

Montana State Library Report

Brief summary prepared for Fall 2009 Meetings

By Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian

Version dated September 20, 2009

Montana State Library Commission (MSLC):

The next meeting of the MSLC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2009 and will be held at the Hearst Free Library in Anaconda, MT. Agenda items include but are not limited to:

- Montana State Library (MSL) FY 2009 close out budget
- Interlibrary loan (ILL) protocols
- Montana Library Certification program update and decision.

We have "new" Commissioners. Let me introduce you to the following three Commissioners all appointed as public representatives by Governor Schweitzer:

- Richard Quillin lives in Whitefish, MT and is a retired CIO.
- Anita Scheetz lives in Sidney, MT and is the Library Director at the Fort Peck Tribal Library in Poplar.
- Don Allen is a reappointment. Don lives in Billings and Polson and is a semi-retired CPA.

Commission information can be found at:

http://www.msl.MT.gov/About_MSL/commission/default.asp

Montana State Library Staff updates:

Linda Miles, Readers' Advisor for the Talking Book Library has left the State Library to move to Oregon.

Jemma Hazen, Shared Catalog Assistant will be leaving the State Library next week to join the staff of the Lewis and Clark Public Library.

Kathy Madison, Acquisitions and Serials Technician for the Library and Information Services Division passed away quite unexpectedly on September 5, 2009 from a heart attack.

Network Advisory Council (NAC):

The next meeting of the Network Advisory Council is scheduled for November 3, 2009. Agenda items include but are not limited to:

- Complete request for proposal (RFP) review for Courier/Delivery Service Pilot
- Final recommendation to the State Library Commission for repurposing of ILL Reimbursement funds
- Further consideration of a statewide digital preservation direction

- Broadband Funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – Montana application status/future directions
- Adoption of a calendar year 2010 Council meeting schedule.

The Council welcomes its newest members Kathy Mora, Interim Director of the Great Falls Public Library as the large public library representative and Richard Quillin, MSL Commissioner as the Commission representative.

Council information can be found at:

http://msl.MT.gov/About_MSL/network_advisory_council/network_tf.asp

Ready2Read Program Update:

The Montana State Library has developed an extensive early literacy outreach program called, "Ready 2 Read!" This program focuses on helping libraries to reach out to their youngest patrons in a variety of ways to promote early literacy development in their youngest patrons – children from birth to age five.

Ready 2 Read breaks down its outreach efforts to three main target audiences: babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. All material developed for the program is specific to age and developmental skills.

Web site: There is a new public Web site at <http://ready2readmontana.org>. Please consider linking to this Web site from your library's Web page and/or from your library's children's page. The What's Your Story site (<http://msl.mt.gov/whatsyourstory>) is in the process of being redesigned and will have LOTS of information for libraries to use on how to serve these young people and their families.

Posters: Six new posters, featuring children and their parents, were developed. They are available for your library to use to promote early literacy.

Brochures: A series of three new brochures will be available in mid-September. These brochures, designed for the parents of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, include developmental milestones, early literacy research, early literacy skills, and tips on sharing books with each age group. Please consider distributing these at your library and working with organizations and businesses in your communities (WIC offices, pediatrician offices, daycares, Head Start, etc) to distribute these to parents.

Bins of Books: Forty-five of Montana's public and tribal libraries will be eligible to receive a "Ready 2 Read!" bin. Contents will include:

A large selection of librarian-approved and selected books that are perfect for your youngest patrons;

An early literacy programming guide with lots of ways to incorporate research on early literacy into your story times and outreach;

A huge selection of materials to give to parents and kids that highlight the value of sharing books with babies, toddlers, and preschoolers and the best ways to do it!

There will be eligibility requirements that are considered before libraries will receive the bins. Watch Wired for more details.

Early Literacy Trainings: Cindy Christin, Children's Services Librarian and Sara Groves, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, MSL will be working to provide a large range of early literacy trainings both in person and online.

Survey: A survey will be available online after Labor Day, which will help us gauge what is happening in the world of early literacy in Montana and what needs to happen. Please make sure your library completes the survey, if they haven't already, as soon as possible.

