

Comments from Montana Libraries on the Proposed Repurposing of ILL Reimbursement Program Funds

(Collection Period: August 6 through October 28, 2009)

NOTE: This collection of comments on the action listed below was solicited by the Montana State Library and the Network Advisory Council at the request of the State Library Commission.

The Network Advisory Council at its meeting on June 30, 2009 voted to stand by its March 21, 2008 endorsement of the final recommendation issued by the Fulfillment Task Force which reads 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).”

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Wed, Oct 28, 2009 3:19 PM	Diane Stuver	Library Director	Henry A Malley Memorial Library	Broadus

I think a 50/50 split MSC/OCLC would be the most beneficial use for Henry A. Malley Memorial Library.

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Tues, Oct 27, 2009 4:03 PM	Marlene Kelsch	School Librarian	Libby High School Library	Libby

I attended the October meeting of the Tamarack Federation. It was suggested that we send comments about which proposal we would choose for some of the state library money. I would prefer to have it divided between OCLC and the Shared Catalog program. Libby High School and Libby School district are members of OCLC, and any money to help pay the bill would be appreciated. We are also planning to apply to join Shared Catalog in December when the applications come out. Therefore, any help with that would also be appreciated.

Thanks for all your hard work on our behalf.

Marlene Kelsch

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Wed, Oct 28, 2009 12:14 PM	Janet Livingston	Library Director	Ekalaka Public Library	Ekalaka

I discussed this with my board members today and our idea would be to put \$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.

Janet Livingston

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Wed, Oct 28, 2009 9:41 AM	Nancy Schmidt	Library Director	Laurel Public Library	Laurel

I am not sure whether I had replied to you or not about the repurposing of funds, so I am replying again. Even though Laurel is part of the MSC and we would love to see all of the money repurposed for that I feel it would be fairer to all libraries in the state if at least half of the funds went to OCLC with the rest being used for the Shared Catalog. We do not actively participate in interlibrary loans to the degree that keeping the money for that purpose would help our library with the cost of mailing. Please take our comments into consideration.

Thank you,
Nancy

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 27, 2009 4:19 PM	Terri Dood	Head of Reference and Adult Services	Bozeman Public Library	Bozeman

I cannot remember if I have already responded or not but I like the Council's idea to split the money between MSC and OCLC. I think that benefits libraries of all types and sizes.

Terri Dood

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 27, 2009 3:24 PM	Helen Stamper Windy Boy	Library Director	Stone Child College Library	Helena

In regards to redistributing ILL funds, I agree with the 100,000 for OCLC group services and 100,000 for Montana Shared Catalog operations.

Respectfully,
Helen Stamper Windy Boy

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 27, 2009 2:13 PM	Judy Hart	Library Director	Lewis & Clark Library	Helena

Attached is letter from Lewis & Clark Library regarding Re-purposing of ILL funds. Please let me know that you received it. Thanks, Judy



October 27, 2009

Network Advisory Council
c/o Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Re: Repurposing of ILL Funds – Alternative Proposal

Dear NAC Members:

On behalf of the Lewis & Clark Library Board of Trustees and staff, I propose an alternative to the Network Advisory Council's recommendation regarding repurposing of ILL reimbursement funds. We recommend that \$100,000 be allocated to the statewide OCLC Montana Group Services contract and \$100,000 be allocated to the statewide courier pilot project. House Bill 61 allows the State Library Commission to fund a wider range of resource sharing options that benefit all Montana libraries. This alternative proposal will benefit the widest range of libraries in Montana. Libraries throughout the state, regardless of their membership in the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) or not, are committed to resource sharing and a key component of this is ILL and covering the costs of delivery in the most efficient, cost-effective and far-reaching means as possible.

According to the 2009 Montana Library Directory, there are 752 libraries in Montana that includes 26 academic, 2 institutional, 80 public, 29 branch, 3 bookmobile, 3 other, 560 school, and 49 special libraries. There are currently 100 libraries/systems in the MSC, and 245 libraries enrolled in the OCLC Group Services Contract (216 libraries if you eliminate branch libraries, which are counted individually). Designating \$100,000 to the MSC automatically eliminates a significant number of libraries in the state. The MSC receives LSTA funds to offset costs, those libraries that are not part of the MSC do not. The collections of the MSC and other ILSs can be accessed by any library through WorldCat.

