

## MEMO

**To:** State Library Commission  
**From:** Karen Strege  
**Re:** Law Revision Task Force Report  
**Date:** October 5, 1999

The Law Revision Task Force has met twice during the past two months. Representative Royal Johnson has resigned from the Task Force and recommended that Representative Bob Lawson take his place. Bob has agreed to join the Task Force.

The group discussed the following issues at its last meetings:

- ◆ Confidentiality of library records
- ◆ New state aid programs
- ◆ Administrative rules for HB 125
- ◆ Changes in the District Law draft

They approved a draft of a letter of guidance to libraries regarding the confidentiality of library records. They continue to study state aid programs and have approved recommendations to the Commission regarding the District Library Law. At their last meeting, they decided to look at generally revising Montana library law for clarity and currency and to research the school/public library joint library issue. They decided to move their recommendations for administrative rules for HB 125 forward to the Commission; not all Task Force members agreed on this draft. This recommendation follows:

### **DRAFT administrative rules to implement HB 125**

#### **Joining Library Federations**

*Libraries eligible to join federations include any public, school, special, college or university library.*

*Each member of the federation shall designate one person to serve as a voting delegate to the federation.*

*Delegates shall establish in the federation bylaws the size and the composition of the federation board of trustees. The majority of the board shall be public library trustees and the board must have representatives from each of the other types of libraries that are federation members. At the spring meeting, the federation delegates shall elect the board members according to federation bylaws.*

## **Base Grants**

*The Commission receives a legislative appropriation to fund the base grants. The total distribution per federation shall remain the same as in FY 1998 unless the legislative appropriation changes.*

*The federation shall distribute the base grants in two ways. First, the federation may use the grants to fund federation projects that improve or maintain cooperative library services and activities. The membership or advisory board approves these projects as part of the federation plan.*

*The federation may also allocate base grants to public libraries to support the cooperative activities and services of the federation. The federation shall make these grants to meet the following objectives:*

- 1. To increase the amount and quality of unique library resources in the federation and state. Libraries may purchase library materials to accomplish goals established in the federation or state's collection development plan.*
- 2. To increase the on-line availability of local bibliographical information. Libraries may purchase subscriptions to bibliographic databases, such as LaserCat and WorldCat, add and maintain holdings in these databases, and purchase the necessary equipment and software.*
- 3. To increase the visibility of libraries in the federation or state. Libraries may use base grants to promote or market libraries through a group project involving more than one library in the federation.*
- 4. To increase the work-related knowledge, skills, and abilities of library staff and trustees. Libraries may use base grants to support education opportunities and to share this education with other federation members.*

*To support other objectives, as approved by the advisory board, that increase the cooperative activities and services of the federation.*

The Commission can take the following actions on the recommendation:

1. Send it back to the Law Revision Task Force for modifications.
2. Approve the recommendation and start the rule-making process.
3. Modify the recommendation and start the rule-making process.