

MEMO

TO: Darlene Staffeldt
State Librarian

TO: Montana State Library
Commission

FROM: Bob Cooper
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Chair, Network Advisory Council

FROM: Darlene Staffeldt
State Librarian

DATE: November 30, 2007

RE: Network Advisory Council Recommends LSTA Project Proposal
For Statewide Downloadable E-Content Pilot Project

At its meeting on November 29, 2007, the Network Advisory Council (Council) reviewed a proposal from its adhoc Downloadable E-Content Committee which resulted in the Council making the following recommendation:

“The Network Advisory Council recommends that the State Library submit to the State Library Commission for approval the Council’s LSTA pilot project proposal to acquire statewide downloadable E-content services for interested Montana libraries.”

The attached proposal for a statewide downloadable E-content LSTA pilot project is the result of almost two years of discussion and research by the State Library and a group of Montana libraries interested in this service. Originating with an initial interest by Montana Shared Catalog libraries, the proposed project grew to have support from libraries statewide. Following a survey that indicated statewide interest among libraries for this kind of material, an adhoc Downloadable E-Content Committee of the Council was formed to further investigate the options. A Request for Information was issued last June and the vendor responses further aided the committee in their research. The Committee then worked closely with the State Library’s Statewide Projects Librarian, Sarah McHugh, to draft the resulting LSTA pilot proposal to launch this service for Montana libraries. There are an estimated 8-10 libraries currently committed to participating in this proposed pilot in the first phase.

The proposal request of \$40,000 could come from the LSTA FY’07 funding not committed at the time the Commission approved the LSTA FY’07 budget on April 11, 2007.