



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2006



Your Montana Library: The Compass That Guides

The librarian, arguably, is one of the most adaptable of modern professionals. Librarians know from experience that, in our changing world, we must embrace change or become irrelevant to this and future generations. Even as we master change, however, our library must continue to be what people love about libraries because we do not forget that traditional library services remain valuable to our loyal fan base regardless of new technology.

As a result, we still nourish the love of reading in the hearts of our patrons young and old, but we also launch people into cyberspace. We continue to host story hours for children and parents; but we also offer classes on how to operate a computer, surf the Internet, and use email. And we design those classes specifically for parents and children as well as for many other specific groups. The community librarian who checks books in and out at the front counter also is a skilled Web guide for the local entrepreneur who needs to navigate complex online databases in order to research a new business plan that will bring new jobs to the local economy.

The modern librarian has indeed become a navigator of two worlds - old and new.

Libraries and librarians could have turned their backs on the digital revolution. Instead, they seized the challenges of the digital age and have made them into opportunities for library patrons. Libraries are, after all, playing an increasingly important role by providing free access to information resources and technology to everyone. Is there anything else out there that can make that claim?

Libraries will continue to be the great information equalizer in our society by providing this free access to information, and also by showing people how to access the information they need - whether it's on the Web or buried in an ancient book. Teaching others how to find, use, and evaluate information is a unique skill that librarians bring to a society suffering from information overload.

Although librarians actually have been leaders in the digital revolution, I keep hearing the skeptical question, "Won't the Internet make libraries obsolete?" In fact, the opposite is happening. As librarians can attest, new technology is making libraries even more vitally important, especially in rural and under-served communities throughout Montana where people often do not have access to the Internet at home.

Libraries have always been places of opportunity, self-help, and lifelong learning where we can find what we need for our health, school, jobs, and family. With today's library technology, libraries are reaching beyond their walls to connect their local patrons to the larger global community. Miles City reaches Munich and Kalispell accesses Krakow. Today's library technology means that information from around the world is just a few clicks away. Learning opportunities that once required world travel or a visit to a major university now wait just inside your local library door.



The 2005-2006 annual report demonstrates some of the unique ways the Montana State Library is working to help our citizens, government agencies, and businesses find and sort through the information they need, whether it's information from another state agency across the street or a document buried in a library half-way around the world.

Information technology certainly will continue to surge, and the State Library will play a key role in keeping Montanans on top of the information gathering and distribution wave. Your librarian views his or her mission as a vital public service because they know that knowledge is a critical resource for the future economic development of Montana. Quality decisions only come from quality information.

Yes, indeed, libraries are changing, and they will continue to change as new ways of managing information emerge. As the great instrument of information navigation in our personal world, not changing would make the library like the compass whose needle does not move.

The libraries that we know and love today will be very different places with very different offerings in just a few years, but they will continue to be like a visit home for people who cherish a good book, or for a child whose imagination is ignited by a story well told. Keeping the value of tradition while changing and moving forward is hard, unrelenting work. As demonstrated on these pages, the Montana State Library is poised to lead the charge to embrace change, all for the better of our patrons across Big Sky Country.

Sincerely,



Ron Moody
2006 Commission Chair

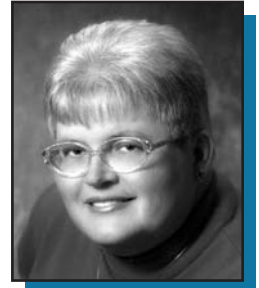


Serving Our Communities

I am proud to present the 2005-2006 Montana State Library annual report.

The Montana State Library operates with the conviction that our success is tied to the success of the communities we serve throughout our state. Thus, our future is linked to Montana's communities, and we are further joined by our mutual concerns and the prospect of building a better tomorrow.

This report details our developing relationships with the communities we serve - whether those "communities" are state government agencies and employees or cities of folks across our state. It is our statement on what investing in these communities means to us - on the social, institutional, and even personal level.



Here you will see our values in action. You will know that we measure the success of our organization by the success of our very diverse patron base. This is not a novel or new notion to the State Library. It's a fundamental principle. But its shape is dynamic, moving with the growth of our organization. It is at once deliberately global and consciously local.

