

2017 LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT

Talking Book Library

From the Montana State Library

1515 E 6th Avenue
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msl.mt.gov

SNAPSHOT #2

A Conrad native who lost his sight says he has two modes of entertainment – radio and our Talking Books. His favorite Talking Books are about Montana history, where this lifelong learner can find information on the “Glacial Lake Missoula”, “Blackfoot Lodge Tales” and “More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Montana Women.”

- Users with visual, physical, and reading disabilities range in age from six months to 106 years young.
- Patron numbers fluctuate between 2,400 and 4,460 and include individuals, institutions, healthcare facilities, public libraries and schools.
- 802 veterans are patrons.
- The focus of the Talking Book Library recording program is almost exclusively on Montana history and authors.
- “Legends of the Fall” is the most popular local Montana audio book in circulation.
- Our local audio books promote Montana tourism through the Interlibrary Loan program with other states and the library’s Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service.
- Readership of titles available in digital is up 70 percent in the past five years.
- 90 percent of the Talking Book Library national collection is available digitally; 25 percent of the local Talking Book collection is converted to digital.
- In 2016, the Montana Constitution was recorded for Talking Book Library patrons.
- Statistical projections on the visually impaired population indicate that the need for Talking Book Library services in Montana will continue to increase. For example, the Journal of American Medical Association reports that visual impairment and blindness in Montana adults is projected to rise from 2.11 per capita in 2015 to 3.42 per capita in 2050. That’s an increase from 2,000 to 3,000.