



# COVID-RELATED FUNDING & EXPENDITURES

December 2022 Updates

## COVID-Related Funding Status as of Q1 FY 2023

Funding Source	Deadline	Budget	E-Content	Hot Spots	Newsline	Total	Total Remaining
CARES 1: IMLS	09/30/21	\$91,004		\$91,004		\$91,004	<b>\$0</b>
ARPA-ECONTENT	12/31/22	\$1,000,000	\$699,692			\$699,692	<b>\$300,308</b>
ARPA-HOTSPOT*	12/31/22	\$1,235,444		\$754,718		\$754,718	<b>\$480,726</b>
ARPA-NEWSLINE	06/30/22	\$120,000			\$120,000	\$120,000	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,446,448</b>	<b>\$699,692</b>	<b>\$845,721</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$1,665,413</b>	<b>\$781,035</b>

\*IMLS granted an ARPA extension for this project, through April 30, 2023. This update is not reflected in MSL's budget yet as it is pending approval from the Office of Budget and Program Planning.

Faced with supply chain issues, the State Library applied for and received an ARPA extension through April 30, 2023 to complete the library internal wiring project. As of November 1, 2022, eleven out of 20 library installations have been completed. Nine libraries remain in Northwest, North Central, and Southwest Montana that are waiting for equipment. The estimated shipping date for this equipment is currently late February 2023. The remaining balance for the contracted work to be completed by CompuNet will be paid following the installation of the expected equipment in Spring 2023.

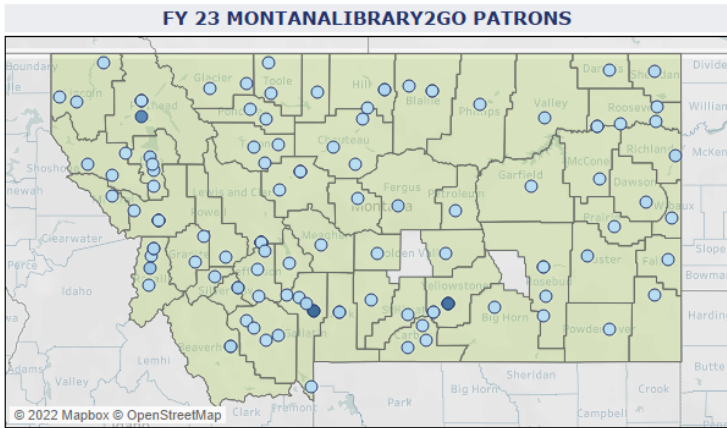
# E-Content

## Digital Reading & Educational Materials

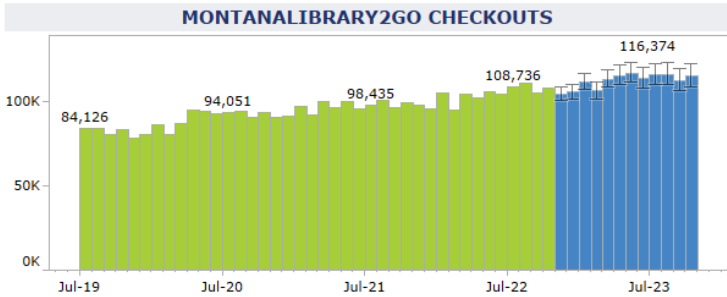
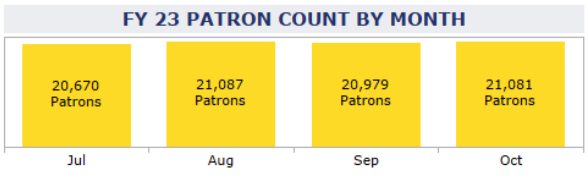
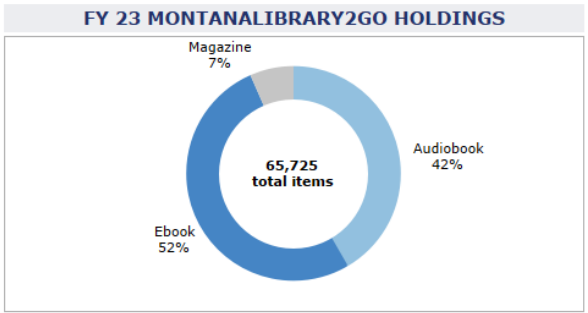


