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Date Event

October is...
Computer Learning Month
Health Literacy Month

Oct 12-18	Teen Read Week
Oct 16	Dictionary Day
Oct 17	Black Poetry Day
Nov 19	GIS Day at MSL-Helena
Dec 10	MSL Commission Meeting-Helena

BIG SKY LIBRARIES

Number 84 October/November, 2003

Celebrating Montana and Books at the National Book Festival

By Bette Ammon, Missoula Public Library Director

Library of Congress officials estimated that as many as 60,000 people attended the third annual National Book Festival in Washington DC earlier this month. Montana's representatives were Mark Sherouse, director of the Montana Center for the Book and the Montana Committee for the Humanities, and Bette Ammon, director of Missoula Public Library. Mark and Bette are convinced that most of those 60,000 folks stopped by the Montana table at the Pavilion of the States tent.

Placed among the other northwestern states, the Montana table featured highly coveted giveaways such as colorful pencils that stated unequivocally: *Montana: Reading Runs Through It*, small golden Montana cowboy hat pins, Montana Festival of the Book bookmarks, Montana Center for the Book pamphlets, and more.

Mark Sherouse, cowboy poet Paul Zarzyski, and Bette Ammon are shown here at Montana's display at the National Book Festival in Washington, DC. Paul Zarzyski, along with Kim Haaland of Billings, was featured at a poetry reading that was part of the Festival's activities. Photo by Randy Ammon

The most popular activity, though, was the stamping of the map. Festival goers each had a map of the United States, and each table at the Pavilion provided a sticker or a stamp to attach to the appropriate state. Montana's stamps correlated with Dorothy Hinshaw Patent's book *Animals on the Trail with Lewis & Clark* (Clarion, 2002). Happy stampers had fun choosing from a grizzly bear, prairie dog, wolf, elk, or deer stamp, although Montana was certainly big enough to accommodate more than one critter.

Nearby tents (Mysteries & Thrillers, Teens & Children, Home & Family, Fiction & Imagination, History & Biography, Storytellers, and Poetry) featured over 80 well-known authors and storytellers representing a wide variety of books and states. Featured Montana authors were poet Tami Haaland, who teaches English at MSU-Billings, and cowboy poet Paul Zarzyski, who lives near Great Falls. They each presented programs and later autographed books.

Montana's participation in the 2003 National Book Festival was funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities, with the assistance of the Montana State Library.

Karen Strege, Ph.D.

A Message from the State Librarian

By Karen Strege

MSdL, Federation Planning and LSTA Update

The Montana State Digital Library (MSdL) is a new division at the State Library composed of the Natural Information Resource System (NRIS) and the Library and Information Services Department (LISD). The merger became official on July 1 of this year, and much planning has and will take place to define the scope and the services of the new division. You can imagine and (those of you who have been involved with a reorganization know) that the path between the decision to reorganize and the fruits of that decision is a lot like the famous yellow brick road -- bracketed by all types of challenges and surprises at each turn. We trust that the outcomes will result in improved services to all of our users.

We are encouraging collaboration and learning about each other by identifying joint projects that will require the skills of our librarians with the information professionals in NRIS. We are evaluating what we do well and what we need to improve. There is always much to do. Please stay tuned!

Another initiative is the establishment of a task force to review federations. The group consists of federation coordinators, MSL's information technology consultants, the chair of the MSL Commission, six federation members, and three trustees. As you all know, the context of library services has changed dramatically in the past 20 years. These changes, coupled with decreased state funding for federations have caused MSL to wonder if some aspects of the federation structure should change. Our purpose is to discuss how to ensure that federations can focus upon continuing education, networking, and joint projects -- the activities most valued by their members -- by reducing burdensome paperwork and adopting a different organization structure. The group meets October 14 and most likely will continue its work until mid-winter. We will offer regular updates and solicit your comments throughout this process.

In national news, on September 25, President Bush signed H.R. 13, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 into law. The legislation reauthorizes the Act, which includes the Library Services and Technology Act, until 2009, and sets the authorization level for library programs at $232 million. If funding is achieved at that level, a new formula distribution would take place and the base amount given to each state would double. This change would help Montana and other small states while holding harmless large states.

A joint conference committee will decide upon the level of funding for the Act. Committee members have been appointed; no Montana congressional representatives serve on this committee. It is expected that the conferees will meet in the next few weeks to determine the final numbers for programs in the bill. Look for updates on the process on Wired-Mt and in the next issue of *Big Sky Libraries*.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments that you have regarding these topics or other MSL matters. I am always happy to speak to you.

