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Montana State Library Report

Brief summary prepared for Spring 2009 Meetings

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State Library Commission:

- The next meeting of the State Library Commission is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th and will be held at the Red Lion Inn in Kalispell, MT. Agenda items include but are not limited to: Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) FY'09 budget, Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) scholarship employment requirements, and third quarter financial report.
- There will likely be two openings on the Commission at the end of May. The terms of Rod Moody and Don Allen will end in May 2009 and these individuals have expressed interest in taking advantage of other opportunities. If you, or a local trustee, friend of the library, or other citizen would like to be considered to serve on the Commission please refer to the Governor's Office website regarding Boards and Councils at: <https://app.mt.gov/cgi-bin/governor/appointment.cgi>

Network Advisory Council:

- The next meeting of the Network Advisory Council is scheduled for April 1, 2009. Agenda items include but are not limited to: Scoring and recommendations on the 2009 Montana Shared Catalog library applications, recommendations on the LSTA FY'09 budget, advance planning for a pilot courier/delivery system, and status of the Statewide Periodical Database contracts.
- Council information can be found at: http://msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/network_advisory_council/network_tf.asp

Staff news from Montana State Library:

- Evan Hammer has joined the Montana State Library staff as the Natural Resources Information System (NRIS) Manager.

2009 Legislature updates as of March 4, 2009.

- Montana State Library's budget which includes direct support to local libraries in the form of state aid to public libraries, interlibrary loan reimbursement monies, federation monies, statewide database monies, in addition to the State Library staff and operations budget; budget is currently in House Appropriations Committee. Base budget is currently complete, no new funding but some present law adjustments included. On the negative side, an increase to a 7% vacancy savings requirement (which equates to a \$100,000 per year of the biennium budget liability for MSL) has been included in the budget. On the plus side for the state's libraries, the budget includes a one time only request for \$200,000 per year of the biennium for a pilot courier/delivery system(s) program. The State Library's budget with these additions/changes has passed from the Joint Subcommittee on Appropriations for Education, the full Appropriations Committee, and out of the full House, and is now scheduled for hearings in Senate Finance and Claims Committee before it eventually moves on to the full Senate, and most likely a legislative Conference Committee.
- **HB 61 status** – which involves changes to the Information Access Montana Act issues and a possible repurposing of interlibrary loan reimbursement monies passed out of the House and Senate, it is now waiting for signature from the Governor. Thank you to Montana Library Association's Government Affairs Chair Lois Fitzpatrick and Lobbyist Nanette Gilbertson; Ron Moody, State Library Commissioner; Honore Bray, Missoula Public Library; Judy Hart, Lewis and Clark Public Library; John Finn, Hearst Free Public Library, and Kim Crowley, Flathead County Public Library, all of whom provided testimony for one or more of our hearings on HB61. We also want to thank the Representatives and Senators for their support of HB61.
- What steps and timelines are involved should HB61 continue to progress and be signed into law during this legislative session? Here is a likely scenario:
 - (1) Interlibrary loan reimbursement will be processed as it has been in the past in July 2009. Libraries will receive the forms in June and will need to file for reimbursement by mid-to late July. Checks will be mailed in August or September, as soon as reasonably possible once new fiscal year budget is open and available.

- (2) Network Advisory Council (NAC) in a mid-summer 2009 meeting will explore options and determine its preliminary recommendations for repurposing of the interlibrary loan program monies for FY 2010.
- (3) NAC with assistance from State Library will make its preliminary recommendations available for public comment between August 1st and November 1st.
- (4) NAC will revisit its preliminary recommendations with consideration of the public comments received by November 1, 2009, and present its final recommendations to the State Library Commission for action at the December 2, 2009 Commission meeting.
- (5) Notification to members of the Montana library community will be sent out no later than December 11, 2009 regarding the Commission action taken.
- (6) If the State Library Commission's action in December is to accept the NAC recommendations and proceed with an Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) process, that process will be initiated by State Library staff so that we meet a filing date of December 24, 2009 or the first available date in 2010 which we assume will be around January 7, 2010.
- (7) Formal ARM process will be followed, including at least one public hearing.
- (8) Goal would be to complete the ARM process at or soon after the April 2010 Commission meeting.
- (9) If ARM process is successful, new or revised programs to receive the repurposed monies will be contacted and appropriate contracts will be developed and administrated.