FY 2023 MONTANALIBRARY2GO

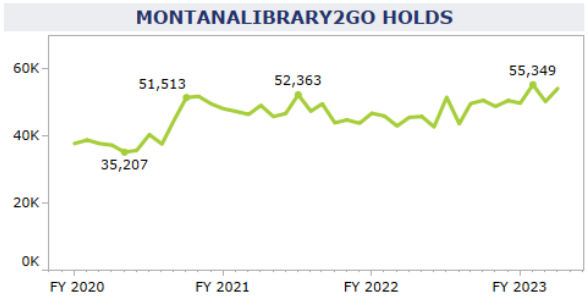
**MENU**



FY 23 MontanaLibrary2Go patrons by location, cities colored by count of users. So far in FY 23, **30,740** unique patrons checked out material from MontanaLibrary2Go. These patrons come from **54** out of 56 counties.



The plot of checkouts sum (actual & forecast), July 2019 through the next 12 months. Last month, patrons checked out **108,191** items.



Holds trend from July 2019 to the most recent month. Last month, patrons placed holds on **54,206** items.

Last updated 11/10/2022. Updated monthly.

The E-Resources Core Services Committee is currently drafting an evaluation of ARPA-funded e-resources. Early insights regarding circulation and patron use are presented below.

### Public Libraries

The investment in content credits for Overdrive in FY 2022 (\$120,00) boosted the annual MontanaLibrary2go budget by 43%. The funds were divided between purchasing licenses to fill holds (\$48,000; 10,574 units) and purchasing licenses for new titles (\$72,000; 9,924 units). As a result of this investment, patron wait times were reduced an average of 3 days. Meanwhile, libraries observed a 29% increase in average monthly checkouts from 2019 to 2022.

MontanaLibrary2Go also demonstrated significant growth in the count of registered borrowers. To date in FY 2023 (Nov. 23), MontanaLibrary2Go has provided service to 40,508 unique users, a 22% increase since 2019.

## School Libraries

The State Library invested \$115,000 into the MT Schools Overdrive program. These funds were used to increase school enrollment in the program and to purchase new titles (12,852 units).

From 2020 to 2022, the number of registered borrowers increased 213%. A total of 27,053 students participated as of October 2022. 87 new schools were able to join the program thanks to ARPA funds, bringing total enrollment to 168 Montana schools. A teacher librarian at a participating school shared the following feedback:

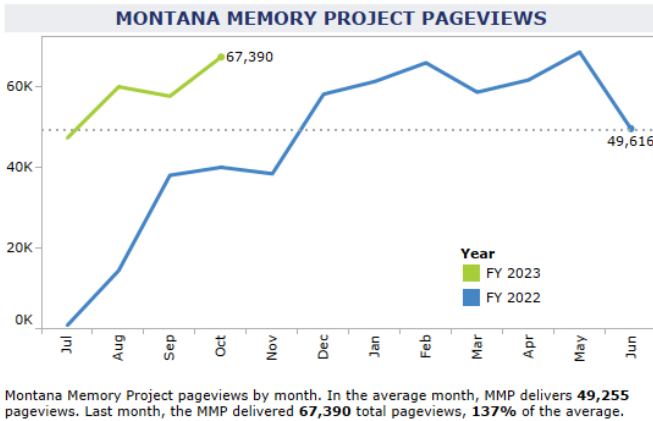
“When I look at monthly user statistics for my Overdrive users, it always surprises me that students who never come into the library to check out a physical book are actually avid readers on Overdrive who check out a lot of books! So this shows me I'm reaching students that I otherwise wouldn't be serving, because of my electronic collection.”

