



## MEMO

**To:** Montan State Library Commission  
**From:** Jennie Stapp, State Librarian  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** 05/09/2024

**Don Casey, Billings**  
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Resource Sharing

I am writing to support resource sharing.

Twenty-Five years ago, my students in Billings were able to access several data bases provided by state funding. About 12 years ago, this was taken away. I feel a return to full funding will make a huge difference in Montana student academic pursuits. Giving students access to peer reviewed journals will give them quality material that is not easily found by "googling".

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**Austin Castle, Cut Bank**

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Discussion of Executive Planning Process (2025 Legislative Budget Resource Sharing Request)

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you in support of the full 2025 Legislative Resource Sharing Infrastructure Budget Request. In Glacier County, we currently participate in the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC), MontanaLibrary2Go, and OCLC Group Services. Glacier County Library currently uses the State Aid and Federation Funding we receive to cover the expense of these services. State funding for Resource Sharing would allow us to repurpose these dollars for more local services such as expanded children and adult programming.

The MSC is an invaluable resource for library staff and our patrons. The MSC staff is always willing to help us discover or create reports that we are able to share with our board, local government officials, and the public to demonstrate the use and importance of some of the services we provide.



As a library system that encompasses a large geographic service area and has a rural population, we are privileged to be able to participate in MontanaLibrary2Go, so our patrons have access to electronic books and audiobooks. Due to increased usage of this resource across the state; we have heard from several of our patrons regarding the extremely long wait times for popular titles. Increased funding for this shared resource would allow the MontanaLibrary2Go Selection Committee to address these incredibly long wait times and to provide a wider selection of materials to patrons across Montana.

OCLC Group Services allows Glacier County Library to offer interlibrary loans (ILLs) to our patrons for materials not owned by our system.

Glacier County Library has contributed to the Montana History Portal by helping digitize and add the Cut Bank High School Yearbooks. Increased funding would allow for more organizations to contribute to this electronic history resource.

We would love to participate in more Resource Sharing Programs such as E-Resources, MSC Partners Sharing Group, and Statewide Courier Service, but do not have the funding available at this time. Being able to participate in these services would expand access for materials to our patrons and could help reduce our spending on postage. Currently, Glacier County Library is not able to provide databases to our patrons. Montanans who reside in small towns and rural areas should have the same access to resources as Montanans who live in bigger cities and urban areas. In order to provide all Montanans with the expanded library services they deserve, please consider supporting the 2025 Legislative Resource Sharing Infrastructure Budget Request.

Thank you,  
Austin Castle, Director, Glacier County Library