To better serve these communities, we worked hard to develop a long range plan that considered how we can best continue to meet the information needs of our various patrons in a quickly-changing, technology-oriented society. Initially, we developed the plan based on our preferred future, and how we could measure our success against our patron satisfaction and outcomes. Then, we surveyed our patrons through email, the Internet, and focus-group meetings, and went back to the drawing board to take all of their comments into account.

The result is a strategic plan that will guide our agency and how we serve our various patrons through 2011. Like the State Library, our plan is user-centric, and provides a wide-range of measurable outcomes that:

- Meet the information needs of Montana state government;
- Ensure all Montana citizens have access to information created by their government;
- Support the role of all Montana libraries in delivering quality library content and services to their patrons;
- Work to strengthen local community public libraries;
- Ensure that Montanans who are visually or physically handicapped are provided access to library resources;
- And finally, measure our success by our patrons' and partners' successes.

While the future holds many exciting opportunities for the Montana State Library, our success will depend on how well we execute our strategic plan and manage the challenges that confront our organization. We must maintain our passionate patron focus and always work toward exceeding their rapidly increasing expectations, winning their vote as the source for quality information, knowledgeable staff, and forward-thinking that propels their own success.

While serving such a diverse-patron base definitely presents its challenges, the State Library is fortunate to be in a position to work with so many talented, thoughtful, and community-oriented individuals, businesses, and agencies. We look forward to serving your needs, whatever they may be, far into the future. And, we look forward to sharing our many successes together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene Staffeldt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Darlene Staffeldt
Montana State Librarian

Library Development Division

When Mineral County Public Library Board President Dan Arnsan needed help developing a new joint-usage library to better serve the needs of county residents, he knew who to call: the Montana State Library's Library Development Division.

"We needed to set up a joint-usage library to better serve our community," said Dan. "But we had no idea how to get started. I called the Library Development Division and they provided guidance on everything from raising money to the laws we needed to follow."

The result? The new St. Regis School and Community Library will be opening soon - promising a highly efficient, highly utilized library that better serves the community members and schoolchildren of St. Regis.

But the assistance provided by the Library Development Division hasn't stopped there.

"Our library director spoke very highly of the LDD staff, and so I contacted them right away after being elected board president," said Dan. "The staff is patient and knowledgeable, and always makes sure that all of my questions are answered. They are the quintessential public servants."

The Mineral County Library Board also uses the Library Development staff as a resource in preparation for County Commission meetings.

"Local politics can be tricky business," said Dan. "LDD staff has helped us negotiate these murky waters with their down-to-earth advice. And local folks have a lot of respect for the work of the State Library. When I've said at different meet-

ings 'The Montana State Library supports rural libraries...' I know I have their attention."

Dan, his board, and the Mineral County Public Library staff have made good use of the trainings and seminars held annually by the Library Development Division. They have attended the Library Board Training Program, the Summer Institutes, the Trustee Workshops, and the Fall Workshops.

They also make a point of attending the Federation Meetings to hear updates and get specialized training.

"We definitely take what we learn at these Library Development-sponsored events and implement them to better serve the public of Mineral County," said Dan. "In fact, as a direct result of these workshops, we've updated security in our building, improved signage in the library and throughout the community, and established a library equipment depreciation account."

All of these improvements mean a better library system and better libraries mean increased access to information and entertainment and more opportunity for all Mineral County residents.

"Without the support of the State Library's Library Development Division, my job as library board president would be infinitely more difficult," said Dan. "With the support of the State Library, I know that I'm getting the correct information to help our board make the right decisions for Mineral County residents."

"The staff is patient and knowledgeable, and always makes sure that all of my questions are answered. They are the quintessential public servants."



Montana Shared Catalog

Honore Bray wears a lot of different hats. She's Director of the Missoula Public Library, and also works as part of the reference staff. She recently completed her Masters in Library Science degree. And, in her private life, Honore is a self-described "book fiend."

You'd think that keeping up with work, school, and play would send Honore in a million different directions. But the Montana Shared Catalog helps Honore in every aspect of her life.

"The Montana Shared Catalog is an easy way for me to access materials I need for work, the Masters in Library Science degree I just completed, and even materials for my private life," said Honore.

