Memo

To: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

From: Sue Jackson

Date: November 5, 2012

Re: Montana Memory Project Report

Montana Memory Project -- http://mtmemory.org
MMP information site--
http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/For_All_Librarians/Digitization/Montana_Memory_Project/default.asp

MMP Staff:
I started as the part-time MMP Director in September and have been very challenged learning about all of the MMP pieces – meeting the Executive Committee, understanding the role of MSL, attending the CONTENTdm webinar series, learning scanning techniques and the intricacies of the Project Client software, reviewing the application and grant processes, updating the MMP information website, and exploring the collections featured in the MMP.

Katie Beall, Technical Support, has been providing assistance and training for libraries adding collections to the MMP. Training has been done in Butte, Dillon, Billings, Missoula, Polson (with Kalispell staff attending) and Forsyth (with Miles City attending) on scanning and using the Project Client software. Katie recently presented and demonstrated at MSL's Fall Workshop, MLA's fall Chico retreat, and the Women in Agriculture meeting in Great Falls.

MMP Executive Committee
The Executive Committee has met monthly, including the annual face-to-face meeting in Helena in October. There have been two recent major accomplishments:
        --decision to accept media (audio and video) files and approval of guidelines for these
         materials
        --development of a survey for MMP members concerning the organization of the MMP website
        and improving access to its collections; the survey will be launched this month
The terms of two Committee members have expired and the openings are being announced.

LSTA Grants:
The 2011 LSTA MMP grants were awarded for three projects:
        Flathead County Library System – city directories to 1923 ($2,649)
        North Lake County Library – local newspapers for 1910 ($124)
        MSU-Billings Library – school yearbooks 1928-1972 ($2,556)
The scanning for these collections was done by Integra in Boise at a total cost of $5,329, less than the $7,500 allocated for MMP. Each of these projects cost less than the original Integra estimate, but because of the short timeline to spend the LSTA money it wasn't possible to assign the remaining funds for other collections.

The 2012 LSTA MMP grant process will begin this month with a new application form (shared with the NAC earlier). The grants will be promoted across the state and applications will be accepted until February 14th. The applications will be reviewed by the MMP Executive Committee and the projects receiving LSTA funds will begin in March. The $7,500 assigned to MMP grants will be expended by the September 30, 2013 LSTA deadline.

Other MMP Updates:
The process for libraries to propose a collection for the Executive Committee to consider for the MMP has been moved from the library directory. The application questions have been reorganized and the new form will be easier to complete, submit and edit.

The MMP purchased two additional OCR licenses from OCLC. These licenses will allow libraries to OCR 25,000 pages per month and will be assigned for newspaper projects. The initial cost for the two licenses was $5,776.

In September, OCLC updated CONTENTdm to version 6.1.4. As of October 1st, there were 364,421 items and 39 published collections in the MMP. The newest addition is the Sax & Fryer collection of Park County photographs, 1890-1960s from the Yellowstone Gateway Museum.

Looking Ahead:
Those of us working with MMP are concerned about a vendor's ability to provide OCR that can be utilized in CONTENTdm. Two vendors have provided OCR as part of the scanning process, but the text search/highlight feature doesn't function in CONTENTdm. This is an important issue because of the limited number of available OCR licenses for libraries doing scanning in house and the length of time some of the projects require the license. A discussion with OCLC staff will be scheduled.

Because of advances in the digital world and the possibility of new products and tools, MSL is considering preparation of an RFI to be issued in 2013 to discover what options are available for the MMP. The CONTENTdm contract has been in place since 2007.