

To: Montana State Library Commission  
From: Sue Jackson, PEEL Project Coordinator  
Re: PEEL project update  
Date: July 27, 2005

Darlene thought the Commission would be interested in an update from the five PEEL I scholarship recipients on their library school experiences. The information below is taken from the recipients' July quarterly reports to the PEEL Advisory Committee.

**HONORE BRAY** – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

I am enjoying a summer off from school, but the fall will be here soon and I will be very busy. I am still looking at a graduation date of May 06. I will take five classes over the next two semesters and I will be finished. I did receive my transcript for Spring semester just after sending Sue the Spring report, so I did receive 2 A's and my instructor from Library Evaluation will be in Montana to do trustee training next Fall. If you get the opportunity to sit in it will be worth your time, she is great. I still marvel at the credentials of the staff that teach the distance ed. classes, because they can teach from any place, they get the best of the best. It really is awesome.

**KATHRYN HOLT** – Drexel University

I completed three more courses during the spring quarter. The courses were challenging, but also rewarding. The course in systems analysis provided me with insight into the analytical process involved in the best practices for implementing change into an existing system. The ability to understand and model dataflow diagrams will be an asset as I continue to implement the new web-based Horizon cataloging and circulation system that has recently been adopted by the shared library network of which Havre High School library is a member. I feel prepared to articulate systems-based information, now that I have a better understanding of system models and the role of analysis in implementing change within systems. The course in content representation was a challenging introduction to indexing and the creation of thesauri for materials in a variety of formats. I created a 67 page thesaurus of the weapons of the Plains Indians, in the hope that I will be able to transfer some of the research and work that I did on the thesaurus to expand subject analysis for the extensive American Indian collection at Havre High School Library. I also hope that the thesaurus can form the basis for a collection of Montana Indian realia, which may eventually be integrated into the collection and shared with area students and the larger community. The course in cataloging and classification was an outstanding review and expansion of the cataloging instruction I received while completing graduate credits for my school library media endorsement. After completing this course, I feel confident that I have the skills to create excellent bibliographic records, and to classify materials according to standards that facilitate identification and retrieval of information that is relevant to users. All three of the courses expanded my knowledge of the best practices in library service and delivery considerably. Based on the knowledge and skills that I received and developed during the spring quarter, I feel confident in my ability to "think like a librarian" and manage a library system that is truly organized and user-centered. I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the opportunity to participate in these courses, and the MSLIS program at Drexel University. I look forward to completing three more courses this summer.

**JUDY BROWN MCKENNA** – Texas Woman's University

The student chapter of ALA at TWU, called GLISA, sponsored an essay contest last January. The winner of the essay contest would win a plane ticket to Chicago and the right to work twenty hours as a student-to-staff volunteer at the conference. I decided I owed it to the citizens of Montana to try to enhance my learning experience at TWU, so I wrote an essay and entered the contest. The winner was decided by a blind vote. My essay got the most votes, so I got to go to Chicago. I worked for Charles Wilt, the Executive Director of ALCTS, and his staff. I even met Coby Johnson at the ALCTS banquet on Sunday night. The experience was better than my wildest expectations! We had our first exam in Cataloging and Classification last week. I submitted my test on Saturday night, so I have not received my test score yet. I have discovered through my limited exposure to cataloging that I really enjoy it! I hope my test score reflects the understanding I think I have about cataloging. The School Library Media Center and Multimedia classes are education oriented. I was able to attend an AASL sponsored session featuring Keith Curry Lance and David Loertscher that supplemented the information I am learning for those classes. I admire their research in connection between school libraries and student achievement. This looks to be an action-packed, whirlwind summer! There is never a dull moment with my program and I wouldn't trade it for the world. I have to pinch myself that I'm not just dreaming this whole, great experience. Thank you again.

**LAUREN MCMULLEN** – University of North Texas

I completed my second semester in May and earned 'A's in Management of Information Agencies and Information Organization. This summer I am enrolled in Research Methods and Analysis and Internet Applications and Services. The research class covers basic research designs, measurement problems and reports. I think what I learn in this class will be useful when it comes to evaluating services and reporting to boards and funding agencies – where a professional research design and presentation of information/results/projections will help to make the case for future development of services. The Internet applications class is making me try all the Internet features that I don't currently use. For my final project, I will develop a Web-based service for the library; perhaps an online book discussion forum, or the beginnings of our online community bulletin board. Both of these services have been identified as activities supporting the objectives of our proposed strategic plan. My professional education so far has certainly changed my mind about the role of technology in libraries. While even just a year ago, I was tired of hearing about the endless technological innovations we will have to keep making; now I'm probably going to be the one to bring them! I will meet with my advisor during the month of July to outline my program of study to complete the Master's Degree. I haven't decided yet whether I want to be a manager or a trainer- both of these aspects of library work interest me, and I hope that my program of will prepare me to do both.

**FRED NOEL** – University of North Texas

I am currently in the middle of the UNT summer semester, taking SLIS 5080 Research Methods (3 credits) and SLIS 5711 Internet Applications, Services and Management (3 credits). Research Methods covers information on the organization/types of research, statistical methods, and how to evaluate research reports. The Internet class helps students improve their understanding and skills in using the Internet. I am very glad to be taking both of these courses as I feel it will improve my reference, research and managerial skills. My grades for

Spring 2005 semester were for SLIS 5300 Management of Information Organizations: A ; and SLIS 5200 Introduction to Information Organization: A. So far, the four courses (12 credits) of the UNT SLIS program I have completed with all A's. This current summer semester runs from 6/6/06 through 8/12/05. The first three weeks have gone well and I'm looking forward to choosing my elective courses for Fall semester.