



Montana State Library

State Librarian

FY 2015 Work Plan

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

Prepared for the August 13, 2014

Commission Meeting

"The Montana State Library is committed to strengthening libraries and information services for all Montanans through leadership, advocacy, and service."

The State Librarian is established by Montana statute 22-1-102 (MCA).

The role of the State Librarian is to recommend to the State Library Commission policies and funding priorities that empower the State Library to meet its mission and statutory obligations, to offer administrative oversight, support and guidance to the staff of the State Library and to advocate for the State Library and the Montana library and information communities whenever possible.

This work plan is developed based on the goals contained in the [MSL 2012-2022 Long Range Plan](#). Specific work objectives for FY2015 are organized by the MSL six agency-wide Long Range Plan goals. Together, these objectives represent a collective approach to defining the highest priority tasks for the State Librarian for FY2015.

#### **Goal Four—Consultation and Leadership**

4. MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable users to set and reach their goals.

4.1. Represent the interests of MSL partners including public libraries and the GIS community in appropriate legislative, community, regional, and national forums.

4.1.a. Present information about the importance of broadband connectivity and E-rate at the Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA) annual conference in Billings, August 5-6. The Montana Telecommunications Association represents the internet service providers for many Montana libraries. From these providers we hear that broadband infrastructure is adequate across the state but we know that libraries lack access to affordable broadband to meet basic internet needs. As we consider how to rectify these opposing viewpoints and to find solutions to the issues surrounding broadband capacity in Montana it is clear that public-private partnerships are necessary and this means engaging MTA as well as the Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems. The first step is to develop a common understanding of the issues and I hope that attendance at this conference will aid in that effort. In coordination with this conference, I will also take John Windhausen, Executive Director of the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition, on a tour of four Montana libraries, of varying size. Librarians in Billings, Columbus, Red Lodge and Bridger will have the opportunity to educate John on the challenges of providing broadband to their patrons.

4.5. Provide leadership and support to identify and address key information gaps for MSL partners and patrons. Gaps may include but are not limited to early literacy, access

to sustainable Internet and technology services, access to legal and medical information resources, job related services and services to seniors.

4.5.a. Serve as a point of contact for the State on the Interconnectivity and Telecommunications Key Industry Network (KIN) under the auspices of the [Main Street Montana Project](#). This KIN is one of eleven private sector steering committees that will work to address the tasks set forth in the Governor's Main Street Montana Plan that was announced earlier this spring. There is opportunity for the State Library to contribute resources and expertise to the work of a number of the KINs. Managers are scheduled to meet with MSMP Project Coordinator in early August. In particular, the Interconnectivity and Telecommunications KIN is charged with focusing on the broadband needs of Montana. Through meetings with the Project Coordinator and the State Chief Information Officer I have been tasked with serving as the State point of contact for the Project Coordinator for this particular KIN. I hope that this great opportunity will allow me to play a role in shaping how the state looks at broadband needs and any future policy, funding, and legislative initiatives that this effort may inform, to the benefit of Montana libraries.

4.5.b. Understand and explore opportunities to improve broadband access for Montana libraries. Montana libraries continue to lag behind the nation in their ability to provide broadband access for staff and patrons. Numerous factors play into this reality that must be better understood if solutions are to be developed. Leadership opportunities are on the horizon, including the MSMP described above and national efforts to reform e-rate within the Federal Communications Commission. At this time, staff are collecting data and evaluating opportunities for partnerships and funding. Although it seems premature to propose a taskforce to address broadband needs at this time, based on the outcome of these opportunities, we need to be ready to lead.

## **Goal Five—Collaboration**

5. MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its users.

5.1. Facilitate information-sharing partnerships among federal, tribal, state and local governments, businesses and citizens. Partnerships should promote the role of libraries in Montana communities, create funding opportunities for Montana libraries and the GIS communities, and extend the reach of information services and delivery throughout the state.

