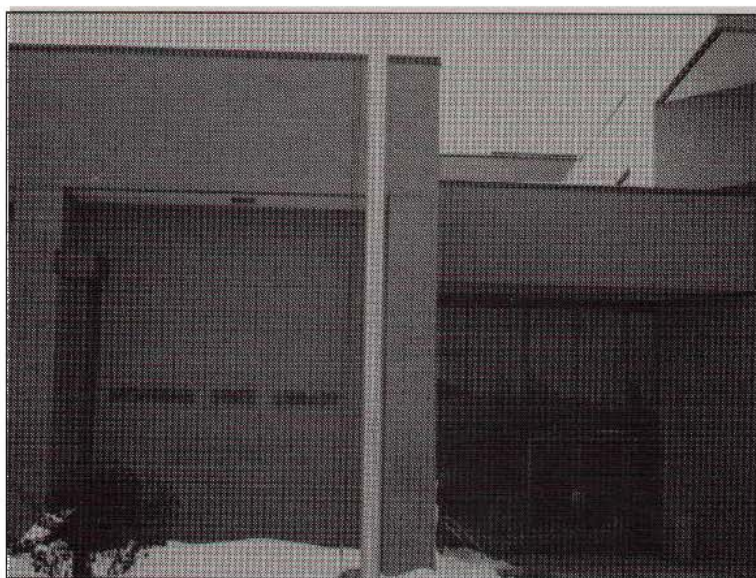

Annual Report



Fiscal Year 1990/91
July 1, 1990 - June 30, 1991



Montana State Library

Montana State Library Commission

State law grants the power to make rules and establish standards for administration of the State Library to a seven-member Montana State Library Commission. Five members of the Commission are appointed by the governor; one is the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee, and one is appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education.

During fiscal 1991, Gov. Stan Stephens appointed Vada Taylor of Glendive and Peggy Guthrie of Choteau to the State Library Commission. They joined current Commission members Mary Doggett (chair), White Sulphur Springs; Lloyd Wallin (vice-chair), Deer Lodge; Lorrie Monprode-Holt, Superintendent of Public Instruction designee, Helena; Michael Schulz, Commissioner of Higher Education appointee, Dillon, and Anne Hauptman, Billings.

The Commission meets bi-monthly, and the meetings are open to the public.

Information Resources

Information Resources (IR) is the library within the State Library agency. IR provides reference and information services to state agencies, state employees and the general public, and lends materials either directly to users or through public, school, special or academic libraries.

Information Resources also provides centralized library materials acquisition, cataloging and technical processing, and operates the state's documents depository center.



U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns, R-MT, met with members of the Montana State Library Commission during the American Library Association's annual Legislative Day, April 16, 1991, in Washington, D.C. Shown with Burns are, from left, Lloyd Wallin, Anne Hauptman, Mike Schulz and Commission Chair Mary Doggett.

Services

In fiscal 1991, IR staff answered 8,265 information requests from state government, circulated 5,494 items and performed 339 online searches. IR staff circulated 6,636 items to other libraries during fiscal 1991, distributed 5,263 state publications, performed 283 online searches and responded to 712 calls to the 800 number. In addition, IR staff answered 4,570 information requests from public libraries and 3,695 requests from academic, school or special libraries.

Collection

The State Library's collection gained 831 new titles in fiscal 1991, while 1,151 titles were discarded. The federal publications collection had 16,025 titles added, while the state publications collection gained 494 new titles.

IR staff

Three IR staff were cited by a book author in his acknowledgements for their help in making his research easier.

One staff member received training at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.; others contributed to a new interlibrary loan sharing protocol for the state's libraries and to a new tractor repair bibliography. IR staff also prepared for and/or made presentations at conferences and to tour groups.

Natural Resource Information System

The Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), along with the Montana Natural Heritage Program, make access to information about Montana's vast natural resources possible. Since their creation by the legislature in 1985, NRIS/Heritage programs have successfully met the data needs of business, industry and government agencies.

During fiscal 1991, NRIS/Heritage staff accessed their own and various databases across the country to respond to more than 800 data requests, a 50% increase over fiscal 1990.

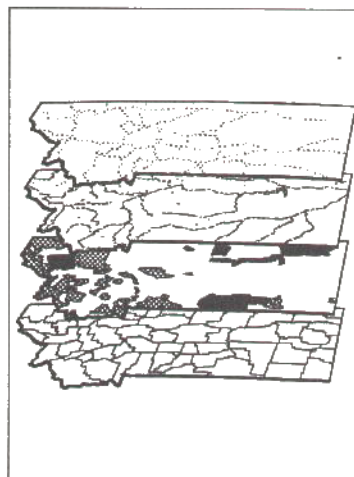
NRIS projects

▲**The Montana Natural Resources Index**, which lists more than 11,000 natural resource-related documents on file at the State Library and at other state agencies;

▲**The Water Information System**, which links all major water resource databases nationwide and approximately 15 others managed by state agencies, and provides access to data on surface water, groundwater and well logs, water quality, riparian areas, water rights and more;

▲**The Geographic Information System (GIS)**, which has developed more than 500 map products for state and federal project managers and now has about 15 statewide digital coverages, and,

▲**The Natural Heritage Program**, which has a 5,000-record computerized inventory of Montana's biological resources emphasizing rare, threatened or endangered species and biological communities. This unique database is used by the public and private sectors to balance economic development with conservation.