Commission Report

By Gail Staffanson, Montana State Library Commissioner

Fourteen months ago when I went to my first State Library Commission meeting, I vaguely knew who Karen Strege was and little else about the State Library. Needless to say, since then I have really gotten an education regarding what the State Library does.

Some of you would ask the same question that my family and friends have asked: "What does the State Library do?" This is not an easy question to answer, especially when talking to people who aren't librarians, but this is what I have learned:

The State Library is led by Karen Strege, and governed by a seven-member library commission. Some of the staff of the State Library have recently been combined to form one large "digital library." MSL's Talking Book Library remains much the same. The Talking Book Library is a great resource to the visually and/or physically impaired of Montana, supplying books on tape for both learning and entertainment, all at no charge to patrons.

The staff of the digital library works on natural resource information, collects and organizes State material, and supports Montana's libraries in general, and much more. In general, if you have a question, you can find the answer at the State Library!

Recently, I attended my first federation meeting. What a great program! I encourage all librarians, both public and school, to start attending their federation meetings. They offer a wealth of information you can use in your local library, and are well worth your time and travel. At the federation meeting I attended, information concerning the "Need it? Find it! @ your library" public awareness campaign was presented. If you haven't already done so, I urge you to visit the campaign's website at **http://www.msl.state.mt.us/@yourlibrary** for ideas on how to market your library. Lots of work has already been done for you, including print materials you can customize, public relations materials, and a guide for creating your own marketing plan.

One of the biggest difficulties facing libraries today is that we don't promote ourselves well enough. It is our job to educate the public as to how important it is for libraries to be well funded. We need to promote what we do and why it is important to keep funding libraries. So, please think of ways to involve your own library in the "Need it? Find it! @ your library" campaign. Get involved today!

Former State Library Commissioner Dies

Myrna Lundy, 64, of Fort Benton, a former State Library Commissioner and a field manager for the National Opinion Research Center, died of an unknown rare brain disease on September 11 at the Fort Benton hospital.

Survivors include sons Charles and Michael Lundy and their families. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 45 years, Donald K. Lundy earlier this year, and a son, Kenneth Clinton Lundy, in 1977.

Myrna worked at the Choteau County Abstract Office, then for NORC out of the University of Chicago until her illness forced her to stop in August. She served on the hospital board in Fort Benton for 16 years, was secretary of the Chouteau County Republican Central Committee, state director of Republican Women and precinct committee woman. She was appointed by then-Governor Marc Racicot to the Montana State Library Commission and served from 1993 to 1996. She was active in Eastern Star and she started the "Lights of Love," charity at Missouri River Medical Center.

Memorials are suggested to MRMC or the Fort Benton Ambulance Fund.

CIPA Update

By Suzanne Reymer, MSL Statewide Technology Librarian

CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) has been in effect since July 1, 2001. It's reemerged recently as a topic of concern for public libraries as a result of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. On June 23, 2003, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the filtering requirement in CIPA is constitutional for public libraries. This action reversed a 2002 federal district court ruling that had found the filtering mandate unconstitutional on First Amendment grounds.

What does this mean for Montana's public libraries? Essentially, any library that wants to apply E-Rate discounts to its Internet access charges and/or internal connections will now have to filter all of their Internet access computers. In addition, public librarians and boards will have to update their Acceptable Use Policies to reflect CIPA compliance and hold a public meeting to discuss these changes. Those libraries receiving E-Rate discounts for Internet access over the past two years have already been certifying compliance with most of the statute. The Supreme Court ruling means that you now have to comply with all of it.

There is one notable exception, however: CIPA does not apply to E-Rate discounts for services in the telecommunications category. This includes local and long distance telephone service as well as data access lines (including DSL, cable, and T-1 lines). For most libraries, this means that the largest portion of E-Rate discounts can still be claimed without the library having to worry about filtering and its implications for blocking patrons from access to potentially valuable and constitutionally protected information. Many of our service providers in Montana are already aware of E-Rate's requirements in this area. Others may still have to be made aware that the intricacies of the E-Rate program may require them to itemize their charges for libraries in a different manner than that used for home or business clients.

The FCC has given libraries until July 1, 2004 to be in full compliance with CIPA (i.e, filters and policies in place and public meetings held). For this current year, libraries are only asked to certify that they are taking actions toward compliance. But, this does mean that you need to have documentation of actions you've taken, e.g., information and bids from vendors, literature from workshops, minutes from board meetings where CIPA was discussed, etc.

