



MEMO

To: MSL Commissioners
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: Federal Fiscal Year 21 Library Services and Technology Act award final report
Date: April 1, 2023

The Montana State Library (MSL) is pleased to share the Federal Fiscal Year 21 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) award final report. The financial award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to MSL through the formula-based Grants to State Program for this period was \$1.24M.

Expenditures of this grant award supported the goals and objectives of our 2018-2022 Library Services and Technology Act Plan: [lsta_5yr_2018_2022.pdf \(mt.gov\)](#).

Library Services & Technology Act

Montana 2021 Award Report

July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

What is LSTA?

The Libraries Services & Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Program is the largest grant program run by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#). It provides funds to State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs) using a population-based formula set by federal law. SLAAs determine goals and objectives for the funds in their statutorily required [five-year plan](#). Each SLAA must also conduct a [five-year evaluation](#) of library services based on that plan. To view Montana's priorities, visit the [state's profile page](#).

With support from LSTA...

15,250 learners combated the "summer slide" by attending 550 educational events delivered using the Collaborative Summer Library Program in summer 2022.

420,000 Montanans were served by the Montana Shared Catalog, granting access to 3.5 million library books and media statewide.

Library consultants made 67% more site visits than the previous year, answering 847 questions to help local staff solve problems and implement services.

Talking Book services for the blind and print disabled connected 1,774 patrons with 109,735 digital books, 76% of the year's total checkouts.

Financial Impact

\$1,242,546 Award



Distribution of Funds

- Information Access 25% (\$305,669)
- Consulting Services 22% (\$274,349)
- Talking Book Services 15% (\$180,226)
- Continuing Education 9% (\$113,048)
- E-Content 9% (\$108,557)
- Montana History Portal 8% (\$103,469)
- Lifelong Learning 7% (\$83,726)
- Grant Administration 4% (\$49,702)
- Five-Year Evaluation 2% (\$23,800)

Montana State Library (MSL)

msl.mt.gov

Five-Year Plan Objectives

Goal 1: Collaboration - The Montana State Library encourages, plans, implements, and supports libraries with collaborative efforts.

- FY 21 Projects: E-Content, Information Access, Montana History Portal

Goal 2: Outreach/Lifelong Learning - The Montana library community speaks in a way that reveals its interconnectedness and establishes a cohesive “Montana library” identity that helps community members understand that libraries are for their lives right now as well as for their lifetimes.

- FY 21 Projects: Lifelong Learning, Talking Book Services

Goal 3: Community Leadership - Librarians, advisory members, and board members listen to their community members to design library services that make a difference in the community while continuing to bridge digital/traditional library services.

- FY 21 Projects: Continuing Education, Five-Year Evaluation

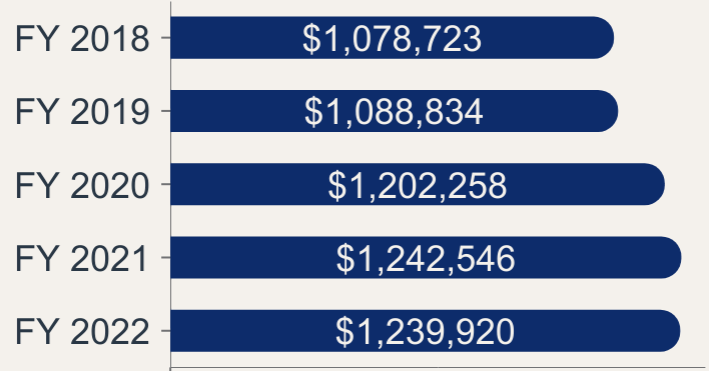
Goal 4: Internet Access - Every Montanan has access to the Internet.

- FY 21 Projects: None (ARPA projects)

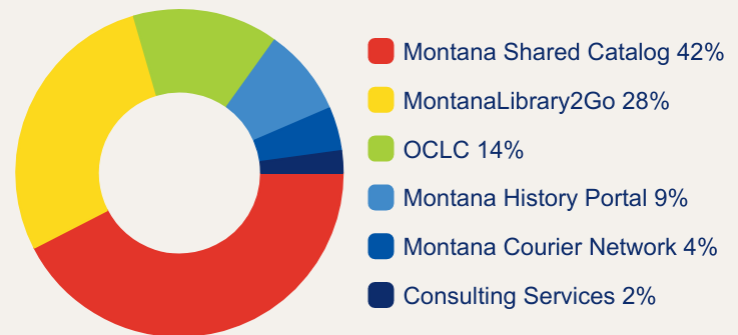
Goal 5: Adequate Support - Library community has adequate and stable support to provide the best library service possible.

