



ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2005

Services to County, State & Federal Employees

Sharing Montana's Natural Heritage - continued

- ☞ Review and improvement of the accuracy of several thousand species records;
- ☞ Completion of ten major reports of biological inventories and assessments, including:
- ☞ An aquatic ecosystem classification for the Missouri River Watershed;
- ☞ A range-wide status assessment of Water *Howellia* (*Howellia aquatilis*);
- ☞ Assessment of highway bridge use by bats in south-central Montana (for the Montana Dept. of Transportation).

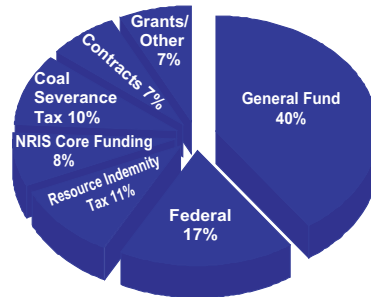
The Natural Heritage Program also made new tools and information available via the Web, including

- ☞ Species of Concern search function;
- ☞ New easier-to-use Web site design;
- ☞ And the addition of over 60 new reports, now available in full-text pdf format.

Also in 2005, the Natural Heritage Program reviewed options for its future management, which has been administered as a partnership of The Nature Conservancy and the Montana State Library, through a special contracting provision in the enabling legislation. Based on extensive input, the University of Montana was selected by the State Library as the new "administering partner" for the Natural Heritage Program. Under this arrangement, the Natural Heritage Program will continue as a program of the State Library, based in Helena, and all staffing and services will remain unchanged.

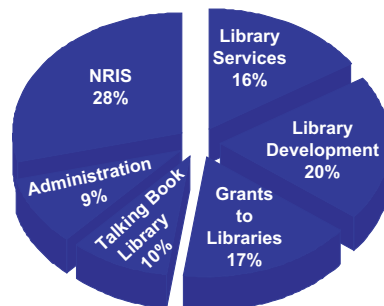


MSL Revenue



General Fund	1,713,407
Federal	686,358
Resource Indemnity Tax	391,086
NRIS Core Funding	283,570
Coal Severance Tax	375,389
Contracts	266,736
Grants/Other	101,578
	<u>3,818,124</u>

MSL Expenditures



Library Services	534,914
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Services to Libraries & the Public

Sharing Expertise

Providing continuing education opportunities for librarians and consulting with library directors and trustees are two important roles for the State Library's Library Development Department. The goal of these efforts is to ensure that library staff and trustees are able to provide quality information services to all Montanans.

The State Library offered workshops and training throughout 2005 on topics including:

- ☞ Developing and implementing a long-range plan
- ☞ Using statistics to tell the library's story
- ☞ Promoting libraries and library services in the community
- ☞ How to use a Blog
- ☞ Advising patrons on good reads
- ☞ Identifying additional funding sources
- ☞ Providing programming for Montana senior citizens
- ☞ Positioning the library as the center of the community or school
- ☞ Partnering with other community groups and organizations
- ☞ Using the statewide online magazine database
- ☞ Evaluating library services and personnel

In 2005, training for public library trustees was expanded with the Library Board Education Program (LBEP). This program offered basic board workshops to libraries with volunteer trustee trainers presenting the training. The program was very successful; trustees responded positively to training presented by peers having similar responsibilities and experiences.

In October, the State Library printed the Public Library District Handbook, a 57-page resource for library boards considering a change in organization and funding structure. The purpose of the handbook is to assist communities in assessing whether forming a library district would meet their needs and to explain the steps required to legally make this change. It will be distributed at no charge to librarians, trustees, and city and county officials involved with the management and funding of public libraries.

The State Library coordinated several statewide library grant initiatives during 2005. One initiative was the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Staying Connected Program to help public libraries provide computers and Internet access for patrons. Another grant initiative was the Professional Education and Employment for Librarians Project to help Montanans earn a graduate library degree and secure professional level employment.

Library Development Department consultants continue to be an important and much-appreciated resource across the state. Librarians from all types of libraries enjoy close working relationships with the consultants and are confident of receiving accurate and timely information on a host of library issues ranging from creating a library Web site to coping with the Patriot Act to registering for communication discounts.