One word of caution to libraries contemplating complying with CIPA. The legal paper trail of what is expected of libraries in the conflicting arena of filtering vs. First Amendment is far from clear. The Supreme Court did little to help clarify the matter by insisting that libraries be willing and able to turn off the filter at the request of any adult patron. In the interest of full disclosure, your Acceptable Use Policy should spell out clearly what type of sites the library intends to block, (e.g., CIPA requirements - obscenity and child pornography, and the types of sites deemed to be harmful to minors by the library board and community) as well as provide options for redress of grievances should a patron feel that the filter is overblocking or underblocking. You should also include information on how an adult patron can ask to have the filter turned off.

Montana's LSTA money is not used to purchase computers for Internet access, nor do we use it to pay for Internet access, so CIPA does not apply.

For more up-to-date information on CIPA and links to extensive resources, visit the MSL CIPA page: **http://msl .state.mt.us/admin/CIPA.htm**.

2003 Collection Management Honor Roll

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

For nearly a decade, the Montana State Library Commission has been honoring libraries which demonstrate a long-term commitment to sharing resources and building a shared database in Montana. Each year, libraries meeting the following criteria receive certificates of achievement and are placed on the Collection Management Honor Roll. They must:

* have a current and approved collection management policy on file at MSL;
* have a minimum of 50% of the library collection on the OCLC database;
* have been active during the past year adding/deleting holdings records to the OCLC database.

To be considered for the 2003 Honor Roll, libraries must have current policies submitted to MSL for review by January 31, 2004. If you have questions about the CMHR, please contact Sue Jackson at sujackson@ state.mt.us or 1-800-338-5087 at MSL.

Gale/InfoTrac Offers Something for Everyone

By Bruce Newell, MSL Montana Library Network Manager

Allowing snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park is a hot topic. I know this because I read it in the paper – specifically, the *Great Falls Tribune.* What's particularly interesting is that I read the *Tribune* online, from the comfort of my office, using the State's new Gale InfoTrac subscription. Since remote access is part of the State's deal with Gale, I could have read the paper at home; all I needed was a computer, a Web browser, and an Internet connection.

There were 28 "Yellowstone snowmobile" articles on the *Tribune* Op/Ed page, and another 18 in Regional News, Lifestyle, and other sections. The same search found 737 articles in papers ranging from *The Idaho Statesman, Weekend Australian* ("A winter adventure at Yellowstone National Park"), the *Minneapolis Star Tribune, The Tampa Tribune* ("Bush Policy Sparks "Revolt' By Ex-Park Officers"), and the *New York Times* ("Environmental Carnage"). Having Gale's newspaper index is like subscribing to 160 newspapers, without the mountains of newsprint to recycle.

InfoTrac's Discovering Collection provided me with an encyclopedia-like description of Yellowstone National Park, and lengthy biographies of John Colter and Chief Joseph from Gale's U*X*L Junior Discovering Authors series.

LegalTrac, another Gale database purchased by Montana libraries, found 55 articles on Yellowstone, including citations from the *Wyoming Law Review, Western Legal History,* and the *Colorado Lawyer.*

Kid's infoBits, a fun graphical interface to magazines, found 98 articles on Yellowstone, including an amusing article in National Parks about Old Faithful, titled: "A recent commercial touting a laxative [Metamucil] ended up causing some heartburn." From the article," "This advertisement goes against all of the National Park Service's efforts to encourage people not to put foreign objects into the thermal features." Park officials also called the ad's implication that Old Faithful is not natural but enhanced by a product "disconcerting," stressing that putting things into the park's geysers could cause irreparable harm."

Gale offers an online readers' advisor service, called *What Do I Read Next,* which helped me identify a few 'good reads.' For instance, I had enjoyed reading Bill Bryson's *A Walk in the Woods;* WDIRN suggested I might enjoy a number of titles I had never heard of before, including *Walking the Big Wild: From Yellowstone to Yukon on the Grizzly Bear Trail* by Karston Heuer and Jean Deeds' 1996 book, *There Are Mountains to Climb.*

Gale's Health and Wellness Resource Center serves up a variety of articles about Yellowstone, including an article titled: "Conservation endocrinology: A noninvasive tool to understand relationships between carnivore colonization and ecological carrying capacity," which I presume describes the maximum digestible ratio of hikers per grizzly bear. Another article's title, in *Life Science Weekly,* suggests Yellowstone wolf, grizzly bear, moose relationships are "dysfunctional."

There is something for everybody in Montana's Gale InfoTrac databases (purchased with help from the Governor, the Legislature, and local libraries.) There is good consumer advice, tens-of-thousands of articles from academic-oriented journals, and just plain fun to browse. If your library has not yet subscribed, visit the Montana Library Network's Web site: **http://montanalibraries.org/MLNdbEnroll2003.htm**, and sign-up for an inexpensive two-year subscription to these sources of quality information.

