

Library Development Department

March 25 – June 2, 2006

LDD Goal 1: Montana public librarians and trustees have easy access to the training that they need to provide quality library services to their communities.

Visited libraries in Belt, Billings, Bridger, Cascade, Choteau, Chouteau County, Columbus, Drummond, Fairfield, Great Falls, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel, Miles City, Missoula, and Red Lodge.

Consulted with library staff and trustees on topics including collection management, Montana Library Association, Wired-Mt, grants, certification, salaries, scholarships, state aid, Summer Institute, Gates Public Access Computing-Hardware Upgrade Grant program (PAC-HUG), library statistics, budgeting, OCLC tools, E-Rate, Internet safety for children, downloadable audio-books, online database issues, use of donated computers, statistics, library districts, tax levy structure, library laws, personnel issues, insurance, Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) costs, Web page development, Web training software, Patriot Act policies, computer specifications, board trainings, weeding, Athena and Spectrum software problems.

Provided training to library staff at six libraries on OCLC FirstSearch & FirstSearch ILL, InfoTrac PowerSearch, Montana Shared Catalog practices, and wireless Internet access.

Assisted in the preparation for and attended Broad Valleys, Pathfinder, Sagebrush, South Central, and Tamarack Federation spring meetings

Attended Montana Library Association (MLA) 2006 Annual Conference and presented workshops on topics such as long range planning, library laws, public library districts, and earning a Masters of Library Science (MLS) degree through distance education.

Continued monitoring 2004 and 2005 scholarship awards available through the Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) project. One scholarship recipient graduated in May with a Masters of Library and Information Sciences degree.

Prepared PEEL interim report and submitted it to Institute of Museum and Libraries Services (IMLS).

Finalized PEEL stipend agreements with Helena Public Schools and Bitterroot Public Library. The stipend positions have been announced/advertised by both libraries.

Worked with PEEL II Advisory Committee on review of 24 scholarship applications and preparation of recommendation for consideration by the Commission. Notified all applicants following the Commission's decision on the scholarship awards.

Attended the April and May (phone) 2006 Commission meetings.

Finalized schedule and presenters for 2006 MSL Summer Institute scheduled at Montana State University (Bozeman) in June. Registration materials were mailed to all public libraries and posted on the MSL web page. 26 directors/trustees have registered so far.

Continued work on agenda for the MSL Fall Workshop in Lewistown (September) and Trustee Workshops in Missoula and Billings (October & November). Sessions and trainers are being finalized for both events.

Contacted training representatives from OCLC and Thomson Gale to explore the online training resources available from these service providers. Developed training outlines for OCLC FirstSearch Web ILL and InfoTrac's Education and Testing Reference Center.

Continued working with Thomson Gale trainers to schedule a week of free onsite trainings for school and public libraries during the week before school starts (August 21-25), and free Webinars on InfoTrac PowerSearch during the first two weeks of August, when the new PowerSearch interface becomes available in Montana libraries.

For Montana Library Certification Program approved 25 training events for continuing education credit, certified 7 individuals, enrolled 14 individuals, and issued 57 Office of Public Instruction renewal certificates.

Continued coordinating College of DuPage library teleconference series for Montana.

Attended dedication of Choteau Public Library's new meeting room.

Launched the new online Montana Library Event Calendar. Promoted and monitored addition of library events to the calendar.

Continued monitoring Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant projects. Notification has been received that the 2005 State Program Report that was submitted in December has been officially approved by IMLS.

Continued work on revising the "Montana Public Library Trustee Handbook" for printing in July.

Set up Sagebrush Federation blog.

Participated in WebJunction evaluation.

Surveyed public and school librarians visiting the MSL booth at the 2006 MLA Annual Conference on training needs. Results indicate training needs in trustee roles, cataloging, funding & budgeting, web development, computer technology, utilization of electronic resources, and more.

Continued managing all aspects of the portable MSL Laptop Labs including hardware set-up, software installation, reservations, inventory control, operational issues, etc.

LDD Goal 2: To improve library services to citizens by establishing an adequate and stable taxing district.

Participated in a public library district planning meeting in Polson.

Distributed copies of the "Public Library District Handbook" at Federation meetings and gave a presentation on library district creation at MLA and the Broad Valleys and Sagebrush Federation meetings.

LDD Goal 3: To ensure that all Montana citizens have access to quality library services.

Facilitated Library Planning Workshops in Petroleum County and Drummond.

Worked with Parnly Billings Library Director and facilitators to develop planning process to meet their needs.

LDD Goal 4: Montana citizens will understand, value, and use the services of Montana's libraries.

LDD Goal 5: Montana citizens have easy and complete access to the information that they need at their libraries.

Attended InfoTrac training in person and online.

Assisted libraries with updating their data in the online Montana Library Directory.

LDD Goal 6: Citizens and students have easy access to and use multiple electronic information resources through their libraries.

Continued work on the Gates Foundation's Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Grant (PAC-HUG) program. Agreements for all public libraries to receive PAC-HUG grant funds will be completed in June.

Continued planning for Montana's participation in the Gates Foundation's Rural Libraries Sustainability Grant program.

Participated in conference calls for WebJunction Rural Watch Committee and Planned Rural Library Sustainability Workshop.

LDD Goal 7: Montana citizens can easily access the holdings of all Montana and OCLC libraries and online electronic resources through their libraries.

Attended Montana Shared Catalog spring members meeting