

MEMO

TO: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

FROM: Sarah McHugh, Statewide Projects Librarian

DATE: October 26, 2009

RE: A Statewide Long Term Preservation Solution for Digital Masters

Background:

The following recommendations concerning a statewide long term preservation solution were presented to the NAC at its June, 2009 meeting. These recommendations came from participants at a Statewide Preservation Planning Meeting in May, 2009.

- Our designated community would include institutions utilizing the statewide CONTENTdm license (the current Montana Memory Project), local CONTENTdm licenses (hosted or local instances) and other digitization access options
- All types of institutions (libraries, archives, museums, schools, government agencies) would be able to utilize the statewide option
- The tool must be affordable, flexible, proven and scalable
- An assessment of risk is needed
- Statewide, organized preservation planning that is OAIS compliant is essential and is viewed as a separate but related task
- A hosted solution is preferable
- Distribution that is OAIS compliant is required (meaning, in part, that the material is stored in 2 separate locations)
- The approach to statewide digital preservation should be collaborative and developmental
- A consideration of offering both a LOCKSS and an OCLC Digital Archive option is requested (interested institutions could choose between participating in a regional LOCKSS network or utilizing a statewide subscription to OCLC's Digital Archive or they could do both)
- If LOCKSS is either the sole or one of two solutions, the recommendation is to wait to find out about MetaArchive West grant in September. Those interested in

LOCKSS prefer the approach being proposed for the MetaArchive West. There is no significant interest in a state based private LOCKSS network.

Final Recommendation to the NAC:

The IMLS grant application submitted by BCR and the MetaArchive, for a MetaArchive West LOCKSS network, was not approved by IMLS. BCR and the MetaArchive West have plans to continue the effort to create a MetaArchive West with the identified partners in the original application.

There is not sufficient LSTA funding or staff to support both long term preservation solutions considered in the past two years. The LOCKSS solution, while more elegant in its approach, demands significant in-house technical skills and long term commitment to a local and regional infrastructure. It is substantially more costly in the initial years of operation, assuming the creation of a MetaArchive West with MSL as the Montana node.

The OCLC Digital Archive provides an affordable, one-stop approach that provides a seamless connection between adding content to the Montana Memory Project and adding a master file to a dark archive, in one step. It is the preferred solution of the Montana Historical Society Research Center and is capable of serving the majority of Montana libraries and institutions at the level they will be contributing master files. LSTA assigned to this solution will benefit the largest number of Montana libraries and institutions interested in preserving digital masters.

For these reasons, the State Library is recommending that a subscription to OCLC's Digital Archive be pursued as the statewide long term preservation option. The pilot's first year startup costs will be covered by reassigned FY09 LSTA. The ongoing cost of the Digital Archive subscription will be shared between identified Montana Memory Project participants, possibly other institutions that contribute master files but use other options for their access files and, depending on future LSTA budgets, some amount of LSTA monies. The Digital Archive subscription will be included in future OCLC group services, to lock in a subscription cost at three year intervals.

The State Library is also recommending that staff continue to assist in other ways those libraries still interested in pursuing a LOCKSS solution or another type of long term preservation solution. Such assistance would include continuing discussions with the MetaArchive and BCR regarding a future MetaArchive West LOCKSS network, continuing investigation of a private LOCKSS network or other long term option and the development of local cost formulas independent of LSTA.