Montana Library Certification Program (for librarians, trustees, other interested persons, not libraries) Update:

The Certification Update Focus Group's original recommendations were posted on the MSL website in March and announced on the statewide library listserv. A survey was posted until May 31st and 175 librarians and trustees responded with comments about continuing education and certification. All the input collected was shared with the Focus Group to use in preparing the final recommendations. At their June 24th meeting, the Focus Group considered several update scenarios. After discussion, the members voted unanimously to 'tweak' the original recommendations in response to the comments/input received from the survey and other venues. Changes include establishing one credit requirement for all certifications (no distinction between initial and subsequent certificates), extending the time available to earn certification, and adjusting the number of credits required in specific continuing education (ce) categories to give librarians more flexibility to focus on training needs for their particular position. The Focus Group formally presented its final recommendations (http://www.msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/Training/certification/default.asp) to the Montana State Library Commission on August 5th. The Commission is scheduled to take action on the recommendations at its October 7 meeting. Montana Librarians and Trustees can continue to comment on the recommendations. Comments can be directed to Commission members and/or MSL staff members Tracy Cook (tcook@MTlib.org), Sue Jackson (sujackson@MT.gov), or Darlene Staffeldt (dstaffeldt@mt.gov). All comments received will be shared with the Commission before action is taken in October.

Interlibrary Loan monies repurposing:

Attention Montana librarians and trustees; if you have not already shared your comments on the proposed Interlibrary Loan (ILL) reimbursement repurposing (described below) during this current public comment period, please send your comments to your representative on the Network Advisory Council. Comments may be submitted by email or regular mail. Or, preferably, you may send your comments directly to Bob Cooper, Council Chair (bocooper@MT.gov). He will ensure that they are documented and distributed to all Council members. Comments received between now and October 28, 2009 will be considered.

House Bill 61 was passed and signed into law during the 2009 Session of the Montana Legislature. Along with some other changes related to resource sharing between libraries, this bill made changes to the section of law that governs the administrative aspect of the ILL Reimbursement Program and the use of the approximately \$200,000 per year that has been allocated to that program. The State Library Commission (Commission) is now authorized (upon

completion of an Administrative Rules of Montana [ARM] process) to use this \$200,000 per year to fund a wider range of resource sharing options. These options include, but are not limited to, paying part of the cost of the statewide OCLC Montana Group Services contract, paying part of the ongoing cost of the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC), paying part of the cost of a courier delivery service, continuing to pay part of the cost of the ILL Reimbursement Program, and several other ideas that earlier discussions have brought forth beginning with the work of the Fulfillment Task Force (FTF) as it started reviewing resource sharing issues in August 2007.

In asking for the library community's support for HB61, the Commission promised that additional discussion would take place regarding resource sharing options prior to any action that body would take to repurpose ILL Reimbursement Program funds. This additional discussion was to precede the official ARM process the Commission would need to undertake prior to directing funding to another option besides the current ILL program.

It was determined by MSL, working at the direction of the Commission, that following successful passage of HB61 the Network Advisory Council would meet to decide on a recommendation(s) regarding how to repurpose the approximate \$200,000 amount beginning in FY 2010. That recommendation would be made available to the library community with sufficient time for discussion and comment prior to the Council sending a final recommendation to the Commission.

The Council at its meeting on June 30, 2009, after considering comments received in the interim, voted to stand by its March 21, 2008 endorsement of the final recommendation issued by the FTF which is as follows:

"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. (FTF January 25, 2008 meeting)"

The Council will consider additional comments in regard to this recommendation at its meeting on November 3, 2009. At that meeting the Council will take action on its final recommendation to the Commission for repurposing ILL program funds. The Commission will decide at its December 2, 2009 meeting whether to initiate an ARM hearing on this matter. You are encouraged to send your comments by E-mail or regular mail to your representative on the Council or preferably directly to me (bocooper@MT.gov) so that I can ensure that they are documented and distributed to all Council members. Comments received between now and October 28, 2009 will be considered.