Lewis & Clark Library is excited about the courier pilot project, has a generous ILL lending policy, and has long been eager to become part of a statewide courier delivery service that links all Montana libraries, regardless of geographic location or their ILS. A successful pilot will allow all libraries to tie into the MSC partners sharing. Unfortunately, because funding for the project was drastically reduced, the courier pilot now lacks the necessary resources to successfully launch the pilot. Designating \$100,000 of repurposed ILL funds to maintain the level of funding originally anticipated will provide a level playing field and is crucial to the pilot's success. Funds can then be rolled into an ongoing statewide courier service that will lower the overall costs of resource sharing among all libraries and provide for a fair and equitable use of these funds that will benefit Montanans statewide.

Thank you for your consideration. The Lewis & Clark Library looks forward to continued discussion and to enhancing our resource sharing capabilities through a statewide courier delivery service.

Sincerely,

Judy Hart, Director

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 27, 2009 10:03 AM	Debbie Benedict	Library Director	Meagher County/City Library	White Sulphur Springs

Debbie

I am writing on behalf of the Meagher County City Library, located in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. We are located in a small rural community and provide library services primarily to patrons located in White Sulphur Springs and neighboring towns in and just outside of Meagher County.

I am very supportive of the MSL repurposing ILL reimbursement funding by splitting the \$200,000 equally between MSC operations and lowering our OCLC group services contract costs. Our library averages 60-80 interlibrary loans per month for our patrons. Some months our ILL's total as many as 120. We average loaning 25 of our books each month to other libraries. In the past, reimbursement of our ILL expenses has been miniscule because we consistently borrow more books than what we loan. We annually allocate \$4000 toward postage costs in our library budget and the annual \$120 - \$160 received for ILL reimbursement covered very little of our library's ILL costs.

This new proposal will benefit our library much more so than the old method of reimbursement. The staff we have available to us to facilitate operation of the MSC is exceptional. I believe they wear many hats, yet always are supportive when asked to assist our small library. By repurposing monies to lower the cost of participation in the OCLC group services contract, you are providing a necessary venue to use in talking with our county commissioners in regard to library operation costs. If the cost were to continue escalating substantially each year, it would become harder to convince them of the need to stay in the MSC. Also, we are a library who has yet to be able to participate in a courier delivery service.

While preparing this response, one key thought comes to mind. I began working at our library part-time when we were not a part of the MSC/OCLC. We hand stamped our library cards in front pockets of books. I struggled to answer the many requests for books that patrons asked. It was oftentimes difficult to locate books on library shelving. Within six months of my being hired, our library joined the MSC. Wow, what a difference. The searching/tracking capability is incredible. It was like night and day in providing quick and efficient response to patron requests. I can never fathom life in our library without the MSC and the staff of the MSL.

Please support the recommendation of the Council endorsing this final recommendation issued by the FTF: "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."

Debbie Benedict

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 27, 2009 10:01 AM	Gloria Langstaff	Library Director	Bitterroot Public Library	Hamilton

Dear Commissioners,

I am strongly in support of the Network Advisory Council's recommendation to split the \$200,000 between the Montana Shared Catalog and OCLC costs. This option is the best one that will positively affect the most libraries of all types in the state. No option will please everyone, but the Council gathered input from all type of librarians and recommended the option with the most support. This has been a good democratic process that I believe you all can support. Thank you for your concern and consideration for the future of Montana's libraries.

Gloria

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 26, 2009 3:51 AM	Milla L. Cummins	Library Director	Livingston-Park County Public Library	Livingston

As the director of a library that does not participate in the Montana Shared Catalog, I am definitely not in favor of the FTF's final recommendation to the State Library Commission for the repurposing of ILL program funds. I AM in favor of a portion of the repurposed reimbursement money going toward OCLC costs to lower the cost of participation in the Montana OCLC group services contract, and I would also favor monies being allocated to pay part of the cost of a statewide courier service or continuing to pay part of the cost of ILL reimbursement to net lenders, but I cannot support the dedication of these funds to the Montana Shared Catalog.

Simply put, repurposing ILL funds to the MSC clearly favors those libraries who participate in the Shared Catalog over those who have chosen not to participate, and I'm unable to see how this can be construed as providing an equitable distribution of funds that are supposedly shared. The FTF's statement suggests that the funds might help libraries to become members of the MSC, but, in reality, these funds are never going to encourage or enable our library to budget an additional \$1,300-\$1,600 annually for MSC participation when our current open source catalog maintenance fees are \$0.

I will spare you my dissertation on the benefits of open source and my belief that open source solutions rather than proprietary solutions will eventually be the direction libraries take, but, for the time being, I would certainly appreciate the State Library Commission's consideration of repurposing ILL program funds to serve all Montana libraries rather than primarily serving those who have joined the MSC.

