

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

March 20, 2010 through May 20, 2010

Prepared for June 10, 2010 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of Briggs, Gunderson, Landry, Madison, Meier, and Stanton, as well as 100 volunteers.

Goal One – Content – *Montana State Library (MSL)/MTBL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

January 23-March 19, 2010: five books and one issue of *The Montana Magazine of Western History* and one issue of the *Montana Outdoors Magazine* were completed at both MTBL recording studios: *Canyon Secret: A Novel* by Patrick Lee; *In Open Spaces* by Russell Rowland; *Gunnar's Mine, Fourth in the Valediction For Revenge Series* by Roland Cheek; *Jeannette Rankin: Political Pioneer* by Gretchen Woelfle; and *Ghost of Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson.

Special Project: In April, recorded "*Promoting Work and Independence for Montanans with Disabilities*", a brochure for the Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Goal Two—Access – *MSL/MTBL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.*

Circulation to date of digital materials shows over 9,400 digital books and 921 digital machines checked out to Montana patrons, including 103,240 cassette books and 1,113 cassette machines.

Goal Three—Consultation and Leadership – *MSL/MTBL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.*

Staff attended the Keystone Automated Library System's Annual User Conference in Georgia. Many new features will be applied to enhance patron service and efficiency for all staff.

Goal Four—Collaboration – *MSL/MTBL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.*

Hosted a tour for a Great Falls Girl Scout Troop on March 26th.

A digital presentation was made to 50 members of the Montana Blind & Low Vision Council on May 8th.

Worked with Blind and Low Vision Services, DPHHS, to train 15 field staff in using the new digital equipment and books on May 13th in order to assist in instructing patrons.

Partnered with Experience Works Program: to train an individual in the Talking Book Library's machine and reception programs.

Partnered with Career Training Institute's (CTI) Work Force Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program: to train an individual in various programs of the Talking Book Library.

Partnered with Helena High School's Special Needs Program: to train an individual in the Talking Book Library's clerical program.

Collaborated with DPHHS Vocational Rehabilitation Program/Blind and Low Vision Services to record a new instructional brochure for their clients which may impact our patrons (see above "special project").

Goal Five— Sustainable Success – *MSL/MTBL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer; it is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes), and successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.*

Staff attended the National Library Service Regional Librarian's Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, and learned about converting local digital recordings to the NLS format, details on the new digital formats- both in physical and downloadable books and machines. New training materials for staff and patron advocacy packets were shared on how to instruct patrons on the use of these new materials. It was wonderful to share ideas with librarians across the country and around the world.

Martin Landry started April 26th as a Reader Advisor. He brings over fourteen years of library and customer service experience to the Montana Talking Book Library.

Lee Madison, Machine Lending Agent and Reader Advisor, retired on May 14th after thirty-one years of service to the State of Montana, including sixteen in the Montana Talking Book Library. His absence will be felt by staff, volunteers and patrons. The staff of the Montana Talking Book Library hosted an Ice Cream Social on May 13th at MSL to celebrate his many years of service.