



MEMO

To: Federation Task Force Members
From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting & Learning Librarian
Subject: What federation members find unique and valuable
Date: December 30, 2022

To help us think about the role of federations, please review the following feedback from attendees at fall federation members. We reviewed their responses at our last meeting. This is looking at what librarians and board members think makes federations unique and valuable.

What is unique about federations?

- Regional aspect
- Consistency
- Role of trustees

What do they do well?

- Continuing education is relevant to regional area.
- Networking at a regional level is very helpful. There's more time for real conversations and relationship building.
- Federations help us become better advocates for libraries.
- The trust and camaraderie that is built within federations leads to better and more creative solutions that benefit patrons.
- Challenges that libraries face can often be unique to a region – even if it's just in flavor or feel. Being able to connect with area librarians to find solutions that are tailored to the region is helpful.
- Give better opportunities to connect with state people
- Makes it easier for libraries to participate in statewide efforts like the Montana Shared Catalog – through funding and regional/area librarians supporting each other.

What else could they do? Note: most people thought the federations would need more funding to do these things.

- Collaborate on the purchase of digital resources
- Help build a stronger voice for libraries on a regional level
- Potentially help with IT challenges