

State Librarian's Report December 2012 & January 2013

Prepared for the February 13, 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.

At the request of Joe Durglo, Chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, we removed from online access three volumes of their tribal histories. These tribal histories were produced through the Indian Education For All (IEFA) program and were given to the State Library in 2008 by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE). At that time OCHE granted the State Library permission to digitize the publications for online access. When investigating the request, we learned that, although OCHE was responsible for distribution of the publications, the contract for their production was between the tribes and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). According to the terms of the contract, the state had agreed to not make these publications available online. With this information OCHE determined that they did not have proper authority to grant us permission to provide online access to the publications and therefore supported Chairman Durglo's request.

At the request of OPI, another IEFA publication was also removed from online access also to comply with a contract between OPI and the author.

Print copies of these publications are available through the state depository program.

Goal Four – Consultation and Leadership:

Not surprising, the majority of my time over the last two months has focused on preparing for legislative hearings and responding to questions from the Legislature. Please see my Legislative Update for specific information. Staff continues to work diligently to promptly respond to requests for information about our budget requests and other bills.

The State Library once again received the Francis Keppel Award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This award is given annually to state libraries in recognition of the completeness, promptness and high quality of the local public library data submitted to IMLS. Stacy received the award from IMLS Director Susan Hildreth at the annual meeting of State Data Coordinators. The award is due in large part to the efforts of our staff to encourage libraries to submit timely and accurate public library statistics.

On December 21 I submitted the Montana Land Information Act Legislative Report to the Legislative Services Division as required by statute. This is the first time the State Library has been responsible for submitting this report under the terms of our interagency agreement with the Department of Administration. This report includes highlights of the progress that has been made to provide better service coordination since the Base Map Service Center transferred to the State Library, information about priorities for the ongoing development of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure and about current grant recipients. The report is available online at: http://msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/Montana_Land_Information_Advisory_Council/pub_MLIA_Legreport_Final.pdf.

As was reported by other programs, the State Library, in partnership with the Montana Library Association and the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals hosted a very successful Library Legislative Night. I would like to commend our staff for their hard work and professionalism as we hosted more than 90 Montana legislators and their guests, librarians and other state officials.

I have greatly enjoyed the first two of our monthly webside chats. These online forums have been well attended by librarians around the state. The first chat in December covered relevant action from the State Library Commission meeting that month. Judy Hart, Montana Library Association Government Affairs Chair, joined me for the January chat which focused on State Library and Montana Library Association legislative priorities. The next webside chat is scheduled for February 15 and will focus on Commission and legislative updates. I encourage Commissioners to attend.

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

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet the new Dean of the Montana State University Library, Kenning Arlitsch, on January 8. We reviewed many of our collaborative services including the OCLC Group Services contract, our depository library programs, and the Network Advisory Council. Dr. Arlitsch is also interested in our digital efforts. As a result of our meeting, for the first time ever, staff of the State Library and the Historical Society has been invited to participate in the annual Montana academic libraries symposium which will be held in late April.

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

I am looking forward to my first formal meeting with the new Governor's Chief of Staff Tim Burton on February 14.

The 2013 Legislative Snapshot is now live and linked from our website. http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Legislative_Snapshot/2013/default.aspx. Hard copies were

distributed to all 150 legislators at the beginning of the legislative session. The Snapshot provides a wealth of information for policymakers and represents a great deal of information resources and research made available by our staff. We have received numerous accolades about the content and quality of the publication.

As we near the end of the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP), managers have begun to meet monthly with Donci Bardash to review grant requirements, and to determine which services we may be able to continue and how we will do so. Some services will be distributed among Statewide Library Resources staff. We are also evaluating new national initiatives to determine how these efforts may support gains made through the BTOP program. There remain no new grant funds to support these efforts.