

## Notes from the Tamarack Federation Meeting

### October 2022 – Online

1. What is the greatest benefit of the federation to you and your library? To your library patrons?
  - a. Training/education – mentioned a few times
  - b. Power of a combined voice with advocacy and building support for libraries – mentioned twice
  - c. We get money – mentioned once
  - d. Networking with colleagues – mentioned once
  - e. For our patrons – access to information and library resources
2. What is missing for your patrons and/or your library when it comes to the structure of the federation or the services it provides?
  - a. Awareness of the federations and what they do
3. What would you change about the current structure or funding of the federation?
  - a. More funding
  - b. Most people were happy with the current structure of the federation
  - c. There was a question about standards and how they relate to federation funding
4. The legislative intent listed in the Montana Code Annotated is “It is the policy of the legislature to encourage the most efficient delivery of library services to the people of Montana. To that end the state should be divided into regions within which libraries desiring to participate in the distribution of such state funding to libraries as may be available from time to time shall organize into library federations to pool resources and information and avoid duplication of effort.”
  - a. Is this still relevant? Why or why not?
    - i. Pooling resources and avoiding duplication is still relevant
  - b. Does the current structure/funding of federations support this intent? Why or why not?
    - i. Current structure does pool resources and avoid duplication. Example is use of funds for MontanaLibrary2Go.
    - ii. A couple of people asked about the role of the federation in collaboration. They weren’t sure about the role of the federation when they looked at things like Partners which clearly is about collaboration.
    - iii. Group talked about possibility of using funds to help with digital resources that all libraries purchase. They also talked about possible IT support.