



State Librarian's Report December 2014 and January 2015

Prepared for the February 11, 2015 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.

At their December meeting the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a second order to continue their effort to modernize E-rate. This order follows the first order issued last July. Policy groups with which the State Library partners continue to study the impact of this new order which includes two key elements previously discussed by this commission: 1) The E-rate cap for funding has been increased from \$2.5B to \$3.9B annually making more funding available for broadband deployment, internal connectivity, and service costs, and 2) the FCC reversed their decision from the previous order regarding the definitions of urban, urban cluster, and rural. Libraries must now be in communities with populations of 25,000 or more to be considered urban or urban cluster. This reconsideration is in keeping with ex parte comments we submitted to the FCC in November and will benefit the thirty libraries in Montana that briefly found themselves considered urban following the initial order.

In collaboration with the Montana Library Association, the State Library hosted the biannual Legislative Night at the State Library. It was attended by a record 101 Legislators, the Governor (a first), the Secretary of State, and the Superintendent of Public Instructions as well as numerous librarians, library patrons, and representatives from the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professional and the Montana Association for the Blind. We were told numerous times that Library Legislative Night is a "must attend" event of the session. Due in large part to holding the entire event downstairs, rather than spread through the building, staff reported significantly more and higher quality interaction with attendees.

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 the Commission is aware, the State Library has contracted with Nedra Chandler and Scott Graber of Triangle Associates to complete an organizational review of the State Library. The goal of this review is to have an outside professional review the business priorities and workflows of the Library to develop recommendations that can be part of our management toolkit as we work to proactively plan for the future of the Library.

The process for the review is being largely determined by Nedra and Scott. Each have met with managers and staff on a number of occasions. Nedra shared the results of the initial interviews at an all staff meeting on December 17. Following that meeting staff had an opportunity to respond to a survey which asked for feedback about the themes. Additionally Scott is working with the program managers of the Digital Library Division to utilize a process known as value stream mapping to evaluate the various reference request processes used by the Division to look for opportunities for further collaboration. More detail about the organizational review will be shared by Nedra during February 11 meeting.

After months of fluctuating revenue estimates, the Office of Budget and Program Planning has now advised the State Library that FY 15 Coal Severance Tax cuts are not necessary. Because the long-term future of this funding is uncertain until the legislative session is over, staff are planning to spend this money on one-time-only expenditures. Library Information Services will hire a temporary staff person to help complete a number of unmet tasks including a needed inventory. Statewide Library Resources is researching the purchase of eBooks through Ebsco and the option to add additional HomeworkMT sessions.

On January 16, we received official notice from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that we will receive level Library Services and Technology Act funding for FY 15. Our official award amount is \$1,059,140. Staff are currently preparing recommendations for how to expend those funds. These recommendations will be shared at the March Network Advisory Council meeting and with the Commission for action at your April meeting.

Montana Land Information Account collections remain historically low with monthly collections still averaging below \$60,000 for the first six months of the fiscal year. However collections for the last two months were slightly higher than the same period a year ago creating optimism for a brighter spring.

As noted in your financial report, the State Library signed an agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to continue our in-house partnership. The

\$16,000 agreement is about half the amount of normal agreements; a reflection of the continued effects of sequestration on our federal partners. Initially the NRCS was going to forgo an agreement altogether but staff was able to demonstrate the significant benefits of our partnership and financial savings to the NRCS as a result of our arrangement. Though the current year's agreement only covers operating costs, the NRCS has voiced a desire to restore funding next fiscal year as funding allows. This added funding is necessary to provide our in-house partner, Cathy Maynard, with professional GIS support.