

**Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)
January 23, 2010 through March 19, 2010**

Prepared for April 10, 2010 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of Briggs, Gunderson, Madison, Meier, 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 23-March 19, 2010: seven 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: ***"Shoot, Minnie, Shoot!": The Story of the 1904 Fort Shaw Indian Girls, Basketball's First World Champions*** by Happy Jack Feder; ***The Last Centennial*** by Patricia Kilina; ***The Valiant Ones*** by Norman A Fox; ***Cromwell Dixon: A boy & His Plane, 1892-1911*** by Martin Kidston; ***Vaccinated: One Man's Quest to Defeat the World's Deadliest Diseases*** by Paul A. Offit M.D.; ***Double Take: A Memoir*** by Kevin Michael Connolly; and ***Rifle in Hand: How Wild America was Saved*** by Jim Posewitz.

In March, the Recording Team of Barbara Harris and Ruth Straley started recording **MCB01000**. What a milestone! 1,000 original recordings have been produced in our MTBL recording booths. The title of the book is *"Upstairs Girls: Prostitution in the American West"* by Michael Rutter.

We have received overwhelmingly positive responses from ALL patrons newly signed up to receive the NLS free digital player and library digital books (DB's). The majority of comments include excellent ease of use (particularly due to the built in player instructions in every button in addition to the built in User Guide), superior sound quality, increased portability and durability due to smaller size and weight of players. Staff has been impressed how the digital service meets the needs of and addresses each patron at the level of skill they possess, whether it be high or no computer skills.

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 National Library Service commended us for reaching 93% distribution of digital players as of March 22, 2010. This was compared to a 91% nationwide distribution. As of March 19, 2010, we have reached a 96% digital player distribution level. Steve Bowers, an Experience Works Trainee, has been invaluable in his efforts to contact each patron, sign them up for digital services and assign digital players. Staff has been outstanding in their efforts to distribute digital players and books to patrons.

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A total of 3,804 DB's (digital books) have been circulated to patrons since June, 2009. A total of 1,959 BARD (Braille and Audio Recorded Download) books and magazines have been downloaded by patrons during this same time period. Statistics show a steady increase in both digital book collection development as well as circulation of same.

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

In order for staff to assist patrons new to the BARD process, BARD download training was held for all staff in January. In 2009, an average of 10 patrons per month signed up for BARD. Starting in 2010, an average of 23 patrons per month sign up for BARD. MTBL patrons who are currently downloading their own digital books range in age from 17 to 91.

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

Presentations were made in Helena to 37 Helena Kiwanis members in January; in March to 145 Montana Lions Clubs' Leadership Rally members and 21 Waterford residents.

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.*

In spite of being short-handed and facing significant additional workload, MTBL staff has rallied to deliver quality services to our patrons. We appreciate being allowed to fill our vacant Reader Advisor position which will help us keep pace with current and new demands for improving patron services. The hiring process is currently underway.

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