History and timeline of the Montana Memory Project and staffing

- **2000-2002 –** the Montanaiana project was developed through the efforts of Bruce Newell and the Montana Library Network
- **2003-2004 –** Gap in the documentation
- **2005 –** Montanaiana became the Montania Consortium. OCLC has offered Montana a year-long 'free' trial of their digital management software, 'CONTENTdm'. Montania Consortium name is changed to Montana Memory Project.
- **2006-2007 -** MSL purchased a one-year limited license for CONTENTdm
- **2008 –** the Montana Historical Society becomes a partner and split the costs of CONTENTdm
- **2008-2010 –** growth is slow and steady and supported by a .25 FTE technical support position through part of this period and content is primarily from MHS.
- **2011 –** Scanning labs are purchased for check-out and there is a proposal for a .75 FTE for technical support position
- **Spring 2012 –** Temporary support staff position is hired through Westaff, Katie Beall and is employed through spring or summer 2013
- **Fall 2012-** The first part-time director is named, Sue Jackson
- **August 14, 2013, Commission -** Jennifer Birnel becomes the first full-time Montana Memory Project (MMP) Director.
- **February 17-June 26, 2015** - Montana Memory Project Technical Support and Training: *Temporary Contracted Position, Della Yeager*
    - assisted in metadata cleanup
    - assisted in adding new content,
    - provided support for DPLA funded projects,
    - assisted in launching social media presence
- **Fall of 2015 to present –** Pam Henley, Librarian Consultant, has worked up to 10 hours/week assisting the MMP
    - encouraging new contributors,
    - assisted with social media posts
    - assisting with newsletter material
    - assisted with implementation of contests
    - assisted with content migration to Recollect
- **June 2017-December 2017 –** *Temporary Volunteer intern rights statement updates, Alice Kestler*
    - 10-20 hours per week –volunteer
    - Updated all existing rights statement to rightsstatements.org format
- **November 2018 to present -** Statewide Projects Technical Support person, Chuck Vopicka and Bobbi deMontigny
    - Assist with content aggregation for DPLA
    - RFI/RFP committee
    - Omeka support
    - Digital archive support
    - Analytics support
    - Respond to tickets and answer support questions

- o   Assist with social media
- **January 21, 2020, and end on June 19, 2020 –** *Temporary contracted position, Jamie Faselt*
    - o   exhibit creation – using SWAY
    - o   increase engagement through newsletters, social media, and contests
- **April 2021** – MMP begins Migration from Recollect to CONTENTdm.
- **November 2021** – Dave Colamaria became the first full-time employee of the MMP

    - ❖ Building original digital exhibits and content hubs and compiling exhibits on behalf of teacher programs
    - ❖ Helping to run annual MMP Teacher Workshop
    - ❖ Compiling weekly newsletter and uploading issues to MMP website
    - ❖ Managing Facebook, Twitter, Instagram accounts, ensuring that MMP homepage matches monthly theme
    - ❖ Compiling monthly web and social media data and statistics
    - ❖ Managing Google Analytics Regular Expressions code to track all new collections at the item level
    - ❖ Working to refine web presence by analyzing data and working with Google Search Console and through Recollect support team
    - ❖ Loading new collections and adding to existing collections by working with partner organizations
    - ❖ Technical support for contributors
    - ❖ Collaborating on presentations at conferences
    - ❖ Monitoring user account signup requests for MMP access
    - ❖ Writing Knowledge Base articles
    - ❖ Collaborating on website appearance, layout, and upgrades
    - ❖ Developing and deploying Adventure Lab history geocaching programs
    - ❖ Working with volunteer

The funding for this position ends June 30, 2023. These duties will revert to Jennifer or get dropped entirely if this position is lost.