Information about the Network Advisory Council membership is available at:
http://msl.MT.gov/About_MSL/network_advisory_council/network_tf.asp

Information about the now deactivated Fulfillment Task Force is available at:
http://msl.MT.gov/About_MSL/fulfillment_task_force/fulfillment_tf.asp

Thank you for your continued involvement in this important process.

Interlibrary Sharing Protocol:

Progress continues to be made on revising and updating the "Montana Interlibrary Sharing Protocol." A workgroup recruited by the Montana Library Association's (MLA) Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Interest Group produced at the request of the Montana State Library (MSL) a draft revision of this protocol document. MSL very much appreciates the accomplishments of the workgroup. That draft revision was made available via Wired-MT for comments from interested persons within the Montana library community. Several comments were received by the August 14, 2009 deadline and are currently being considered by MLA ILL Interest Group Co-chairs David Ketchum and Christine Vance in their work on a final draft revision. This final draft revision will be submitted to MSL staff who will in turn ready it for consideration by the State Library Commission at its October 7, 2009 meeting. For your information, URL's are provided below that link to a schedule for the revision process, the draft revision of the Protocol, and the Protocol document currently in effect. When the final draft revision document is available it will be posted at http://msl.MT.gov/About_MSL/commission/MTgmaterials.asp. Thank you to all those who submitted comments and to David Ketchum and Christine Vance for their contributions to this important effort.

Montana Interlibrary Sharing Protocol Revision Suggested Adoption Schedule: [Interlibrary Sharing Protocol Memorandum](#)

Montana Interlibrary Sharing Protocol Revision Draft (July, 2009): [Interlibrary Sharing Protocol - DRAFT](#)

Montana Interlibrary Sharing Protocol Currently in Effect (August, 1998): [Interlibrary Sharing](#)

Montana Shared Catalog (MSC):

MSC information can be found at:

http://msl.MT.gov/For_Librarians/Montana_Shared_Catalog/default.asp and blog at:
http://msl.MT.gov/For_Librarians/Montana_Shared_Catalog/default.asp

The four remaining libraries in MSC Phase X (FY2008), Billings Catholic Schools, Philipsburg Public, Power School and West Yellowstone School, are busy manually adding their collections to the MSC database and should be ready to go live in the system this fall.

The MSC Phase XI (FY2009) libraries, Ashland School, Bridger Public, Glasgow City-County, Joliet Public, Lincoln County High School, Manhattan Community, Parmly Billings, Red Lodge Carnegie and Stone Child College implementation schedules have been finalized and configuration and profiling their libraries in the MSC system has begun.

Resource Sharing Groups: Recent additions include Lincoln County Libraries (Libby, Eureka and Troy) in the "Partners" group and Dillon Public in the 4-Rivers group. Rosebud County (Forsyth) and Bicentennial Library of Colstrip libraries plan to join the Partners group in September.

System status: The MSC software was upgraded to the vendor's latest version, Symphony 3.2.1 pc-5, in early July. The MSC production server is nearing the end of its "useful" life (5 years) and will be replaced with a new server later this year. System "up" time since April,

2006 is 98.97%. For more info, see the MSC Incident Display at [http://msl.MT.gov/For Librarians/Montana Shared Catalog/Members/incidentdisplay.asp](http://msl.MT.gov/For_Librarians/Montana_Shared_Catalog/Members/incidentdisplay.asp)

MSC Catalog Cleanup project: The project started on Aug 5th with 7 catalogers temporarily hired thru a staffing agency, assigned to view more than 100,000 records that have been flagged as potential duplicates in the catalog. The MSC Executive Committee authorized the release of \$33,810 from the MSC budget to pay for the project. So far (as of Aug 21), more than 20,000 records have been assigned for review and more than 10,000 of them have required correction.

The MSC Membership, at their Spring 2009 meeting, approved funding for hiring an additional MSC staff person. The position responsibilities and description were approved by the state personnel office in mid-August and the job was publicly announced on Aug 25. The new hire will focus on training, cataloging, technical support and administration assistance. The position was approved as a temporary, 1 year position and will be reviewed by the MSC membership next spring to determine whether to make the position permanent. This position is funded by the MSC membership, not by State General Fund or LSTA funds.