## Montana Memory Project

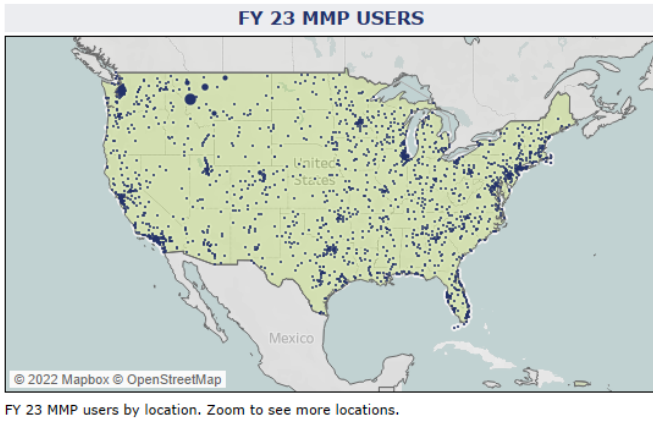


### FY 2023 MONTANA MEMORY PROJECT

**MENU**



FY 23 TOP MMP COLLECTIONS		FY 23 TOP MMP EXHIBITS	
Collections	Pageviews	Exhibits	Pageviews
Archival Photographs from the University of Montana	26,075	Boarding School Exhibit	657
Photographs from the Montana Historical Society	23,112	Capitol Exhibit	540
Livestock Brand Registrations for Montana	16,448	1972 Con Con Exhibit	270
Montana State Prison Records	6,970	Cameron Exhibit	267
Jim Magera Oral Histories Collection	6,354	Hungry Horse Dam Exhibit	241
Central Montana Historical Photographs	4,690	25th Infantry Exhibit	234
Local Histories of Montana	3,194	Early Schools Exhibit	233
Mapping Montana and the West	2,988	Bison-Metis Exhibit	195
Bud Moore Photographs and Sound Recordings	2,446	Glacier Exhibit	107
Jack L. Demmons' Photographs of Bonner, Montana	2,287	Meloy Exhibit	105



FY 23 MMP SITE TOTALS	FY 23 MMP SOCIAL MEDIA
Pageviews: <b>232,376</b>	Facebook Page Likes: <b>22,637</b>
Sessions: <b>62,842</b>	Instagram Followers: <b>528</b>
Users: <b>92,588</b>	Twitter Followers: <b>865</b>
Avg. Session Duration: <b>03:50</b>	Facebook Reach: <b>1,680,036</b>



Last updated 11/10/2022. Updated monthly.

