

Date: July 25, 2003

To: Karen Strege, State Librarian and Montana State Library Commission

From: Christie Briggs, Montana Talking Books Library (MTBL) Supervisor
Darlene Staffeldt, Statewide Library Resources Manager

Re: Notice of future request to use Trust Fund monies to upgrade the MTBL's library information and management system.

The Keystone Automated Library System (KLAS) version 5.7r software and 64 MB Microsoft Sun Server has been operating effectively and efficiently in the MTBL for the past five and one-half years. At that time, we estimated that this system would operate for five years before needing the server replaced and a major change in the KLAS software. Other Talking Book Libraries in the west have replaced their servers at three years. Keystone has continually improved and supported version 5.7r software until this year, when the company announced that they would no longer support this version after a new software version was available.

Over the past year and a half, we have documented major increases of the amount of data storage on our server as well as patrons' use of our online catalog, WebOpac. TBL data requires more server space to operate efficiently. The increase in WebOpac usage has often restricted our staff from accessing KLAS, due to only having 10 licenses to operate WebOpac. Keystone is currently testing their new Version 7 software in Idaho and will be ready to market it to other Talking Book Libraries by October 2003.

We are working with Aaron Mook, Systems Administrator, ITSD, Keystone, and Microsoft Sun to secure costs estimates for a server replacements, more licenses for WebOpac, as well as any other appropriate equipment upgrades (such as printer) that will be necessary to keep Montana's TBL running efficiently and effectively.

We expect to provide the Commission with a full proposal to use trust funds for all or part of the costs of this transition at your August 13 meeting. We hope that the Commission will consider our proposal at their October meeting.