

Some informational tidbits and samplings for our work towards a new vision statement
for the Montana State Library, gathered by Darlene Staffeldt
for Commission review as of May 18, 2011

VISION STATEMENT(S)

Webster's definition of visionary that I would say best fits where we want to go as far as a vision statement: having or marked by foresight and imagination.

A definition of a vision statement could be a picture of our library and its services, projects, programs in the future but it's so much more than that.

If used well, our vision promotes change in the desired direction.

Our vision statement is our inspiration, the framework for all our strategic planning.

Our vision is what we want to become.

Our vision doesn't predict the future – it creates it.

To be effective, our vision must be imaginable, desirable, feasible, focused, flexible, communicable and challenging.

Montana State Library (MSL)'s current vision statement: MSL's information resources are supported by professional librarians, content specialists and information technology professionals. MSL efficiently and effectively provides high quality user-centric library services and content. The Library is funded at a level commensurate to meet its mission. MSL works collaboratively, partnering with other regional, national, and international organizations.

Some current vision statements from other State or Governmental Libraries:

Arizona: To ensure that the Arizona legislature and Arizonans have access to the information they need today and the history of Arizona for tomorrow, through partnerships with all types of cultural and public information institutions.

Idaho: Idaho libraries are the nexus of global information, innovative services and community, enabling us to sustain our history, empower our present, and create our future.

Kansas: Delivering 21st Century library services and resources to all Kansans

Koninklijke Bibliotheek – The Royal Library of Netherlands/national

Library of the Netherlands:

- We offer everyone everywhere access to everything published in and about the Netherlands.
- We play a central role in the (scientific) information infrastructure of the Netherlands.
- We promote permanent access to digital information nationally and internationally

Kungliga Biblioteket - The National Library of Sweden:

The National Library's vision is to continue the collection of Swedish publications in an era when a growing proportion of them is being published in various digital media.

The Library of Congress (USA):

We will foster a free and informed society by building, preserving and providing resources for human creativity, wisdom and achievement. We continually strive to place these resources at the fingertips of the American people, their elected representatives and the world for their mutual prosperity, enlightenment and inspiration.

Maryland State Library: Maryland libraries will be the people's "first thought for information" in the 21st century.

Mississippi: The Vision of the Mississippi Library Commission is that all Mississippians have access to quality library services in order to: Achieve their greatest potential, participate in a global society, and enrich their daily lives.

National Library Board Singapore:

An inspiring beacon of lifelong learning, bringing knowledge alive, sparking imagination and creating possibility for a vibrant and creative Singapore.

North Carolina: The State Library of North Carolina envisions a future in which all North Carolinians have access to exceptional library services and to the information resources they need to achieve their personal, educational and professional goals.

North Dakota: Leading the way in information opportunities

Ohio:

- Lead and partner in the development of library services throughout Ohio
- Promote and enable resource sharing among libraries and library networks
- Provide access to information for Ohio's state government
- Provide specialized services to Ohio's residents

Pennsylvania: The State Library of Pennsylvania will positively affect the workings of Pennsylvania state and local governments and improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians through its staff, services, and collections.

South Carolina: The South Carolina State Library is a national model for innovation, collaboration, leadership and effectiveness. It is the keystone in South Carolina's intellectual landscape.

State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia: Enriching the lives of Queenslanders.

Texas: The people of Texas have access to and effectively use information, archival resources, and library materials to improve their lives, the lives of their families and their communities.

Utah: The Utah State Library works to provide equal access to information and library resources to all Utah residents by providing:

- leadership and partnership with the Utah Department of Community and Culture, and other government entities and groups, and organizations that share common goals;
- library services for the blind and disabled;
- training and services for our customers (delivered in their communities where they work and live) in the effective performance of their public responsibilities, and in the use of rich and diverse information technologies and resources;
- quality information resources to public library customers and state agencies via *Public PIONEER* (<http://pioneer.utah.gov>);
- permanent public access to government publications through Utah Government Publications Online (<http://publications.utah.gov>) and a system of depository libraries;
- funding and organizational support for public, academic, school, and special libraries in Utah;
- bookmobile service for Utah's rural residents.

The Utah State Library strives to keep its services relevant and effective by assessing needs, planning responses, and evaluating results in a dynamic cycle.

Virginia: The Library of Virginia will be the Commonwealth's leader in statewide library and archival services and the world's foremost research and educational institution dedicated to the history and culture of Virginia.

Washington: To ensure that Washingtonians have access to the information they need today and to the history of Washington for tomorrow.