Sincerely,
Milla L. Cummins

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 26, 2009 3:11 PM	Dale Alger	Library Director	Roundup School-Community Library	Roundup

The ILL reimbursement program is broken. There are huge differences between the amounts that individual libraries have been provided. The repurposing proposal is a good response to the problem.

The Montana Shared Catalog has been a tremendous improvement for the patrons of the Roundup Community Library. We have never had a computerized OPAC. Our patrons love being able to request books online and to renew online. The Montana Shared Catalog member libraries have made a huge commitment to sharing resources in the state. We have changed our budgets to accommodate the startup costs and the ongoing costs. In some cases, libraries received a one-time boost to help with startup costs. The City of Roundup did that for us. We are funded by the City of Roundup, the County of Musselshell and the Roundup School District. We don't get a lot of funding from the City or the County even though the City provides more than the County. The School District provides the most funding for the Roundup Community Library.

It would help the most libraries in the state to assist in the funding of the OCLC contract and to also assist in paying part of the ongoing costs for the Montana Shared Catalog. It will encourage libraries to join the MSC also. As more libraries join, that will mean that each of us will be getting less of the funds available to MSC libraries. Hopefully, the State of Montana will see the importance of the improvements to library service and increase the total amount for the program.

We use OCLC and MSC every day in our normal business. Having some of the costs shared would release more funds for improving our own collection, which would lessen the need for more ILL.

Please repurpose the ILL funds for paying part of the OCLC for each library and to pay a part of the ongoing costs for the Montana Shared Catalog.

Sincerely yours,
Dale Alger

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 26, 2009 3:02 PM	Janette Davie	Library Director	Garfield County Library	Jordan

As it would take a miracle or winning a lottery for Garfield County Free Library to join MSC, I figure it is in our best interest to say we favor all the \$ going to OCLC, especially in light of our federation moving to repurpose the funds out Plan of Service gave us to pay our share of OCLC. It is a small sum, but out of a \$27,000 total budget, it is a sum which matters.

I have tried to find how joining MSC (if we did get a miracle) would be of more benefit than the status quo, and frankly, I have not seen any sort of reason it would. Yes, I do see benefit for the state system down the road, but for those of us struggling to keep our heads above water (almost literally in our case) looking far into the future for an up side for increasing costs immediately just isn't a luxury we can afford.

That said, I shall abide by the decision made for us all, and not quibble, save for my confusion over all the recent fuss re barcoding. I am completely in the dark as to why there is a need to change that at present. But then, with wading pools in the hall to tend for a bit longer, I have been unable to stay up with all the wondrous things happening out there beyond my meager budget).

Janette in Jordan

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 26, 2009 2:33 PM	Nancy Freburg	Library Director	Petroleum County School-Community Library	Winnett

Please withdraw my earlier comment of a few weeks ago concerning the repurposing of ILL Reimbursement Program funds. Please replace it with my support of the recommendation put forth by the Network Advisory Committee to apply the money equally to the costs of the OCLC Group Services Contract and the ongoing annual costs of the Montana Shared Catalog.

Thanks.

Nancy Freburg

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 26, 2009 2:26 PM	Honore Bray	Library Director	Missoula Public Library	Missoula

As you know MPL is one of the libraries that receive a big chunk of money from the ILL monies. Our Library Board has been in favor of the repurposing of the money from the beginning of this process. Some may ask why we would want to take a cut in funding by ½ or maybe 1/3. For MPL resource sharing in Montana is very important. MPL has supported the shared catalog since the inception along with the other 16 multi-type libraries. This is an important concept because Montana Libraries are only as strong as the weakest among us. Therefore it is important for all citizens in Montana to have access to all materials that are available in a seamless fashion and the current method of ILL does not make that happen. There are tried and true ways for materials to travel the state at much less cost to the citizens.

We support the current recommendation of a split in the current funding between the MSC and OCLC. The only thing I feel people are not clear on is that not all Montana Libraries belong to OCLC so not all libraries will receive a portion of the money. In discussion on why the MSC should not receive this money I have heard individuals state that it only goes to a few choice libraries. The MSC is open to everyone just as OCLC is – it is up to the governance of each community library to decide to climb aboard.

Congratulations to the staff of Montana State Library and to the State Library Commission for moving forward to improving resource sharing in Montana. You are truly advocates for the citizens of the state.

