

Memo

To: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

From: Jo Flick, CE Coordinator

Date: November 10, 2015

Re: Training Update

FY15 **Fall Workshops** took place October 2-3 at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena, with 152 attending the event. A book mending preconference training was held on October 1 at the MT State Library. MSL did not provide lunch to participants this year, owing to a reduced funding for the project and the change in LSTA rules governing expenses on meals. To qualify for use of LSTA funds, meals must be part of an active working session, such as the LSTA listening session round table discussions held during breakfast on 10/2.

Twenty-two sessions were provided, including the listening session and the book mending session. Most sessions were presented by Montana librarians, many by MSL staff. MSL staff set a weighted criterion for sessions that serve the needs of small public libraries due to the fact that for many of our smallest public libraries and this is the only training they attend all year.

An online evaluation survey was completed by 80 participants. Participants rank this event very high on meeting expectations, providing practical training, and advancing skills and knowledge. The longer format for most sessions (3 hours) allows for more seminar-style, hands-on learning. I have prepared a summary analysis of the evaluation survey; please let me know if you would like to see it or if you want to view the full survey results.

The **Summer Leadership Institute** took place July 6-9 at the Rising Wolf Lodge near East Glacier Park. The Lodge is a century-old guest ranch with 22 beds – the perfect size for this event. Cheryl Gould of Fully Engaged Libraries facilitated the training. Participants remarked about the value of a secluded location for 4 intense days exploring and practicing leadership skills. For the first time, the institute was open to participants other than public libraries. Four teacher librarians and one academic librarian joined the group. We had more emerging leaders this year than in the past, about 1/3 of the participants were within the first couple years of starting their careers. All participants agree to continue to meet online monthly for ongoing training, most were able to attend a meeting at the Lewis & Clark Library on the evening of October 2 to discuss other leadership training opportunities and to learn more about the value of joining a professional organization. In November, the group will participate in an online book club discussion, which Samantha Hines graciously volunteered to lead. All participants also agree to choose and develop a project that applies their new leadership skills. Please let me know if you would like to see a list of participant's projects. The final evaluation of this program is the final report of the participants on their projects.

Online learning support has expanded at the MSL with the use of screen capture software, Camtassia and Adobe Articulate Storyline. These tools, acquired with FY14 funding, allow MSL trainers to create dynamic **instructional tutorials** that are being used strategically to help librarians with specific critical tasks by viewing the tutorial anytime that they need to. MSL trainers are all posting presentation materials to a common account at Slideshare.com which is making it easier to find all MSL created presentations. And, we have integrated the MSL Learning Portal within the MSL website, so that navigation from informational resources to training resources is easier. MSL trainers are now working to make pages with instructional content consistent with the overall MSL website and to improve the look and navigation, overall.