AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Investments in Montana Library Services

12/15/21 Commission Meeting: Presented by Cara Orban during the "American Rescue Plan Act e-resources funding recommendation" discussion

INSTITUTE of **Museum**and**Library** SERVICES

MONTANA **State Library**

ABOUT ARPA

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021. Subsequently, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the agency which administers federal funding for libraries and museums, received an allotment of ARPA funds to distribute to each State and Territorial Library Administrative Agency, including the Montana State Library (MSL).

MSL received $2.2 million in ARPA funds to be spent by the end of 2022. The use of these funds must meet the intent of the IMLS ARPA goals and objectives.

IMLS ARPA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Goal 1: Strengthen the institutional capacity of museums, libraries, and related organizations to respond to community needs quickly, effectively, efficiently, and responsibly.
  - Objective 1.1: Advance digital inclusion through approaches that may include, but are not limited to, improving digital platforms, online services, connectivity (e.g., hotspots), and creating digital literacy programs, as well as creating new processes and procedures needed to sustain a robust online environment.
  - Objective 1.2: Support hiring new staff and training or retraining existing staff to ensure a workforce that has the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities.
  - Objective 1.3: Build community-focused partnerships, networks, and alliances with organizations such as other nonprofits, school systems, service organizations, community groups, government agencies, and institutions of higher education with an emphasis on complementing, rather than duplicating, resources and services.
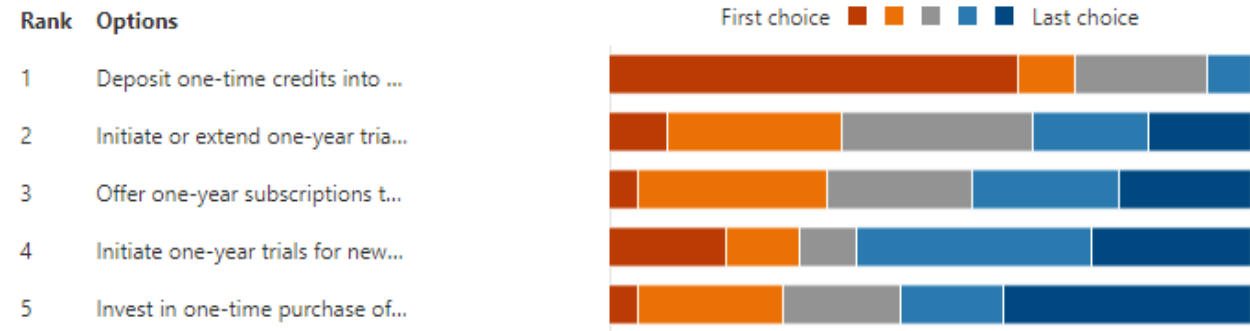
IMLS ARPA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Goal 2: Increase the ability of museums, libraries, and related organizations to deliver programs and services that contribute to the well-being of families, groups, and individuals of all cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
  - Objective 2.1: Support the creation and delivery of online and in-person educational, interpretive, and experiential programs and exhibitions for learners of all ages.
  - Objective 2.2: Provide trusted spaces for community engagement and dialogue to foster recovery and rebuilding.
  - Objective 2.3: Support efforts to collect, preserve, manage, and interpret documentary sources and tangible objects representing all aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic experience.

SEEKING LIBRARIAN INPUT ON DIGITAL SERVICES

- In October 2021 MSL asked the Montana library community whether they would prefer to invest the one-time-only ARPA monies in an existing service such as MontanaLibrary2Go, or use this funding as an opportunity to evaluate new resources for a limited time.

- MSL also asked them to rank which areas of interest rise to the top.

