

Memo

To: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

From: Ken Adams, MSC Director

Date: Feb 25, 2015

Re: Montana Shared Catalog Project update

1. New libraries: Last year's "Phase XVII" new libraries, Richey School and Rosebud School, continue to manually add their records to the MSC database. Richey School could be ready to begin using the system before the end of this school year. Rosebud has been slower with entering their records. The application period for "Phase XVIII" ended on Feb 20. Five libraries have applied for LSTA grant assistance to join the MSC this year. Those applications are currently being screened by the SLR staff and two representatives of the MSC Executive Board. The applicants are: Chouteau County Library (Fort Benton and Geraldine libraries), Chester-Inverness-Joplin School District (two libraries), Fairfield Public Library, Garfield County Library and Roundup Elementary School. If approved to join, this will bring the total MSC membership to 176 libraries in 98 communities.

2. The MSC 2014 Fall Members meeting was held in Helena on Sept 27, 2014. The meeting focused on creating a strategic plan for the MSC. After much discussion, the vision and mission statements were approved and the Executive Board solicited volunteers from the membership to draft a plan to be finalized in time for voting on at the 2015 spring meeting. The sub-committee was formed in October and soon after began work creating an online document for collaborative editing and also holding regular online meetings to discuss the document's content and progress. The initial, final first draft is being prepared for the March Network Advisory Council meeting after which further fine-tuning will take place by the sub-committee and the Executive Board in time for membership comments in late March. Taking those reviews and comments into consideration, the Executive Board will finalize the draft for voting during the Spring Members Meeting in Helena on May 8.

3. The MSC system configuration and policies reorganization project slowed down due mostly to the staff turnover during the last few months. The project is now in its second year of work and progress is picking up now that Amy and Jemma can devote more time to it. The most important work of cleaning up circulation policies, system locations and item types has been completed. This means we can bring in new libraries without any impact on other aspects of the project or on current members. We are currently in the last phase of the project which consists of contacting individual libraries to go over their current policies and the changes they will need to make.

4. The MSC Training and Support position was filled by the hiring of Jessie Goodwin in December. Jessie received her MLS from San Jose State and has held various librarian positions in Missoula and the San Diego area. She began work on Jan 12th and has dived straight into learning the MSC system and the support role ropes. She has already posted her first online training video and has several more in the works.

5. System Updates: The implementation of the "Enterprise" online catalog search interface continues as there are now 90 profiles created and more being added each week. Twenty-six libraries have switched over to using Enterprise as their primary online catalog search interface. The much anticipated Directors Station replacement, "BLUEcloud Analytics" was announced as a production release by SirsiDynix last December. The production extraction agent was installed on our server in early February and daily extractions have been taking place since then. Unfortunately, the initial release

of the product is limited to statistics and reports for current checkout data and user data only. MARC record data and historical statistics won't be available until later this Spring with other data "cubes" following after those. The product is web based and much faster than Directors Station. It has enormous capability for creating and presenting statistical data and system information which means it also has a large learning curve.

The Shoutbomb SMS text messaging service offered to dramatically lower prices for the smaller public libraries so that we could increase usage by that group. Twelve public libraries have signed on as a result of the lower pricing. Shoutbomb has also offered to help us financially and materially to start a marketing campaign aimed at getting more libraries and patrons signed up for the service. The MSC Director, the Executive Board's marketing rep, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, MSL's Sara Groves discussed the project with Shoutbomb staff and have laid the groundwork to start the marketing campaign in time for MLA and the MSC Spring Meeting.