When working as part of the reference staff at the Missoula Public Library, Honore uses all of the resources provided by the Montana Shared Catalog. Honore can help patrons search for materials at Missoula Public, but she can also look for books at any of the participating 78 Montana Shared Catalog libraries.

"Being able to access the collections of all of the other MSC libraries makes it easier and faster for patrons to get what they want and need," said Honore. "Using the Shared Catalog also helps patrons realize how many types of materials are available in Montana's public libraries - all available for free just for the asking."

The Shared Catalog also helps Honore work more efficiently from wherever she may be.

"Even if I'm away from the library, I can work on a book order by accessing the catalog online and determining if the items I want to order fit into our collection," she said.

Honore also feels that using the Montana Shared Catalog saves her and her patrons a lot of time because all of the resources are right in one place.

"I used to have to use the "Reader's Guides" and then pull each magazine, find the article, and photocopy it for later use," said Honore. "Now, I can conduct a search on a topic by accessing the catalog and the databases attached to it. Everything is right there - all connected - with full-text articles, books, and other media about the topic. And, remote access to the information allows me to do this work from anywhere with Internet access!"

As a library patron, Honore uses the Shared Catalog in a way that patrons of all the Shared Catalog libraries do.

"I'm an avid reader; I consider being well-read part of my job," said Honore. "So I depend on the Shared Catalog to point me in the direction of books being recommended by TV show hosts and books that have won recent awards. I also check the "New York Times Best-sellers" lists regularly. These resources help me figure out what to read next, and they also are great indicators of what our patrons will come in requesting at the library."

Honore also depends on the Montana Shared Catalog staff for lots of things, from training to troubleshooting.

"The Shared Catalog staff is an absolute vital lifeline for Montana libraries and library patrons," said Honore. "It's an incredible thing these days to call on the phone and get a live person who is able to answer your questions and also troubleshoot any technical problems that may arise."

When Honore was director of a small public library without an IT staff, she estimates that having access to the Shared Catalog staff saved the library thousands of dollars in IT assistance.

But perhaps one of Honore's favorite things about being part of the Montana Shared Catalog is being connected to a group of libraries and librarians who are forward-thinking and dedicated to sharing resources to provide better service to their patrons.

"It's such an amazing group of people that are part of the Shared Catalog; we really depend on one another for ideas and support," said Honore. "I've been involved since the beginning, and as it grows and more libraries join, we are able to do even more for the people of Montana."

These days, Honore cannot imagine life without being part of the Shared Catalog.

"Library patrons want the world," said Honore. "And why shouldn't they? The Montana Shared Catalog is the easiest, fastest way for them to access it."





"Using the Shared Catalog also helps patrons realize how many types of materials are available in Montana's public libraries - all available for free just for the asking."

In Fiscal Year 2006, the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) accomplished the following highlights:

- Added 22 new libraries in 13 communities. These libraries are multi-type: nine are public libraries and branches, nine are school libraries and four are special libraries. They serve teachers, high school and grade school students, medical professionals and staff, human resource organizations, and public patrons. MSC member libraries grew to 78 libraries by fall 2006.
- Facilitated "user sharing" groups among several MSC libraries. These libraries work cooperatively to provide their patrons with a wealth of material owned by multiple libraries. Library patrons can check out and return items at any of these participating libraries. The Miles City Public Library and the Miles Community College Library joined the Flathead, Missoula, Hamilton, Polson, Anaconda, and Drummond libraries as part of the growing MSC Partner group. The brand new "MSC 4 Rivers" group is sharing items between Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Virginia City, Ennis, Whitehall, and Three Forks.
- Supported MSC Partner libraries as they began offering "floating collections" to their shared users. When adult, new fiction titles are checked in at a borrowing Partner library, the item remains on the shelf at that library if not requested by another user. This gives the Partner libraries the ability to offer rotating, new titles to their local patrons and to share their items with others.
- Purchased over 9,000 electronic book titles in the last year. MSC patrons can browse electronic collections of academic, medical, and recreational titles, selecting and perusing material from home, school, or office.
- Passed the eight million mark in total circulation of material to users since its inception in 2002. The MSC circulates roughly 2 million items annually. A significant number of these items were requested directly by users, supplied by another resource sharing MSC library, and delivered within a day of the request.



