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Memo

To: Network Advisory Council

From: Rebekah Kamp

Date: April 6, 2022

Re: Explanations for budget requests from Data Coordinator

The Montana State Library Data Coordinator is requesting the following items:

- \$6,900 for Baker & Taylor Bibliostat CollectConnect, data collection software
- \$39,085 for WhoFi, a statewide data analytics tool for library programs and Wi-Fi service

Description of Bibliostat with Desired Outcomes

Bibliostat is the tool used by public library directors to respond to the annual Public Library Survey (PLS) each fiscal year. Completion of PLS is required for meeting Public Library Standards, and the collected responses are communicated to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Bibliostat equips library directors with the tools to:

- Facilitate the collection and annotation of data, minimizing time and staff expense for required PLS submissions
- Compare performance across libraries for benchmarking
- Examine how library services are changing to meet the needs of the public
- Contribute to data used nationally for planning, evaluation, and policy-making

Description of WhoFi with Desired Outcomes

At the recommendation of the Public Library Statistics Task Force, the data coordinator requests funds to secure a statewide contract for WhoFi.

The software will empower librarians to:

- Form data-driven decisions about program offerings and Wi-Fi service
- Use community calendars to enhance collaborative opportunities between libraries

- Automate statistical reporting by program and systems staff to relieve the burden from library directors
- Communicate the value of the library to stakeholders through automated reporting
- Identify trends and evaluate program effectiveness locally and in the broader library community