

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Sue Jackson, LSTA Coordinator
Re: LSTA update
Date: December 1, 2005

2005 LSTA Coordinators' Conference

Bob Cooper and I attended the conference this year. The meeting featured training and discussion on a variety of LSTA goals including evaluation of current five-year plans, preparation of new LSTA long-range plans, and changes in the State Program Report. The 2006 LSTA grant awards to the states cannot be made until Congress has passed the federal budget. Montana will receive a partial award in December so that projects and positions can continue. LSTA staff is optimistic that there will be a small increase in the 2006 awards.

2005 LSTA Project Updates

Trustee Training Project LSTA = \$31,000 (2004) LSTA = \$12,000 (2005)

The initial year of the Library Board Education Program (LBEP) came to a close. The five trustee trainers conducted thirteen workshops for library boards on topics including the job of the board, the Patriot Act, library laws, policies, planning, and funding.

The Trustee Workshop scheduled for October 22nd in Billings was cancelled because of low registration. The directors and trustees who did sign up for the workshop were offered financial assistance to attend the November 5th workshop in Missoula. The Missoula event was attended by 40 people: 28 trustees, 11 directors, and 1 library staff member. Deborah Wilcox Johnson's presentation on evaluating library services and staff was very interactive and the group had many opportunities to exchange ideas and concerns.

The Public Library District Handbook has been printed (800 copies) and is currently being distributed to public library boards and city/county officials who are considering a library district for their area.

2005 Fall Workshop Project LSTA = \$10,000
(2005)

The 7th annual Fall Workshop was held in Great Falls on September 30-October 1. The event was attended by 110 people: 86 from public libraries, including 18 trustees; 12 from school libraries; 3 from combined public/school libraries; 3 from academic libraries; 5 from special libraries; and 1 MSL Commissioner. In addition to the sixteen formal workshop sessions, there was a reception, tour, and demonstration at Great Falls Public Library and a lunch meeting of public library trustees.

Children's Services Consultant Project LSTA = \$1,000 (2004) LSTA = \$1,000
(2005)

Cindy Christen organized and presented (with two other children's librarians) a training session at the Fall Workshop entitled "Start 'Em Young: Books and Babies". The workshop featured programming ideas including stories, songs, and activities for infants and parents.

Senior Programming Project LSTA = \$20,000 (2005)

The web site and materials developed to help public libraries attract senior citizens and provide quality services to that audience were completed and made available. Sara Groves presented a session at the Fall Workshop entitled "What's Your Story?" to introduce Montana librarians to the materials. A special event was held in Helena to promote senior programming. Mountain West Bank and AARP partnered with MSL on this project. Newspaper clippings from around the state indicate that libraries are planning and offering new programming for seniors.

Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) Project
(2005)

LSTA = \$158,309

Work continues to add five new libraries to MSC from the first round of the 2005 Start Up Project. Libraries are now applying for the second round of funding assistance to join MSC in 2006. Application deadline is December 2005. Jennie Stapp, the new MSC Technical Assistant, began working for the MSC project in October.

LDD Trainer Project
(2005)

LSTA = \$50,000

The position description has been drafted and submitted to Department of Administration for review and classification.