Honore catches up on some reading.

Natural Resource Information System

Olympus Technical Services, a Helena-based company that provides a wide range of environmental design, remediation, and spill response services to the Rocky Mountain area, has been using NRIS since the early 1990s - way before NRIS made its huge number of resources available online.

"Even back then, it was a convenient, one-stop shop for Montana natural resource information," said Alan Stine, Principal Hydrogeologist for Olympus.

Today, as part of the State Library, NRIS works to make accessing information on Montana's natural resources even faster and easier by making everything available via the Internet. The staff of NRIS works with state and federal agencies and private contractors to constantly create new information and to update the existing information, sometimes on a weekly basis, so that anyone can access it via the Internet and know that what they're getting is up-to-the-minute and precise data.

Olympus depends on NRIS, and the partnerships NRIS has formed over the years, to help Olympus serve their customers better and more efficiently.

"We provide environmental services to a client base that includes both the State of Montana and private industry," said Stine. "Because of NRIS, we are

able to quickly access a wide variety of databases from different state departments. If NRIS weren't doing their important work, we'd have to physically visit various state offices and then pore over printed lists without the benefit of a geographic sorting mechanism."

Olympus recently was tasked with investigating a leaking underground storage tank site for the Montana Department of Transportation. Olympus had not previously worked in this geographic location and thus had no knowledge of what to expect for subsurface conditions.

"We used NRIS' Montana Digital Atlas and were quickly able to see that there were no other investigations of contaminated sites in the area that would provide information on subsurface conditions, such as soil and rock types and depth to ground water," said Stine.

"However, the Digital Atlas did show the locations of water supply wells in the area and the static water levels in those wells.

We were able to use that information to select specific wells for which we obtained drill logs from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology - all on the NRIS Web site."

Thanks to the one-stop shopping at NRIS, Olympus quickly had the information needed to select an appropriate drilling technology and estimate investigation costs. Later in the project, Olympus accessed NRIS again - this time to provide topographic maps and aerial photographs to develop base maps for the site.

In addition to the mountains of information NRIS posts online, Olympus depends on the NRIS staff as a valuable and easy-to-access resource.

"To build base maps for all of our clients, we need to be able to 'stitch' topographic quadrangles and aerial photographs together," said Stine. "This requires setting specific colors in the NRIS maps to be transparent. The NRIS staff provided us with the tools and procedures for making this work so that we could easily alter their materials for our own use."

There's no question that NRIS makes life easier for Olympus Technical Services and all of their clients.

"If NRIS ceased to exist for some reason, the result would be a giant step backward for Olympus," said Stine. "We'd still get the job done, but we'd have to readjust and work a lot harder and take a lot more time with many more steps. This would increase costs significantly to both our government and industry clients."

Olympus depends on NRIS, and the partnerships NRIS has formed over the years, to help Olympus serve their customers better and more efficiently.





Alan can access everything NRIS-related right from his desktop.

In Fiscal Year 2006, the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) accomplished the following highlights:

- Worked cooperatively with the National Resources Conservation Service, the Dept. of Environmental Quality, and the Dept. of Administration to host and provide access to the 2005 National Aerial Imagery Program orthophotos of Montana. These georeferenced color air photos are now available for the entire state and have been used widely by NRIS patrons to make better decisions in areas such as natural resource conservation, wildlife management, land use planning, and wetlands identification.
- Worked cooperatively with the MontanaView Consortium to create a Web site and archive for satellite images of Montana, which are in the public domain. See it at: <http://montanaview.org>.

Organizations that have purchased Landsat images of Montana can now make them freely available through the MontanaView archive. This effort will extend the use of remote sensing technology in K-12 education and throughout the public and private sectors. Remote sensing data has a wide variety of applications to fields such as research, rangeland management, and agriculture.

