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To: Network Advisory Council

From: Cara Orban

Date: November 9, 2021

Re: American Rescue Plan Act funding recommendations for E-Resources

The Montana State Library has \$700,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) pandemic relief funds allocated to meet remote learning and information access needs. This funding expires at the end of 2022, and so any subscriptions would either expire at that time or would need to find another sustaining funding source.

Based on input collected from library directors and librarians over the past year, we have an idea of what areas of interest may be prioritized for electronic resources when ongoing funding is available. Because the ARPA funds are one-time-only, however, there is a higher risk in investing these funds in a subscription-based resource that may not be sustainable beyond the expiration date of Autumn 2022. In October we asked the Montana library community whether they would prefer that MSL invest these monies in a service that is already in place and most likely guaranteed to be available beyond 2022, or use this one-time funding as an opportunity to evaluate new resources that may expire or otherwise need to find an alternate funding source beyond 2022, drawing from the aforementioned list of priorities. We also asked whether the same areas of interest rise to the top, or whether the nature of the funding changes those priorities.

The proposed budget percentages are based on the questionnaire responses. Would you recommend any changes to the proposed ARPA budget for e-resources? In light of the federation needs and assets report, are there any other e-resources you would like to prioritize?

How would you recommend evaluating the use of these one-time-only monies? What questions should we ask as we evaluate the use of these funds, especially for any pilot subscriptions?