

Montana Talking Book Library
MTBL
October 2005 Commission Report

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.

- Outreach Presentation Contacts in July totaled 416. This included 116 contacts from 14 staff presentations/classes and one presentation by a volunteer/patron to 300 individuals in Northeast Montana about our services. Activities in August, 2005, reflected 72 contacts from one staff presentation in Great Falls.
- Summer Reading Program "Dragons and Dreams and Daring Deeds" wrapped up in August. A small delay in receipt of prizes will require a complete wrap up in October.
- Delay in printing the new Talking Book brochure has occurred after recommendation was made by the representative from the Institute of Museums and Libraries Services to include their logo. This is being evaluated as to cost and time delays.
- Two staff conducted classes on the MSU campus in July to the Montana Association for the Blind's Summer Orientation Program to 25 students attending this excellent school for individuals newly diagnosed with blindness or low vision.
- A major mailing to 92 Montana Ophthalmologists and Optometrists was completed in July, sending them program and contact information and patron applications.

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 July and August, five titles were completed at both MTBL recording studios:
The Best of the West 5: New Stories from the Wide Side of the Missouri by James & Denise Thomas; Rawhide Rawlins Stories & More Rawhides by Charles M. Russell; The Pass by Thomas Savage; The Suburb of Long Suffering by Rick Newby; Bound for Montana: Diaries from the Bozeman Trail edited by Susan Badger Doyle.

Special Project: Author John Astle from Butte completed the recording of his book "Only in Butte: Stories off the Hill".

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

- Final Xcess process included shipping 949 books to other Regional Libraries. 5,314 books were not selected by other Regional Libraries and were sent to be recycled.
- We await the completion of the moving/remodeling project downstairs to finish constructing the rest of our shelving for weeding purposes. We have begun weeding at RC46000.
- Our Experience Works Volunteer, Penelope McAllen left on September 16th, leaving us without proper coverage for the receptionist desk. We received approval to fund a temporary Express Service individual for 3 hours/day, four days/week for a short period of time until skilled volunteers can be recruited. Marjorie Blewett was hired on Sept. 20th to fill these hours. Our Tuesday volunteer, Bonnie Gebhardt continues to give us 4 hours of excellent service to our patrons.

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

- All Otis digital players are rotating through a waiting list of patrons. We are evaluating other player possibilities with the increase of interest of digital players from patrons.

- We have enjoyed the excellent volunteer support from three students this summer: Robin Sampson, Thomas Lund and Keenan Cox. They did a variety of important functions including duplicating tapes, cleaning machines, rewinding tapes and computer data input in several department of the state library.
- We are receiving and compiling data from the patron surveys sent out with the June "Bits of Gold" newsletter.