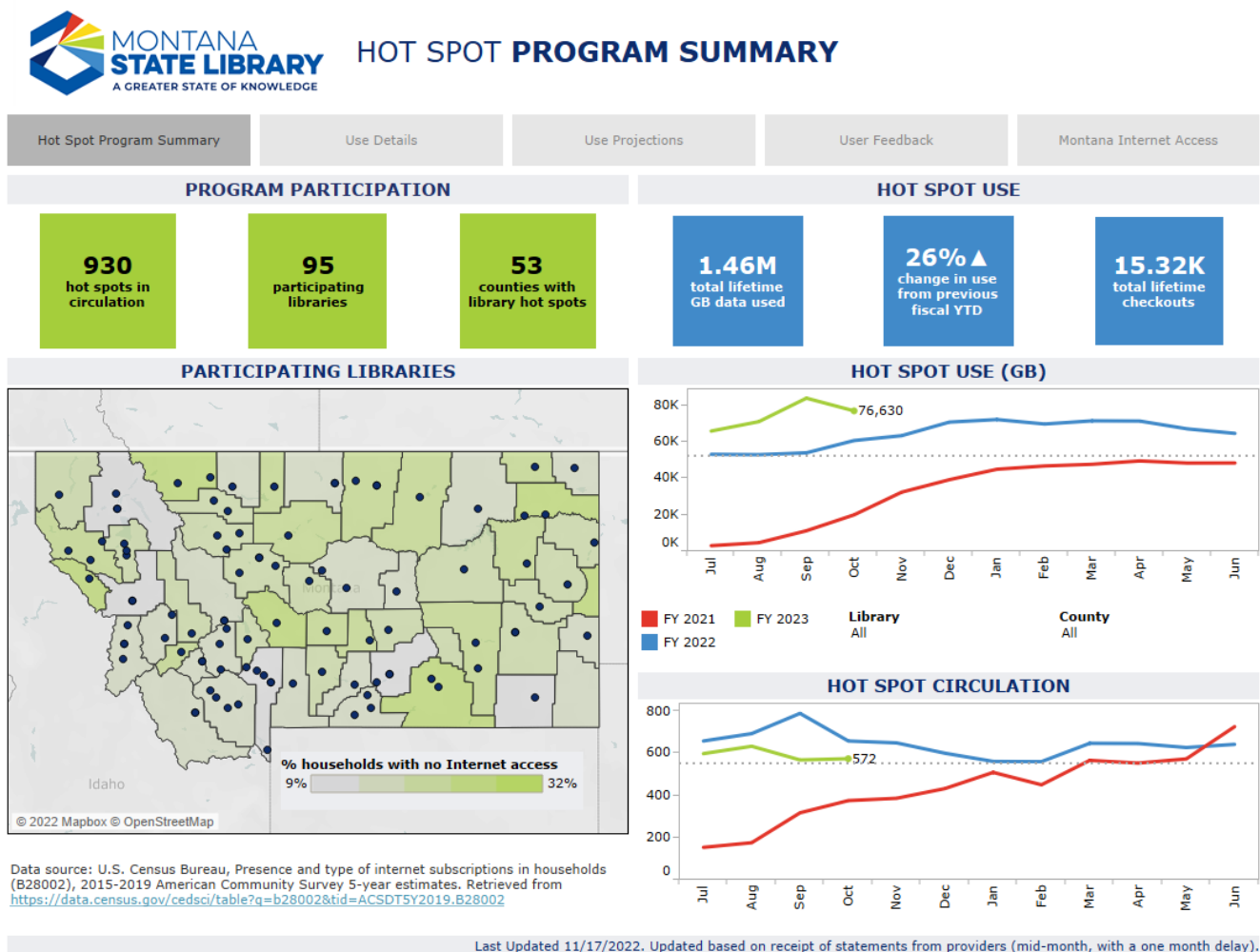
The Montana Memory Project (MMP) published its first of 20 planned Adventure Labs. As a geocaching app, Adventure Labs immerses people in MMP content through self-guided tours on their cell phones.

The app is free to download and easy to use. MMP's first Adventure Lab, Montana State Capitol History, walks users through the grounds of the state capitol and allows them to compare historic photos to the current condition of the building and grounds.

The MMP now features 12 exhibits created by summer teacher workshop participants. The Decline of the Bison Population and the Role of the Plains Chippewa in the 19th Century, written by Craig Clairmont, looks at the near extermination of the bison in the West, and the role played by the Métis people.

## Broadband

### Hot Spot Lending Program



15% of Montana households report not having access to the internet per the American Community Survey from the US Census Bureau. Access is unevenly distributed across the state with estimates of up to 32% of households without access in some counties.

GB data use shows that the hot spots are being used more heavily now than in previous years. MSL observed the highest use out of all months in September 2022, with 26% more use this year than FY

2022, year to date. Throughout the life of the program, the devices have been used to access 1.46M GB of data. Growth is predicted to continue provided that the devices remain in circulation and available to the public. The demand remains high even as the pandemic abates.

Per the hot spot user survey, 70% of the patrons that borrow hot spots either do not have household internet service or rely on cellular data. The remaining 30% of borrowers report using hot spots to bridge access. For example, these users checkout hot spots to provide access while working in the field, while caring for relatives without service, or while traveling. Multiple patrons from Red Lodge commented that they used the hot spots during loss of service due to the floods that occurred earlier this year. As one patron stated, the hot spots were, "Invaluable for emergency information during flooding crisis!"



## HOT SPOT USER FEEDBACK

Hot Spot Program Summary

Use Details

Use Projections

User Feedback

Montana Internet Access

Library  
All

### EDUCATION AND WORK

**48%**

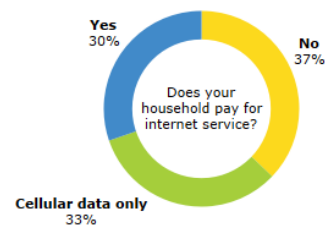
of hot spot users report using the device for work or school tasks such as completing homework, checking school information, working remotely, or applying for jobs. Additional users report informal educational uses like researching a topic of interest or learning a new skill.

