

Montana State Library Network Advisory Council
FY 2016 Work Plan
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

Description of the Council

The Network Advisory Council (NAC) represents the interests of all types of Montana libraries and maintains the perspective of statewide geographical balance as it explores technology resources, assists with the official procurement process of those resources, reviews and evaluates the feasibility, design, and outcomes of statewide library projects; assists with statewide planning, and advises the State Librarian. NAC members are appointed by, and serve at the direction of, the State Librarian.

NAC appointees must collectively represent the interest of all types of Montana libraries and provide a statewide perspective. Knowledge of library leadership and collaboration, library operations, library technology, information access issues, and awareness of the information needs of Montana citizens are considered important qualifications for NAC membership.

Mission Statement

Explore and evaluate available and anticipated information technology resources and communicate with and advise the Montana State Library and the Montana library community on the provision of quality information resources which will enrich the lives of the citizens they serve.

Ongoing Tasks

- Research and review technology-based resources and services which may potentially benefit Montana libraries and citizens and make recommendations to MSL staff on which resources and services to explore
- Assist MSL to prepare library technology and information resources Request for Proposal (RFP) documents as part of the official state procurement process
- Serve on RFP evaluation committees as part of the official state procurement process
- Make recommendations to the State Librarian on the purchase, design, implementation, and evaluation of statewide products, projects and services that will benefit Montana libraries and the citizens they serve
- Make recommendations to the State Librarian on the annual Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) budget for statewide projects and services
- Contribute to the strategic and long range planning efforts of MSL
- Advise MSL on other matters that the State Librarian determines will benefit from the statewide and multi-type library perspective offered by the NAC membership
- Communicate the goals and objectives of the NAC and MSL to librarians around the state; act as an educational resource for librarians in the area of library technologies, seek feedback from library colleagues on matters within the purview of the NAC and share that feedback with the State Librarian; serve as an official channel for communication on specific matters as requested by the State Librarian.

GOAL ONE: Define the evaluation criteria for statewide pilots, projects and programs

NAC Work Objectives:

- Determine criteria specific to pilots, projects or programs to more effectively plan for new efforts and evaluate ongoing ones
- As part of the annual NAC's retreat, assess possible new pilots and timelines for each effort

GOAL TWO: Provide quality statewide databases and online resources to Montana library patrons

NAC Work Objectives:

- Document the usage and effectiveness of the statewide subscriptions (MSL staff and NAC)
- Based on the results of the Library Development Study Task Force process, establish outcomes for statewide resources based on qualitative and quantitative measures that will guide a procurement process for a possible new suite of databases and online resources
- Assist MSL in determining priorities should funding be reduced

GOAL THREE: Make significant strides to create a truly statewide Discovery and Delivery architecture, through collaboration and conversation between partners.

NAC Work Objectives:

- Engage in statewide meetings between NAC, MSL, UM, and OMNI particularly focusing on the new collaborative efforts between the academic libraries
- NAC members who attend the annual academic summit report back to the Council
- Support the State Librarian's annual attendance at the academic summit
- Investigate and understand the scope of the current and upcoming discovery systems being used by Montana libraries, including the statewide DiscoverIt, the academic's Primo, the MSC's Enterprise catalog front end and OCLC's new discovery service.
- Specifically investigate what K-12 schools are utilizing for discovery and retrieval. Initially, this means assisting MSL staff with the creation of a timeline and identifying methods to guide the investigation process.

GOAL FOUR: Be involved in certain aspects of the growth of the Montana Memory Project

NAC Work Objectives:

- Assist in examining alternatives to the ContentDM product through an RF
- Based on the results of the Library Development Study Task Force process, serve on a potential RFP evaluation committee to explore alternatives to ContentDM
- Assist in evaluating an evolving MMP website
- Continue to analyze return on investment of LSTA monies invested in this project

GOAL FIVE: Enhance and develop better communication between MSL, NAC and Libraries

NAC Work Objectives:

- Disseminate information
- Provide orientation sessions to new members
- Review job description on NAC web page
- Explain advisory role of NAC
- Make use of existing MSL communication tools to provide outreach
- Make use of an MSL app that is provided for use by the NAC
- Be where the people are
- Encourage members to attend Offline 2016
- Include NAC members as part of the MSL Conversations with Commissioners session at MLA
- Identify education needs of the NAC and work with MSL staff to meet those needs

GOAL SIX: NAC members attend professional development conferences or other continuing education opportunities, communicate with other, similar advisory groups assisting other state libraries in the region, and visit Montana libraries participating in MSL pilots, projects or programs.

NAC Work Objectives:

- Create a calendar of conference opportunities (MSL)
- Work with the Director of Statewide Library Resources to identify particular advisory groups, states and programs similar to Montana's situation, in order to initiate communication and sharing of ideas for library development
- Plan at least two road trips for identified NAC members to visit libraries