Honore Bray

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 26, 2009 2:26 PM	Kim Crowley	Library Director	Flathead County Library System	Kalispell

The Flathead County Library Board of Trustees, at their October 22nd meeting, authorized me to comment on their behalf regarding the repurposing of ILL program funds. The Flathead County Library System fully supports the NAC's proposal of \$100,000 toward the MSC and \$100,000 towards OCLC costs.

Though the FCLS is currently receives a large portion of ILL reimbursement funds due to our participation in Partners, we realize that the system as currently structured does not benefit the greatest number of Montana libraries. Making the MSC stronger can only benefit more Montana libraries. Our customers are thrilled with the availability of library materials through the MSC and particularly Partners. We are committed to keeping the MSC strong, attractive to new libraries, and viable.

Lowering participation rates in both the MSC and OCLC can only do good for Montana libraries.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

kc

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 26, 2009 1:44 PM	Sue Sillick	Manager Research Programs (Research Bureau Chief)	Montana Dept of Transportation Library	Helena

I support the FTF recommendation.

"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)"

Thanks,
Sue Sillick, Manager

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 12, 2009 10:04 AM	Sharon Mercado	Trustee (Federation Representative)	Roundup School-Community Library (Board)	Roundup

I am a trustee from the Roundup Community Library Board. I would like to support the repurposing of funds to be used for part of the cost of OCLC contracts and paying part of the ongoing cost of the MSC contracts.

I love that I am able to use the new computerized card catalog at home to do interlibrary loans, renew books and check to see what books are available at our library. I have even checked out what books are available at other libraries throughout the state. I have children and grandchildren in Belgrade and Missoula and have even used the Montana Shared Catalog online to check for books they were interested in. I was able to check if they had them in their libraries. It's great to also use to check on the new books added to libraries as they are always being updated. It is a very valuable service and the public is now being educated on the use. Once they find out about it, they are eager to use it and find it very handy. I also have a daughter in Cheyenne, WY who I have educated as they also have it there. She was excited out it and has used it to renew books also.

I think it will be very useful to the libraries in these difficult financial times to have part of the OCLC and Montana Shared Catalog contracts paid by these funds. Thank you for your work on this project.

Sincerely,
Sharon Mercado

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 9, 2009 2:59 PM	Kathy (Kathleen) Knack	Library Director	Madison Valley Public Library	Ennis

Madison Valley Public Library is in favor of repurposing ILL funds to the Montana Shared Catalog. There are several sharing groups within the MSC, and more groups will be sharing in the future. The funding would encourage more libraries to participate in the MSC and sharing. Sharing through the MSC is easier than OCLC ILL for staff and patrons. Patrons have better access and control over borrowing from other libraries. They can do their browsing and borrowing from home if they desire. The MSC is just beginning to see the sharing possibilities, and will continue to grow. The funding would help the existing MSC libraries with costs, and would encourage more libraries to join. The current ILL reimbursement system doesn't do our library much good, as the amount doesn't cover postage costs. Repurposing funds to the MSC would be much more effective for our library.

Kathy

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 8, 2009 10:13 AM	Ann Rutherford	Library Director	Judson H. Flower Jr. Library, Miles Community College	Miles City

Montana State Library Commissioners, December 2, 2009 Meeting
Ann Rutherford, Library Director, Miles Community college, October, 2009

As technology continues to evolve, we need to consider the importance of the sharing and delivery of materials that are increasing at an exponential rate. The ability to instantly access events, opinions and materials (the increase in the rate of digitizing current as well as archival materials) begs the need to consider a more cooperative and collaborative access point, rather than an individual silos of information, by offering to designate some of the repurposed monies to 'help' those libraries who have said in the past that they could not join because of cost. In an action of good faith by the Montana State Library and the Library Commissioners I hope you will truly consider splitting the monies to include this act of offering the opportunity of real choice to these libraries. We can offer the gift and once offered the outcome of their decision will be theirs.

I implore you to consider and to approve, without personal bias, with an open, pragmatic and practical mind set, the identical recommendations made by the Fulfillment Task Force and the Network Advisory Council. Both committees worked through the many possibilities, concerns and general good for all Montana libraries, including:

- K-12,
- Special,
- Academic,
- Public
 - large/ small,
 - North/South,
 - East /West,
- Spread out over the vast open spaces of Montana; some parts considered 'frontier, not just rural.