A map of Montana generated by a Geographic Information System (GIS) shows data in layers. The data may be manipulated to meet information needs.

Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

The Montana State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) provides free library services to approximately 2,400 individuals who are certified as visually or physically handicapped.

The LBPH loans books and magazines in a variety of formats to eligible individuals and institutions. Special playback equipment is also provided. All materials and equipment are provided at no charge and are mailed "Free Matter" both to and from patrons. The LBPH is a regional branch of the Library of Congress, which provides the recorded books, braille materials and special playback equipment.

Circulation up

The LBPH has realized dramatic increases in circulation and readership. During the past 10 years, circulation has increased 98% and readership has increased 36%. During fiscal 1991, the library circulated 119,059 books. Because of this growth in circulation and readership without accompanying growth in staffing, LBPH continues to rely on volunteers to help accomplish daily tasks. The 1991 Legislature approved a new full-time position for LBPH (later reduced to half-time because of budget constraints) which will help reduce dependency on volunteers in the circulation area.

During 1990, 77 persons contributed to the Montana State Library and its programs through the auspices of the agency's volunteer program.

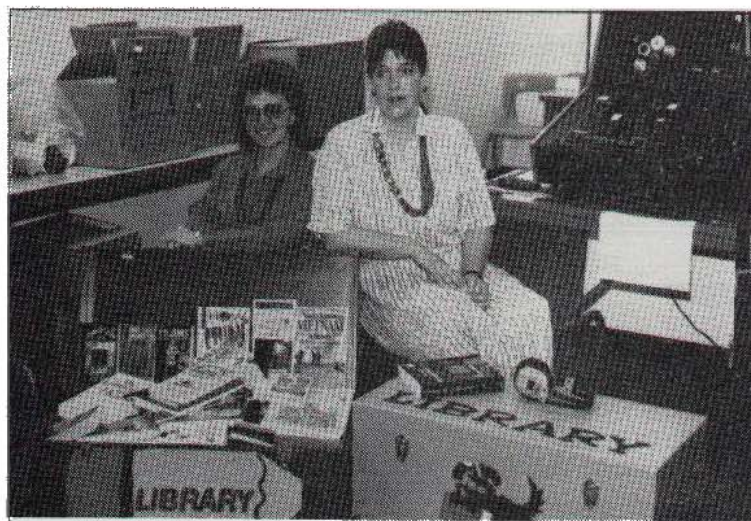
This included all volunteer support at the State Library itself, plus the Telephone Pioneers and the inmate employees of the Montana State Prison Recording Program. These volunteers and inmate employees contributed a total of 10,047 hours during 1990, for a fair market value of \$94,091. The LBPH formally recognized all Helena-area volunteers at a luncheon.

Outreach continued during fiscal 1991 to the many eligible citizens who are not yet receiving LBPH services. A new brochure describing these services and the requirements for eligibility was distributed to public libraries, optometrists, ophthalmologists, visual service people and others who work with the visually or physically handicapped. Television interviews helped make the public aware of LBPH and its services. The regional librarian participated on monthly talk shows on the Western and Eastern Radio Reading Service to discuss library services, give book reviews and answer questions from call-in listeners.

The LBPH gave increased emphasis to juvenile patron services during fiscal 1991. A bibliography of braille and recorded juvenile materials on bears was created to coordinate with the State Library's first statewide summer reading program: "Get the 'Bear' Facts - READ!" It was distributed to all public libraries along with brochures and applications for LBPH service.

30 books recorded

The Montana Cassette Book Program, comprising volunteers who record materials by Montanans or about Montana, continued to produce quality materials during fiscal 1991.



Sandra Jarvie, left, Regional Librarian for the Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, and Barbara Ridgway, right, former Regional Librarian, with two of the seven Traveling Trunks which circulate through Deer Lodge Valley institutions and the Mountain View School for Girls in Helena.

Two recording studios are located at the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, and the third is at the State Library. In 1990, 30 books were recorded by volunteer and inmate recording teams. Hundreds of additional titles remain to be recorded, and completed books are in high demand.

Library Development

Staff members of the Library Development (LD) program consult with librarians, administer grants, produce publications, conduct workshops and otherwise assist librarians to serve their patrons with a high degree of professionalism.

During fiscal 1991, LD staff consulted with librarians on issues related to censorship, automation, children's services, public relations, collection management and voluntary certification.