The next MSC Membership meeting will be held in Helena on Oct 1 and 2. Information on previous meetings can be found on the MSC meetings page at: [http://msl.MT.gov/For Librarians/Montana Shared Catalog/Meetings/default.asp](http://msl.MT.gov/For_Librarians/Montana_Shared_Catalog/Meetings/default.asp). More information on the fall meeting will be posted soon.

Proposed Changes to the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM):

At the December 2, 2009 meeting of the State Library Commission, MSL anticipates bringing forth a small slate of proposed changes to several sections of the ARM which impact libraries. Should the Commission agree to pursue these proposed changes, an ARM hearing process would likely be initiated in January 2010 and run until early March. More detailed information will be provided as part of that hearing process but, in brief, changes dealing with Public Library Standards, Federations, and ILL reimbursement are likely to be up for consideration. Most of the changes being contemplated are from suggestions provided by libraries to help rules match practice. A few proposed changes are new ideas such as one suggested by the Federation Coordinators to allow Coordinator travel to Commission meetings to be considered prior to applying the current formula for distribution of federation funds. The Coordinators feel that this would produce a more equitable situation, especially for the coordinators who consistently have to travel the furthest to attend Commission meetings to present their federation reports in June and December. A few proposed ARM changes are likely to be required as a result of efforts currently underway to consider changes in the Montana Certification Program and the ILL Reimbursement Program. All librarians will have the opportunity to comment in person or in writing on the proposed changes as part of the official ARM process. Again, all the details of the specific proposed changes and the dates of the required comment periods will be made available in accord with the official guidelines for ARM hearings.

Montana State Publications Digitization Project:

Contact for more information or questions: Jim Kammerer, LIS Manager, jkammerer@mt.gov or 406-444-5432.

Library Information Services (LIS) is in the second year of its project to digitize its legacy print state publications collection. Digitization is being conducted by the Internet Archive. During the first year over 9000 state publications were digitized totally or more nearly 624,000 pages. Links to these digital documents are available through the Montana Shared Catalog and WorldCat. Or you can search these publications full text through the Montana Memory Project at <http://MTmemory.org> and through the Internet Archive at <http://www.archive.org/details/MontanaStateLibrary>.

Digital Depository Libraries:

Contact for more information or questions: Jim Kammerer, LIS Manager, jkammerer@mt.gov or 406-444-5432.

The availability of online state publications has made it easier than ever for libraries to become depository libraries. Relying on URL links from Marc records in the MSC and in WorldCat which link to the Montana Memory Project; libraries can now provide immediate access to digital state government information without the need to process the physical items, to maintain shelf space for the collection, to circulate the collection and to eventually weed the collection. To date three new libraries have become digital depository libraries.

Montana GIS Portal:

Contact for more information or questions: Evan Hammer, NRIS Manager, ehammer@mt.gov or 406-444-5355.

Look for the latest release of the Montana GIS Portal, Montana's primary catalog of GIS data coming soon at <http://gisportal.MT.gov>. Much like an online library catalog, this portal allows patrons to search for maps and GIS data, to view the data in a map viewer or to download the data for use in GIS software. Additionally, producers of GIS data are encouraged to publish their data so it can be found by GIS users anywhere. Currently available GIS data includes hundreds of datasets. Some that may be of interest to library patrons include locations of hunting districts and fishing access sites, boundaries for cities, towns, school districts, and legislative districts, observations for plant and animal species of concern, aerial photography of the Yellowstone River Corridor, and land ownership information.

Statewide Projects update:

Contact for more information or questions: Sarah McHugh, Statewide Projects Librarian, samchugh@MT.gov or 406-444-9816

MontanaLibrary2Go: <http://www.montanalibrary2go.org> Phase Five implementation began July 1 and includes the Three Forks Community Library, Carnegie Public Library, North Valley Public Library and the Havre Hill County Library. This brings the consortium to 37 members.