For more information, contact Bruce Newell at 444-9816, or bnewell@state.mt.us.

GALE GROUP

THOMSON LEARNING

2004 Summer Institute Scheduled

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuning Education Consultant

The Montana State Library Commission has approved LSTA funding for a 2004 Summer Institute. This week-long training is designed for public library directors who do not have a library degree. The Institute has been scheduled for the week of June 7, 2004, on the MSU-Bozeman campus. An early summer date was selected to avoid conflict with summer reading programs and staff vacations, and the Bozeman location was selected as the state university campus closest to the center of the state.

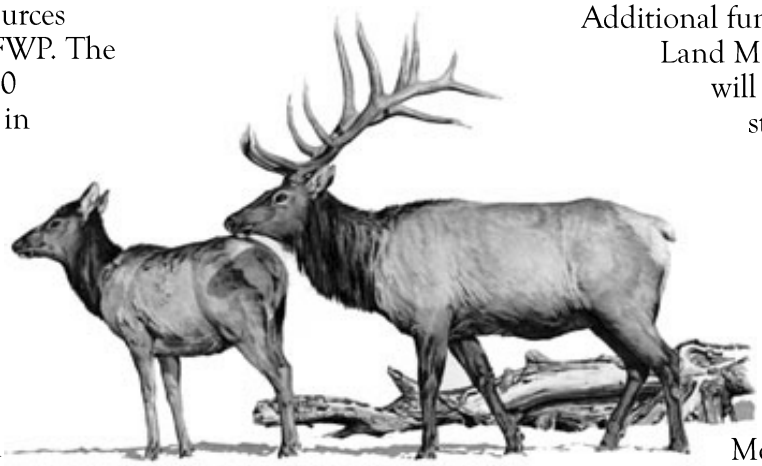
Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Registration materials will be available in the spring. If you have questions, please contact Sue Jackson at sujackson@state.mt.us or 1-800-338-5087 at MSL.

"Field Guide" to Montana Species on the Web

Information offered on nearly 650 species

By Sue Crispin, Natural Heritage Porgram Director

Over the past year, the State Library and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) have collaborated to build an important new on-line resource -- a "Field Guide" to Montana's animal species. This encyclopedic website provides information from the databases of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (NHP), which is part of the Library's Natural Resources Information System, and MFWP. The information covers nearly 650 species of vertebrate animals in Montana, including fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Users can view lists of the animal species by animal group or search by name.



The Field Guide offers a broad range of information, including species description and recognition, range, habitat, reproduction, food habits, ecology and management, and references. Photos and Montana range maps are also provided for most species. Much of the initial information came from the databases of NatureServe (the Heritage Program's international affiliate) and material developed locally by MFWP and other sources. Users can also link to the NatureServe website, through the NHP home page, where they can find color-coded status maps showing state/provincial ranks of all North America's animal (and plant) species.

Major new information has recently been added to the Field Guide for over 80 animals that are considered Montana "Species of Concern," thanks to the efforts of NHP staff scientists. Our Zoology staff spent months reviewing, editing, and adding Montana-specific information from publications, reports, field data and local expertise. This work was supported with a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to the State Library's NRIS program.

Additional funding from the Bureau of Land Management and MFWP will enable Heritage Program staff to continue improving the Field Guide with more photos, additional information on fish and invertebrates, and explanations of state status ranks.

The Field Guide to Montana Animal Species is designed to serve as an information resource for identification, research and habitat management, as well an easy way for students of all ages to expand their knowledge and appreciation of our impressive wildlife heritage. The Field Guide can be accessed through the NRIS/Natural Heritage Program web page at **http://nhp.nris.state.mt.us/** and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks web page at **http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/.** The NRIS/NHP website also offers the Montana Bird Distribution Database, where anyone can enter -- and access -- statewide bird observation data, and a Field Guide to over 300 Plants Species of Concern in Montana.

Fifth Annual Fall Workshop a Success

Story and photo by Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

Lewistown was the site of this year's Fall Workshop, MSL's fifth annual September event. The weather was warm and the Lewistown trees were beautiful in fall colors. Librarians from as far away as Libby and Baker traveled to Lewistown to learn from and network with each other.

This year, several sessions of special interest to public library trustees were featured, including library policies, the future of libraries, and forming partnerships in the community. An informal luncheon meeting, organized by Joan Bishop, a trustee for the Lewis & Clark Library in Helena, and Tracy Cook from MSL, gave the group an opportunity to get acquainted and talk about forming a trustee interest group within the Montana Library Association.