LD administers federation support for public libraries from House Bill 193 and the Coal Severance Tax plus grants through the federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).

LSCA grants are used to extend library services to underserved patrons or to those without services, for interlibrary cooperation and construction and remodeling projects. In fiscal 1991, LD administered the LSCA-funded LaserCat grant program, which made a computerized regional bibliography available to 24 Montana libraries.

LD sponsored a Reference Institute during fiscal 1991 which gave 50 librarians practical advice on providing information services at the local level, plus a look at services available from state agency libraries in Helena.

Continuing education workshops provided by LD staff during the 1991 Montana Library Association conference included: construction projects, collection management policies, public library statistics and the LSCA grant process.

LD staff helped organize the debut of the Montana Center for the Book during fiscal 1991. Affiliated with the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, it is designed to draw attention to the state's thriving literary scene.

(Continued on next page.)

Administration

The Administrative unit of the State Library supports the overall personnel, payroll, fiscal and purchasing activities for all sections of the agency, ensuring consistency with state laws and regulations.

During fiscal 1991, the Administrative unit participated in planning the Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services, which brought together 59 delegates from across Montana to deliberate on the future of these services for the next decade. The conference, with the theme "That Every Citizen Be Information Rich," produced 43 resolutions on topics ranging from literacy to school library accreditation, and from tribal histories to a statewide library card.

The unit also staffed the Blue Ribbon Panel on Libraries at Risk, an 11-member group which explored the future of libraries in Montana and issued a call to action to offset the consequences of long-standing funding problems. It called for a new commitment to a concerted effort among the public and private sectors to ensure adequate library services for all Montanans.



State Librarian Richard T. Miller, Jr.

Administration provided information and support to the 1991 legislature and to the governor in efforts to obtain additional state-level funding for libraries. Another piece of the 1989 "Information Access Montana Act" was approved, offering support to all public libraries on a per-capita and per-square-mile service area basis.

Administration supported delegates to the annual Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., participated in the state-level Legislative Day, and met with federal agency representatives relating to the Library Services and Construction Act and the National Library Service for the blind and physically handicapped.

Staff recognition

Eleven State Library staff members received longevity pins during fiscal 1991 for their service to state government. Gerry Daumiller, GIS programmer/analyst for the Natural Resource Information System, received the 1991 governor's award for excellence.

Library Development (continued)

During fiscal 1991, LD staff organized readings, displays and other activities in the Capitol rotunda for National Library Week and produced a librarians' manual for the first ever statewide summer reading program.

In addition to the summer reading program manual, LD publications include newsletters, an annual library directory and library statistics, annual report, bookmarks, brochures and press releases.

LD staff proposed during fiscal 1991 that the State Library Commission reauthorize two statewide committees—Technology and Collection Management.

Institutional services

LD staff coordinates library services to some state institutions and has direct responsibility for the Patients' Library at Warm Springs State Hospital. This coordination takes two forms: consulting assistance and materials budgets for those institutions with staffed libraries, and contracting with nearby public libraries to provide library services to institutionalized residents.

The State Library and the Department of Corrections and Human Services continue to operate under a draft Memorandum of Agreement regarding library services to some of the state's institutions.

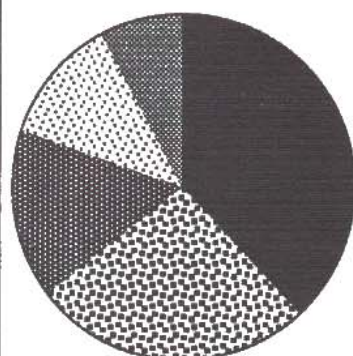
During fiscal 1991, the LSCA-funded Traveling Trunks project began. Seven trunks filled with books, books on tape and cassette players circulate through the institutional libraries in the Deer Lodge Valley and to the Mountain View School for Girls in Helena. The purpose of the trunks is to provide these institutionalized patrons with a greater variety of materials. Circulation of the trunks is coordinated by the Library Technician at Warm Springs.

Montana State Library Funding

Total Fiscal 1991 Budget:

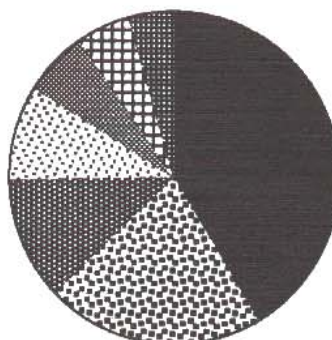
\$2,360,592

Where it comes from:



General fund	38.0%
Federal grants (LSCA)	26.4%
Federal/special (NRIS)	16.0%
State/special (NRIS)	11.7%
Coal severance tax	7.9%

Where it goes:



Operations	41.5%
NRIS operations	21.2%
State aid grants	11.9%
Federal grants (LSCA)	9.2%
NRIS equipment	6.6%
Grants (CST)	5.2%
Equipment (inc. books)	4.4%