5.1.a. In collaboration with the Montana Library Association (MLA) Government Affairs liaison, I will seek to better integrate the Montana Library Association Board of Trustees interest group with the government affairs committee. The interest group has been inactive for a number of years. Recently a board member expressed interest in

playing a more active role to engage the Montana Association of Counties (MACo). There is also a need to add capacity to the government affairs committee to support statewide legislative activities. In late August, MLA and the State Library will host a meeting of the two groups to discuss how the interest group can better support the activities of the government affairs committee. Opportunities include assisting with the planning and hosting of the Library Legislative Night and hosting a reception at the annual MACo meeting. Given the upcoming legislative session we will suggest that the interest group focus on the Legislative Night and other opportunities to support the MLA legislative agenda.

MLA and the Board of Trustees interest group are essential stakeholders of the State Library. They have long been strong supporters of the State Library's legislative goals. The interest group is an underutilized resource that seems to lack purpose and the Government Affairs committee lacks capacity. Efforts to bring these groups together seem like an opportunity for both groups to maximize their capacity to realize specific goals to support libraries through their interactions with state and local officials.

## **Goal Six—Sustainable Success**

6. MSL is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes) and is engaged in fulfilling its mission.

6.1. Achieve and maintain funding at a level commensurate with MSL's mission.

6.1.a. MSL managers will spend a significant portion of FY15 preparing for, monitoring and participating in the 2015 legislative session. In addition to supporting and directing staff through various legislative related projects (see MSL work plan) I will:

- Meet regularly with the MLA Government affairs representative to inform the MLA legislative agenda.
- Monitor bill drafts to watch for issues that may impact the State Library and/or the communities we serve. As necessary I will communicate relevant information to appropriate stakeholders and/or will prepare and present necessary testimony.
- Based on May 23 action from the State Library Commission, MSL submitted EPP requests to the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning. We continue to communicate with Governor's policy advisors and constituents to see support for these proposals. Further direction from OBPP regarding our requests is anticipated in August.

- As we near the legislative session we will prepare budget testimony and handouts and will identify persons who will testify on behalf of the State Library in support of MSL's budget requests.
- MSL is not carrying and legislation this session but will respond to bills as appropriate.

The legislative session is the most important period of the biennium for the State Library as it is one of the few opportunities we have to propose and receive funding for new services. Careful consideration and planning goes into preparing our EPP requests and submitting them to the budget office. Articulate messages and talking points regarding the importance of our budget requests are drafted and shared with stakeholders and will ultimately be formulated into testimony that will be shared during the session. Because of the potential for statutory changes, both positive and negative, that come about during the session, we also dedicate a significant amount of time to monitoring and understanding a wide variety of bills. This work often involves gathering data, drafting analyses, sharing information with a variety of stakeholders including the legislature. A successful legislative session will result in several funded budget request and no harm done though legislative change.

6.1.b. Session permitting, attend National Library Legislative Day May 4-5, 2015 in Washington, D.C.;

Library Legislative Day is an opportunity to learn more about the American Library Association legislative priorities and to meet with members of our Congressional delegation to express to them the importance of Montana libraries and their need for ongoing federal support through Library Services Technology Act funds and other federal initiatives.

6.6. Recruit and retain the staff necessary to meet the responsibilities of MSL's mission and Montana statutes.

6.6.a. In anticipation of staff changes with the Digital Library including staff retirements, I will work with program managers to evaluate the current organizational structure of the Digital Library. I continue to look for opportunities for staff to develop leadership skills and to provide a more integrated services approach for the Digital Library. Staff turnover is an opportunity to evaluate how we might make the most of staff skills and existing resources to meet the goals identified in program work plans and to ease the transition that comes with staff changes.

6.7. Foster staff members' value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to MSL's mission.

6.7.a. Direct and provide guidance to program managers on and evaluation of program work plans and a new performance objective process that empowers and engages staff and that support the goals of the long-range plan. In FY 2014, with advice from the Department of Administration, the State Library adopted new performance appraisal documents. These documents were shared with staff at the April all-staff meeting. Central to the documents are staff-developed performance objectives. Supervisors and staff understand that program work plans should be developed with significant staff input and should then drive individual performance objectives so that employees can directly see how their performance ties to program work plans and the overall agency long-term plan.