



Library Information Services Report July through September 2014

Prepared for the October 8, 2014 Commission meeting
by Jim Kammerer, LIS Program Manager

This report represents the accomplishments of the following staff:
Kammerer, Smith, Downs, Genzlinger, Suber and Mueller-Brunckhorst

Goal One, Content: MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.

The Montana State Library entered the sixth year of its digitization project of historic, print state publications with a contract to spend \$40,000 with its vendor the Internet Archive. It is possible that we may finish digitizing the single range of print state publications remaining to be scanned. Our biggest hurdle is asserting bibliographic control over the uncatalogued fishery and wildlife reports. MSL has about 7 linear feet of Job Completion Reports and Progress Reports, aka "fishery reports" located on the state publications shelves. The majority are not cataloged, just a few pages in length, and lack any binding, cover, or title pages. These reports are also known as "Dingell-Johnson (DJ) reports" and are a product of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, a US federal law that provides states, including Montana, money for state fish restoration and management plans and projects. These reports have remained uncataloged for many years because of low staff resources, the large, unknown number of reports, and the difficulty of determining how best to catalog these largely similar items. MSL also has about 27 linear feet of Job Completion Reports and Progress Reports, also known as "wildlife reports" located on the state publications shelves. Again, the majority are not cataloged. These reports are also known as "Pittman-Robertson (PR) reports" and are a product of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 which provides states, including Montana, money for state wildlife restoration and management plans and projects. The PR reports like the DJ reports have remained uncataloged for many years because of no staff cataloger or only one cataloger on staff, the large, unknown number of reports, and the difficulty of determining how best to catalog these very similar items. The primary user groups for these reports are FWP staff, outdoor sports groups, and scientists. Beth Downs, state publications librarian, is working with FWP to acquire previously un-submitted DJ and PR reports.

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

Recently MSL cataloguer Sam Suber edited all state publication records in our Montana Memory Project collection in order to meet the metadata requirements for MSL to become a partner of the Mountain West Digital Library (MWDL) which in turn is a service hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). While our digitized state publications are already indexed by Google, it is still important to add our collection to regional and national portals where many potential users may start and end their search. Including digitized state publications in the MWDL and DPLA creates two new, prominent access points for LIS resources.

For years MSL patrons have accessed current and archived issues of electronic journal subscriptions via the EBSCO EJS platform that, while functional, looks very outdated. Outreach and Electronic Resources Librarian, Alana Mueller-Brunckhorst, after considerable communication with vendor representatives, has successfully transferred access to all current and archived subscriptions to the A to Z list of E-Resources area of Discover-It. This transfer supports the long sought for ideal of providing a single search interface for our users.

Goal Three, Training: MSL provides appropriate trainings and training resources so that the best use can be made of the resources offered.

Electronic Resources Librarian, Alana Mueller-Brunckhorst developed and hosted two webinars for state agency employees on how to use Safari Tech Books from their desktops. These webinars filled to capacity and closed soon after registration opened. In response to the growing user need for the newest published information, MSL purchased additional "seats" allowing more users to simultaneously use the online licensed materials.

From their desktop, LIS staff attended the 2014 Western State Government Information Virtual Conference hosted by the Colorado State Library and the University of Colorado Boulder. Session topics ranged from depository basics, to outreach, to disaster resources, to discussion of the GPO National Plan. The convenience and economy of the webinar format cannot be overstated whereby we interacted with colleagues from 8 other states to learn how to provide better service to users.

Goal Four, Consultation and Leadership: MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.

In the Justice Building atrium, the Montana State Library and the State Law Library of Montana hosted the traveling exhibition "Leading the Way: Montana Woman Suffrage and Struggle for Equal Citizenship". The five panel exhibit chronicles the civic history of women in Montana as part of this year's centennial commemoration of women's suffrage.

Goal Five, Collaboration: MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration amongst its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.

The Montana State Library, the Internet Archive, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service recently completed a collaborative digitization project of historic United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) publications from the Natural Resources Conservation Service formerly the USDA Soil Conservation Service and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station spanning the years 1951 to 2000. These reports are important to and of particular interest to the water work group of four state and three federal agencies tasked with hydrology responsibilities and any Montanans whose livelihood depends on access to historic water data. Jim Kammerer, LIS Information Services Manager, Catherine Maynard, NRCS Natural Resources Analyst and JoLynn Genzlinger, digital services technician worked together on the project description and processing of the publications. The project is now part of the Digitization Projects Registry at <http://registry.fdlp.gov>. (Note: this Government Printing Office website as of September 19th is still unavailable due to an internal security review underway following an August 6th hacking incident). The publication series continues today primarily in a digital-only format and is published monthly January to June each year as the *Montana Water Supply Outlook Report*.

MSL records manager Jim Kammerer worked with other state agency records managers and legislative services staff for several months as part of the HJR2 statutory sub group tasked with providing bill draft language for the Education and Local Government Interim Committee. The statutory sub group bill draft suggestions focused on updating language associated with public records laws. Much of the current public records language is archaic, confusing, and contains unnecessary definitions which has hampered MSL efforts to improve agency level records management and has often made it difficult for LIS staff to determine whether a public record is a state publication that needs to be managed.

Goal Six, Sustainable Success: MSL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer. It is efficient and effective as measured against partner and patron outcomes, and is successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.

LIS created an Information Desk located midway between the reading room and the public access computers. The goal is to provide a more welcoming environment with greater staff visibility and availability for users needing assistance. Staff at the Information Desk will be responsible for welcoming patrons and guests to the library, answering information requests, managing guest passes for the public access computers, checking out materials, the conference room mice, presenters, and newspapers.

After nearly 18 years of service at the Montana State Library, Marjorie Smith, Client Services Assistant, retired in July 2014. LIS is currently interviewing to fill this position. Giving the changing nature of the services provided by LIS that has resulted in significant increases in the use of online resources and a reduction in print circulation and interlibrary loan, this position is being filled as a part-time position. The remainder of the FTE will be used in the Geographic Information program.