

State Librarian's Report December 2013 & January 2014

Prepared for the February 12, 2014 Commission meeting
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Goal Four, Consultation and Leadership: MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.

I am pleased to announce that I have been asked to serve on the board of trustees of the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB) and, at our first board meeting, was elected Vice Chair. SHLB is undertaking an operational and strategic growth planning process to determine how best to organize for long term sustainability. Some members of the organization are advocating for a membership model similar to many professional organizations while others are advocating for a think tank or research focused model. SHLB has contracted with 2B Communications, an organizational management consulting firm that specializes in non-profits, to help facilitate this important planning process. SHLB intends to complete this planning work by its annual conference the first week in May.

COSLA held its annual winter meeting during ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia on January 24. At this meeting the board shared the conclusions of the strategic planning process. COSLA will become more formalized; it will hire an executive director and will seek corporate sponsors. Similar to the [Top Ten list of policy priorities](#) prepared by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers, COSLA plans to prepare annual strategic priorities as a way to direct our work and our partnerships with national organizations. The executive director will be responsible for representing COSLA and for applying for and administering grants that align with the strategic priorities of COSLA. This change will require a small dues increase that will be phased in over a two year period. I believe these changes are positive because it will allow us to be more proactive and influential on national policies and initiatives.

Additionally it was announced at the COSLA meeting that COSLA will receive a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to develop a Continuing Education (CE) Connector program. The goal of the grant is to help State Libraries' CE coordinators to collaborate to create and share learning objects on topics of national

interest to libraries. The State Library will benefit from this national effort by contributing to and utilizing a national curriculum of library continuing education while being able to refocus our limited resources on the most pertinent local training needs.

Following the December Commission meeting I worked with Judy Hart from the Montana Library Association to communicate the recommendations from the Library District Task Force to the Montana library community and to seek feedback from them. We developed a short survey monkey survey that asks people to tell us whether or not they generally support the recommendations or not, or whether they have no opinion. The survey also asks for feedback about each individual recommendation and gives people the opportunity to make additional recommendations. Judy and I also hosted a webinar to discuss the recommendations and to encourage people to take the survey. The Library District Task Force will review the survey results at a meeting scheduled for February 4. At that meeting I will ask the Task Force to make a final recommendation regarding whether or not to seek legislative change. This recommendation will be brought to the Commission in February. Though the State Library strongly encourages the formation of library districts, we would not be directly impacted by any resulting legislative changes in the way that public libraries would. For this reason, I believe it's very important for the library community to believe seeking legislative change is worthwhile before proceeding. I greatly appreciate the work of the task force. Through their effort the State Library was able to more effectively evaluate existing statute. By in large, we found that the areas of statute that we felt may need refining are working and we also found opportunities for the State Library to do more to promote and support the creation and administration of library districts through our consulting work.

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

I am very pleased to be an invited guest at the grand opening of the new Billings Public Library on February 1. I also contributed a short opinion piece to be included in an insert in the Billings Gazette that will be distributed the week of the opening.

Governor Bullock and Chief of Staff Tim Burton tasked the Governor's cabinet with finding opportunities for collaboration between agencies to bring more efficiency to the operations of state government. Some of the opportunities identified include the Main Street Montana Project to promote economic development, streamlining the Request for Proposal process, streamlining permitting, enterprise information technology management, tribal relations, etc. Cabinet members were then tasked with heading

workgroups to address each of these issues. With the help of digital library managers, I drafted a document outlining the resources and services that the State Library can bring to many of these work groups. As a result I received an invitation from Tim Burton to participate on their management team. I look forward to beginning that work in the near future.

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.

The State Library is scheduled to appear before the Legislative Audit Committee on Thursday, February 13 to review our most recent financial compliance audit for the two year period ending June 30, 2013. The audit was completed in mid-December and we are currently awaiting the final report. When it is finished it will be posted to the legislative audit website:

http://leg.mt.gov/css/publications/audit/audit_reports_AgencyAlpha.asp.

I was pleased to host the Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Tim Baker, for an overview of the Natural Resources Information System. Tim shared with us information about a number of his priorities including sage grouse habitat monitoring and conservation, climate change studies, and coal development. Based on these priorities, staff is preparing a number of maps for him that we believe will be useful in policy development and that will demonstrate the value of our services to his office.

We were thrilled to learn that our Fiscal Year '14 Library Services Technology Act award from IMLS will increase over the FY13 award which it was reduced by sequestration. The FY 14 award is anticipated to be \$1,059,170, up from \$1,040,956 last year. The Network Advisory Council is scheduled to meeting on March 11 when they will make recommendations for the statewide projects budget based on this most recent award. Their recommendations will be brought to the April Commission meeting.

We received the executive planning process (EPP) calendar from the Governor's Budget Office. Based on this calendar, we will review our one-time only requests in February or March (those include the Water Information System position and funding for the Talking Book Library digital migration). We will be asked to share any potential legislative proposals in mid-April. EPP requests are due in late May. To align with this schedule I will bring a prioritized list of EPP requests to the Commission for approval at the April meeting.

Staff is moving forward with plans to reconfigure the library's physical space. We continue to work with the Attorney General's Office and the Architecture & Engineering division to develop a proposal that will be evaluated for inclusion in the Long Range Building Plan to be presented to the Legislature next year. Proposals are considered part of the EPP process and are due in mid-February. Because of the work done last fall, our proposal is nearly complete. Additionally, we are ready to request a formal bid and work schedule to reconfigure the upstairs cubicle space to allow for more comfortable and equitable space for the staff in that area. Based on initial estimates we received, we anticipate that the cost will range between \$15,000 and \$20,000. We hope to have this project completed late this winter or in early spring and no later than the end of the fiscal year.