

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

January - April, 2005

TBL Goal 1: To ensure that all eligible clients know about the availability of services from MTBL and to make enrollment and use of the service easy for users.

MTBL Outreach presentations: none in January and 63 in February (Helena & Great Falls). Both involved MTBL staff and volunteers in conducting elementary school presentations in Braille, Twin Vision Braille and hands on Braille demonstrations.

MTBL conducted no internal library tours in January or February.

Identified a flaw between the WebOpac site connections and our nightly KLAS program completions which caused the WebOpac site to be inaccessible temporarily. This has been corrected.

Legislative Library Day was held January 31st and was very successful.

TBL Goal 2: MTBL will plan and implement a smooth transition to a digital format to ensure that the potential for expanded services are available to MTBL patrons.

In January and February, six titles were completed at both MTBL recording studios:

Christmastime in Montana by Dave Walter; Hope in the Hard Times: New Deal Photographs of Montana, 1936-1942 by Mary Murphy; Montana Trivia by Janet Spencer; Never Turn Your Back by Margaret Scherf; Looking Back in Black and White: 42 Years as a Montana Newsman by Terry Dwyer; Jokes that Will even Make Your Heart Smile by Mabel Pepperling Badgett; and Animals on the Trail with Lewis and Clark by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent.

Special Project: Author Leonard Schonberg from Helena is recording his own book "Legacy A Novel".

The Helena Recording Studio was closed the last week in February due to start of remodeling project. It is anticipated additional closures/interruptions in production will require alternative scheduling in order to maintain skill levels and avoid loss of volunteers during this remodeling process. We will be working with appropriate staff/contacts to arrange this.

Three authors personally donated their time, resources and skills to record their own books in our Helena Recording Studio: Norma Beatty-Ashby (Great Falls), John Astle (Anaconda/Butte) and Dr. Leonard Schonberg (Helena) for the benefit of our patrons.

TBL Goal 3: Allow service to the patrons to be provided more efficiently and effectively by providing enough space for the collection.

Completion of the first phase of remodeling project secured MTBL's turnaround book area to accommodate for over 4,000 books to be rotated and circulated daily.

Other ideas to make traffic flow in the mailroom easier are being pursued.

Safety precautions are being taken for MTBL staff and volunteers during remodeling project specific to interruptions in lighting, heating, ventilation and dust control.

Weeding process was completed in February for this fiscal year.

TBL Goal 4: Increase productivity and satisfaction of staff members and volunteers.

Staff are attending bi-monthly Keystone Webinars, started in February, to learn the new format and processes of the KLAS Version 7 software.