Sharing Hopes and Dreams

During 2005, the Montana State Library continued working toward the goals of the Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) grant project, funded by a "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Those goals include providing the best in library services to Montanans by



Services to the Public

Sharing the Best Resources

2005 marked the Montana Library Network's (MLN) seventh anniversary, a remarkable birthday with great cause for celebration. MLN is now part of the Montana library landscape, helping Montana libraries to be on the forefront of library issues and developing technology - all to help Montana patrons get the stuff they want and need into their hands. Some different aspects of the Montana Library Network and its many successes in 2005 include:

The Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) is strong and very well.

- 📖 The MSC's reliability is assured by moving to a task-specific industrial-strength infrastructure of servers, storage, and data networks at the Montana State Library. Capacity and speed are no longer an issue.
- 📖 The MSC is financially sound
- 📖 New libraries enjoy tested and proven strategies for data migration, configuration, and training.
- 📖 Jennie Stapp has moved to the MSC from the Montana Historical Society, focusing on helping new MSC libraries and adding capacity for operations and support.

Self-service emerges.

- 📖 Six Montana Shared Catalog 'Partner Libraries' borrow and lend more (interlibrary loan reimbursable) materials between themselves, than does the rest of the state.
- 📖 Library users submit an unprecedented number of unmediated requests for materials owned by other Partner libraries.
- 📖 Self-service interlibrary loan is enormously popular in these six libraries, valued by library patrons, staff, and boards alike.
- 📖 The need for a quick, inexpensive means of moving print items between libraries reemerges as a priority for many libraries.
- 📖 The per-item value of an in-state loan, through the Interlibrary Loan reimbursement program, decreases to \$2.55 (a record low), with libraries receiving the lion's share of reimbursement generally being those featuring patron-initiated, unmediated, interlibrary loans.

Collaboration Gains Recognition and Traction.

- 📖 Montana libraries have limited collections, and Montana library patrons need their libraries to share. More is more, and when libraries offer patrons the benefits of having huge collections from which to find their perfect book (...article, map, recording, photograph, et cetera), they respond enthusiastically. There is renewed interest in realizing a statewide library card, or its functional equivalent.
- 📖 Montana librarians are few, and their tasks are many. Working together Montana's librarians can meet a wider array of user needs, more efficiently, providing better library services than possible by working alone.
- 📖 Montana libraries are finding new partners. Historical societies, archives, and museums all serve the same people, with similar or related content-resources, using many of the same tools. The Montana Memory Project is emerging as an instance of partners working together for their users' common good.

Plans are underway for the future

- 📖 In January 2005, the Networking Task Force, MSL staff, and representatives from the MSL Commission, with the aid of Alane Wilson from OCLC, began a process of identifying preferred MLN program outcomes.
- 📖 These preferred outcomes resulted in a pre-planning document and white paper exploring Montana's library environment, and a discussion of both Montana library challenges and opportunities. Montana's Libraries: Good Neighbors: A pre-planning document and white paper: A case study in rural libraries. Bruce Newell, April 2005.
- 📖 From this white paper, and working with other departments at MSL, ten agency-wide goals have been drafted. Under many of these goals are objectives suggesting MLN activities.



Message From the State Library

Commission Members:

Ron Moody of
Lewistown,
Commission Chair
Caroline Bitz of Box
Elder, Vice Chair
Linda McCulloch
of Helena,
Superintendent of
Public Instruction
Bruce Morton, of
Bozeman, Montana
State University
Libraries
Donald Allen of
Billings
Nora Smith of
Bozeman
Cindy Carrywater of
Hays

The past year was one of great change and accomplishment for the Montana State Library. Through a combination of hard work and innovation, the Montana State Library continued to provide the highest-quality service to our patrons in state and federal government, the public, and Montana's libraries and librarians.

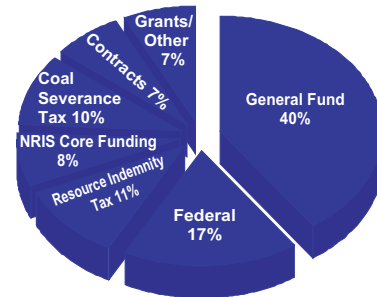
We began the year with a successful legislative session. The Montana Library Association and the Nature Conservancy sponsored a very successful "Evening at Montana Libraries" event at the State Library for all of Montana's legislators. Over 60 representatives attended, as well as over 98 librarians and other guests.