- FY 21 Projects: Consulting Services

Montana LSTA Awards FY 2018-2022



Over the last three years, which LSTA funded program had the most impact?

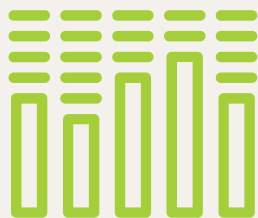


Source: Montana LSTA Five-Year Evaluation, 2018-2022

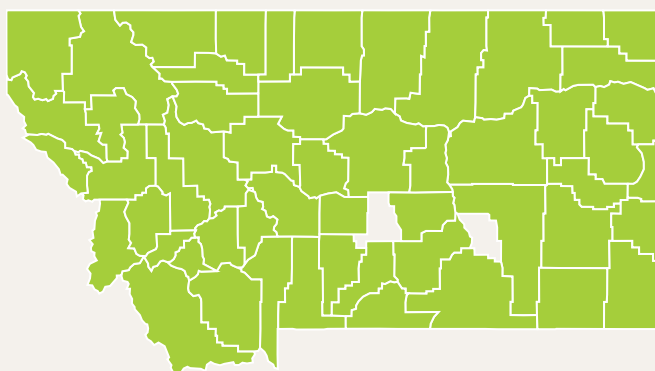
How is library service in your community better because of the investment of LSTA funds?

"Being part of the Montana Shared Catalog is huge. It makes my library contents and that of all other Montana libraries at the tip of patrons fingers ready to use with a simple request...As a small rural library, the ability to be part of a consortium increases my buying power and the Montana State Library bargaining on my library's behalf is the most fiscally responsible way to get the biggest return for every dollar spent. I personally as a taxpayer appreciate all the State library does to stretch our funding." - Montana library director, LSTA Five-Year Evaluation, 2018-2022

LSTA 21 expanded information access



Montana provided Talking Book services to **1,774 patrons** who cannot read standard print due to a visual, physical, or reading disability. Members loaned braille and audiobooks **143,887 times**.



44,129 unique patron from **54 Montana counties** borrowed e-books, audiobooks, and magazines from MontanaLibrary2Go. The **66,658 items** held by the consortium **circulated 1.5 million times**.

721 thousand pageviews delivered by the Montana History Portal connected Montanans with the state's rich history and culture.

The courier transited **482,495 books** and other library media around the state to fill patron requests placed via Montana Shared Catalog Sharing Groups, supporting affordable and efficient resource sharing.



4,617 library programs targeted at kids age 0-5 were attended by **76,414 children**. MSL educated librarians on research-based early literacy techniques so that they can partner with families and caregivers to build a love of learning in Montana youth.



What Montana library patrons say...

"My aunt was so blessed to have received this machine and endless books. She had a few strokes and wasn't able to hold a book to read. She had been a librarian for a few decades and couldn't live without being able to read books. It was such a blessing. I just wanted to thank you for the incredible generosity of this gift to her."
- Talking Book patron, letter to MSL, June 2022

"I am basically home bound and use the ebooks often and the online account management devices to maintain my books checked out/ returned/ renewed and to place holds. The overall library is vital to my quality of life as a 71 year old. I must emphasize that- vital to my quality of life and as a lifeline to the world. Thank you!"
- MontanaLibrary2Go patron, LSTA Five-Year Evaluation, 2018-2022

"Your posts on Facebook opened doors that I didn't know were there. I am 3rd Gen Montanan and because of age and health your posts give me new parts of our history to learn about. Thank you."
- Montana History Portal patron, LSTA Five-Year Evaluation, 2018-2022

"I am a homeschool, homemaker and martial arts coach. I have created lists on my account that allow me to easily access book titles on specific topics with ease. I put new books on hold weekly for homeschooling. Being able to do this online, with two young children, has made it possible for me to have success. I am extremely grateful!"
- Montana Shared Catalog patron, LSTA Five-Year Evaluation, 2018-2022