#### PERCENT OF USERS REPORTING ONLINE ACTIVITIES

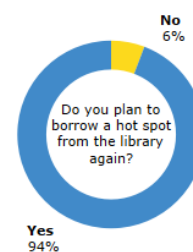
Keep informed of current events	53%
Research a topic of interest	48%
View entertainment	43%
Connect with family and friends	40%
Use social media	40%
Access online health or telehealth services	38%
Fill out forms (social services, taxes, etc.)	36%
Purchase items online	32%
Complete homework	31%
Look up directions or transportation information	30%
Check information about schools	25%
Learn a new skill	22%
Look for/apply to jobs	22%
Play computer games	21%
Enroll in or attend an educational class	16%
Conduct online or remote work	7%
Other	7%

Data collected from Hot Spot User Survey. 642 responses to date.

### INTERNET SERVICE



### RETURN BORROWERS



Last Updated 11/17/2022. Updated based on receipt of statements from providers (mid-month, with a one month delay).

Montanans report using the devices for multiple tasks. Notably, 48% of hot spot users report using the device for work or school tasks such as completing homework, checking school information, working remotely, or applying for jobs. Additional users report informal educational uses like researching a topic of interest (48%) or learning a new skill (22%). For example, one patron reported using the device to maximize time with family while attending online high school:

“We do not have the internet at home. I am a college student taking online high school at the same time so I used to do all my work at the Library. But now at home, I can help out more and spend more time with my family.”

The hot spots provide access to repeat borrowers. 94% of users state they plan to borrow a hot spot again. The need for access doesn't end when the checkout period concludes. At the MLA Fall Retreat, MSL's partners at academic institutions mentioned that more devices could help reach students that often need the devices for semester long checkouts to complete coursework.

There is a relationship between per capita data use and the percent of households without internet access and the percent of individuals living below poverty level. However, some libraries have more success than others. For example, Big Horn County has reported the most GB data use out of all libraries. The county is ranked 51st in the state, with 28% of households without access. The State Library has funding (LSTA) in place to continue this program through June 30, 2023. As the program continues, the State Library plans to use data to shift hot spots to areas with the highest need and per capita use.

## Internal Wiring

This project had two components cabling and equipment installations, both designed to improve Internet speeds and network/wireless reliability. Cabling installation has been completed at 25 libraries. One library had to drop out of the cabling portion of the project due to construction remodeling that would interfere with cable installations. The cabling portion of the internal wiring project is now complete.

Eighteen of 27 libraries have received new equipment. The final order of equipment faced supply chain issues which shifted the project completion date to Spring 2023. The final order of equipment has now shipped which means the final nine libraries will be completed within the next three months.



*Darby Community Library reading area. Darby is one beneficiary of the internal wiring program. Thanks to cable and equipment upgrades, the library observed a 1,295% increase in download speeds.*

Completed libraries continue to report increased internet speeds. One highlight is the Darby Community Library which has been paying for 500MB download service. Before cabling and equipment were



installed, the library reported wired download speeds of 30.33 Mbps. After the project was completed at their library, they reported download speeds of 423.19 Mbps. Over half of the completed libraries reported seeing more reliable network/wireless connections. Not all libraries were experiencing issues with their connections.

The project is scheduled to be completed by April 30, 2023.

## NFB-Newsline

NFB-Newsline continues to provide audio access to national and local news sources with support through June 30, 2023. This service is used by Montanans that are blind, low-vision, deafblind, or otherwise print-disabled. As of October 2022, 469 unique patrons access Newsline, 18% growth since September 2021.

In Q1 of FY 2023, users accessed content 31,092 times, an increase of 64% from Q1 FY 2022. Montana newspapers continue to be the most popular material used by subscribers, though growth can also be attributed to news sources such as national newspapers, international newspapers, and magazines.