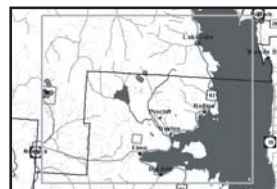
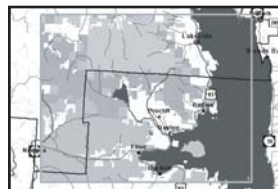
- Maintained and regularly updated a comprehensive collection of Montana-related natural resources and GIS data, which is then made available to patrons via the Internet. NRIS migrated its Web applications and databases to state-of-the-art servers that are load-balanced and fully redundant in order to provide faster response times to the more than 3,000 patrons who visit the NRIS Web site each day.
- Provided stewardship for the Montana portion of the National Hydrography Dataset, which is the official inventory of surface water resources, such as rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds, and marshes. Hydrography has been recognized as one of the critical layers in the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure. It is used widely for maps and applications that support informed decision making throughout government and in the private sector.

These five maps of the Flathead area show examples of the vast amount of information available through NRIS as well as one of the many ways the program interacts with Natural Heritage.



Mining Districts and Abandoned Mine Data

Ownership



Floodplain Mapping

Animal Species of Concern

Natural Heritage Program

When Biologist Bill Semmens of the Montana Department of Transportation needs to complete an environmental review of proposed highway projects, he knows where to turn to get all of the information he needs: the Montana Natural Heritage Program.

"I use the resources provided by the Natural Heritage Program for the bulk of the projects I work on," said Bill. "I have counted on information from the Natural Heritage Program for obtaining data on animals, plants, and fish to assess potential impacts of proposed conservation easements, subdivision development, and highway projects. The information provided helps greatly with my work and gives me a heads-up when special provisions or consultation with state and federal agencies are needed to complete a job."

To make all of this information available, the Heritage Program employs a wide range of folks with different specialties - from zoologists to database specialists. Their scientists work in Montana's outdoors all summer, conducting surveys to fill important data "gaps." The Heritage Program's database specialists assemble this biological survey data, along with other information from state and federal agencies, universities, and individuals. After being carefully reviewed for quality and accuracy, this information is entered into the program's exten-

sive data system, which is then accessible to anyone with an Internet connection - or just a telephone.

That's where Bill Semmens comes in.

"The Heritage Program makes accessing an incredible amount of information as easy as clicking your mouse," said Bill. "Without the Heritage Program, this information would be difficult to obtain, increasing the amount of search time required. Because the Heritage Program serves up the information all in one place, the citizens and agency customers are served very efficiently."

Bill uses the information and resources developed and provided by the Heritage Program to complete his work and to make his job easier, which eventually helps nearly everyone in Montana - either through the development of roadways, the safekeeping of Montana's unique wildlife, or through saving the taxpayer extra dollars.

"I use the Heritage Program services often to help complete highway maintenance projects," said Bill. "A lot of maintenance projects need to be completed in a short time period. With the assistance of the Heritage Program, we are able to obtain the information needed quickly to avert any possible impacts associated with species of concern and threatened and endangered species. This helps us

avoid any possible repercussions from state and federal laws, and helps us save a lot of time and energy."

But Bill makes use of a lot more than just the data resources made available by the Natural Heritage Program. He also depends heavily on the Heritage Program staff, who are available by phone to assist with information requests. That's something that a Montana Department of Transportation employee can appreciate - especially when an emergency arises.

"We had a culvert that collapsed under the highway near Hysham and we needed to get it repaired quickly," said Bill. "I contacted the folks at the Heritage Program, explained the situation, and they went way above and beyond what was required to get me all the information I needed on that very same day."

Overall, Bill and the Montana Department of Transportation know that they can depend on the Heritage Program - whatever job they may be working on.

"One of the greatest aspects of the Montana Natural Heritage Program is that the information you get is top-notch," said Bill. "When you cite that the data came from the Heritage Program, you can be comfortable that it's accurate and from a trusted source. When I need information to get the job done, I know I can count on the Montana Natural Heritage Program."

"Without the Heritage Program, this information would be difficult to obtain, increasing the amount of search time required. Because the Heritage Program serves up the information all in one place, the citizens and agency customers are served very efficiently."





Bill Semmens on the job.