In addition to the varied training sessions offered at the workshop, the Friends group of the Lewistown Public Library hosted a delightful reception on Friday evening The dinner was also held at the library and all of the workshop participants enjoyed the mounds of delicious BBQ selections, touring the library, and visiting with each other in the comfortable library atmosphere. Montana State Library staff was very grateful for the support and hard work of the local library board, Friends, director and staff in making the workshop a success. It's always a pleasure to visit Lewistown in the fall.

These librarians are enjoying the reception and tour at the Lewistown Public Library on Friday evening. From left: Bonnie Williamson, Susan Martin, Joanne Erdall, Margaret Stallkamp, Francine Brady, and Shelma Seidel. They also received certificate awards at the workshop luncheon on Friday recognizing their successful completion of Montana's Library Certification Program. Bonnie, Margaret, Francine, and Shelma are from the Havre-Hill County Library; Susan is from the Rosebud County Library in Forsyth; and Joanne is from the Thompson-Hickman County Library in Virginia City.

MTBL's Carolyn Meier Receives Governor's Award

By Christie Briggs, Talking Book Library Supervisor

Photo by Jim Meier

On September 23, Governor Judy Martz presented Carolyn Meier with the Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance at a ceremony held at Carroll College in Helena. Seventy-five employees from other state agencies were also honored for their outstanding work.

Carolyn has been with the State Library for over 20 years; she is currently the Montana Talking Book Library's Circulation Coordinator. Nominated by Montana State Library employees who previously have received this award, Carolyn has consistently worked to maintain and improve MTBL services.

Governor Martz said, "Carolyn has consistently given 110%. The Library's patrons and volunteers are well-served because of Carolyn's hard work, dedication, and innovative ideas.

Congratulations, Carolyn, for this well-deserved award!

Talking Book Library Volunteers Honored

By Christie Briggs, Talking Book Library Supervisor

The Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) honored its volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation Day event last month at the Fort Harrison Service Club in Helena.

Regional Librarian Christie Briggs said, "Our 100-plus volunteers are essential to the Talking Book Library. They are committed to serving our patrons and have made a difference in the lives of countless Montanans." She added, "The number of volunteer hours donated to the Montana Talking Book Library equals the work of six full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. We could not offer the quality of service we do without these generous, dedicated people."

Author Ellen Baumler of Helena gave the keynote address, reading from her book, *Spirit Tailings.*

The Special Appreciation Award was given to Dorothy Carpenter, a volunteer who contributes considerably to MTBL in a number of ways. The Telephone Pioneer Appreciation Award was given to Glen Rasmussen, a veteran Telephone Pioneer member.

This year's Recording Team of the Year Award went to Jean Smith (narrator), Darlene Lloyd (monitor), and Giles Walker (reviewer) for outstanding contributions to the MTBL Recording Program.

MTBL also honored Lea Blunn, who has served as a Library volunteer for 20 years, and Tom Basinger, a retired Telephone Pioneer who has volunteered for 35 years.

At the same event, the 2003 Youth Appreciation Awards were presented by Karen Strege, State Librarian, to Erin Vashro, Brynn McKinney, and Alexis Lund.

Erin cleaned all of the playback machines this summer to get them ready for MTBL's patrons. This was Brynn's first year as a summer youth volunteer. She worked with Brittany Eldredge creating Braille twin-vision children's books. Alexis (Lexie) Lund was recognized for being a summer youth volunteer. Lexie, who began volunteering at the age of 12, is also the first youth volunteer to receive a five-year award. She has mastered many volunteer tasks at the Montana Talking Book Library.

Five year Appreciation Awards were presented to: Don Copley, Vernie Kralicek, Alice Morse, and Bob Tubbs.

Ten Year Appreciation Awards were presented to: Cookie Basinger, Bill Bell, Mary Davis, Barb Harris, Myrle Tompkins, and Cylene Wood.

State Librarian's Office:
Karen Strege, Ph.D., State Librarian
Kris Schmitz, Central Services Manager
Statewide Library Resources:
Darlene Staffeldt, Program Manager
Library Development:
Bob Cooper, Suzanne Reymer, Tracy Cook, Statewide Technology Librarians
Sue Jackson, Federal Grants/Institutions
Bruce Newell, Montana Library Network Manager
Library and Information Services:
Suzy Holt, Client Services Supervisor
Sarah McHugh, Technical Services and Systems Supervisor
Montana Talking Book Library: Christie Briggs, Supervisor
Natural Resource Information System: Jim Hill, Director

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