

Montana Shared Catalog Strategic Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Montana Shared Catalog is a project of the Montana State Library as well as a cooperative partnership between 169 member libraries located in 94 communities across Montana. It is funded by member libraries' contributions as well as a contribution from the State General Fund (ARM 10.102.4001) and by Federal LSTA dollars that are distributed through the MSL. The Montana Shared Catalog staff are employed by the MSL and their work falls under the MSL Long Range Plan and the MSL Statewide Library Resources Division work plan.

As a program of the Montana State Library, the Montana Shared Catalog uses four of the MSL goals as a strategic framework.

Access: the MSC connects libraries, their staff and their patrons through a state-of-the-art integrated library system and other cutting edge technologies.

- For the MSC to capitalize on the rapidly changing technology environment it will remain nimble and innovative, enabling future transitions to cutting edge technology.
- MSC members are encouraged to offer member-driven discussion of current technology, emerging services and best practices
- Highest quality bib records will be maintained by records sampling, use of industry tools that ensure optimum record quality and membership maintenance of records.

Training: the Montana Shared Catalog provides appropriate training and resources for member libraries to take full advantage of their membership.

- MSC staff will conduct regular outreach to stakeholders, administrators, and member library staff in order to foster relationships and determine what training is most needed by member libraries.
- Member libraries will provide assistance to one another through in-person and online meetings. In addition, member libraries will participate in mentoring programs to assist both new and existing member libraries with training and continuing education.
- MSC staff will conduct in-person and online training for member libraries on a regular basis. This training will focus on member libraries' individual needs as well as overall consortium goals. In addition to formal trainings MSC staff will provide individual assistance either in person, by phone, or online, to member libraries on an as-needed basis.

Collaboration: The Montana Shared Catalog promotes partnerships and resource sharing among its members.

- Encourage the growth of resource sharing groups to continue providing the best possible services to all library users.
- Current libraries offer coaching and support of new libraries by fostering broad involvement of the Montana Shared Catalog membership through a variety of communications methods including but not limited to electronic lists, blogs, polls, and online trainings.
- The Executive Board and the Montana Shared Catalog staff will continually monitor the government structure to maintain a fair and equitable Governing Body while maintaining the mission of the Montana Shared Catalog.
- Member Libraries are encouraged to participate in decision making and setting direction for growth by attending meetings and keeping in contact with their representative on the Executive Board.

Sustainable Success: The Montana Shared Catalog is committed to responsible and sustainable growth.

- The MSC will conduct consistent outreach to non-member libraries.
- The Shared Catalog will maintain a balance of staff to member libraries.
- The MSC will collaborate with other library consortia in the state and regionally to promote common access points.