In Fiscal Year 2006, the Natural Heritage Program (NHP) accomplished the following highlights:

- Responded to over 1,000 requests for information, reflecting an average of 100 requests every month or about five requests per business day. Most of these are project area reviews, which are required for environmental assessments and impact statements, permitting, noxious weed control projects, and transportation projects.
- Launched a new Web portal that provides broad access to vast information on Montana's native species and habitats. The first dataset to be made available through this portal included over 300,000 bird observation records. The NHP Web portal also enables users to contribute their own observations to the NHP databases, empowering citizens to own sightings.
- Began to provide information on Aquatic Resources, including a Web-based guide to aquatic ecosystems of the Missouri River Watershed.
- Grew the NHP's Species Occurrence database from 6,000 to more than 16,000 records, nearly tripling it in size. The Observation database grew by 33,000 to a total of 283,000 records.
- Conducted research to better accurately assess the status of land snails, since several species were recently petitioned for federal listing in other Western states. The results of these surveys have already shown some species to be more common than previously thought. As a result of NHP's surveys, two snail species have been removed from "Globally Imperiled" status and global significance ranks have been lowered for three other species.
- Received a "Technology Transfer Award" by the U.S. Forest Service for "extraordinary accomplishments in providing research, information, and learning tools regarding aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal species and ecological communities for Forest Service resource specialists."
- Received the 2006 "Outstanding Technological Advancement Award" for a natural heritage program at NatureServe's International Leadership Conference, recognizing NHP's achievements in using innovative technology to make more information on Montana's natural heritage available.

Heritage employees study Montana wildlife habitats and the creatures that live in them.



Library Information Services

As a student at Carroll College, Diane Tipton learned the ins and outs of the Montana State Library by working there for two years as a work-study student.

She had no idea that she'd be back haunting the stacks of the State Library years later as a Statewide Information Officer with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

"One of my job responsibilities is to write news feature stories about Montana's fish, wildlife, and State Parks," said Diane. "It's important for me to find interesting and useful information from credible sources to share with Montanans. The State Library helps me do that with its warm, friendly, and efficient service."

Diane is responsible for generating a news feature story every other week.

"I need to do a lot of research to prepare to interview the biologists, ecologists, and other experts who specialize in my subject matter," Diane said. "Having access to the State Library helps me get the background I need and improves the quality of the work that I am able to produce."

Diane depends on the librarians at the State Library as much as she depends on some of the services.

"I've saved hours by being able to ask a librarian, by email or in person, to locate a book title for me," said Diane. "I can keep working, knowing that soon

the librarian will call to tell me the information I need is in."

One of the services provided by the State Library that Diane relies on most is Interlibrary Loan. Even if it is not on the shelves at the State Library, Interlibrary Loan allows Diane to access the latest information for the work she is doing without her agency having to buy the material. And, she doesn't even have to leave her desk to get it.

"I recently had to write a story on ravens and learned on the Internet that there was a new book out on raven research," said Diane. "I contacted the State Library and had this recently published and expensive book in my hands in a couple of days. Reading the book helped me interview the Yellowstone biologists who had worked with the author for a unique Montana angle on the story."

"Having access to the State Library helps me get the background I need and improves the quality of the work that I am able to produce."

Diane knows that working with the State Library enables her to do a better job in her work as a Statewide Information Officer.

"Without the State Library, I would not be able to be as effective in my job and I probably wouldn't get as many stories written in a year as I do now," she said.



Diane depends on the State Library to help her conduct research quickly and efficiently.





In Fiscal Year 2006, the Montana State Library's Library Information Services Division program accomplished the following highlights:

- Digitized 174 existing "Land Use Maps" and made them available online as part of the Montana Memory Project.
- Made MACHine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) records available for all new state publications that require original cataloging.
- Created a FTP site where depository libraries can download MARC records into their local systems. See it at:
<http://msl.mt.gov/spc/marcrecords/marcretrieve.asp>
- Developed a digital state publication submission site, allowing all state agencies to submit digital copies of publications. Find it at:
<http://msl.mt.gov/spc/forms/submit.asp>

**Montana Memory Project
Preserves Montana's History**

The Montana Memory Project consists of a consortium of institutions working together to preserve and make available Montana-related collections and items. The online digital content manager provides access to a wealth of digital newspapers, maps, photos, rare books, and other historic objects.



Fergus High School Class of 1906



Parmly Billings Library
circa 1920 - 1929



Talking Book Library

When Mrs. Betty Lou Berg of Butte lost her sight over 18 years ago, an eye doctor gave her the contact information for the Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL). But Mrs. Berg was one step ahead: she already knew about MTBL because years before her own diagnosis, Mrs. Berg's dyslexic daughter had received talking books.

