

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) January 20, 2011 through March 18, 2011

Prepared for April 6, 2011 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of MTBL staff: Bickel, 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.*

January 20 – March 18, 2011: two books ***Axe Time, Sword Time*** by Barbara Corcoran and ***Gold Pans, Guns & Grit*** by Kelly Flynn.

1,450 pages have been recorded in our studios since the first of the year.

Keystone vendor upgrade was performed on January 21, 2011, incorporating new features specific to digital materials for patrons and improved Bibliographic MARC record download features.

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.*

Patron instructions to access downloadable e-books from the Montana Talking Book BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) website have been updated to include more search options and an easier download process for patrons.

Ninety-seven patrons have downloaded 7,207 BARD books as of March 14, 2011.

Eighteen patrons have signed up for BARD since January 1, 2011.

Circulation of in-house digital materials continues to increase. There are 4,762 digital titles with 17,422 copies in our collection. There are nearly 20,000 digital titles on the BARD download website for the National Library Service.

New patrons totaled 30 in January and 29 in February.

Now that the majority of individual patrons are receiving digital equipment and services, we are in the process of expanding the delivery of digital services to active institutions and schools.

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

Carolyn Meier gave an MTBL presentation to 70 individuals at the Assembly of God Church in Helena on February 27, 2011.

MTBL educational materials were distributed to 200 Montanans at the Prairie County Health Department's Health Fair in Terry, MT on March 10, 2011.

Glen Rasmussen, MTBL volunteer, passed away March 5, 2011. Glen started volunteering as a Telephone Pioneer in September, 1997 and contributed over 4,700 hours in testing, cleaning and repairing patron equipment. Glen is remembered for his humor, kindness and gentle nature.

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

Three new volunteers signed up: Jean Barrett, Peggy Kude (circulation) and Celinda Hicks (recording program).

MTBL partnered with Career Training Institute's (CTI) Young Adult Program to train an individual in various support services of the Library.

Kurt Cylke, Executive Director of National Library Service, retired at the end of February, 2011. Acting Director is Ruth Scovill.

Humanware's low vision representative gave a demonstration to MTBL staff on the newest download technology and magnification equipment for patrons with low vision and blindness.

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.*

Claudia Bickel, new Readers' Advisor and Machine Lending Agent, was welcomed to MTBL on February 3, 2011. Claudia has worked for ten years as a freelance writer, editor, indexer, and researcher. She has a BA in English and an MA in Medieval English and French Literature.