

State Librarian's Report October & November 2013

Prepared for the December 11, 2013 Commission meeting
by Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

Goal One, Content,

As noted in the Digital Library report, the Montana State Library (MSL) lost 940 items that were destroyed in a fire that occurred at the scanning facilities of the Internet Archive. MSL sought the guidance of the state Risk Management Division regarding whether or not to file a claim for the loss. Given the nature of the items lost and our inability to make use of any kind of reimbursement, it was determined that a claim was not warranted. The Internet Archive remains a critical partner of the State Library as we work to provide online access to Montana government information. To date, under contract, they have digitized more than 19,000 state publications. These publications are freely available online in a wide variety of formats including PDF, Kindle, E-Pub and Daisy Reader (a format used by those with low vision). View the collection online at: <https://archive.org/details/MontanaStateLibrary>.

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

I spent the week of October 27 in Savannah, GA attending meetings of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) and Western Council of State Librarians. COSLA is currently undertaking a strategic planning process to identify roles that the organization might play and how they might organize and fund those roles. I am advocating for COSLA to play a more active role to shape national initiatives that impact or benefit public libraries and to be a voice on national policy and legislative issues.

Of note, from the COSLA meeting:

- 1) The Continuing Resolution passed by Congress in October authorized expenditure of FY13 federal funding through January 15. The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is authorized to spend \$43M of the Grants to States award (our Library Services Technology Act funds). They will calculate partial payments and we will know amounts by January 15. IMLS also plans to offer emergency contingencies for grant cash management if another shutdown

occurs. These contingencies should prevent the fear of furloughs that we faced in October. Another round of sequestration is also scheduled for January and it could be even more chilling with estimated cuts between 5-8%.

- 2) The Urban Library Council gave a report on the Aspen Institute meeting on libraries that took place over the summer. This diverse group that includes representation from the likes of Microsoft, the Federal Communications Commission, the Urban Libraries Council, IMLS and metropolitan public libraries, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is amassing knowledge from inside and outside the library community to launch libraries into the future. Focuses are on technology, mission, learning, convening, place, and platform. At this time outcomes and goals are unclear but they see the potential to express the value of libraries writ large to all sectors from leaders in sectors outside the libraries. A report is expected to be issued at the 2014 Public Library Association conference.
- 3) The Edge Initiative is launching nationwide on January 22, 2014. This program is intended to help libraries evaluate local library services by participating in a series of surveys that help to benchmark their services against national standards. The data collected will be available nationally and the Edge is also preparing toolkits and analysis to help librarians communicate information to their communities and governing officials about their libraries and opportunities to improve services. There will be a fee for the services and a business model and costs are anticipated in December.

Of the four SWIM scholars who, in April, received approved extensions to continue their job search as required by the SWIM scholarship agreement, three have now found qualifying positions, one at the Wyoming State Library, and another at the South Dakota State Library and a third in a Wyoming school system. The fourth scholar is currently battling cancer in California. MSL received official notice of the acceptance and closure of the grant from IMLS in September. Rather than continuing to ask scholars for written quarterly reports, the SWIM Advisory Committee has agreed to ask the scholars to participate in twice-yearly online meetings. Over the span of four years, the SWIM grant, which totaled \$850,000, helped 69 individuals earn their Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of North Texas and 14 to earn their School Library Media Endorsement from either Montana State University or the University of Montana. Graduates of the program are now employed in professional library positions within the four-state region. Montana graduates are working as a public library director, library network manager, medical library director, library media

specialist, school library director and reference and children's librarians. Of the nineteen Montana SWIM graduates, eight (42%) are working in communities of less than 25,000, and four (21%) of these librarians are in communities under 10,000 (the smallest is 1,200).