Currently, the collection will continue to include downloadable audio books only, while patron usage and the shared collection budget continue to be monitored, before expanding to include video and music.

Courier Pilot Project: An RFP is being drafted with assistance from the Network Advisory Council. The RFP will be based on the \$80,000/year funding approved by the Legislature. There will be a focus on under-developed courier areas of the state, specifically the north central and northeastern region. Butte, Great Falls, Havre, Sidney and Lewistown are identified "drop sites" to serve participating libraries in this region. The RFP will be sufficiently broad in scope to give providers the opportunity to respond to the demands of a full statewide courier service. The RFP will be issued by September 3, with responses available for NAC review at their November 3 meeting. A January pilot launch is estimated.

WorldCat Local Pilot: A WorldCat Local pilot is currently in the planning stages, funded by LSTA monies. Perspective libraries, approved by the Network Advisory Council, include the University of Montana Mansfield Library, Missoula Public Library, the Missoula School District Libraries and the Montana State Library. Montana libraries not included in a WorldCat Local pilot will be able to implement either WorldCat Local QuickStart (depending on type of local ILS) or "deep linking" capabilities through the WorldCat Registry.

EZProxy Pilots: EZProxy is a product of OCLC that provides centralized authentication. In other words, library patrons need only enter identifying information one time to have access to a variety of library resources including a library catalog and/or online databases. MSL is currently conducting two pilots use EZProxy software. In the first pilot, the State Library and the Missoula Public Library, along with four other libraries nation-wide, are helping OCLC test a hosted instance of EZProxy. Missoula Public Library is the test library for this pilot in Montana. Patrons accessing Missoula's statewide and individual database subscriptions from outside the library now enter their patron ID only once to gain access to a suite of different database subscriptions the library provides. The pilot launched July 10 and continues for 4 months. Locally, the State Library is launching EZProxy authentication statewide, through a statewide license from OCLC. The first group of libraries to be configured for one-stop remote authentication into the statewide databases will be the MSC libraries, followed by libraries with interoperable ILS. The first goal is to enable one-stop authentication remotely into the statewide subscription databases, followed by authentication into group subscriptions such as HeritageQuest and MontanaLibrary2Go. Eventually, individual library subscriptions requiring authentication would be added.

Statewide Subscription Databases Update: The contract with the Gale Group to renew the existing InfoTrac suite of statewide databases has been renewed. Gale is also including a year's access to their Small Business Resource Center for FY2010. The contract with EBSCO to renew the existing Automotive Repair Reference Center, Small Engine Repair Center, CINAHL Full Text, and Environment Complete databases is currently in the renewal process. In addition, the State Library has purchased EBSCO's Career Library for a one year statewide subscription, with end of year State coal tax monies. All Montana libraries listed in the Montana Library Directory are automatically re-enrolled in the statewide databases.

OCLC Statewide Group Services Contract Renewal FY2010: 240 libraries had enrolled by this year's June 19 deadline and others continue to enroll. Libraries subscribing to individual products such as WorldCat Collection Analysis and ILLiad continued to keep those services under the Group Services contract. OCLC pricing for FY2010 either remained at FY2009 levels or was reduced and this will also be the case in FY2011.

Montana Memory Project: <http://mtmemory.org> The Montana Memory Project is growing. MMP trainings have taken place at last year's Fall Workshop, at regional County History Initiative conferences and at MLA. A "project planning" document is now required of all interested contributors, to help with project evaluation and the MMP Guidelines help inform existing and new institutions. A future preservation or "long term access" solution is being planned. Both OCLC's Digital Archive solution and participation in the upcoming "MetaArchive West" approach are being considered as statewide digital preservation solutions. The MMP Steering Committee meets monthly. Molly Kruckenberg and Roberta Gebhardt (Historical Society), Steve McCann (UM Mansfield), Jason Clark (Montana State University Libraries) and Jennie Stapp and Sarah McHugh (MSL) are members of the Steering Committee.

