

## State Librarian's Report October & November 2012

Prepared for the December 12, 2012 Commission meeting  
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**Goal One – Content:** MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library users.

I am excited by a recommendation from the Network Advisory Council to use Library Services Technology Act funding for an e-content expansion pilot. There are numerous initiatives being tested around the country that may serve as alternatives for the creation and dissemination of e-content. Some initiatives support the creation of local e-content. Others are exploring options to locally host and deliver e-content. This is an area where libraries are looking to the State Library to lead and this pilot, if approved by the Commission, would give our staff the resources to further research cutting edge technology and new opportunities for libraries.

### **Goal Four – Consultation and Leadership:**

This fall I attended two Fall Federation meetings, the Sagebrush Federation meeting in Miles City and the Tamarack Federation meeting via teleconference. I shared a report of the State Library at each of these meetings. A key point of discussion for both federations was the status of the recent Attorney General's opinion. The federations expressed support for a Commission resolution.

On November 29, I chaired the Montana Land Information Advisory Council meeting. Agenda items included a review of FY2013 budget, a legislative update and regular updates on the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure work plan, the status of MLIA grants and a report from the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals. The Council recommended adoption of the FY14 Land Plan as presented by the Land Plan subcommittee (that plan will be presented to the Commission for approval at their December 12 meeting). In response to the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) resolution to draft legislation that would require 50 percent of all MLIA funds collected by the state to be granted to local and tribal governments, the Council also voted to support local governments through the Land Plan, to express concern that potential legislation could prevent the State Library from meeting the priorities of the Land Plan, and to encourage MACo to work with MLIAC to craft future Land Plans. Finally, the Council approved an update to the workflow process whereby new Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure themes are approved or denied. These updates were housekeeping in nature, replacing references to the Department of Administration with the State Library.

In December I will launch a monthly “webservice chat.” This online meeting will be scheduled for the second Friday of the month and will be open to all librarians in Montana. I envision these webservice chats as a time for open discussion on topics of interest to the library community. I look forward to the opportunity for me and other State Library staff to share updates from the Commission, the Network Advisory Council, and MSL staff on projects and priorities from the State Library. The first webservice chat is scheduled for December 14 at noon.

**Goal Five – Collaboration:** MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its users.

I attended the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and the Western Council of State Libraries’ meetings October 15-18 in Lexington, KY. A key take-away from the meeting is an emphasis on libraries “turning outward” to understand their broader communities’ needs and to position libraries to respond to those needs. The American Library Association is working with the Harwood Institute to develop educational resources to help librarians develop the skills to interact with community leaders in this way. This is a similar theme as the focus of the R2 conference many staff attended in Colorado in September. The other common topic was an emphasis on digital literacy. There are a number of initiatives to develop digital literacy training resources that can be shared and used by libraries across the country. State Libraries are also closely monitoring the Edge Initiative which is due to formally launch in the spring. The Edge includes an online assessment tool to help libraries evaluate how they meet standard benchmarks for providing digital literacy services and resources, a resource guide for understanding results of the assessment, executive tool for key leaders, training focused on advocacy and community engagement, and a communication tool. The State Library is evaluating the Edge and these other initiatives for opportunities to sustain gains made through the BTOP grant within existing resources.

On October 29 I attended the Montana Library Association Board meeting with Judy Hart and Nanette Gilbertson. I shared my report from the State Library including information about our budget requests and the Commission’s plans to adopt a resolution in response to 54 Opinion, Attorney General Number 7. The Board had differences of opinion regarding how to proceed on the matter. They have asked Brian Close, an attorney from Bozeman familiar with the library community, to provide MLA with legal assistance on the matter and they are tentatively planning a discussion with Brian around Legislative Day, Offline and/or MLA.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet the new Dean of the University of Montana Mansfield Library, Shali Zhang on November 14. We reviewed many of our collaborative services including the OCLC Group Services contract, our depository library programs, the Network Advisory Council and the Natural Heritage Program. I look forward to working with her in the future.

As previously reported, the MACo passed a resolution that would require half of the amount of Montana Land Information Act funds coming to the state to be granted to local and tribal governments. This change does not seem consistent with the intent of the statute and would not allow us to continue our services at current levels over the long term. I am currently working closely with MACo Executive Harold Blattie and Senator-Elect, Jon Sesso to come to a more palatable agreement for all parties. Like our consistent support for libraries, the data and support local governments receive to develop and use GIS data is the tide that raises all counties.

I am leading staff to develop transition orientation packets for Governor Bullock's administration. The packets include an overview of State Library services and information on how we support and/or benefit the work of the Governor's office, executive branch agencies and all Montanans. I hope that the packets will serve to open doors with new state leadership to continue and further develop partnerships with other state agencies.

**Goal Six – Sustainable Success:** MSL is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes) and is engaged in fulfilling its mission.

On October 11 I had the pleasure of sharing my appreciation for our Talking Book Library volunteers at their annual volunteer luncheon. In the first nine months of 2012 92 volunteers worked a total of 8,232 hours weeding and recycling cassettes, providing digital duplication on demand, recording Montana titles and much, much more.

The Legislative Snapshot for the 2013 Legislative session is in final edit. In response to last year's user survey and thanks to improved GIS resources, the majority of the data included in the snapshot will be presented by House and/or Senate District rather than by county. Staff is also working to improve the online access tools to make the data presented more dynamic.

The bill to transfer the following pieces of legislation now has a bill number, House Bill 38.

- (MCA) 90-1-404 thru 90-1-413 or the Montana Land Information Act;
- (MCA) 7-11-1014 & 7-11-1029 regarding reporting of special district boundaries;
- (MCA) 76-6-212 regarding the management of Conservation Easement data;

At my recommendation, Representative Pat Ingraham of Thompson Falls has agreed to sponsor the bill. Representative Ingraham was the chair of the State Administration and Veterans Affairs Interim Committee that I testified before in August so she is familiar with the status of MLIA and the proposed changes.

In partnership with the Department of Administration we prepared a full legislative packet with contact information, testimony, executive summary, section-by-section analysis, and anticipated questions and answers for Representative Ingraham and other

stakeholders. This bill is considered a housekeeping bill and we anticipate little opposition however it is important to communicate the value of these changes to stakeholders.

I am very pleased that the five proposed budget items that we have been monitoring through the Executive Planning Process were included in Governor Schweitzer's budget that was released on November 15. Note that the New Proposal amount for the transfer of the Base Map Service Center has been reduced from \$1.4 million to \$954,000. This reduction was recommended by the Governor's Budget Office because it more accurately reflects annual funds collected in the MLIA account and approximate expenditures from the account. This change keeps the account structurally balanced and will not impact services.

Additionally, the Water Information System Manager request was approved as a one-time-only item to give agencies a chance to demonstrate the value and cost-effectiveness of the position.

Governor Bullock's budget must be released by January 7, the beginning of the Legislative Session.

The University of Montana selected Dr. Scott Whittenburg as the new Vice President for Research and Creative Scholarship to replace interim Vice President Dr. David Forbes. Dr. Whittenburg will begin his new position on January 2 and will have primary University oversight for our Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) contract. We look forward to meeting Dr. Whittenburg; staff is preparing an overview for him of the MTNHP and the relationship between the State Library and the University to manage the program. I also want to express my appreciation for Dr. Forbes' leadership this past year.