

# Memo

**To:** Montana State Library Commission

**From:** Jennie Stapp, State Librarian  
Jodie Moore, Red Lodge Carnegie Library Director, Chair

**Date:** July 15, 2022

**Re: Network Advisory Council report**

On July 14 the Network Advisory Council (NAC) held its annual retreat. This retreat was facilitated by the Kedge/The Future School and focused on the practice of Strategic Foresight. The intent of this practice is to give staff and members of the NAC the skills to better anticipate trends that will impact our communities, library users, and library services. This practice is essential for our ability to continue to offer essential library services to users in the face of rapid change.

Slides from the workshop are available online at: [Strategic Foresight](#)

Additionally, at the request of the Commission the Network Advisory Council considered the following:

1) Virtual Programming Policy

The intent behind the accessibility language in the draft virtual programming policy considered by the Commission in June was not clear. Staff researched accessibility best practices that apply to virtual programming policies from sources such as Disability Rights Montana, the National Disability Rights Network, and the Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium. Best practices include but are not limited to:

- a. Using accessibility PowerPoints
- b. Providing Closed Captioning
- c. Offering American Sign Language

Staff updated the policy language to state that MSL will work with presenters to implement these best practices to the extent that resources allow. Staff will

provide presenters a checklist of accessibility best practices to follow when offering virtual programming.

The NAC recommends the Commission adopt the Virtual Programming Policy.

## 2) Freedom to Read Statement

The Commission asked the NAC to consider whether to retain the following language:

*Libraries have procedures in place for reevaluating those selections if library users voice concerns about materials or services that they find objectionable.*

The NAC agrees that this language should be retained for readers who are not library professionals and may not understanding that library collection development policies allow for objections.

Additionally, the Commission asked the NAC to consider accepting the following language change:

*Amend To submit to anything less is contrary to the freedoms afforded through access to information, to read, To allow anything less is contrary to the rights afforded to Montanans and Americans.*

The NAC concurs with this language change.

Additional amendments to the statement recommended by the NAC improve readability of the statement and acknowledge that library collections include more than books. The changes do not impact the intent of the statement.

The NAC recommends the Commission adopt the Freedom to Read Statement.