

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Sarah McHugh, Statewide Projects Librarian

Date: March 24, 2011

Re: Narrative descriptions of projects/services listed in the working draft of the proposed LSTA FY 2010 budget

These ongoing projects/services are recommended by the Network Advisory Council for LSTA FY 2010 funding:

OCLC Group Services:

- CONTENTdm is the software behind the Montana Memory Project, which is a collection of digital collections and items relating to Montana's cultural heritage. Many Montana libraries, museums, archives, and cultural institutions have added and are in the process of adding materials to this collection. The Montana State Library (MSL) and the Montana Historical Society Research Center share equally the annual software, storage and hosting costs for this statewide digitization project.
- OCLC Gap: Beginning in May each year, Montana libraries begin enrolling in Montana OCLC Group Services under the established local cost formula. In October, OCLC determines if there is any gap between that fiscal year's total cost for our statewide 15 simultaneous cataloging seats, cataloging, Interlibrary Loan, and the Group Catalog and what's been collected by OCLC from the enrolled libraries, as of October 1. If there is a gap, MSL would cover that amount.

MSC New Libraries: The Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) is a library consortium which shares knowledge, skills, and resources among its membership as well as an Integrated Library System (ILS). Created in 2002 with the participation and financial commitment from 17 initial, multi-type libraries and support from the Montana State Library Commission, the MSC now includes 103 total libraries and branches. Currently there are

23 Partners libraries, 9 4-Rivers libraries, and 4 BridgerNet sharing group libraries for a total of 36 libraries/branches in sharing groups. There are MSC libraries located in 66 Montana communities. Current membership includes 57 public libraries and branches, 29 school libraries, 12 special/medical libraries and 5 academic libraries. LSTA funds are used to assist new libraries in joining the MSC with funding amounts based on the number of bibliographic records, population served/FTE students, staff and faculty. Funding assistance is provided only for specific individual library start-up costs, not for the library's ongoing MSC membership costs.

MSL Fall Workshop: 2011 will be the 13th annual MSL Fall Workshop, a 2-day training event for library workers from all types of libraries and for trustees. The FW features half-day sessions on a variety of topics – including those requested by MT librarians -- and opportunities to network and share problems and solutions. There is no registration fee.

MontanaLibrary2Go: This project utilizes the OverDrive product to offer Montana library patrons a collection of downloadable E-content. MontanaLibrary2Go offers downloadable audio titles to patrons of participating libraries. Titles are available for download on MP3 players and iPods. 38 libraries currently participate in this project with new libraries added quarterly. The consortium members cover the cost of new content, which is selected monthly by a statewide selection team. MSL covers the cost of the annual hosting fee, assists new libraries with the one-time OverDrive participation fee and assists with the cost of obtaining MARC records from OCLC for new content.

Literacy Projects: These include Children's Services (the Summer Reading Program) and the Early Learning Statewide Initiative (Ready 2 Read), which is concluding its first year of implementation. 45 public and tribal libraries participated in the Ready2Read program in FY10.

HeritageQuest Online: The HeritageQuest Online database subscription has been in place for almost two years. This is a subscription for all Montana public libraries. The annual subscription cost has been covered by a combination of contributions from public libraries which are based on a local cost formula and LSTA. Libraries able to contribute do so in amounts from \$100-\$800, based on population served. Once commitments are gathered each year, it is determined whether or not the subscription can be renewed, with accompanying LSTA. In FY10, 42 libraries contributed to the cost of the renewal.

Montana Memory Project .25 Technical Support Position: Over the past two years the Montana Memory Project has grown significantly. Well over 45,000 images have been added to the database, in the last two years, resulting in over 58,000 images being accessible via the MMP. There are currently 20 institutions participating in the project, with many more which have submitted project planning documents or have approached the MMP Steering Committee about adding content. In January, MSL was able to partner with the Montana Historical Society Research Center to create a .25 support position for the MMP. The position, which is a modified position at the Historical

Society, has been staffed for about 5 months so far and provides substantial, necessary support to contributing and interested institutions. MSL and the Historical Society Research Center each pay half the cost of this position.

Program Products (LSTA Projects Promotion): The MSL Communication/Marketing Coordinator uses this funding to assist libraries in promoting LSTA funded projects and pilots. Examples include the promotion of AskMontana, the statewide virtual reference service.

