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Memo

To: Jennie Stapp
State Librarian

To: Montana State Library
Commission

From: Sarah McHugh, Director
Statewide Library Resources

From: Jennie Stapp
State Librarian

Date: July 25, 2013

Re: NAC 2013 Retreat: report to MSL Commission

The Network Advisory Council held their annual retreat at the Bozeman Public Library on July 9, 2013. The Council members evaluated the progress made towards their FY2013 work plan goals and began initial work on a FY2014 work plan. Continuing goals from the FY13 plan include continued development of effective evaluation criteria to guide new and existing pilots, projects and programs, with specific criteria identified for each effort. Making strides towards a truly statewide shared discovery and delivery system continues to be a focus. Looking at new ways to communicate with librarians is important to the Council and options such as a “conversations with the NAC” at MLA and MEA were discussed. These and other goals will be part of the final FY2014 work plan for the Council. The Council will vote on a final version of the FY2014 work plan at their November meeting.

The second part of the retreat focused on a group activity that encouraged Council members to create ideas for pilots, projects and programs in three typical areas of library development. The areas were training, community development and partnerships, and technology. Several substantial ideas for new efforts surfaced from this activity. These included shared training and mentoring for the Montana Memory Project, a Montana libraries application that provides library resources to patrons wherever they are and a central list of resources that would enable libraries to partner with their local community providers to connect patrons with social services. The Council agreed that all the ideas presented could be achievable and that the retreat activity enabled them to think creatively about new opportunities for collaboration.