

Proposed Theories of Change for Consortial Resource Sharing and Collaboration

The Montana State Library supports customizable consortial resource sharing so that....

So that

Individual Montana Libraries can maximize the cost effectiveness of their collections, services, and personnel

Assumption: resource sharing is more cost effective. It gives libraries access to more resources at a lower cost than a standalone contract or institution.

Data: Cost avoidance data; staff time; staff knowledge (saves time for consortium members).

So that

All Montana libraries can provide more resources for their users, communities, and library networks

Assumption: the value of a consortium membership is greater to the individual library than a standalone contract could be.

Data: number of resources used by the library (various output measures: circulation, ILL, web page hits, catalog records, programs attended/completed, etc); compare cost of actual use to cost data above.

So that

All Montana citizens can benefit from greater access to relevant resources that benefit and transform their lives

Assumption: people in communities where the service is available are using the service and it is demonstrably improving their lives in some way.

Data: user stories; outcomes measures that demonstrate a change in behavior, attitude, knowledge, skill, etc; research or data that ties services to impacts related to greater community or society change.

So that

Montana and beyond are enriched by successful, empowered, individuals and communities which contribute productively to making the world a better place

Assumption: ultimately, our work is valuable because it benefits society.

Data: research or data that ties services to impacts as stated above.

“The State Library encourages scalable resource sharing so that...”

Resource sharing solutions work for any size or type of library in Montana

Assumption: Libraries of all size will participate in resource sharing

Data: Number of libraries that participate in resource sharing; Reports of sharing solutions working in all libraries;

So that

All library customers have access to resources

So that

All library customers can fulfill their needs for lifelong learning, community and entertainment

So that

All library customers can reach their full potential for an engaged and rewarding life

So that

Our communities and the people in them thrive and in turn create thriving communities with a better quality of life for all

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Proposed Theory of Change re: *Collaboration*:

Collaboration among all types of libraries: less tangible than resource sharing, but essential to resource sharing; a means to resource sharing. Working together for mutual benefit and shared rather than individual goals.

“The State Library supports collaboration among all types of libraries so that...”

So that

Montana’s libraries can strengthen their cross-institutional and personal relationships, communications, and infrastructures.

Assumption: Collaboration encourages communication and allows for shared problem-solving and experience which creates trust and a foundation for future cooperative ventures.

Data: The number of joint projects/activities and shared purchases; partnerships/agreements for specific or general purposes; shared forums, blogs, websites, regularly scheduled chat sessions or other venues dedicated to joint communication; cross-institutional and cross-specialization (e.g. School, Academic, Public, and Special), collaborative workshops, training sessions, or conferences; creation of updates or guest columns to share general or specific information in local, professional publications ; visit or personnel “exchange” programs between individual institutions and/or library specializations. .

So that

Montana’s libraries can use this connectivity to optimize the quantity and quality of materials, services, and access opportunities they provide to the residents of Montana.

Assumption: A collaborative library network utilizes collective knowledge and leverages buying power to more efficiently and economically acquire and distribute information resources and services than when institutions function alone.

Data: The number of joint agreements/contracts for resources or services; (and per Barry) - cost avoidance figures; staff time; staff knowledge (saves time for consortium members); resources used by the library (various output measures: circulation, ILL, web page hits, catalog records, programs attended/completed, etc); compare cost of actual use to cost data.

So that

The information, technology, life-long learning, entertainment, and citizenry needs of the people of Montana – and beyond - can best be met.

Assumption: Montana's citizens will take advantage of the improved, more seamless, access to the greater number and quality of informational resources and services as provided by a collaborative library network.

Data: Change in user stats (visits, views, downloads, etc); event or program attendance; anecdotal comments/stories; news stories or editorials; shared library card programs; cross-institutional patron visits; demonstrated public advocacy for libraries; expansion in k12 or higher education curricula.

So that

People can lead enlightened, fulfilled, and successful lives by contributing to their own well-being and happiness, as well as to that of their community, their state, and the world at large.

Assumption: People that make use of quality information and entertainment resources, and have the assistance of programs and services, will likely be well-informed, confident, and content individuals who are better equipped to improve themselves and their world.

Data: user stories; outcomes measures that demonstrate a change in behavior, attitude, knowledge, skill, etc; research or data that ties services to impacts related to greater community or society change.