

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Cara Orban, Montana State Library

Date: September 9, 2021

Re: Interlibrary Sharing Protocol

The Interlibrary Sharing Protocol was adopted by the State Library Commission in 1998. Since that time, Montana libraries have developed a comprehensive network of options for sharing materials. MSL subsidizes and supports a suite of interdependent resource sharing programs to support this network. OCLC Group Services, the Montana Courier Alliance, and the Montana Shared Catalog offer affordable access to any Montana library to participate in the sharing of physical library materials so that anyone in Montana may be equitably served. Additionally, libraries share a digital collection of ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines via MontanaLibrary2Go.

A general overview of the merits and best practices of interlibrary loan is readily available from professional organizations such as the American Library Association. For Montana-specific needs, the procedures laid out in the Interlibrary Sharing Protocol have been superseded by newer systems and processes which are specific to their respective programs and which are documented elsewhere.

Finally, the Fair Library Access Resolution addresses the State Library's mission to provide all Montanans with access to library content and services, sufficient unto their needs. The specific objectives and programs intended to realize this mission are described in MSL's work plans and in the LSTA five-year plan.

For these reasons, I recommend that the Commission rescind the Interlibrary Sharing Protocol.