The State Library also sponsored successful legislation to change federation and library district law, and saw a small portion of their budget returned to assist Montana libraries with database purchases, interlibrary loan reimbursements, and to provide assistance to the federations. The State Library also provided each legislator with a profile of their district, based on information available in the State Library's collection. The district profiles were well received, and used throughout the session by Montana's lawmakers.

The past year is evidence of a bright and exciting future for the Montana State Library. With its stellar staff and innovative uses of information technology, the State Library will continue to provide and support basic services for our wide range of patrons, but will also find new ways to move with the times and ahead of the times - helping Montanans live and work in today's highly technological world.

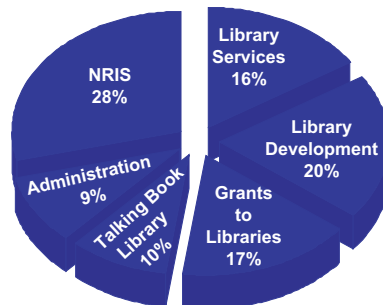
Don Allen
Montana State Library Commission Chair

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Message from the State Librarian

What's Your Story? Find it at the library!

I am pleased to present the Montana State Library's Annual Report for FY2005.

As the State Library for Montana, we are charged with serving a wide range of users, from state employees to Montana's librarians, from our partnering state and federal agencies to Montana's blind and physically disabled, from people off the street to our own employees. We somehow manage to serve each and every one of these individuals, agencies, and organizations thanks to our dedicated and thoughtful staff, and through our innovative, widely-recognized, and award-winning programs.

While it would be easier to rest on our laurels and enjoy our success for awhile, the Montana State Library is instead always investigating better ways to operate and to serve, looking for new ways to solve problems and answer challenges. 2005 was no different.

One of our larger projects of the year was a remodeling project that allowed for more effective space for several of our user groups. We have created a smaller, leaner but more inviting library space where patrons of all kinds seek our personalized reference services and enjoy a quiet place to study. We also have an enlarged main conference room and two new smaller conferencing areas for ourselves and others in which to gather for meetings and professional training. And, for our staff and partners, Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Natural Heritage Program, we have many fine office spaces.

Also to better serve our partners and patrons, the State Library moved to the broadband pay plan in 2005. Our employees, with their wide range of technical skills that are in high-demand, were brought up to a market-level pay scale, which is already working to increase the longevity of our staff. We also welcomed many new staff members on board, who are contributing new skills and ideas as we work to provide the best service possible to our wide range of user groups.

The State Library also worked to market all Montana libraries in 2005, and partnered with Governor Brian Schweitzer to encourage reading and library usage during National Library Week in April and National Library Card Sign-Up Month in September. Additionally, the State Library launched a new statewide marketing initiative, called "What's Your Story? Find it at the library!", which focuses Montana libraries attention on our seniors. With new partners, such as AARP and Mountain West Bank, the "What's Your Story?" campaign provides Montana libraries with a wide range of marketing tools, from TV, radio, and newspaper ads to programming ideas.

But the year was not all about work. We celebrated this year as well, because there is much to celebrate. The 20th anniversary of the Natural Heritage Program and the Natural Resources Information System was recognized at a party by our partners and users, many of whom shared wonderful warm memories of former and current employees and stories about how these innovative programs have helped Montanans in many ways. And, we held an open house in honor of the completion of our remodeling project, the 20th anniversary of NHP and NRIS, the 76th birthday of the State Library, and of our great staff who make all of these amazing things happen.

As we look forward to 2006, I know we will develop more innovative ways to continue serving our patrons, partners, and friends. And, again, there will be much to celebrate.



Darlene Staffeldt

Darlene Staffeldt
Montana State Librarian



Services to County, State & Federal Employees

Sharing Knowledge and Services

The Montana State Digital Library is dedicated to serving the information needs of approximately 13,000 state employees, headquartered around the state. MSDL is mandated to ensure that state government has the resources necessary for an informed workforce, with knowledge of critical issues, to make well-considered decisions. Additionally, MSDL serves the government information needs of all Montanans.

During the past year MSDL has worked hard to assimilate new content and manage existing information, starting with a redefined Collection Development Policy. This policy now clearly ties the State Library's collection policy to legislative mandates, outlines the strengths of the Library's existing print and electronic collection, identifies necessary partnerships and user groups, and presents the criteria and philosophy for developing further collection resources in accordance with legal mandate and professional standards.