Working for a year, meeting several times face to face, and continuing the conversation by exchanging emails and phone calls, debating and researching the eminent changes in libraries and technology, the Fulfillment Task Force came to its conclusions and made a recommendation to the Network Advisory Council to split the ILL reimbursement monies evenly between the OCLC Group Services cost and the ongoing cost of the Montana Shared Catalog. The Network Advisory agreed with this recommendation and has continued to recommend this same plan for repurposing.

If we ignore or fail to anticipate those changes, (as our automobile industry did) that without embracing that change racing toward us, it may well run over us, leaving us behind and segmented.

We need to anticipate the future, for all libraries, including those who struggle to keep their doors open, provide new and updated materials, and provide equal access and a 'functioning' 21st Century library within a budget that does less even if it is not cut. I believe that libraries are the center of our communities, the equalizer for access, the 'port in the storm', and the educator in a democratic society. It is the protection of free and equal access that allows for a free and democratic society, which from my understanding of Franklin and Jefferson, included encouraging free thought, belief and access to new ideas and possibilities, in all areas of an individual's ability to dream and create.

I appeal to your practical and pragmatic good judgment in the interest of all libraries and their users, in every Montana community.

Ann Rutherford

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Oct 7, 2009 3:19 PM	Samantha Pierson	Library Director	Lincoln County Public Libraries	Libby

I won't be able to attend the Network Meeting or the Commissioner meeting but thought I'd send along my 2 cents worth.

My first choice would be for all the money to go to MSC but then as I step back I realize that is a bit selfish. But I do feel very strongly about it being split between MSC and OCLC. It took our library quite a bit of time to decide to join MSC with cost being one of the biggest factors. Once that issue was settled through funds to help join it became the best decision we could make. I have now had two other significantly smaller libraries approach me about their libraries. One would really like to join because they see the overwhelming benefits to our patrons but as is typical cost is an issue. With greater funding their hopes of joining and staying with the MSC would be able to happen. I fully plan on pitching the MSC to the other library. They are eager to "professionalize" their library and MSC is the way to make that happen for them. They don't have a librarian on staff so a shared catalog is their best approach.

On a closer to home note, I helped a patron today and was able to show her how to navigate through the catalog and especially how place holds. We sat together for over an hour while she practiced and was so excited to be able to go home and continue to discover all we had to offer through MSC, despite being off in our far away corner. This is what MSC is all about.

Sami

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Sep 2, 2009 4:38 PM	Patricia M. Collins	Administrative Manager	Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library (Mansfield Library), The University of Montana – Missoula	Missoula

I would like to include my comment as a member of the library community, not as a member of the deactivated Fulfillment Task Force. I feel that OCLC is the lynchpin of the library community and it is imperative to continue defraying the cost of OCLC membership for all libraries. Using ILL funds for this purpose benefits all and makes sharing resources easier.

Thanks for your work with this issue.

Patricia M. Collins

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Mon, Sep 2, 2009 4:13 PM	Michael J. Ober	Library Director	Flathead Valley Community College Library	Kalispell

It should come as no surprise from me, as a director of one of the original 17 MSC libraries, that I welcome the split of funds between MSC and OCLC. Kindly register me as one of those folks out here in library land who applaud the proposal. Many years ago, as a stand-alone DYNIX library, I was paying over \$11,000.00/yr. for a character-based, ancient, non-relational ALS. Now, as a MSC member with state-based tech support, lively members, high-end product, I run our Ibistro circ and cat systems for 83% less. Therefore, I favor the "repurpose" (don't care for that term!) of the ILL reimbursement funds to a half split to support MSC functions and defray our statewide OCLC costs. What makes simple sense need not make any other... Regards.

Michael J. Ober, Library Director

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Fri, Aug 29, 2009 1:48 PM	Gale Bacon	Library Director	Belgrade Community Library	Belgrade

Having been a part of the discussion regarding the recommendation for repurposing the ILL funds, I am in support of the proposal. Many times libraries, especially smaller libraries, whether public or academic, vent frustration over not having a way to join MSC. This gives them enticement to use when working with decision makers such as cities or governing boards to show there is a way to provide partial funding. Of course, MSC will remain optional for all.

This is a well discussed and thought out proposal. We worked to hear the concerns of our peers. Thanks for the comment period.