MISSION STATEMENT(S)

Webster's definition of mission that I would say best fits where we want to go as far as a mission statement: a specific task with which a person or a group is charged.

Montana State Library (MSL) 's current mission statement: MSL meets the information needs of Montana government agency management and staff, ensures all Montana citizens have access to information created by their government, supports the role of all Montana libraries in delivering quality library content and services to their patrons, works to strengthen local community public libraries, ensures that Montanans who are visually or physically handicapped are provided access to library resources, and measures its successes by its patrons' and partners' successes.

Other library mission statements:

Arizona: The agency serves the Arizona Legislature and Arizonans, providing public access to public information, fostering historical/cultural collaborative research, information projects and ensuring that Arizona's history is documented and preserved.

Idaho: The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

Kansas: In service to Kansas libraries, residents, and government, the State Library of Kansas:

Collects and shares resources and government information; Delivers information and solutions;

Educates librarians and trustees: Promotes literacy and reading for everyone; and

Advocates for open and equitable access, intellectual freedom and excellence in library services and support.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek – The Royal Library of Netherlands/national

Library of the Netherlands: The Koninklijke Bibliotheek is the national library of the Netherlands: we bring people and information together. Our core values are: accessibility, sustainability, innovation and cooperation.

Kungliga Biblioteket - The National Library of Sweden: The National Library is responsible for collecting and preserving all Swedish publications, and for making the material available to the public. This means that we offer people the opportunity to read and study everything printed or published in Sweden, including books, magazines, reports, newspapers, manuscripts, maps, pictures, posters, printed music, and ephemera such as mail order catalogs and theater programs.

The Library of Congress (USA): The Library's mission is to make its resources available and useful to the Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations.

Maryland State Library: The Division of Library Development and Services of the Maryland State Department of Education guides and develops statewide Maryland public library network services through leadership and consultation in technology, training, marketing, funding, resource sharing, research and planning, so that Maryland libraries can fulfill their missions now and in the future to the people of Maryland.

Mississippi: The Mississippi Library Commission is committed - through leadership, advocacy, and service - to strengthening and enhancing libraries and library services for all Mississippians.

National Library Board Singapore: To provide a trusted, accessible and globally-connected library and information service so as to promote a knowledgeable and engaged society.

North Carolina: The State Library of North Carolina is the catalyst for exceptional library services in North Carolina. We are the principal library of state government; we build the capacity of all libraries; and we develop and support access to specialized collections for the people of North Carolina.

North Dakota: Provide access to information for North Dakota

Ohio: Lead and partner in the development of library services throughout Ohio; Promote and enable resource sharing among libraries and library networks; Provide access to information for Ohio's state government; Provide specialized services to Ohio's residents

Oregon: Provide quality information services to Oregon state government; Provide reading materials to blind and print-disabled Oregonians; Provide leadership, grants, and other assistance to improve local library service for all Oregonians.

Pennsylvania: The State Library of Pennsylvania provides information for State Government and citizens while collecting and preserving our written heritage through materials published for, by, and about Pennsylvania.

South Carolina: We optimize South Carolina's investment in library and information services. We do this by: Supporting good governance for South Carolinians through the provision of research and information services to elected officials and state government personnel; Providing equal access to information for all South Carolinians; Ensuring collaboration and cooperation among information providers and cultural institutions; Defining standards for libraries and librarianship that promote professionalism and excellence among library personnel statewide; Providing and promoting superior library and information

services through research, development and implementation of leading edge practices; Advocating for innovation and learning in order to create a better informed and more highly skilled South Carolina citizenry.

State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia: Creatively linking Queenslanders to information, knowledge and each other.

Texas: The mission of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission is to preserve the record of government for public scrutiny, to secure and make accessible historically significant records and other valuable resources, to meet the reading needs of Texans with disabilities, to build and sustain statewide partnerships to improve library programs and services, and to enhance the capacity for achievement of individuals and institutions with whom we work.

Utah: The mission of the Utah State Library is to develop, advance, and promote library services and access to information.

Virginia: The Library of Virginia preserves the legacy of Virginia's culture and history and provides access to the most comprehensive information resources for and about Virginia.

Washington: Collect, preserve, and make accessible to Washingtonians materials on the government, history, culture, and natural resources of the state; Provide leadership and coordination of services to all libraries in the state of Washington; Support the information needs of residents in state institutions and of the visually impaired; Serve as the primary source in the region for published information from the federal government.

Sources: (1) numerous state library websites;
(2) Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary
(3) Mission and/or Vision Statements of Government Libraries Worldwide by Members of the Government Libraries Section of the International Federation of Library Associations, July 2010