



## 2017 Legislation & Budget Request Form

Please use this form to submit proposed budget requests for the 2017 Legislature. Please submit forms to Jennie by end of day, Monday, March 21, 2016.

**Date:** March 30, 2016

**Staff Person:** Christie Briggs & Sarah McHugh

**Proposal Name:** Montana Talking Book Library Audio Digital Conversion and Editing

### **Brief description of proposal:**

The 2013 Legislature approved \$25,000 (OTO) funds from July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014, to support a part-time temporary hire to convert Montana analog cassette titles to digital format. During that time 25%, or 265, of the cassette collection was converted, leaving 75%, 795 titles, yet to be converted. Of the 265 books converted, 80-100 still needed final editing before receiving approval from the National Library Service (NLS) for patron circulation. It was necessary to spend significant time initially providing the necessary training on existing and necessary new software, hardware and duplication resources, ultimately reducing the overall time converting titles.

Funding from this EPP request would be used to:

- 1) Fund digital conversion and final editing of Montana audio books and magazines from analog to audio digital.
- 2) Assure that MTBL digital titles meet the National Library Service (NLS) audio digital standards requirements and quality assurance review process.
- 3) Apply the NLS security standards for acceptance of Montana recordings to be uploaded to the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service.
- 4) Convert existing audio analog masters to digital audio cartridges and edit the digital masters for patron circulation and BARD upload. This work will provide all nationwide talking book library patrons with direct free download access of Montana recordings, regardless of which state in which the local material was recorded.

The work would be completed in one fiscal year by outsourcing the process to a private vendor.

**How will the proposal positively impact the communities we serve?**

MTBL patrons who are blind, low vision, or who face physical and reading limitations expect and have a right to access Montana information using current technologies. To this end, MTBL strives to meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by making all MTBL materials accessible. The MTBL recording program stays current with digital automation capabilities and standards for patrons, as set forth by the NLS and the American Library Association (ALA). MTBL recently upgraded in-house digital recording software to the highest NLS quality standards for use in our local recording program. Through this program trained MTBL volunteers record Montana books and magazines. The focus of the program is Montana history plus special projects that directly affect our patrons such as the Montana Constitution, the Montana Voters Information Pamphlet and the Montana Driver’s Manual (for physically impaired drivers).

Approximately 900 MTBL titles previously recorded in analog format are not available for use on current digital technology and are therefore all but inaccessible to today’s patrons. MTBL lacks the resources to complete the conversion process. Through this proposal, over 4,000 MTBL patrons, and nationwide patrons with disabilities, will have access for the first time to more than 900 additional audio digital titles from the highest quality recording booth available in accordance with the NLS standards.

**How does this proposal support MSL’s draft [long range plan](#)?**

**Goal 1. Content:** MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons. **1.4.** Manage the Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) and serve eligible patrons (with free talking books, Montana recorded books, Braille books, etc.) according to federal and state mandates.

**Goal 2. Access:** MSL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services. **2.9.** Provide appropriate specialized access for the programs and resources available to MTBL patrons.

**Goal 5. Collaboration:** MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its users. **5.5.** Assist partners in developing web-accessible Montana-related digital content, and provide Montanans (having disabilities) with free access to digital collections and items relating to Montana’s cultural heritage. **5.6.** Promote library-related automation, data, networking standards, and web-scale solutions. **5.7.** Work toward regional cooperative efforts, programs, and products that bring additional information value to Montanans.

**FTE Required?** ..... Yes    X No  
**Estimated Number?** 0

**Cost of proposal and proposed source of funding:**

\$120,000 OTO, State General Fund

**Please list other entities involved in developing the proposal:**

**Please identify interested constituencies or persons who may be called upon to testify in support this proposal:** Jennie Stapp, Christie Briggs, Sarah McHugh. Written testimonies by NLS recording specialists.