Gale Bacon

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Fri, Aug 28, 2009 6:00 PM	Carly Delsigne	Library Director	Clancy Community Library	Clancy

Hello,

My name is Carly Delsigne, and I am the director of the Clancy Library, a branch of the Jefferson County Library System. I have been hesitant to sound self-seeking so have not shared my preferences in the reallocating of ILL funding. But I was reminded that everyone's opinion matters and I need to speak up for the best interest of my patrons and patrons statewide. A library's success is entirely dependent upon meeting the unique needs of their communities so I believe that each library must have the freedom to pursue what is best for their patrons. Libraries are in highly competitive field of information, education, and entertainment. Patrons expect more now than ever. The Montana Shared Catalog gives small Montana libraries advantages to provide their patrons with more and better services than they might ever be able to offer otherwise. So I would appreciate that some of the funding be put towards the Montana Shared Catalog, especially to assist struggling libraries be able to afford to join and stay in the catalog.

My little library uses/needs/loves/depends on/would be lost without the Montana Shared Catalog. It is our lifeline. We are a small library that serves the entire north-end of a county, and we would not be able to provide high-quality services without the MSC. My patrons have direct internet access to the items of eight different library partners and to a sophisticated self-managed account system where they can place their own holds and renew materials. I, as a librarian, have more time to help patrons because I am not having to troubleshoot and improve the system. Because we are an MSC library it makes it easier to participate in cooperative efforts that provide our patron's access to ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, databases, newspapers, and magazines. The MSC library community has also been invaluable in sharing ideas

Through the efforts of the State Library and MSC, my library provides services to my communities that they cannot get anywhere else. In the last month, do-it-yourselfers found items on radiant floor heating, the Miller Analogy Test, chuck wagons, and Microsoft Office Suite 2005. Teachers come in requesting the same items I found for their (slavery, stock market, and France's Fifth Republic) unit last year. School children come in confident that I will be able to find them the information they need for their projects no matter how wild the ideas, which in the last month have included: quicksand, artic-migrating birds, hydroelectrics, the Galapagos Islands, perfume, and the sinking of the Bismarck. Because of Montana's library services, I can say—"Yep, I can find you that."—when no one else can (not even the internet)!

Thank you for asking for our input and for all the time and energy you devote to helping Montana's libraries,
Carly

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Fri, Aug 28, 2009 10:50 AM	Cheryl J. Heser	Library Director	Rosebud County Library	Forsyth

As a staunch and supportive member of the Montana Shared Catalog, I understand the impetus to spend more money on the libraries in the catalog.

However, as a champion of the small, poor libraries (I've been there), I have a problem with the expenditures. I know that those libraries will benefit from the \$100,000 towards OCLC costs, although there are some who are still not automated and not using OCLC. However, the majority of small, poor libraries cannot and will not be part of the Montana Shared Catalog, no matter how strongly I promote it. I see that in our Sagebrush Federation and in other Federations.

Many of these small, poor libraries received little in ILL reimbursement (partly because they don't do much lending in proportion to borrowing), but now they are losing even that. Some are talking about not doing ILL's or charging for borrowing ILL's, both of which are a real step backward in the mindset of expanding collaboration and access for all patrons.

I still would like to see an option for some of this money to go for small, poor libraries, something to help with any collaborative efforts or any outreach. It was noted some time ago that we are only as strong as our weakest link, and most of the "weakest links" are not in the Shared Catalog. In fact, I would say that the Shared Catalog is mostly a place for the strongest links. The "weakest links" need consideration -- and funding, too.

Cherie Heser

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Fri, Aug 28, 2009 10:30 AM	Heidi Sue Adams, MS, AHIP	Medical Librarian	Kalispell Regional Medical Center Medical Library	Kalispell

Representing one medical library located in northwest Montana, I'd like to add my thoughts regarding the repurposing of the \$200,000 ILL reimbursement funding.

In years past, we relied on the ILL reimbursement funding, and have been disheartened at the drastic reduction of this fund's portion coming directly to our library. (In fact, this year alone, our portion (\$75) of the ILL reimbursement funds would not cover the cost of one medical textbook. That \$75 covers 6 interlibrary loans for our medical library - that's six articles among a potential of 80+ physician requests for articles; not counting our nursing staff. Our clinical staff rely on information from the medical literature to help them provide the best patient care possible.) Having said that, we recognize with the advent of newer technology, perhaps a repurpose of these funds would enable more Montana libraries, thus more Montana residents to benefit from these funds.

Regarding the statement ""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)"" our medical library supports this. We are participants of both the MSC and OCLC, and any increase in assistance we can receive regarding our subscriptions for both of these would be greatly appreciated. Especially if this enables more Montana libraries who are not yet participants of one or both of these endeavors. This would make it easier for Montanans across the state to search and access resources for their work or leisurely pursuits.

