

## Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

March 21, 2012 – May 20, 2012

Prepared for June 6, 2012, 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.*

The following recording projects were completed during this reporting period:  
2 magazine issues each of- **Montana The Magazine of Western History** and **Montana Outdoors**.

3 books -- **How It Looks Going Back: Growing Up in the Montana Woods** by Doris Knowles Pulis; **Long Way Home: Journeys of a Chinese Montanan** by Flora Wong; and **Kilkenny** by Louis L'Amour.

Production has begun on the first local recording of a Montana Digital Book (MDB). Under the direction of Diane Gunderson, the Recording Program Director, the first MDB book chosen is **“Hand Raised: The Barns of Montana”** by Chere Juisto and Christine W. Brown. Narrating this book is Mike Sullivan and Diane is directing the production, recording and markup of the book as the primary monitor. *The recording started in April with plans being developed for a late fall to winter finalization and public announcement. Stay tuned!*

A total of 672 book pages were recorded in the MTBL Recording Program.

**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.*

During this time period:

Fifty-nine new patrons registered for MTBL services and were processed by Sandy Stanton, Reader's Advisor. There were 21 patron interlibrary loans processed.

Staff and Volunteers circulated 37,697+ audio books and other materials under the direction of Circulation Manager, Carolyn Meier. This included over 233 magazine issues directed by Reader Advisor, Martin Landry and 162 duplicated digital BARD books for patrons not on BARD.

The annual MTBL School equipment recall was coordinated by Machine Lending Agent, Claudia Bickel. Telephone Pioneer volunteers inspected, repaired and processed over 423 players and accessories.

Over 9,290 cassette book copies were approved by NLS to be recycled in April from the Xess process.

Patrons personally downloaded 2,526 BARD books and magazines in March and April.

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

An AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal Demonstration was attended by Supervisor Briggs at the March Montana Association for the Blind's (MAB) Capital City Chapter meeting in Helena.

The MAB Great Falls Chapter gave presentations on MTBL services to 91 grade school students on March 29.

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

The Helena PEAK Gifted & Talented Student program partnered with MTBL to offer Braille services for student art exhibits. Christie Briggs collaborated with Julie Mitchell, PEAK teacher on a PEAK project being conducted with the Montana Historical Society. The March "Perspectives" exhibit featured artistic biographies. The May exhibit will feature hearing, reading and tactile concepts depicting the contents of six Russell Gallery paintings.

One new volunteer signed up with MTBL: Joyce Saunders (Circulation/Inspection).

MTBL partnered with the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) to distribute over 100 MTBL brochures and Braille school materials to special education teachers at the April Montana Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) conference in Billings.

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

The MAB Great Falls Chapter partnered with MTBL to educate and distribute MTBL materials to over 250 attendees at the MSU Cascade County Extension Health Fair on March 31.

**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.*

A nationwide Talking Book Library “BookBreak” webinar on accessible technology training entitled “Turning the Virtual Page” was attended by all MTBL Readers’ Advisors on March 28th. This focused on training Reader Advisors on new accessible technologies related to patron technology needs and issues.

A listening session with the Postmaster General was held at the Helena Regional Airport on April 12, 2012, hosted by Senator Baucus. Supervisor Christie Briggs offered oral comments regarding the proposed changes to Montana’s U.S. Postal services and the negative impact these changes will have on blind and low vision patrons of the Montana Talking Book Library.