SWIM Library Scholarship Program:

A four-state regional scholarship grant proposal -- called SWIM for the participating states (South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana) -- has been selected for funding by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The three-year project will provide 50 scholarships to residents of the partner states for library education: 30 scholarships for MLIS degrees through the University of North Texas distance learning program and 20 scholarships for School Library Media Endorsement credentials through the UM or MSU distance programs. The application process will begin in fall 2009 and the scholarships will be awarded in April 2010. Scholarship recipients would begin classes in fall 2010 and complete coursework by summer 2012. Details about SWIM, including requirements and application details, will be posted on a new SWIM website by early October.

Federal Stimulus Funds:

Federal Stimulus Funds allocated by the 2009 Legislature: MSL was awarded \$323,000 to contract for the ongoing and expanded operation of the National Library Service/Montana Association for the Blind "Newslines" service and the Montana Radio Reading Service. Work is currently underway to finalize contracts with each of these organizations for the provision of audio newspaper access to Montana citizens restricted from reading newspapers because of blindness, low vision, or other physical disability.

Broadband Stimulus Funds provided by United States Congress: MSL, working in conjunction with the Governor's Office, is awaiting the release of the official notification regarding the beginning of the second round of Broadband Stimulus funding provided through the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP). In anticipation that funding advantages for libraries will be included in this second round of grants and loans, MSL will in September 2009 be contacting Montana public libraries in regard to their interest and ability to seek funding during the second and/or third rounds of these programs. Libraries will be asked the type of project they feel would be of most benefit. Of particular concern is each library's ability to contribute at least a 20% match, its ability to meet the extensive reporting requirements, and the service level and relationship each has with its local broadband carrier and Internet Service Provider.

A recent development has occurred that may help address the matching funds concern as well as enhance the State Library's ability to submit a broadband funding application that benefits more public libraries. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has just announced its Opportunity

Online Broadband Grant Program designed to assist state library agencies seeking to obtain federal broadband stimulus funds to benefit public libraries in their respective states. In a nutshell, successful state library applicants could receive from the Foundation funding to cover some or all of the 20% match requirement for each public library included in a broadband stimulus project and receive consulting support to assist in the development of its BTOP application. The Foundation is strongly encouraging public libraries participating in a Foundation-assisted federal broadband stimulus project to take advantage of the federal E-rate program to assure future broadband sustainability. The deadline for MSL to apply to be one of the limited number of "Qualified Candidates" approved for the Foundation's support is September 28. MSL staff will use information acquired from this month's public library broadband survey as well as information gathered from several other sources to submit the required Letter of Interest to the Foundation by the deadline.

Budget Reductions for Montana State Library for 2010/2011:

We are still facing an approximate \$120,000 shortfall in our personnel and operations budgets for each year of the biennium. This came about due to the 7% vacancy savings request of all agency budgets and the 2% across-the-board cut for all general funds in all agencies. The 2% across-the-board was reduced to approximately .5% for the State Library and a few other agencies when the final budget bill was passed.

So far we have identified the following reductions:

1. A hiring freeze for any general fund positions that come vacant. (Federally-funded [LSTA] and Montana Shared Catalog membership-funded positions would be excluded from this freeze because they would not contribute any general fund savings.)
 - A. The State Publications Librarian position is a general fund funded position and is currently open due to a resignation. MSL will hold the State Publications Librarian position open for an extended period of time to generate some vacancy savings. (If the position is held open the entire year the savings would be \$46,000.)

Holding the State Publications Librarian position open will result in a less progressive state publications program at this time. This includes the following:

- No aggressive outreach/marketing for the program to either state agencies or depository libraries;
- No aggressive program to seek out older and/or non electronic publications from state agencies for the digital collection;
- No new development of Archive Montana, our program to capture state agency websites;
- Reliance on existing staff in the Digital Library to take on some additional workload to maintain a basic state publications program;
- Reduced support to both state agencies and depository libraries involved in the state publications program;
- Reliance on existing staff to continue to manage our project to digitize the existing state publications in the state library collection; and