"When I lost my sight, one of the things that was most troubling to me was losing my ability to read and to connect with the world through books, magazines, and newspapers," said Mrs. Berg. "What a relief to know that there is a service in Montana that provides reading material - both for information and research as well as for pleasure - for people who cannot use regular print materials."

Mrs. Berg uses a wide range of the Talking Book Library's materials and services.

"I get everything - from Braille books to cassette books to audio maga-

zines to descriptive videos (movies narrated for the blind)," said Mrs. Berg.

Even with a collection of nearly 70,000 items, including magazines, newspapers, and movies, the Mon-

tana Talking Book Library doesn't have everything Mrs. Berg needs. So, one of the services she uses most often is interlibrary loan of materials from other states and even other countries to supplement the Montana Talking Book Library's collection.

"Accessing these materials has helped me in two ways," said Mrs. Berg. "My desire and need to know and learn new things is quenched. And, through that, I am able to connect with lots of people on lots of different levels."

One person Mrs. Berg is able to connect with is her granddaughter. As a right-handed person, Mrs. Berg wasn't sure how she was going to teach her left-handed granddaughter how to knit.

"Accessing these materials has helped me in two ways, My desire and need to know and learn new things is quenched. And, through that, I am able to connect with lots of people on lots of different levels."

"Then it dawned on me," she said. "I could get a book on knitting left-handed so I could learn how to do it in order to teach my granddaughter."

When Mrs. Berg needs new reading material, she usually searches Web-

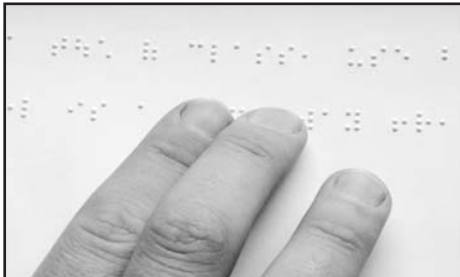
Opac herself or she reviews the bi-monthly catalog she receives. But when she reaches a dead-end there, Mrs. Berg knows that she can call the Montana Talking Book Library's staff to help her locate the titles she needs.

"When I call the Library, I'm usually armed with a subject or author - not the title," said Mrs. Berg. "But the reader advisors on staff do searches for me based on what I have in mind and they come up with just the right books and other resources. Then, in a couple of days, I get the books in the mail!"

Thanks to the Talking Book Library, Mrs. Berg is able to conjure up all sorts of ideas based on the novels, non-fiction books, and magazines she reads. But one thing she never wants to imagine is life without the Talking Book Library.

"Life without the Montana Talking Book Library would be devastating," she said. "The very idea of it - it would be the equivalent of taking away all printed materials from a sighted person. You really can't fathom what life is like without being able to access books and magazines and movies until, suddenly, you can't. I don't even want to think about life without my talking books!"





In Fiscal Year 2006, the Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) accomplished the following highlights:

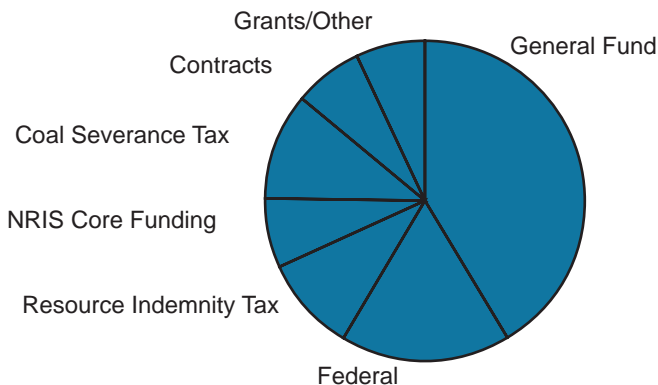
- 1,139 applications were mailed to individual Montanans, including ophthalmologists and optometrists; nursing, blind and education associations; public libraries; independent living facilities, and nursing homes and much more.
- Thirty percent (30%) more adults signed up for MTBL's service than in 2005.
- Over 64% more outreach contacts were made than in 2005.
- 1,423 new national and Montana book, magazine and descriptive video titles were added to MTBL's patron collection, making available over 6,000 copies of these titles.
- Nearly 100 more machines and accessories were added for use by patrons.
- MTBL's 97 volunteers donated nearly 8,400 volunteer hours. MTBL gained two new volunteers and facilitated five volunteer workshops during the year.
- The percent of patrons using online services increased to almost half.



