

Moments in the history of the **Montana State Library:**

The State Library Extension Commission was created by an act of the 1929 Legislative Assembly. The main role for the Commission was identified as library development.

In 1931 the U. S. Congress passed the Pratt-Smoot Act, which established free library service for blind adults. This began what now is the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

In 1945 the Legislature amended the 1929 law and money was appropriated to finance the State Library Extension Commission's work. The first biennial budget totaled \$20,000. The Montana State University, Missoula, offered a large room on the first floor of their library building to the Commission for use as headquarters, and the Commission started its operations there.

Compiled by Darlene Staffeldt 6/16/97