Soon the Montana State Library and the State Information Technology Services Division will begin negotiations with Esri for a new Enterprise License Agreement (ELA). This agreement is utilized by 17+ agencies to purchase geographic information systems (GIS) software. The goal of the ELA is to encourage and expand the use of GIS throughout state government but, to date, artificial administrative barriers and the fear of future cost increases have discouraged this growth beyond those agencies that already rely heavily on GIS. We believe that to truly incentive the use of GIS, and to generate the benefits of doing so, the State needs to invest in ArcGIS Online (AGOL), the user-friendly, online mapping tool made available from Esri. A statewide investment will take these barriers off the table. I shared this vision with both State Chief Information Officer Ron Baldwin and Governor's Chief of Staff, Tim Burton and we have their support to make a state investment in AGOL a part of the negotiation.

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

On November 13 I chaired the Montana Natural Heritage Program's annual Partners meeting. This year's meeting focused on the challenges faced by MTNHP as a result of a decrease in project dollars particularly at the federal level. The reduction in project dollars is impacting funding for staff that relies wholly or in part on these monies which, in turn, impacts services partners have come to rely on. Allan Cox shared a briefing on the impact of declining funding and then partners were invited to share their thoughts and concerns and to offer constructive feedback on the priorities of the program and on opportunities for increased funding. Filling the botany program manager and the aquatic ecologist positions are high priorities for most partners. MTNHP is working to find funding to fill these positions.

I have suggested that Allan develop a return on investment analysis for the services offered by MTNHP in order to inform a potential budget request. Allan is working with NatureServe and the University of Montana to accomplish this task.

On November 14 I chaired the first meeting of the Montana Memory Project (MMP) Advisory Council. We are fortunate to have a great mix of representation including Bruce Whittenberg, Director of the Montana Historical Society, Shali Zhang, Dean of the

UM Mansfield Library, Kenning Arlitsch, Dean of the MSU Library and former director of the Mountain West Digital Library, Amy Sullivan, Director of the Montana History Foundation, Kim Anderson from Humanities Montana, Chris Seifert, Montana PBS Director of Education Services, Jeri Duran, the Division Administrator of the Montana Office of Tourism, and KellyAnn Terry, Director of the Lewistown Public Library. This Council is charged with expanding the reach of the MMP to new audiences, to ensure that the content serves the goals of different communities and to help the MMP identify opportunities for continued funding, particularly for content. At the kick-off meeting the group received an introduction to the history and vision of the MMP and discussed the current draft strategic plan. The Council will meet again on February 3 to formalize its goals for the coming year.

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.