- Reliance on existing staff to continue to capture current electronic publications from state agency websites.
- B. One of the Talking Book Library (TBL) Reader's Advisory Positions is a general fund funded position and is currently open due to a resignation. MSL will hold this Reader Advisory position open for an extended period of time to generate vacancy savings. (If the position is held open for the entire year the savings will be \$27,000.) Holding this Reader's Advisory (RA) Position open has resulted in the necessary reassignment of the patron management workload of this RA position to the remaining two RA positions. This means that each remaining RA position is now responsible for approximately 600 more TBL patrons which is a patron management workload increase of approximately 50 percent. Other staff with former RA training and experience may be re-directed from other vital duties to assist with patron management. *In order to compensate for this significant additional workload shift, other duties formerly assigned to the two remaining RA positions are either being reassigned to other staff or eliminated. These include but are not limited to:*
 - Elimination of one edition of the TBL patron newsletter;
 - Elimination of the large print Reader's Digest subscription;
 - Ongoing elimination of the Summer Reading Program;
 - Delays in the shipping of books which will be a hardship for patrons;
 - Reduction of support for recording program at Montana State Prison;
 - Local recording program output will be reduced meaning less Montana books and magazines available for TBL patrons and increased delay in obtaining popular titles;
 - Reduction of outreach activity to other organizations;
 - Implementation of the digital transition process mandated by NLS will be delayed in terms of database set-up, MARC records set-up, ability to circulate newly arriving digital books, creation and implementation of new policies and procedures for handling digital books;
- 2. We have purchased new servers and other equipment this year with end-of-year monies in anticipation of the fact that we will not have this opportunity over the next two years. Kris Schmitz and Jennie Stapp have identified some ongoing maintenance contracts that will not be necessary for the next couple of years and those will generate some savings as well as a slight reduction in the equipment budget. (Approximately \$10,000 per year)
 - Hardware maintenance contracts were purchased in FY08 as a stop gap measure while the Department of Administration completes their data centers. These will not need to be renewed. However, if these data centers are not completed on time MSL will need to consider purchasing additional hardware upgrades in FY11 or FY12 or we face the risk of critical hardware failure.
- 3. We negotiated a new contract with the University of Montana for the Natural Heritage Program (NHP) contract which included a small reduction in general fund core funding

for its programs and services (approximately 2.5% or \$22,000 total or \$11,000 per year). Reductions in the contract for NHP services will result in:

- No enhancements to Heritage Tracker website specifically for public use.
 - Cannot conduct outreach to meet demand for NHP services from local governments & tribes.
 - Reduced updating of Public Lands information in Land Stewardship database.
 - Potential delays in updating species observation databases, resulting in less up-to-date information for environmental review and planning.
 - Potential delays in enhancement of Montana Field Guide content (Animal, Plant and Ecological)
 - Delayed integration of MSL catalog records into NHP website.
 - Greater reliance on federal partners for funding, resulting in increased focus on federal agency priorities.
4. Additionally at this time, Managers have determined that we will take up to \$28,000 from our operating budgets should the above identified cuts not meet our total budget shortfall. This will reduce funds available for supplies, travel, telecommunications, etc.

Some upcoming library meeting dates:

- September 15, 2009 – Broad Valleys Federation Conference Call Meeting
- September 24, 2009 – Golden Plains Federation Meeting, Wolf Point, MT
- October 1, 2009 – Pathfinder Federation Meeting, Fort Benton, MT
- October 07, 2009 – Commission meeting, Anaconda, MT
- October 16-17, 2009 – Sagebrush Federation Meeting, Broadus, MT
- October 23, 2009 – Tamarack Federation Meeting, Columbia Falls, MT
- October 24, 2009 – South Central Federation Meeting, Billings, MT
- November 3, 2009 – Network Advisory Council Meeting, Helena, MT
- December 2, 2009 – Commission meeting, Helena, MT
- March 6-7, 2010 – Broad Valleys Federation Retreat and Meeting, TBD
- March 26, 2010 – Tamarack Federation Meeting, Superior, MT
- April 7-10, 2010 – Montana Library Association Conference, Bozeman, MT