- **Summer Intern 2022 –** *Temporary paid internship for up to 20 hours a week, Grace Price*
    - o   Renamed files and worked on metadata for Big Horn County Obits (over 7,000 items)
    - o   Worked on metadata for the Granite County Documents
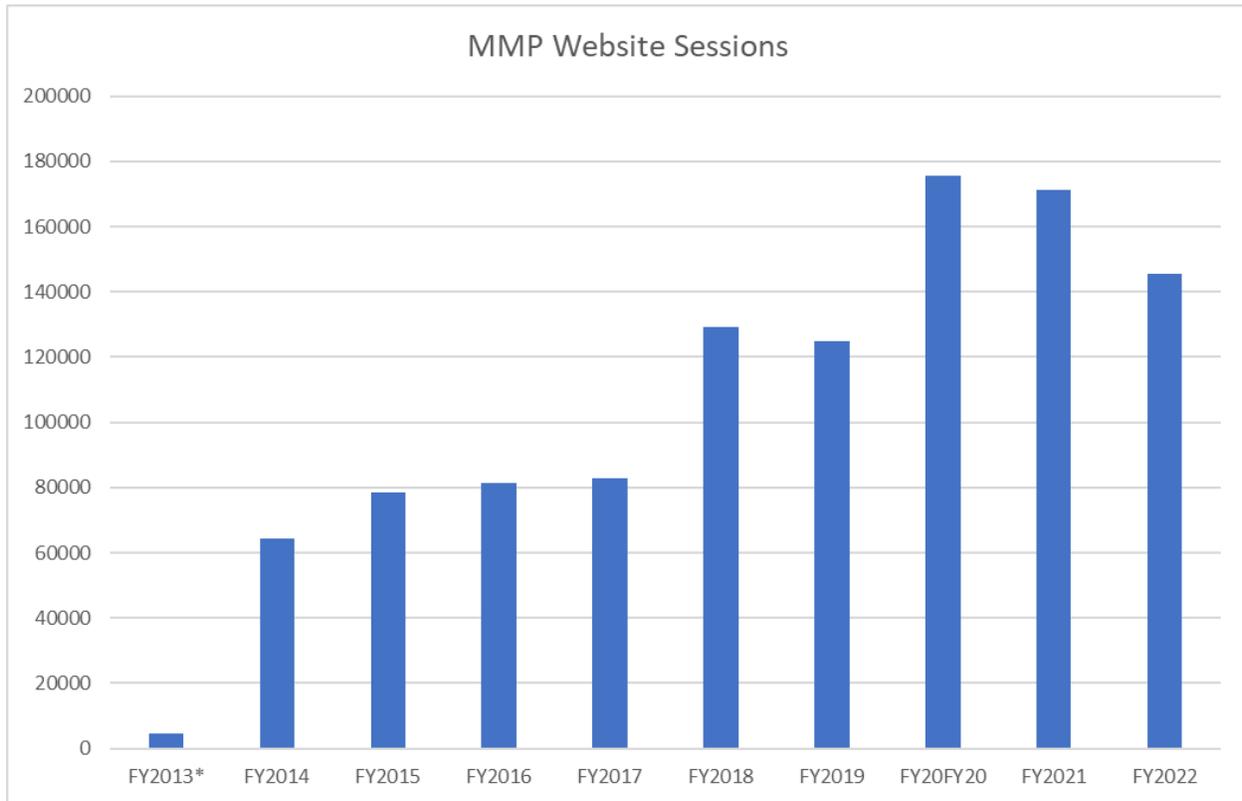
In the last 10 years there has been 5 part-time temporary employees for the MMP. Three of these positions were paid as contractual positions. One was an unpaid intern, and one was a paid intern. Each temporary position has required extensive training for progress to be made during the short tenure of the position.

The MMP Specialist position was the first full-time employee position added to the MMP since the first full-time director was named. This position is also temporary with ARPA funding. We are requesting this position be made permanent. The MMP has made unprecedented growth and improvements with two full-time positions. We are having a difficult time looking forward and making plans for the next year due to the scheduled end of the MMP Specialist position in June of 2023. Without this position much of the work will need to be scaled back for one employee to manage.

Statistics from past NAC and Commission Reports

October 2012 - there were 364,421 items and 39 published collections in the MMP.

March 2013 - currently 393,739 items are on the MMP site; a 393% increase since January 2011 there were 56,330 visits to the site in 2012; an increase of 1462% from 2011

March 2014 - There are now over 660,768 items (over 26,000 objects) in the MMP. We have 68 published collections from 35 contributing institutions.

October 2014 - There are now over 758,000 items (over 37,000 objects) in the MMP. We have 79 published collections from 40 contributing institutions.

February 2015 - There are now over 806,565 pages of content in the MMP. We have 88 published collections from 41 contributing institutions.

May 2016 - The current total of items in the MMP is now lower than the last report to the NAC. Most newspaper collections have been removed from the MMP and are now available on the Montana Historical Society's new repository, Montana Newspapers (http://montananewspapers.org/). In November the number of items was reported as 45,852. Today the total item count is 43,057 made up of 684,396 pages of content.

May 2017-May 2018 – The MMP saw steady growth during this period both in the number of collections and the number of website users.

2019-2021 - During the pandemic no outreach was done, and fewer new collections were added to the MMP. We began the RFI/RFP process in the fall of 2020 and in early 2021 we stopped taking any new content in preparation for the migration from the CONTENTdm platform to the Recollect platform.

April – June 2021 – Migration of content from CONTENTdm to Recollect platform begins. There are 180 published collections. Six will not migrate and three will be combined into one collection. So, 172 collections should migrate to Recollect.

July 1, 2021 – Recollect site is launched and CDM site is taken offline.

October 1, 2021 – October 1, 2022 – We are working on SEO and improving our web visits on the new platform. Dave has worked with Recollect to improve our site map and block robot.txt crawls of pages that are interrupting our site statistics. See our [MMP Dashboard](#) for a full statistical overview of the current MMP website and social media outreach.

Current Recollect Stats – we have 178 published collections from 88 contributing institutions. There are 79,759 published items and over 702,000 pages of content (we converted many items to PDF for improved site performance and this reduced the total pages). We have migrated 156 collections and still have 16 collections to migrate. We have added 22 new collections to the MMP since November of 2021.

We have 23 published exhibits. Eight of these were initiated by teachers and published by Dave. The other 15 were all written and published by Dave. We have one published Geocaching Adventure Lab tour and a contract for 19 more.

While migrating content we also archived all the content in our State Digital Archive system.

We have received several requests to offer the Teacher workshop again.