

2017 LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT

Library Development - Shared Resources

From the Montana State Library

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SNAPSHOT #3



The Montana Memory Project is simply “amazing,” notes one satisfied library patron who found historic information on her family. The Montana Memory Project showcases Montana history and culture online. To date, about 50 libraries and museums have contributed 708,065 pages of content to the Project, including photos, diaries, maps, audio recordings and more. These materials are online: <http://montanamemory.org/>. It’s one of a number of ways the Montana State Library and the Montana library community work together to deliver rich, local information resources to people inside and outside of Montana’s borders. Other programs include:

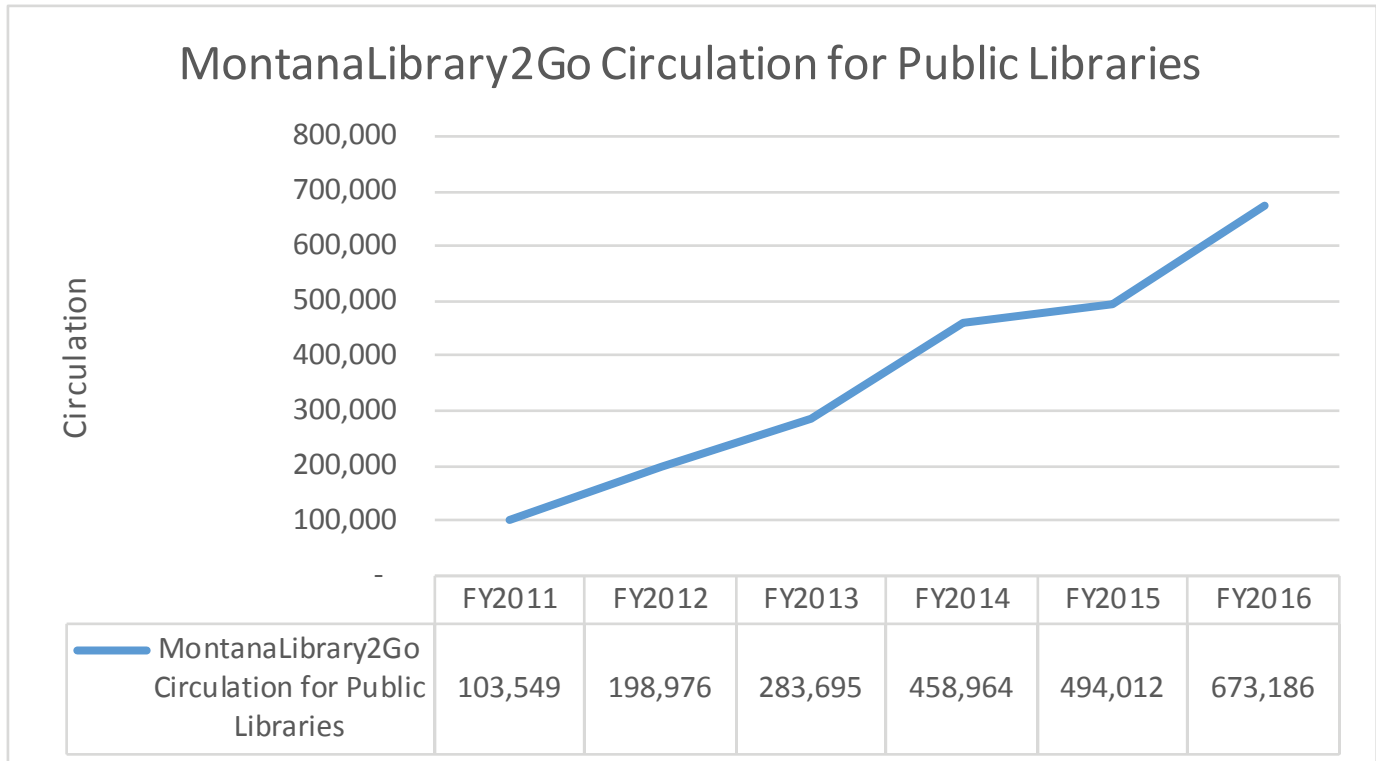
- The Partners’ Sharing Group – a cooperative of about 50 libraries that have used technology to “take down the walls” and offer their community members as many resources as possible. For example, the Prairie County Library reported owning 38,143 items in FY2015. Impressive in and of itself, but when they joined Partners their community members gained access to 1,439,640 items – a 97% increase.
- The Montana Shared Catalog is a consortium with more than 170 member libraries, including 63 public libraries. Members maximize their investment in library services by sharing their collections, technology and training; as a result, patrons share resources at a more than 13:1 ratio over users at non-member libraries.



Montana Shared Catalog Executive Committee

Library Development-Shared Resources, continued

- Montana Library2Go is where the majority of public libraries and academic libraries have pooled their resources to offer their patrons a shared collection of online/downloadable e-books and e-audiobooks. Use of this collection is growing at a rate of more than 175,000 items per year. In FY2016, people downloaded 673,186 items.



Source: Montana State Library, 2015 Public Library Statistics

Are you one of the thousands of Montanans who have read a free e-book or e-audiobook from your local library?