

## Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

July 21, 2010 through September 20, 2010

Prepared for October 13, 2010 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of MTBL staff: Briggs, Gunderson, Landry, Meier and Stanton, plus 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.*

July 24-Sept. 20, 2010: ten books and two magazine issues of ***The Montana Magazine of Western History*** and the ***Montana Outdoors Magazine*** were completed at both MTBL recording studios: ***Blood, Blister & Purge: History of Medicine on the American Frontier*** by Volney Steele M.D.; ***Land of Nakoda: The Story of the Assiniboine Indians*** by James L. Long; ***Montana Margins: A State Anthology*** by Joseph Kinsey Howard; ***Tenting To-Night: A Chronicle of Sport and Adventure in Glacier Park and the Cascade Mountains*** by Mary Roberts Rinehart; ***Challenges Above and Beyond*** by Tim & Betty Babcock and Linda Grosskopf; ***Chip: the Buffalo*** by Cheri Lawson; ***Crisis on the Stinking Water, Fifth in the Valediction For Revenge Series*** by Roland Cheek; ***The Silver Yoke, Sixth and Final book in the Valediction For Revenge Series*** by Roland Cheek; ***The Sledge Hammer Kid*** by Scotty Zion and ***The Story of Grizzly Bear Looking Up*** by Zephire Lumprey.

**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.*

Circulation of digital materials continues to increase while cassette materials are slowly decreasing over the prior 2.5 month period. Eighty-five percent of patrons now have digital players.

In August, Reader Advisors were trained on the National Federation of the Blind's Newsline® administrative patron services website and troubleshooting for patron utilization. This service is a phone menu driven synthesized newspaper service for Montana patrons to access four Montana newspapers and 296 other newspapers and magazines.

In Mid-August, all MTBL staff began an eight week training course on the NLS BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) for local administration and authorization. Montana branding of the local BARD site is expected to go live by October, 2010. This will provide Montana patrons faster processing of their applications to Montana-BARD and local troubleshooting, with superb NLS support for MTBL staff in troubleshooting. This is an amazing undertaking for NLS staff to train all regional library staff in the U.S. by the end of 2010.

In August, 19 new patrons signed up and so far in September, 28 new patrons

have signed up.

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

In August and September, four new volunteers signed up: Roberta Guderian (circulation), Peggy Kude (circulation), Anne Schulz (Telecom pioneer) and Jackie Brehe (recording program monitor).

In mid-September, met with Russ Cravens, Telecom Volunteer Director, and all MTBL Telecom volunteers to review progress and discuss training.

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

In Mid-August, Supervisor attended a Humanware training session at Blind and Low Vision Services, Helena, on patron adaptive equipment (hardware and software).

In Mid-August and September, Reader Advisors benefited from the National Reader Advisor online BookBreak where they learned more about the NLS juvenile and foreign language collections.

In Mid-August, Reader Advisors attended a Reader Advisor Workshop at the Kohrs Memorial Library in Deer Lodge.

In August, all MTBL staff attended a preliminary meeting of an overview, training and schedule for the MSL conversion of the computer operating system.

In Mid-September, MTBL collaborated with the Secretary of State's office to begin recording of the 2010 Voter Information Pamphlet (V.I.P.), making the audio recording of the V.I.P. available to all Montana citizens with visual, physical and reading disabilities.

In Mid-September, Supervisor attended the Montana Association of the Blind's Convention in Billings and updated sixty attendees on MTBL services. Responses were overwhelmingly favorable with regard to the new digital book services being provided by MTBL.

**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.*

The first MTBL employee appreciation event and luncheon was held in Helena on August 26, 2010. Hosts Bob Cooper and Christie Briggs thanked MTBL employees for their hard work and acknowledged both their individual and team accomplishments.