

Memo

To: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

From: Ken Adams, MSC Director

Date: Oct 30, 2014

Re: Montana Shared Catalog Project update

1. LSTA authorized for MSC new libraries; \$1,800 to cover vendor start-up costs for Richey Public School and Rosebud Public School. Their profiles and configurations were created over the summer and initial “copy-cataloging” training has been provided. Both schools are currently manually entering their records into the MSC database.

2. The MSC 2014 Members Meetings were held in Helena on May 2 for the Spring meeting and again for the Fall Meeting on Sept 27. A key topic of the spring meeting was the budget approval that included funding for an additional MSC support person. The budget was unanimously approved with little discussion. The hiring process began in late July. After screening and interviewing, Jemma Hazen accepted our job offer as the new MSC Technical Services Assistant. The position will focus on maintaining the bibliographic and authority records in the system. You may recall that Jemma had previously been employed by the State Library as the MSC Systems Technician in 2008-09. She began work on Oct 6 and we’re thrilled to have her back. The fall meeting focused on creating a strategic plan for the MSC. After much discussion, the vision and mission statements were approved and the Executive Board will work with volunteers from the membership to draft a plan to be finalized in time for voting on at the 2015 spring meeting. The NAC will review this plan at their May meeting.

3. The MSC system configuration and policies reorganization is now into its ninth month and significant progress has been made in reducing the number of item types, home locations, item categories and circulation rules. A significant accomplishment has been with the 3 sharing groups which have all agreed to use the same circulation policies and we are using those policies as a baseline for all other member public libraries. We are currently in the process of contacting individual libraries to go over their current policies and what needs to be changed.

4. The departure of Melody Condron in September and the subsequent hiring of Amy Marchwick to replace Melody in the MSC Systems Technician position, has left the staff with an opening for the MSC Training and Support position. That position opening was announced in mid-October and screening of applicants will begin on Nov 5th.

5. System Updates: Our Symphony ILS software was upgraded to version 3.4.1.5 in August. The implementation of the “Enterprise” online catalog search interface is in full swing with 56 profiles created so far. Several are now live with the rest still in testing and evaluation. We have 14 libraries pilot-testing the “MobileCirc” app for mobile devices which is scheduled to be in general release in early 2015. The MSC is one of 5 SirsiDynix customer consortia that are “beta” testing the new BLUEcloud Analytics product (replaces Directors Station for obtaining stats). After several weeks of false starts during testing, the “extraction agent” was successfully installed on our production server last week and waiting for the go ahead to try the next step, actually extracting our data and viewing some statistical output.