- Based on these results, the E-Resources Committee and MSL proposed the following budget recommendations to the Network Advisory Council.
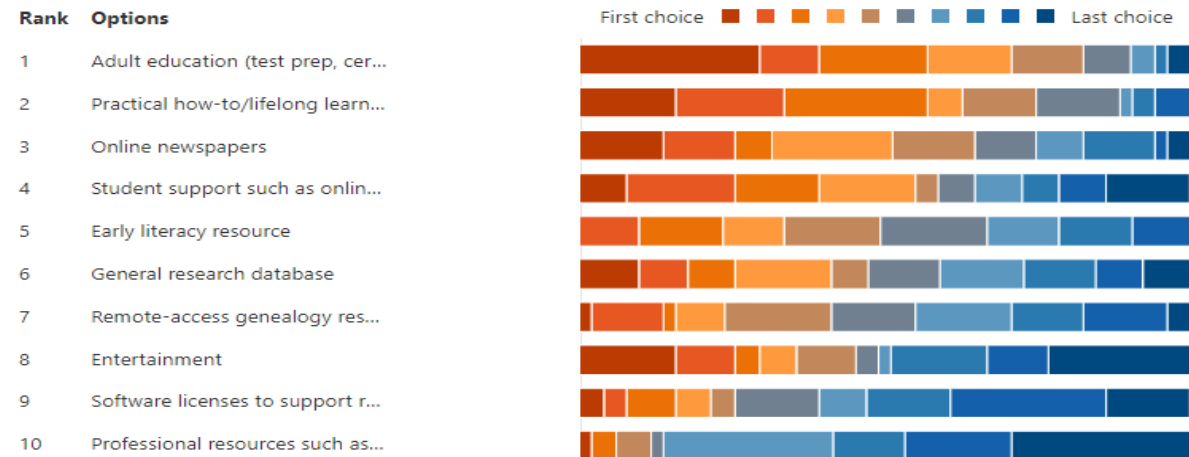
1. Please rank these options from most interested at the top to least interested at the bottom [drag choices up and down the list]:

More Details

Rank	Options
1	Deposit one-time credits into ...
2	Initiate or extend one-year tria...
3	Offer one-year subscriptions t...
4	Initiate one-year trials for new...
5	Invest in one-time purchase of...

First choice ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Last choice

3. If you could provide your community with online access to a subscription-based resource for only one year, what type of resource do you think would best help address your community's needs right now and in the coming months? Please rank from most interested at the top to least interested at the bottom [drag choices up and down the list]:

More Details

Rank	Options
1	Adult education (test prep, cer...
2	Practical how-to/lifelong learn...
3	Online newspapers
4	Student support such as onlin...
5	Early literacy resource
6	General research database
7	Remote-access genealogy res...
8	Entertainment
9	Software licenses to support r...
10	Professional resources such as...

First choice ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Last choice

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS: TOP PRIORITY

- Deposit one-time credits into shared accounts for current state-administered e-content providers such as OverDrive and the Digital Public Library of America's Palace Project across platforms that serve different types of library audiences (publics, tribals, schools, academics, specials).
  - Increase content budgets
  - Increase library memberships
  - Explore new licensing models
  - Fund program-specific promotional efforts
    - **Investment: $360,000**

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS: SECOND PRIORITY

- Initiate or extend one-year trials for resources embedded in current state-administered services (example: adding Universal Class or SAT test prep offerings via MontanaLibrary2Go), with the understanding that future state or federal funding may not be available to sustain the service.
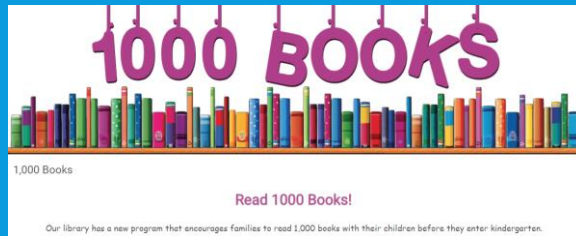
  - **Investment: $72,000**

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS: THIRD PRIORITY

- Offer one-year subscriptions to remote-access online resources or mobile applications that extend library services during the pandemic, with the understanding that future state or federal funding may not be available to sustain the service.

  - **Investment: $144,000**

1,000 Books

Read 1000 Books!

Our library has a new program that encourages families to read 1,000 books with their children before they enter kindergarten.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS: FOURTH SPENDING PRIORITY

- Initiate one-year trials for new e-content service models, such as pay-per-circ like Hoopla or Kanopy, with the understanding that future state or federal funding may not be available to sustain the service.

  - **Investment: $36,000**

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS: FIFTH SPENDING PRIORITY

- Invest in one-time purchase of standalone electronic resources that do not require an internet connection, such as Playaways or Wonderbooks.
  - **Investment: $36,000**

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MSL STAFF

- Invest in professional development resources for all Montana library staff.
  - PCI Webinar series
  - Professional development e-resources
  - Emergency planning kits for every public and tribal library, to supplement online Moodle course
  - Document recovery kits for every federation
    - **Investment: $36,000**

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MSL STAFF

- Invest in analytics software to improve existing resource sharing programs.
  - **Investment: $36,000**