

# Montana State Digital Library

February and March 2013

Prepared for the April 2013 Commission meeting  
by Allan Cox, MT Natural Heritage Program.

This report represents accomplishments of:

Library Information Services (LIS),  
MSL Geographic Information (comprised of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) and the former Base Map Service Center (BMSC))  
& the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP).

**Goal One – Content:** MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.

- LIS staff has processed and shipped 41 boxes to the Internet Archive for scanning and has thus completed the FY2013 digitization contract ahead of the June 30th, 2013 deadline. LIS may ship more items for scanning once it determines the exact number of image scans produced for this year. The vendor is still scanning an earlier shipment.
- LIS changed the web image associated with all records in the MSL state publications collection at the Montana Memory Project. The former generic image has been replaced with the MT.GOV Connect logo thus tying the text collection more closely to the web archive. The new logo is more aesthetically pleasing for users.
- For its web pages, LIS developed a new domain name approved by MSL management: <http://research.montanastatelibrary.org>. LIS staff is just beginning to transfer content to the new site which should provide fresher content due to the decentralized controls associated with WordPress.
- Montana Geographic Information staff continued integration and maintenance of the Cadastral, Transportation, Structures/Addresses, Administrative Boundaries, Hydrography, Geographic Names, Imagery and Geodetic Control Frameworks.
  - We received additions to our collection of geodetic control positions from Gallatin and Park counties and Bob Holliday entered the data into the Montana Geodetic Control Database.
  - Keith Blount has been working with the BLM and the BLM's contractor Premier Data to remove errors from CadNSDI 1.2. This is the digital

version of the Public Land Survey System that many GIS practitioners use as a foundation for other data.

- In collaboration with birders and other wildlife enthusiasts across Montana, photos for approximately 100 vertebrate animal species have been added to the Montana Field Guide; these species previously lacked any photographic representation. Only 32 vertebrate species now lack photographic representation on the Montana Field Guide.
- Montana Natural Heritage Program Botany and Information Management staff added 350 records for 30 rare species to the plant observation database. In addition, they added and/or reviewed information, photos and status ranks, which appear on the Montana Field Guide, for more than 100 plant species.

**Goal Two – Access:** MSL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.

- Under the project leadership of Erin Fashoway, MSL Geographic Information rolled out our new web presence at <http://geoinfo.montanastatelibrary.org/>. It provides a unified, standardized response to discovery and delivery of geographic data including the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure. New search tools access GIS portal metadata records by both free form and key word search. Most of the original Base Map Service Center pages have been migrated however many NRIS related pages have yet to be able to take advantage of the new template. MSL Geographic Information staff will continue to revise web content over the next few months with a goal of having most content moved by July 1, 2013.
- MTNHP Botany staff provided information on the status and biology of water howellia (*Howellia aquatili*) to the USFWS for a 5-year status review of the species under the Endangered Species Act.
- LIS issued a news release to state agency personnel announcing the retirement of the ReferenceUSA database. LIS pointed users to the following EBSCO products: Business Source Elite, Regional Business News, and Academic Search Elite. These business journal/article databases provide state agency employees access to free accounts allowing them to subscribe and directly receive without charge current issues of thousands of full text magazines.
- LIS rotated in new titles to Safari Tech Book collection with a focus on WordPress titles in support of the library's transition to a new content management system. These same WordPress titles will be also of interest to other state agencies already using WordPress.

**Goal Three – Training:** MSL provides appropriate trainings and training resources so that the best use can be made of the resources offered.

- In February and March, Zoology staff answered over 40 requests from patrons regarding zoological information for Montana that entailed more than 50 hours of staff time. Several of these requests involved training new agency users on the Natural Heritage Map Viewer <http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/> and Natural Heritage Tracker <http://mtnhp.org/Tracker/NHTMap.aspx> websites so that they could use these applications in environmental reviews.
- LIS staff attended the Offline Conference in Butte, MT., February 1st and 2nd and the Electronic Resources and Libraries conference in Austin, Texas, March 17-20th.
- LIS staff participated in OCLC WorldShare Interlibrary Loan Borrowing and Lending online training modules. LIS will transition to this new system in March, along with other special libraries in Montana, making it more convenient for user to request items in DiscoverIt not owned by LIS.

