

Library Development Task Force talking points and listening session outline:

The Library Development Task Force was assembled earlier this year in order to make recommendations to the State Library/Network Advisory Council/Commission regarding which programs and services should be sponsored/provided by the State Library in order to best support 21st century Montana libraries.

The programs and services the task force will consider are those funded by the coal severance tax, state general fund and LSTA (Library Services & Technology Act) monies. Over the past several years, the State Library has recognized that these funds have been stagnate or have decreased, while the costs of the programs and services they fund will continue to increase.

The State Library also acknowledges the changing needs of communities across Montana and the changing demands on libraries to best meet those needs.

With those thoughts in mind, the task force is asking you to help us evaluate current State Library programs and services and even suggest future programs and services. What could be dropped? What should be changed or added? Should certain programs be funded in another way? This data will be collected through a number of listening sessions, small group conversations, and a statewide survey. Your feedback is important and is greatly appreciated. These conversations will help create a new baseline of services for the State Library in the coming years.

Task force membership list:

http://mslapps.mt.gov/About_the_Library/Commission_Councils/Library_Development_Study_Task_Force/ldstf_PrintList.aspx.

Timeline:

Listening sessions and online survey September 10 – November 7

Draft recommendations due to the State Library Commission December 9, 2015

Final recommendations due to the State Library Commission at their February meeting (date to be determined)

Programs and Services

Updated table to include costs, usage, FTE, funding source

Facilitated Questions for Primary Engagement

The purpose of these questions is for the listening sessions to have a structure but to still keep it open for engagement. However, it is not necessary for these talking points/questions to follow a linear discussion.

1. What do you believe is the greatest strength of your community?
2. What do you believe is the greatest challenge of your community?
3. How would you rate the quality of life in your community?
4. Name the things/people/organizations in your community that people value and/or relate to.
5. Of the things/people/organizations valued, what similarities or differences do they share?
6. Brainstorming Challenge: Declare 50 ways your community can be improved (timed session, perhaps 10 minutes).
7. What would need to change or grow in order for improvements to happen?
8. What support does your community need in order achieve these improvements?

Listening Session and Survey 1 Questions Specific to Libraries

- 1) What essential services does your library provide to your community?
- 2) What needs exist within your communities that your library should play a role in address?
 - a. (Facilitator prompt: In my community I see a need for...).
- 3) How can your library respond to these needs? What strengths do you bring and what challenges do you face as you consider these opportunities?
 - a. (Facilitator prompt: In my library we..., or I wish my library could...).
- 4) What library development services from the State Library most directly support these essential services and/or aid you in responding to your community needs?
 - a. (Facilitator prompt: In my library we rely on...)

5) When thinking about the future, what programs or services do you wish the State Library could offer or what suggestions would you make for changing or improving existing services?

6) Based on your needs, in what programs or services might the State Library considering decreasing their investment?

Survey 2 (for discussion)

Prioritize the list of programs and services based on their importance to your libraries.

DRAFT