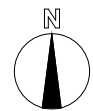
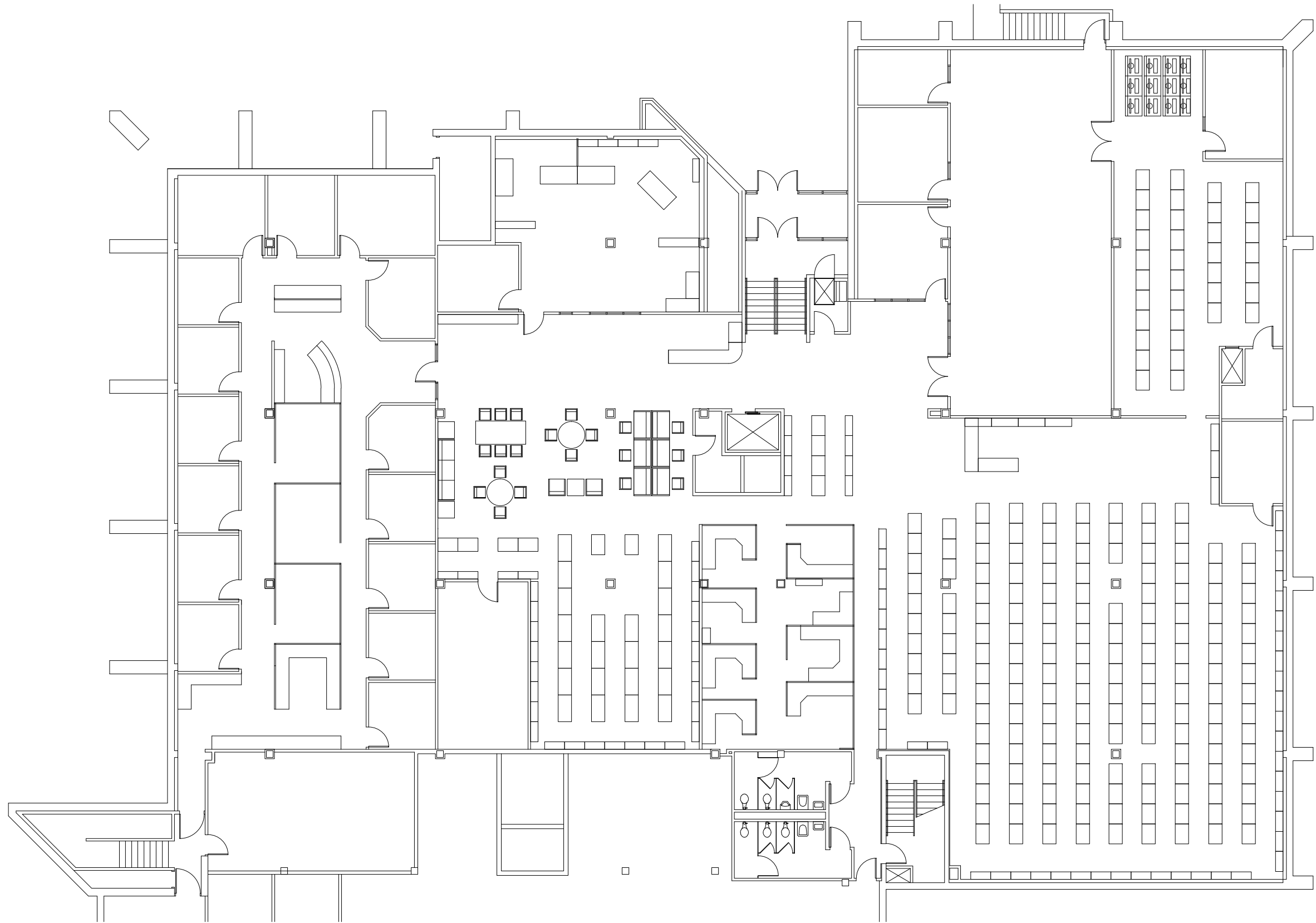
As previously reported, managers of the State Library are current evaluating available space within the library to make sure that we are making the most of the space we have. Two goals that have been identified are to increase and make equitable the size of the cubicle space for the staff currently upstairs. Additionally managers would like to keep programs together. To that end, MSL invited to office interior designers to evaluate the space available and to offer us plans of how we might better arrange the cubicles to make better use of the space we have. We received one set of designs and we are awaiting the other one. We are also waiting for a bid for the cost of the work involved.

At the same time we were approached by the Attorney General's (AG) Office. They also have office space in this building and they would like to acquire additional space if they can. Working with a representative from the state's Architecture and Engineering Division, we are currently evaluating an opportunity to offer space to the AG's Office on the lower level of the library in exchange for an enlarged and remodeled conference room and storage areas (see plans that follow). At this time, the AG's Office is waiting for a bid for construction. If the proposal is affordable we will proceed to formal contract negotiations.

At the October Commission meeting I shared with the Commission a vision statement that Managers drafted as an assignment during the Montana Leadership Challenge. That vision was further refined by Commission members to be:

Libraries are recognized leaders and valuable assets with the tools, resources and expertise to empower the communities we serve to achieve their goals.

Managers continue to work to improve our performance appraisal process. We plan to share this vision statement with staff as that process moves forward.



AG/LIBRARY FLOOR PLAN & LAYOUT #1
 1/16" = 1'-0"



SPACE PLANNING - ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
 OFFICE AND MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
 A/ E PROJECT # TBD
 215 NORTH SANDERS STREET
 HELENA, MT 59601

STATE OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
 ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING DIVISION
 P.O. BOX 200103
 HELENA, MT 59620-0103
 tel 406.444.3104 fax 406.444.3399

NOVEMBER 8, 2013

PLAN OPTIONS
A1.1
 SHEET 2 OF 2