The Talking Book Library offers a collection of nearly 70,000 items to their patrons.

Montana State Library

2006 Montana State Library Revenue and Expenditures

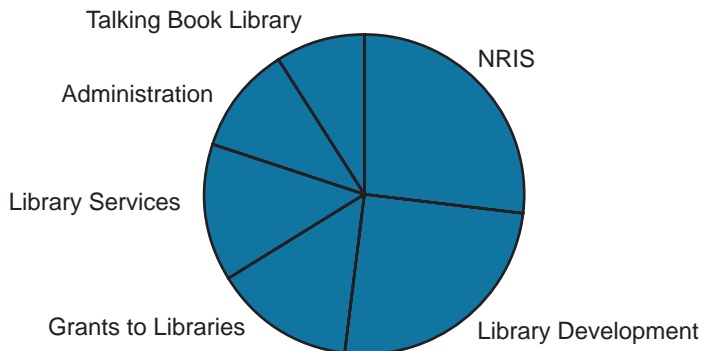


Revenue

General Fund	1,671,787
Federal	692,656
Resource Indemnity Tax	391,436
NRIS Core Funding	283,570
Coal Severance Tax	436,512
Grants/Other	282,995
Contracts	281,583
Total	4,040,539

Expenditures

NRIS	1,086,881
Library Development	1,013,018
Grants to Libraries	574,644
Library Services	560,849
Administration	440,179
Talking Book Library	364,968
Total	4,040,539



A Statistical Snapshot of the Montana Public Library System

As derived from the 2006 Montana Public Libraries Statistics.

Books	2,803,209
Print Serials	5,235
Audios	100,457
Videos	114,260
Electronic Books	213,085
Electronic Serials	67
Databases	276
Other Collection Items	22,774
Total Collection	3,259,363

Registered Borrowers	394,223
Librarian Staff	338
Library Visits	4,057,664
Adult Items Loaned	3,646,973
Juvenile Items Loaned	1,825,985
Adult Programs	1,660
Young Adult Programs	328
Childrens Programs	6,086
Computers	812

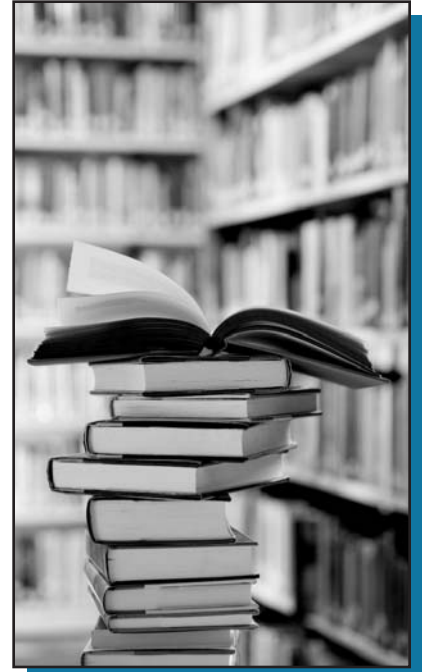


Story hour at the Parmly Billings Library.

Montana State Library Values

MSL believes that:

- Quality information leads to quality decisions.
- Knowledge is a critical resource for the future economic development of Montana and Montanans.
- Information produced by government should be easily accessible, widely distributed, and free to citizens.
- Montanans need and value convenient access to quality information resources.
- Responsive to patrons' needs, the State Library adds value to data and information by integrating it with other data and information.
- Citizens must be able to privately seek information without fear of scrutiny.
- Libraries play a vital role in providing Montana with access to knowledge and new information.
- Libraries are critical for the just, efficient, and effective collection, management, and distribution of quality information in a digital age, and vital in a democracy founded on the principle of an educated and inquisitive citizenry.
- Information about natural resources, the land which is central to quality of life and economy, is especially critical to Montana citizens and government.



Contact Information

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