Please know that this particular librarian appreciates all that Montana legislature has achieved to assist libraries in serving Montana residents and visitors. I know I'm just one of many grateful librarians in the state.

I would be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully, Heidi Sue

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Fri, Aug 28, 2009 8:33 AM	Suzanne Goodman	School Librarian	Park High School Library	Livingston

Network Advisory Council,

The proposal to split the ILL Reimbursement funds between MSC and OCLC is a nice compromise. I was uneasy with all of the funds going to MSC, but this seems a nice balance. I know that many libraries/librarians feel the cost of maintaining an MSC membership is prohibitive, so maybe this assistance will help encourage others to join. Bringing the cost of OCLC membership down for all will help facilitate sharing amongst all libraries, even those unable to join MSC. I applaud your proposal.

Suzanne Goodman

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Thu, Aug 27, 2009 2:55 PM	Nancy Silliman	Library Director	William K. Kohrs Memorial Library	Deer Lodge

Dear Commission Members:

Regarding the repurposing of interlibrary loan monies: I would prefer that all the money assist all the Montana libraries that are lending materials in the state. Whether the money subsidizes OCLC subscriptions, supports a courier service or services, finances a state library card, directly reimburses the considerable expense of ILL, etc., I think the money should help as many libraries as possible to share their collections. Montana Shared Catalog libraries and non-MSC member libraries alike incur substantial costs in order to be active lenders.

Our library may very well join MSC in the near future, but, for a variety of reasons, other libraries have not and will not join MSC. Reducing the cost of belonging to MSC is an excellent idea, but, to my mind, repurposing interlibrary loan monies does not mean helping one group to the disadvantage of another "group", both of which are sustaining interlibrary loan services in Montana.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Silliman

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Thu, Aug 27, 2009 2:40 PM	Vera M. Abrams	Library Director	Fallon County Library	Baker

Not all libraries belong to MSC. Not all libraries want to belong. The entire amount should be used for OCLC subscriptions. That would benefit libraries of all sizes in Montana.

Vera M. Abrams, Director

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Thu, Aug 27, 2009 2:34 PM	Bridgett Johnson	Library Director	Lewistown Public Library	Lewistown

Lewistown's Board of Trustees were fine with the reappropriation of funds.

Bridgett Johnson, Director

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Thu, Aug 27, 2009 2:29 PM	Lee Phillips	Library Director	Butte- Silver Bow Public Library	Butte

Please see attached letter regarding the repurposing of ILL funds for increasing resource sharing. I look forward to being part of the discussion in October.
Best, Lee Phillips

BSB PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrating Butte and Connecting our Community

To the Network Advisory Council
RE: Repurposing of ILL funds

August 28, 2009

Dear Council members,

On behalf of the Trustees for the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library, I would like to propose that 100K repurposed ILL funds be directed to the pilot courier program as well as 100K to OCLC subscription costs. The Montana Shared Catalog is a recipient of LSTA funds to offset its operating costs whereas non-MSL libraries are not. Nearly all of the libraries participating in the courier pilot do not receive LSTA funds to offset the cost of setting up their own ILLs. Many of the features and benefits of the Montana Shared Catalog are duplicated by OCLC and WorldCat with exception of the partners sharing groups and floating collections. The collections of the MSL can be accessed by any library through WorldCat. By investing in the courier program resource sharing for ALL Montana libraries would be improved regardless of their ILL.

The courier pilot has a fraction of the funds needed to create an effective pilot that would reach out to all libraries and in the future, tie into the MSL partners sharing. The costs to the anchor libraries, such as Butte and Great Falls are yet to be factored. There will certainly be concerns regarding staffing and space in each facility to consider. It would be prudent to try and succeed with the pilot by funding it at the level originally proposed, instead of either failing due to lack of resources from the anchor libraries or from the courier service. I am sure looking at the stats and costs from Missoula would inform about potential projected costs for the pilot libraries.

Butte is willing to participate in the pilot but we also think that the repurposed ILL funds are more appropriately spent on improving resource sharing for ALL Montana libraries and not spending 100K on propping up the MSL. I have included a link the Texshare program in Texas that has made their process and procedures to set up their service available on the web for free.

<http://www.texshare.edu/ill-courier/index.html>

Butte looks forward to contributing to the ILL repurposed funding discussion with the Montana State Library Commission and the Network Advisory Council.