The Network Advisory Council recommends that LSTA FY 2010 funds be used to support these additional projects/services:

Trustee Training Workshops Using LSTA funds, MSL hosted successful and well-received workshops for library trustees in 2002 and 2004-2007. Since 2007, there has been no focused, organized effort to provide trustees with the skills and knowledge they need to be effective library leaders and decision-makers in their local communities. It is important to provide regular training for trustees for several reasons: 1) there is considerable turnover in board members each year; 2) trustees benefit from meeting and sharing concerns and solutions; 3) the MLA Trustee Interest Group is no longer active; 4) not all federations schedule training for trustees; and 5) MSL is offering a new certification track for trustees to encourage continuing education for board members. These proposed trustee workshops will be based on the successful model previously used by MSL. Professional trainers will be engaged to provide full-day workshops on topics including the role of trustees, leadership skills, library laws, advocacy, library evaluation, and fundraising. To reduce travel for trustees, the workshops will be presented in two locations in different parts of the state – such as Billings and Missoula where the 2007 workshops drew a total of 90 attendees. The requested \$12,000 in LSTA funds with \$6,000 earmarked for each workshop will be used to pay for speaker fees/travel (\$4,000), meeting spaces, lunches, and training materials (\$1300), and a small stipend to libraries to help defray travel expenses and encourage attendance (\$700).

GIS Support for Libraries This project would assist public libraries with GIS and mapping related projects. A particular focus would be the integration of GIS with public library statistics.

These additional projects are not recommended for funding at this time but may be considered by the Network Advisory Council at a later date:

Summer Institute The revival of the Summer Institute would provide training and networking opportunities for Montana librarians. The Institute would enable MSL to actively help library directors meet the new certification requirements. There would be 2 opportunities in 2 separate locations, to facilitate travel. Both sessions would be 2 days in length and take place in the summer.

Statewide Projects Regional Summit MSL needs to engage in conversations with neighboring State Libraries about the types of projects and services we all offer,

focusing on how to develop and fund these and future projects in a more regional manner. A day and a half summit to discuss more regional approaches to shared catalogs, couriers, database purchases, digitization efforts and literacy projects might include Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Oregon and Washington.

Literacy Position This would fund a 5 hour/week programming support position for the Ready 2 Read project. The responsibilities would include managing the administrative tasks of this project and being MSL's literacy representative across the state.

Author Tour The Author Tour was highly successful in the past. This proposal would allow MSL to collaborate with libraries on author expenses to make it possible to bring an author to some of the smallest and most rural communities. Proposed funding would cover a 1-week tour, 12 presentations.

AskMT Mobile Pilot This pilot would add the virtual reference service to mobile devices, allowing patrons to text a librarian and receive reference support via their mobile phones. Mosio, which offers the Text a Librarian product, offers a discount to libraries using the QuestionPoint software (AskMontana libraries).

Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference The proposal is to send a selected group of 5-7 librarians to the Association for Rural & Small Libraries conference in Denver (October 14-16). The conference provides much needed support and networking to librarians serving our smallest communities.

Newspaper digitization/online subscriptions: Digitization of historic newspapers and access to online newspaper subscriptions continue to be of interest to many Montana libraries. The State Historical Society Research Center is currently digitizing up to 100,000 pages of selected state newspapers under an NEH grant provided through the National Newspaper Digitization Program. The Montana Memory Project Steering Committee is beginning the process of evaluating software solutions for newspaper digitization and storage. Copyright plays a part in this discussion.

Traveling Digitization Lab Libraries and institutions interested in adding content to the Montana Memory Project often have to first consider the purchase of scanning equipment. In some cases, the contribution of content is a one-time project. Many small libraries, museums and archives hold unique, wonderful Montana treasures but lack the funding to purchase the needed equipment. This proposal would fund a "traveling digitization lab" of 3 laptops and 3 scanners, to be shared around the state where needed for these one-time digitization projects.

URL Resolver and Federated Searching Tool These two technologies continue to be missing pieces in the statewide effort to provide Montana libraries and their patrons with seamless access to full text and the ability to search across multiples sources of content in a single search. These tools are required in order for Montana libraries to offer patrons true "integrated discovery systems".