roundup and St. Ignatius) will receive free books from Scholastic.

The Scholastic Summer Challenge is a four month global literacy campaign encouraging kids to read four or more books this summer to combat the “summer slide,” or the learning loss that occurs from simply being out of school. Kids log on to [www.scholastic.com/summer](http://www.scholastic.com/summer) to join the FREE Scholastic Summer Challenge and join other kids to record their minutes spent reading, earn points for their team, play games, and read for a cause, with a donation going to support Save the Children. On the site, parents and educators can engage in the Scholastic Summer Challenge as well by logging on to explore new multi-media content about kids and reading, get advice from education experts, and find summer book lists and articles in English and Spanish.

The Montana Association of GIS Professionals (**MAGIP**) **election** results were recently announced. Linda Vance of the Natural Heritage Program was elected Vice President and Diane Papineau of NRIS was elected to an at large seat on the MAGIP Board.

The **Montana Memory Project** (MMP) has seen substantial growth in the past year following our collaboration with the Montana Historical Society. The MMP now has a steering committee with staff from the State Library, the Historical Society and newly joined member, the University of Montana Mansfield Library. Through the work of this committee the MMP now has a planning document that guides participants through the necessary steps to plan for and implement a digitization project as well as guidelines and best practices that address copyright, privacy, scanning requirements and metadata recommendations. The MMP is being promoted through the Montana Historical Society County History Initiative resulting for requests for information from around the state. New collections are being added by the Natural Heritage Program, the University of Montana, the Flathead County Library and, most recently the Butte Project with partnership from the World Mining Museum, the Butte Archives, the University of Montana and the Montana Historical Society.

The Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC) announced the final funding determination for the **2010 MLIA Grants**. A proposal for the co-stewardship

of the OrthoImagery Framework Layer that was jointly submitted by MSL/NRIS and the BMSC receive the highest score. The MSL proposal for the stewardship of the Hydrography Framework Layer received the second highest score. Also receiving funding were proposals from the Natural Heritage Program to develop the Landcover and Wetlands Framework Layers.

The **Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)** has co-authored a white paper describing a proposed relationship with the Base Map Service Center (BMSC). This relationship defines how these two agencies will provide framework assistance for all stewards of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure. This relationship strongly supports the natural role that NRIS has historically filled to promote the collection of and access to natural resource information with an emphasis on spatial information while identifying a necessary role for the BMSC to support what is being referred to as Human geography which includes themes such as cadastral, geodetic control and government units or boundaries. This document does much to clarify and solidify a positive working relationship between NRIS and the BMSC. It is currently being shared with NRIS supporters and will be presented to the NRIS Advisory Committee on June 2 and with the Montana Land Information Advisory Council on June 4. To date it has met with much support.

In compliance with state and federal regulations for transparency in the use of stimulus funds, TBL and our web manager, Tom Marino, prepared a web page for inclusion on the **Montana Reinvestment Act website**: <http://recovery.mt.gov/>. This page details plans to spend \$323,000 that will fund a program to provided expanded local and national newspapers in alternate formats including expanded special radio signal broadcast of all Montana newspapers to Montana patrons and expanded Newsline™ telephone newspaper services to Montana patrons.