"Storytime at my library has been an amazing adventure for my granddaughter since she was 6 months old. I believe her time spent there has helped in the development of her speech and ability to interact with others. At 2 1/2, she looks forward to her time spent at her library and I am sure this experience will shape her lifetime."
- Montana public library patron, Love My Library survey, 2022

LSTA 21 supported local library staff

94%

of participants in Montana's library continuing education programs strongly agree or agree that "Applying what I learned will improve library services to the public"

357
library staff

earned

8,655
CE credits



Montana Shared Catalog support staff addressed **1,669 technical support cases** from **148 libraries**, and the knowledge base received **54,296 views**, streamlining support so that local library staff can focus more on service to the public.

What Montana library staff say...

"We are extremely appreciative of the assistance we have received from the consulting staff. We have been expertly guided through many projects including a building project from fundraising to construction. The staff has been here a long time but will be overturning soon. The new director and assistant will undoubtedly be seeking help and assurance from the good people available to us through the Montana State Library." - Montana library director, Consulting Services Survey, 2022

"I was able to come away with a few new ideas to collaborate with people/groups in my community to benefit our library. I am excited to work on them for the future. I also LOVED meeting and networking with other directors. I loved that connection!" - Directors Institute participant, MSL Training Evaluation, 2022

"Montana Shared Catalog has by far been the most impactful for our community. We are a small library and there is no way we would be able to carry all the books they request. For the staff, it has been important because of the technology support." - Montana library director, LSTA Five-Year Evaluation, 2018-2022

Planning for the next five years

Montana State Library hired a third-party evaluator to measure progress toward the goals outlined in Montana's 2018-2022 Five-Year Plan. Through a competitive bidding process, QualityMetrics was awarded the contract. The evaluator assessed the efficacy of the State Library's activities in advancing its goals, and developed key findings and recommendations to help shape the next Five-Year Plan. Through their research, QualityMetrics found that Montana had achieved or partially achieved all five goals, noting that additional progress would be made in the remaining two years of the plan. QualityMetrics recommendations in conjunction with data and feedback from library directors, Core Services Committees, and library federations were used to write the [Montana State Library's 2023-2027 Five-Year Plan](#). The new plan and the identified objectives will commence with the 2023 award period.



The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

LSTA 21 Budget Tracking

	Budget	Spent	Balance	% Spent
LSTA 21 ADMIN 4%	49,702.00	49,702.00	\$-	100%
LSTA 21 CONSULTING	305,027.90	267,448.65	\$37,579.25	88%
LSTA 21 CONTINUING EDUCATION	93,606.66	89,546.31	\$4,060.35	96%
LSTA 21 COURIER	9,950.00	6,139.35	\$3,810.65	62%
LSTA 21 DIRECTORS INSTITUTE	0.00	14,786.67	\$(14,786.67)	-
LSTA 21 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	3,000.00	0.00	\$3,000.00	0%
LSTA 21 ECONTENT	27,000.00	108,557.29	\$(81,557.29)	402%
LSTA 21 EVALUATION	0.00	23,800.00	\$(23,800.00)	-
LSTA 21 LIFELONG LEARNING	86,350.92	83,726.43	\$2,624.49	97%
LSTA 21 MONTANA LIBRARY NETWORK	70,330.78	52,536.04	\$17,794.74	75%
LSTA 21 MONTANA HISTORY PORTAL	96,032.89	103,468.87	\$(7,435.98)	108%
LSTA 21 MONTANA SHARED CATALOG	263,086.29	190,979.06	\$72,107.23	73%
LSTA 21 OCLC	55,941.00	56,014.20	\$(73.20)	100%
LSTA 21 PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS	10,000.00	6,900.00	\$3,100.00	69%
LSTA 21 TO BE DETERMINED	11,149.86	0.00	\$11,149.86	0%
LSTA 21 TALKING BOOK SERVICES	156,367.70	180,226.12	\$(23,858.42)	115%
LSTA 21 TRUSTEE	5,000.00	8,715.00	\$(3,715.00)	174%
Total LSTA 21	1,242,546.00	1,242,546.00	\$0.00	100%