MSDL has also addressed the increasing need for capturing and preserving electronic state publications with a commercial product that publishes, organizes, catalogs, and stores electronic publications in a way that meets the Library's management requirements of providing permanent public access to all Montanans. This new digital repository allows state-published materials in various formats and structures to be referenced within the Montana State Library's own online public access catalog. The OCLC Digital Archive creates a storage method by which consistent migration of digital formats and security against loss is managed by MSDL staff, but maintained by existing library services provider with a proven track record, a long list of high profile clients, a staff experienced with the demands of cataloging and metadata, and a solid understanding of the protocols of digital preservation for the long haul.

In preparation for the next legislative session, and along with the state's committee on Permanent Public Access, MSDL has taken on the challenge of redefining the concept of "publication" within an electronic context. This law will bring increased awareness to the Library's Government Publications Center and provide it the much needed clarity required to carry on the Library's work as cataloguers of government content.

As search engines increase in sophistication, so do the demands of carefully indexed content. MSDL has researched and proposed a process by which all state publications, as defined in proposed legislation, will be deposited. This research has resulted in an online submission form and revised Management Memo to all state agencies that makes submitting state documents an easy and straightforward process.

In order to make this transition easier on state employees, MSDL has increased outreach efforts to assess the information needs of state agencies. Some outreach projects include presenting at new employee orientations, increasing state agency library collaboration and information sharing, and creating campus-wide information resource brochures and presentations.

It is exciting working in an information services field where access, content development and technology converge. We continue to work on many long range goals such as adding value to existing content based on unique ways we can make useful combinations or enhance existing data. MSdL is uniquely positioned to take government information and customize it for our patrons and we will use every opportunity to take advantage of that potential.



Services to County, State & Federal Employees

Sharing Montana's Natural Resources

NRIS celebrated 20 years of service to Montana's state and federal agencies and to Montana citizens in 2005. Like the natural resources NRIS works hard to document, NRIS grew and adapted to provide even better service to its users in 2005.

In 2005, NRIS completed several projects that provide access to additional natural resource information and make accessing the information easier than ever. The projects include:

- " Addition of the National Hydrography Dataset at the 1:24k scale
- " Development of the Montana Schools Database
- " Mapping of all DEQ remediation sites
- " Yellowstone River Corridor Study data products
- " NAIP 2005 color ortho-photography for the entire state
- " High resolution (1 meter) satellite photographs of the larger communities in Montana
- " Air quality
- " County Health Profiles

The NRIS Web site is the primary point of access for natural resources and geographic data produced by Montana's state and federal agencies. Because the NRIS Web site is used by a wide range of individuals with a wide range of needs and skill level, ease of use is an absolutely vital component. In 2005, the following efforts were undertaken to improve service delivery:

- " Achieved significant investments in power and hardware infrastructure
- " Finalized improvements to data center architecture to increase availability
- " Trained staff for Storage Area Networks, DoubleTake and SQL Server
- " Implemented an OGC compliant metadata server

Partnerships

The Natural Resource Information System relies on many information-sharing partnerships to build the natural resources collection. In addition to its regular data-sharing partnerships with eleven state and eight federal agencies, NRIS developed several new partnerships in FY2005. Because NRIS provides data warehousing and data dissemination, natural resource agencies can better concentrate on fulfilling their respective mandates. This year, NRIS developed a new partnership with the MontanaView Consortium and made plans deploy a portal for LandSat imagery in mid-2006.

Sharing Montana's Natural Heritage

Montana's natural heritage is a diverse resource for our citizens and economy, and is central to our quality of life. Good information, such as that provided by the Montana Natural Heritage Program, is needed to maintain this valuable heritage as the state grows and develops.

In order to best meet the natural heritage information needs of Montana, the Montana Natural Heritage Program continues to grow and adapt successfully. The Montana Natural Heritage Program also celebrated its 20th anniversary as the state's source for information on native animals and plants.

- ☞ An ambitious 4-year Strategic Plan, based on extensive input from partners;
- ☞ Creation of a Partners Committee to maintain strong communication and coordination;
- ☞ The addition of thousands of new records to animal and plant species distribution databases;

(continued)