Sincerely, Lee Phillips

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Fri, Aug 14, 2009 4:15 PM	Cheri Bergeron	Bureau Chief / Librarian	Montana Office of Public Instruction Resource Center (OPI)	Helena

First of all, I am a firm believer in resource sharing by Montana's libraries. I wholeheartedly support the NAC's recommendation to repurpose the ILL Reimbursement Program funds- So to make it perfectly clear:

I support the following action:

MSL would repurpose the \$200,000 ILL reimbursement funding by putting \$100,000 toward MSL 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)

I commend you all of doing a great job of gathering input from active librarians by posting a survey about repurposing the funds. Both the NAC (representing all types of libraries and geographic areas in the state) and the survey came to the conclusion that supported the repurposing of the ILL Reimbursement Program's funds.
The Commission needs move forward.

Cheri Bergeron

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Thu, Aug 13, 2009 1:49 PM	E. Renee Goss	Library Director	Sidney-Richland County Library	Sidney
Fri, Aug 7, 2009 3:10 PM	Rolane Christofferson	Library Director	Prairie County Library	Terry

Forwarded comment from Prairie County on ILL proposal
From: Renee Goss

Comment sent to Renee Goss
From: Rolane Christofferson

Renee,

Just writing to let you and the commission know how we feel about the new ILL reimbursement funding proposals. For our little library ILL reimbursement was very important, but when it was changed a few years ago to give more monies to those that loaned more than they borrowed our small library was left holding the bag for the cost of loaning materials to all libraries. Last year we received about \$45.00 for our 400 plus ILL's. Maybe that doesn't seem like much to some for our small budgets it is a huge expense but since we feel it is a very important service to provide for our patrons as well as others outside our library we have absorbed the cost. At this time the Prairie County Library believes that the new funding should go toward the cost of OCLC and equally shared postage for ILL's. At least this way all libraries will benefit not just those who belong to the Montana Shared Catalog or those that have courier service available to them or to those that loan more than they borrow. Maybe eastern Montana is kind of unique and in a world of it's own but we believe our patrons and our services are just as important as those in the large libraries, therefore we support things that benefit all not just a few.

Rolane

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Thu, Aug 7, 2009 1:03 PM	Eric Halverson	Library Director	Big Horn County Public Library	Hardin

It would be good to address the question?

The Big Horn County Public Library Trustees have their eyes pretty clearly on the re-direction ball.

They recognize that the ILL reimbursement is covering only a tiny fraction of the BHC ILL costs.

They recognize that the reimbursement is not really critical in the great scheme of BHC operations & co-operations. (Give us some real money or combine the existing monies in a way that would get some real bang for the bucks some other way)

They support using monies currently tied up in ILL reimbursement for:

- 1). Reducing OCLC costs
- 2). Reducing short term Montana Shared Catalog costs until OCLC is becomes a circulation system & bibliographic utility eliminating Sirsi/Dynix from the picture.

They are strong advocates of anything that encourages wider library participation in OCLC/MSC

Eric Halverson

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Thu, Aug 7, 2009 7:54 AM	Pam (Pamela) Arroues	Library Director	Montana Dept of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Planning Bureau Library	Helena

I am opposed to any of these funds going to the Montana Shared Catalog as the funds were designed for ALL libraries not a select few who decide to play in the same sandbox.

I would like to see all of the funds go to the OCLC contract so all libraries benefit. If there is a great desire to split the funds then consider applying half to pay for the higher OCLC cost being born by those libraries having full cataloging rights. These libraries are servicing the entire library community but are being expected to pay more for doing so, (kind of back-words if you ask me).

The training and expertise it takes to contribute original records to OCLC should be rewarded, not punished. How much better would the Shared Catalog and all of Montana's library's be if those who are properly trained and willing can add records to OCLC without being expected to justify to their financial stakeholders the added costs to do so. Most original cataloging libraries receive payment for their expertise, not Montana's however, because of our OCLC contract we are expected to pay for the "privilege" of contributing our knowledge to assist the rest of the community. These monies would sure be a boost if redirected towards not punishing those few who add to the whole.

Thank you

Pam Arroues

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Thu, Aug 6, 2009 12:40 PM	Marie Habener	Library Director	Dillon Public Library	Dillon

Am I reading this correctly? There is no money designated to support a courier system?
Regards, Marie Habener

Date Sent by	Librarian	Title	Library	Town
Thu, July 6, 2009 12:58 PM	Janette Davie	Library Director	Garfield County Library	Jordan

Not worth the time to fill forms for us here in Garfield County. Not worth the cost of you guys at State cutting the check. Ignoring the process yet again this year.
Janette in Jordan