

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

January 1, 2009 through February 28, 2009

Prepared for April 25, 2009 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 – *Montana State Library (MSL)/MTBL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

- January through February, four books and one issue of ***The Montana Magazine of Western History*** and one issue of the ***Montana Outdoors Magazine*** were completed at both MTBL recording studios: ***Blackfeet Indian Stories*** by George Bird Grinnell; ***A Wilderness Journey, Planes, Pack Strings and Perils!*** by Rod Zoske; ***Short in the Saddle, and Other Wild, Funny Tales of the Outdoors*** by Don Laubach & Mark Henckel; and ***Spaghetti on the Wall*** by Mary Crisafulli.
- Helena author Stan Lynde finished recording his book ***Saving Miss Julie***.
- Received the Spring, 2009 NLS Digital Retrospective Copy Allotment listing for digital books to be converted from cassettes (13,825 titles). This is the second Retrospective Copy Allotment listing offered to Talking Book Libraries nationwide since November, 2008. Many of these titles are offered on the NLS digital download website for patrons and Talking Book Libraries. NLS Website listings are not being offered in a physical digital cartridge format. Montana Talking Book Library has chosen and confirmed the quota of 1,086 “copies” of physical digital cartridges to be shipped to us sometime in 2009 or 2010.
- January and February monthly National Library Service (NLS) Copy Allotment of new title listings have been chosen with 50% to be produced on a physical digital cartridge and 50% on a 4 track cassette. Approximately 300 new titles were listed each month. Shipping of digital book cartridges from NLS contractors has not yet begun.

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.*

- The Keystone Library Automated System (KLAS) database conversion to KLAS Version 7.3 is operating as expected since January. A six month data clean-up schedule has been implemented with staff and volunteer involvement.

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

- Staff offered information and demonstrations to Legislators and others during the January 14th Library Day at the state library.

- Participated in an NLS BARD (Braille and Recorded Download) Survey in February on the preparedness of our library to transition to digital formats.
- Received written approval in February from the National Library Service (NLS) Assistant to Network Services for digital transition readiness of the Montana Talking Book Library services and facilities.

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

- Recruited additional equipment volunteers in February from the Fort Harrison Veterans Volunteer program to repair patron players. Equipment volunteers have decreased over the past two-three years, necessitating new recruitment ideas.

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.*

- A part time temporary staff person was approved through June, 2009 to assist in meeting the increased workload and coverage of absent staff (FMLA, vacation needs) and volunteer gaps to meet patron service needs.