

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

May 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008

Prepared for August 13, 2008 State Library Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of Briggs, Gunderson, Madison, Meier, Miles, and Stanton, as well as 100 volunteers.

Goal One – Content – *MSL/MTBL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

- In May and June, three books and one issue each of ***The Montana Magazine of Western History*** and the ***Montana Outdoors Magazine*** were completed at both MTBL recording studios: ***Walk Gently This Good Earth*** by Margaret Craven; ***Butte's Pride-The Columbia Gardens*** by Pat Kearney; and ***Mary Wells*** by James A. Franks
- Low Complexity Mastering system software upgrade in the local recording program was completed in June.
- A malfunction in May occurred with a software component (Zing card) for the Analog to Digital conversion at the local recording studio resulting in a decreased conversion of Deer Lodge Studio's completed books. The Zing card was sent for repair.
- A variety of perplexing and difficult technical problems continue to be experienced in the local recording program, affecting staff and volunteer workflow in May and June.

Goal Two—Access – *MSL/MTBL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.*

- Federal funding of the National Library Service's Digital transition program is experiencing positive support in the House of Representatives in June and is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Legislation is being closely monitored.
- Independent entities of the Montana Association for the Blind and Montana Radio Reading Services have indicated they will individually seek direct funds through the 2009 Legislative process for continued funding of their services: "*Newsline*" and "*Radio Reading Newspapers*", respectively. Although MSL included proposals to assist with these services in the Executive Planning Process (EPP), they were not approved.

Goal Three—Consultation and Leadership – *MSL/MTBL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.*

Activities in May included:

- attendance at the National Library Service (NLS) biennial conference in Texas to address the NLS digital transition plan

- extensive adaptive technology software training of volunteer Brian Persons (funded by DPHHS) for Low Vision Montana Information and Referral services
- participated on the governor's Council on Aging panel for resources for people with disabilities
- presented service materials to a Carroll College teacher's education class on disability resources

Activities in June included:

- provided a temporary audio book library for the Montana Association for the Blind's Summer Orientation Program (MAB/SOP) at Carroll College for newly blind and low vision Montanans (ages 19-90+)
- taught an all day class to the same group on the Talking Book Library's extensive services; participated in the MAB/SOP public open house at Carroll College
- gave presentation to the Anaconda Kiwanis Club; three Readers' Advisors participated in a monthly online book discussion group
- participated in the Great Falls Montana School for the Deaf and Blind's Family Learning weekend for newly blind and low vision students and their families

Goal Four—Collaboration – *MSL/MTBL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.*

- Conducted a workshop in June for activity directors representing over 20 Montana Long Term Care/Independent and Assistive Living facilities in partnership with the Montana Health Care Association.
- A follow-up meeting was held with Donna Ryan, a Butte patron and member on the National Library Service Collection Development Committee which met in May in Washington, D.C. Donna has been identified as a valuable resource for other Montana patrons regarding talking book library services.

Goal Five— Sustainable Success – *MSL/MTBL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer; it is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes), and successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.*

- Our volunteer receptionists, Bonnie Gebhardt and Joanne Maynard make it possible for talking book library employees to focus on offering patrons a well rounded venue of available services as well as offering vital clerical support. Through their support, we were also able to accomplish many outreach activities, bringing awareness of our services to several communities in Montana.