

## Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

**September 22, 2011 through November 18, 2011**

Prepared for December 7, 2011 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of MTBL staff: Bickel, Briggs, Gunderson, Landry, Meier and Stanton and 90 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.*

Between September 22nd and November 18th, the following recording projects were completed:

1 magazine issue - **Montana The Magazine of Western History**

5 books -- **Blackfeet Tales of Glacier National Park** by James Willard Schultz; **If You Would Learn...Go Teach** by Elsie Doig Townsend; **The Dogged and the Damned: One Soldier's War at Home** by Roland Cheek; **Murder in the Senior Manor** by Kathryn Braund; **Chinook** by Woody Laughnan.

**1,258 book pages** were recorded during this reported period.

**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.*

**Seventy-five new patrons** registered for MTBL services for this time period.

**29,250 audio books circulated to patrons. 26,500 returned audio books** were inspected and processed by staff and volunteers, **totaling 55,750 audio books processed** during this time period.

**BARD downloads** by patron individuals and institutions **totaled 2,916** for this reporting time period, **compared to the August reporting time period of 1,909.**

The cassette copy collection continues to be weeded at a rapid pace, making room for new digital cartridge book copies: **1,619 copies shipped in September** for recycling; approval to ship **3,441 copies for recycling in November**; **6,000 copies ready to ship in November** to other Talking Book Libraries. Shifting of random shelving continues which includes further weeding of cassette copies.

Two Circulation volunteers were trained in electronic check-in of returned audio books.

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

September 23rd, MTBL-BARD service flyers were distributed to Montana Public Librarians attending the Fall Workshop in Bozeman.

October 6<sup>th</sup>, presentation on MTBL services conducted at Hunter's Point retirement facility, Helena.

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

In November, one new volunteer signed up with MTBL: Tom Laceky (Narrator/Reviewer).

September 28<sup>th</sup>, collaborated with Jennifer Birnel, BTOP Trainer, and Donci Bardash, BTOP Project Director, to review follow-up survey of public libraries from Fall Workshop specific to special needs training.

September 28<sup>th</sup>, monthly discussions with National Library Service focused on BARD, Web-Braille and plans for Web-based training for Talking Book Libraries.

September 30<sup>th</sup>, collaborated with Keystone Library Automated Service to upgrade MTBL database.

October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, one MTBL staff member attended JAWS software training at MSL in collaboration with BTOP training resources.

October 26<sup>th</sup>, monthly discussions with National Library Service focused on integration of Web-Braille with BARD services, nationwide digital outreach mailings to retirement facilities and plans to incorporate locally produced Braille, digital audio books into BARD, discussion of TTS (text-to-speech) enhancements planned for the NLS digital players, plans for a 2012 RFP for applications for the iphone, ipad and Android devices and progress on a digital player remote control device for physically handicapped patrons.

**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.*

October 13<sup>th</sup>- MTBL staff hosted the 2011 MSL Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, under the direction of Diane Gunderson, Coordinator of Volunteers, to recognize our 90 volunteers. Held at the SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Social Center in East Helena, this year's theme "Wild About Volunteers!" with table decorations of Montana's plush wild animals and fall leaves. Key Note Speaker was Pat Hagan, Montana author of "Seasonal Disorders: Ranger Tales from Glacier National Park". Each volunteer was presented with a portable/foldable water bottle and travel case for their adventures.

Recognition for devoted volunteer service to MTBL included: Youth volunteers: Ainsley Biskupiak, Ariaiah, Dominic, and Jordan Danzer, Greg Elison, Derek and Olivia Martinez, Alexis, CJ, Michael, and Ricky Meier, Hailey Nottingham, Laura Patzer and Kinsey Vavruska. Special Appreciation Awards: Brad Chamberlain and Karla Berg. Telecom Pioneers and Machine Repair Volunteers: Frank and Chuck Flynn, Tom Tompkins, Gloria Purcell, and Jim Brown. Recording Team of the Year Award: Mike Sullivan, narrator and Jane Briney, reviewer. Longevity Awards- 5 years: Peggy Barnekoff, Donna Davis, Penny Herbert, Del Lonquist, Rose Miller and Vicki Smith; 10 years: Gloria Purcell; 15 years: Betty Lou Berg and Charles Briggs.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) provided a cake. There were 68 total participants including volunteers, MSL/MTBL Staff and invited guests: Colet Bartow, MSL Commissioner and Library Media Curriculum Specialist with the Office of Public Instruction; Russ Cravens, Telecom Pioneer Representatives; and Renee' Bowndy, Program Coordinator for RSVP.