

TO: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

FROM: Ken Adams, Montana Shared Catalog Director

DATE: October 24, 2011

RE: Montana Shared Catalog Update

New Libraries Phase 12: Summit Prep School went live on June 1. Ashland School has completed retro-cataloging and will be going live after receiving new library training in November. Absarokee Schools, Darby Schools and Sun River Valley Schools continue to add records manually. The three schools in the Libby School District are consolidating into two schools later this year.

New Libraries Phase 13: Manhattan K-8 School library applied for MSC membership using their own funds to pay vendor startup costs in June. This was done as an emergency replacement for their previous system that was destroyed by a lightning strike. Their data was migrated into the MSC and after a short test period, were live on the system on Sept 8. Whitefish Community Library (no longer a branch library in the Flathead County system) went live on July 5th and joined the MSC Partners sharing group on Sept 13th. The libraries migrating data; Fallon County, Stillwater County and Lolo School go-live on Oct 27, 2011. The three remaining libraries not migrating data; Broadus, Ekalaka and Prairie County are manually adding records and have planned go-live dates for them in late November.

Other MSC Library Info: The Whitehall K-8 and High School libraries have consolidated into one, K-12 library. The Alberton Branch Library for Mineral County has been profiled and configured. They will be going live after their records have been manually added. A new branch for Missoula Public Library's "WoW" bus was added in late September.

MSC Hardware and Software: A software patch was applied to the Symphony 3.3.1 ILS in July. No other significant, ILS software or hardware changes have been made since the last report. A scheduled power outage in the building revealed critical power and network backup issues that have since been resolved.

MSC Staff recently acquired, thru an annual subscription with ShowMyPC.com, a “cloud-based” online help desk system that includes remote desktop support, live chat with MSC support staff and an online trouble ticket reporting and tracking system. After a month of testing and configuration, the system was announced to the membership on Oct 7th and has been met with rave reviews.

RFI/RFP for Potential Replacement of the Current ILS: We are at the 10-year date of our current contract with SirsiDynix which requires an RFI (request for information) with vendors which may or may not lead to an RFP (request for proposal) by early next year. The RFI is currently in progress with twelve responses from potential vendors. The RFI committee meets on Nov 2 to review these responses.

MSC Fall 2011 Membership Meeting: The meeting was held Oct 6 and 7 in Bozeman at the Bozeman Public Library (Oct 6th committee meetings, training sessions and an special evening directors meeting) and at The Commons meeting center on Oct 7th. The main thrust of the meeting was to get members talking among their peer groups (“Birds of a Feather”) about future needs and governance of the MSC. The afternoon portion of meeting consisted of a presentation from EBSCO on the soon to be implemented EBSCO Discovery System (EDS). The next membership meeting will be held in Lewistown, May 3-4, 2012. All are welcome to attend.

MSC Support Staff: On May 23, 2011 the State Library hired Melody Condron as the new MSC systems technician and Amy Marchwick as the new technical assistant and trainer. The positions were hired under the new pay structure approved by the MSC membership and the state employment office allowing for a higher wage scale. Amy’s position fills a temporary position that has since been made permanent. Both are very familiar with the MSC, having worked several years at libraries that are members of the MSC. They both have proven to be extremely competent and intelligent workers and should provide great support and training to the membership for many years to come. Melody relocated to Helena from Libby and Amy is teleworking from her home in Belgrade.