

Memo

To: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

From: Sue Jackson

Date: March 1, 2013

Re: **Montana Memory Project Update**

**MMP Staff:**

I have been actively promoting both the MMP and the MMP grant program during the past weeks. This included providing assistance to organizations preparing collection applications and/or grant applications. Efforts have also included keeping new projects moving (in some cases working directly with vendors) and following up on projects that have not seen recent progress. The Humanities Montana grant proposal (details below) was written in collaboration with Molly Kruckenberg at the Montana Historical Society and was submitted by the February 20<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Katie Beall has provided assistance for organizations adding collections to the MMP (70 support issues were resolved). She did an MMP introduction and scanner demonstration for nine attendees at the Montana Preservation Alliance's Helena Touchstone workshop in January. She also participated in the Augusta Branch Library's Big Read event in February scanning family photos and documents for local residents. Katie has been drafting sections for a step-by-step guide for using ProjectClient and uploading materials to the MMP.

Lauren McMullen has been assisting with MMP newspaper projects in Baker, Big Timber, Choteau, Eureka (Lincoln County High School), and Polson.

**MMP Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee continues to meet monthly and to review collection applications for addition to the MMP. Since the November report, the members have:

- Reviewed and approved twelve collection applications
- Posted a survey for MMP contributing institutions concerning the organization of the MMP website and improving access to its collections. Though there were just 18 responses to the survey, the data collected documented an interest/need for providing access by topic, by geographic location, and by time period.
- Created a survey for users to collect data from that group about how best to provide improved access to MMP collections. The survey will be posted on the MMP website in March.

**LSTA Grants:**

2012 LSTA funds (\$7,500) were assigned for grants to help cultural organizations add collections to the MMP. Announcements and promotion for the grant opportunity were done through library and museum listservs and publications. The result was receipt of 17 applications by the February 14, 2013 deadline.

A summary of the applications is interesting:

total amount requested = \$23,356

applications:

8 were for continuation of existing MMP projects; 9 were for new projects

11 were from organizations already contributing to the MMP; 6 were from organizations new to the MMP

collections to be added to the MMP:

photos = 5 proposals

yearbooks = 4 proposals (2 academic and 2 high school)

local histories = 3 proposals

newspapers = 2 proposals

drawings = 1 proposal

artifacts = 1 proposal

county records = 1 proposal

organizations applying:

6 public libraries

4 museums

2 academic libraries

2 school libraries

1 archive

1 library/museum collaborative

1 county office

Screening was difficult because of the number and quality of the proposals. The award announcements will be made in early March. The grant funds must be expended and the projects uploaded to the MMP by September 30, 2013.

#### **Other MMP Updates:**

The MMP has received two recent donations: \$200 from Karen Cooper, a former member of the Executive Committee, and \$100 corporate match from her employer, AARP. There is currently a total of \$680.02 available to the MMP from donations.

An application was submitted in February for a Humanities Montana Regular Grant (\$5,000). The proposed project would address the need to provide expanded access to materials in the MMP collection. The needs assessment for the application included growth statistics for both the amount of material now in the collection and the number of visitors using the MMP site. Also cited were recent survey results. If funded, the project would hire a contracted web specialist to create the ability for MMP users to search by topic, by geographic location, and by time period. The awards will be made in late March or early April.

For the HM grant proposal, MMP staff pulled together some collection size and user statistics: currently 393,739 items are on the MMP site; a 393% increase since January 2011 there were 56,330 visits to the site in 2012; an increase of 1462% from 2011

**Looking Ahead:**

The MMP staff is now reviewing the guidelines for contributing organizations. The guidelines have not been updated since July 2011. The changes will be minor.

There will be two MMP presentations at the April Montana Library Association conference: a 90-minute introductory session entitled “Montana’s History Comes to You in Digital Format” and a poster session/demonstration entitled “What’s the Montana Memory Project?”

I will attend the Institute of Museum and Library Services WebWise Conference in Baltimore, March 6-8. The conference – “Putting the Learner at the Center” – focuses on library and museum practices in a digital environment.