**Goal Four – Consultation and Leadership:** MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.

- Linda Vance, Senior Ecologist, gave a presentation on our wetland mapping and map service, the Montana Field Guide, and reference data on wetland ecology to a group of over 60 U.S. Forest Service fish, soils, and water staff.
- Allan Cox, Lead Program Manager, presented a half-day workshop to US Bureau of Land Management biologists and GIS analysts at the BLM Field Office in Malta on March 20. The workshop provided detailed information on the data and information managed by the MTNHP and how to access data and services.
- LIS joined TBL to receive training from BTOP staff member Jennifer Birnel on how to use the adaptive workstation and software including ZoomText version 10 located near the other public access computers downstairs. LIS manager and TBL supervisor later met to discuss signage and how best to make that workstation and software as easily available as possible to our users.
- Jim Kammerer, LIS Manager, along with Evan Hammer, CIO, gave a presentation on our Archive-It and Internet Archive resources and services to 15-20 state agency economists. They were interested in the data that we collect and make available to the public and state agency employees.

**Goal Five – Collaboration:** MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration amongst its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.

- Bryce Maxell, MTNHP Senior Zoologist, was the lead author and presenter of a collaborative presentation on statewide efforts to monitor year-round bat activity patterns and characterize cave and mine roost habitats at the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting in Whitefish on March 1. Bryce also gave presentations on bat inventory and monitoring efforts at the Northern Rocky Mountain Grotto annual meeting at Lewis and Clark Caverns on February 9th and at the Montana Bat Working Group meeting in Whitefish on February 26th.
- Bryce Maxell, MTNHP Senior Zoologist, gave a presentation on *Efforts to Map Black-tailed Prairie Dog Colonies* in Montana using NAIP imagery to the Montana Prairie Dog Working Group in Billings on March 21st.
- State GIS Coordinator Stu Kirkpatrick and Gerry Daumiller met with Montana Department of Transportation staff twice to discuss methodology that might improve the ability of the Montana Transportation Framework to meet more users' needs. This group will continue to meet over the first six months of 2013. The group is in the process of surveying the user community, using as a basis of reference a recent Colorado needs assessment on unified road databases.
- Stu Kirkpatrick and Keith Blount met with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Department of Revenue to find more efficient ways to map and maintain digital information on state owned properties. In an attempt to eliminate some duplication as well as have more accurate data the group is working on a plan that will provide options for increased efficiencies. A report is expected by February.
- LIS staff interviews were incorporated into recently published Archive-It white paper: The Web Archiving Life Cycle Model. It is available here: [http://archive-it.org/static/files/archiveit\\_life\\_cycle\\_model.pdf](http://archive-it.org/static/files/archiveit_life_cycle_model.pdf). LIS shared its experience and expertise with the web archiving service staff in order to assist other institutions in developing best practices and workflows.

**Goal Six – Sustainable Success:** MSL 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.

- Bryce Maxell, Senior Zoologist with the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) was named "Wildlife Biologist of the Year" by the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society at their annual meeting in February. The Wildlife Society's

awards program honors professional excellence, recognizes outstanding achievement, and highlights contributions to wildlife science and management. The Biologist of the Year Award is presented annually for significant achievements in wildlife conservation anytime during the five years immediately preceding the award presentation. The Montana Natural Heritage Program's role in centralization of information in a neutral and non-regulatory agency played a large part in this recognition.

Read more at [http://mtnhp.org/docs/2013\\_maxell\\_award.pdf](http://mtnhp.org/docs/2013_maxell_award.pdf).

- LIS worked with other library programs and General Services Division to remove 8 empty book shelves in the reading area. Existing tables and chairs were redistributed in the new open space. A study carrel was brought out of storage for patron use. New paint is being applied to the walls and pillars and new plants are on order. The goal is to provide a more comfortable space for our users rather than a warehouse for underused materials. So far the reviews have been generally positive.