- **Library Courier/Delivery service pilot project funding** – One time only funding still in MSL's budget as it is passed from the House floor to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee.
- **HB265 status** – This Montana Association for the Blind legislation supporting the Radio Reading Services and Newslines services which benefit MSL Talking Book Library patrons failed to pass out of the House Human Services Committee as a result of a tied vote. This bill is most likely dead but because it has not been tabled and it does have appropriations attached, it could still be blasted from the Committee to the full floor for debate. However, this is not likely to happen.
- **Stimulus package(s):** Please know that MSL has made several attempts to keep libraries' and library users' needs on the list(s) of stimulus fundable projects. We submitted brief statements regarding shovel ready library construction projects, as well as requests for consideration of stimulus monies to be directed to libraries to develop, enhance or improve their broadband connectivity in order to support the increased use of the public access computers in libraries across Montana. We believe a possible partnership exists between job services across Montana and their local libraries to help provide training and

resources for job awareness, job interviews, applications, career changes, practice testing for licensing and certification, etc. We also asked for consideration of our one time only request to digitize Montana's state publications. This information was submitted to American Library Association legislative folks working with congressional leadership in Washington, D.C. as well as to the Governor's office here in Montana.

Although as a state agency, the State Library was unable to represent libraries at the public hearing on the stimulus package, Nanette Gilbertson, the Montana Library Association's lobbyist did represent libraries at the hearing and requested that the hearing panel consider funding projects that would help libraries provide enhanced services to those dealing with the economic downswing. She also mentioned the same items as above.

Montana Shared Catalog (MSC):

- MSC 2009 New Library Applications: Application deadline was Feb 18. Received applications from: Ashland Public School, Bridger Public Library, Glasgow City-County Library, Joliet Public Library, Lincoln County High School (Eureka), Manhattan Community Library, Parmly Billings Library, Red Lodge Public Library, and Stone Child College Library. Screening taking place this week and then forwarded to the NAC for its scoring and funding recommendations.
- MSC super support person Jemma Hazen and baby are doing great. She will be on maternity leave until late March.
- New (2008) Libraries Status: Billings Catholic Schools, Philipsburg Public Library, Power School and West Yellowstone School are busy retrospective cataloging. Power School may be ready to go live in late April.
- The Symphony 3.2.1 upgrade was completed on January 19th.
- Dillon Public Library went live in MSC 4-Rivers partners group on February 4th and is experiencing an enthusiastic response from patrons.
- MSC Spring Membership Meeting will be held in Bozeman on May 7-8, 2009. Preliminary information and lodging details are available on the [MSC Meetings page](#).

Montana Library Certification Program (for librarians, trustees, other interested persons, not libraries) Update:

The Montana Library Certification Program will be updated during 2009. MSL staff and an 11-member Focus Group of volunteer librarians and trustees are working together this year on the update and will make recommendations to the MSL Commission. The Commission will be asked to make a final decision on the recommendations with the intent that the updated program will be launched in January 2010.

To facilitate the collection of input on these update recommendations, all Montana librarians and board members will have an opportunity to respond to an online survey. Please watch the Wired-Mt listserv and the MSL website for survey announcements and update details. Your ideas and suggestions are important to MSL and the Focus Group.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOCUS GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- ♦ Three certification tracks will be available in the updated Montana Library Certification Program:
 1. Library Administrator Track (required for all public library directors): Initial certificate = 60 Continuing Education (CE) credits earned in a 3-year period
Renewal certificate = 45 CE credits earned in a 3-year period
 2. Library Staff Track: Initial certificate = 60 CE credits earned in a 3-year period. Renewal certificate = 45 CE credits earned in a 3-year period. Library directors will be asked to assist staff with selecting and tracking CE activities and will verify completion of requirements for staff applying for certification.
 3. Library Trustee Track: This program is under development. The initial recommendation is for a minimum of 15 CE credits earned in a 3-year period.
- ♦ There will no longer be different certification levels based on education and experience, but participants in the certification program may be awarded one or more specializations by accumulating extra credits in a particular CE category.
- ♦ All public library directors, no matter what size of library served or level of education, will be required to participate in CE activities and earn certification. A change in the current Public Library Standards will be needed to make this official; MSL will propose the necessary adjustments at the appropriate time.
- ♦ Recognition for those who achieve certification will be expanded to include notification to library management, library boards, city and county officials, and the local community. Boards and directors will be encouraged to consider granting staff time and financial assistance to participate in CE activities and to offer incentives for staff who earn certification.

Statewide Projects update:

- **MSL "Ready 2 Read" Early Literacy Campaign** will launch in April 2009. The goal of this statewide effort is to promote the value of early literacy. It is part of the "What's Your Story?" campaign targeting parents and caregivers of children from birth to age five. The marketing materials that will be ready in April will include an extensive Web site for the public, posters, and a Web site for librarians. The public Web site is being designed by Joanna Yardley, a renowned children's illustrator. She has designed a series of animated Montana animals, including the buffalo, the heron, the elk, and the grizzly, and has also designed the site to have a real Montana look and feel, (but for kids). The Web site is broken down by age group and focuses information for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and parents. For each of the children's ages, there is information on how to share a book with your kid, what kids at that age like, songs and fingerplays, best books for kids, and activities to promote early literacy (plus a lot more). For parents, there is information on dialogic reading, brain development, and more. The posters feature children of different ages reading with their parents. The librarian Web site will feature a librarian toolkit that has everything from handouts to provide to parents at books and babies storyhours to lyrics to songs and actions to fingerplays you can you for those early literacy storyhours. All of that will soon be available on the State Library's What's Your Story Web site. There will be a huge library promotional effort, including partnering with organizations and agencies to help distribute our materials throughout Montana to people who might not visit libraries. Some of these outreach efforts will include WIC offices, county health departments, pediatricians, and more. In the next several months, our intent is to produce a wide range of materials for distribution to parents of young children emphasizing the value of early literacy and how to share books with their kids to promote early literacy skills.
- **MontanaLibrary2Go:** <http://www.montanalibrary2go.org>
Phases One, Two and Three have gone live with this statewide downloadable E-content project through OverDrive. There are currently 26 libraries in the project. These libraries joined in Phase Three:

Lincoln County Library System (Libby, Eureka and Troy)
Glasgow City-County Library
Butte Public Library
Clancy Community Library
Boulder Community Library

The statewide Selection Team manages collection development through OverDrive's Content Reserve module, a listserv and virtual meetings. Monthly content selection is done on a rotating basis by these libraries:

Missoula Public Library
Flathead County Library
Parmly Billings Library
Lewis and Clark Library
Great Falls Public Library

The current collection size is around 1800 titles, with additional titles added a minimum of monthly.

- **HeritageQuest Online:**

48 out of 80 public libraries contributed local funding under a shared cost formula to purchase a year's subscription to HeritageQuest Online for all Montana public libraries. LSTA money was added to cover the final total cost. ProQuest offered several training webinars and participation has been high. There was significant demand throughout the state for an online genealogy tool and the library and patron responses to this resource have been enthusiastic. The subscription runs through September, 2009. Please speak with MSL staff and Network Advisory Council members about your involvement in this subscription and whether HeritageQuest should become a statewide subscription.

- **Montana Memory Project:**

The Montana Memory Project is showing significant increased use since the Historical Society Library added existing content and joined this effort as a fiscal and management partner. There have been MMP trainings at the Fall Workshop, at regional County History Initiative conferences coordinated by the Historical Society and at the Flathead County Library. A "project planning" document is now required of all interested participants, to help with project evaluation, found on the Montana State Library website ([http://msl.state.mt.us/For Librarians/For All Librarians/Digitization/Montana Memory Project/default.asp](http://msl.state.mt.us/For_Librarians/For_All_Librarians/Digitization/Montana_Memory_Project/default.asp))

- A statewide Digital Summit will be held on May 21, followed by a Preservation (Long Term Access) Planning Meeting on May 22, at the Montana State Library. The first day will focus on current digital projects around the state, plans for future projects, challenges and standards. The second day will be dedicated to investigating three options for a statewide "long term access" tool to recommend to the Network Advisory Council. Please contact Sarah McHugh (samchugh@mt.gov) at MSL if you are interested in attending either of these events.

Full cataloging by copy cataloging libraries:

Montana libraries can anticipate a gradual shift to "full" cataloging levels at OCLC. This change would "allow" copy cataloging libraries under our statewide OCLC cost formula to do limited amounts of full cataloging where the material they hold is unique. These libraries would use the Dublin Core record format when cataloging limited collections of material and be trained beforehand through webinars produced by OCLC Western. The first group of libraries to be trained and "upgraded" would be current and interested copy level participants in the Montana Memory Project. The second group to move would be Montana "Client" libraries participating in the Montana Cataloging Client/Agent Program through MSL. Other groups would be gradually moved to a "full" cataloging level as training occurs through FY2010.

Montana Library Association Conference:

The MLA conference is scheduled for April 22-25, 2009 in Kalispell, Montana. This annual conference will feature preconferences, workshops, guest speakers, entertainment and more. Watch the MLA website for details and registration: <http://www.mtlib.org/>

Fall Workshop:

Mark your calendars! The location and date for this year's MSL Fall Workshop has been set: Great Falls Holiday Inn, September 11 & 12. As always, there will be a full slate of continuing education sessions covering a variety of library-related topics and a great opportunity to network with colleagues from all types of libraries statewide.

MSL Begins Hosting of Homepages for Interested Montana Public Libraries:

If yours is a public library without a Web presence featuring your own home page, or you are finding it too difficult to maintain your current home page, MSL may be able to help. We have designed a local library home page template to be hosted on our servers featuring some standard links to services like AskMontana and MyMontanaLibrary as well as customizable links to your newsletter, catalog, announcements, etc. To make changes to your MSL-provided local library homepage, you simply enter the desired change in some specially-provided text boxes available through the edit mode of the online Montana Library Directory and those changes are (magically) reflected to all viewing your homepage. (Note: MSL is not able to host your current Web pages not created through our template design.) To view the first working prototype of this template go to: <http://valierpubliclibrary.org/>. For more information, or to set-up a home page for your library using our template, contact Tom Marino, MSL Web System Manager (tmarino@mt.gov).