

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)
December 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 September totaled 141. All September contacts came from 4 presentations about our services. Two were to blind support groups in Miles City and Billings. One was in Three Forks to a Provider Consortium who care for disabled children and their families. The fourth was to the staff at Holy Rosary Extended Care Facility. Activities in October, 2005, reflected 50 contacts from one presentation in Helena to the Montana Nursing Association Conference.

Student participants completing their Summer Reading Program contracts for the "Dragons and Dreams and Daring Deeds" theme received their awards in October.

The first printing of the new Talking Book brochure was completed in October. These are being included in patron application packets.

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 September and October, ten titles were completed at both MTBL recording studios: Gun-handly by Norman A. Fox; The Cow Whisperer by Skip Halmes; No Step Backward by Paula Petrik; Starting From Scratch by Alice Gleason; Sand by Will James; Glacial Lake Missoula and Its Humongous Floods by David Alt; Lona Hanson by Thomas Savage; On Sarpy Creek by Ira S. Nelson; Blind Your Ponies by Stanley Gordon West; and Stranded by Ben Mikaelson.

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

Construction continues of additional shelving downstairs to accommodate extra space needed for book processing, weeding and archiving needs.

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

A new Experience Works Volunteer, Kathy Frandsen, started October 3rd. She works 35 hours per week as our receptionist.

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held in Oct. The theme was "Our Volunteers Rock" with a 1950's decor. The total attending the luncheon, which included volunteers, staff, and guests was 88. The keynote speaker was cowboy poet Mike Logan. A special posthumous award was presented in honor and memory of JoAnn Mayala, a reader for the Recording Program who passed away at the beginning of 2005.

Note: Cheryl Christopher, Readers' Advisor, gave notice on October 31st that she would retire on November 30th after 6 ½ years working in the Talking Book Library.