

Statewide Library Resources

Statewide Library Resources (SLR) are at the heart of excellent library services across Montana. SLR staff provides leadership and guidance related to library programs, services, and facilities. A professional staff plans, develops, and implements programs and administers funds for new and improved library services throughout the state. SLR works as a partner with Montana libraries to ensure that Montana library users get the best materials and services available.

By focusing efforts in the above areas of concentration, SLR staff help libraries plan and develop quality local services and stellar collections that result in Montana libraries becoming vital components in their local communities. Statewide Library Services include the Library Development Division (LDD), the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC), the Talking Book Library (TBL), and statewide projects.

In Fiscal Year 2008, the Statewide Library Resources Division:

- Received \$295,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to assist public and branch libraries with purchasing new equipment to support public access to the Internet. The grant provided enough funds to make available 300 new computers for use by public library patrons statewide.
- Provided training at the MSL Annual Fall Workshop on topics requested by librarians including book repair, gaming tournaments, time management, finances, customer services, social networking tools, programming and services for baby boomers, managing volunteers, and the library collection.
- Certified 71 librarians through training provided by the Montana Library Certification Program.
- Presented ten new library professionals with \$25,000 scholarships to earn their graduate degrees in information and library science to provide expanded library services to Montana residents.
- Instructed over 90 Montana librarians on the development of lifelong learning habits with technology through the State Library's Montana Library 2.0 Challenge. Participating librarians learned how to provide additional library resources using wikis, blogs, and a wide assortment of cutting-edge technology, which will best serve their youngest and most remote patrons.



- Assisted the AskMontana cooperative with implementation of a new user interface and statewide marketing effort, resulting in a nearly 12 percent increase in usage. This online, 24-hour/7-days-a-week reference service provides Montanans the opportunity to access a librarian's help anytime of the day or night on any day of the week, regardless of their own library's hours or participation in the program.
- Implemented statewide subscription databases for all Montana libraries, which cover a wide range of subjects, including automotive and small engine repair, health, nursing, business, literacy, biography, and the environment. As a result of the statewide implementation, usage increased by 27%.
- Launched a statewide downloadable library collection, called MontanaLibrary2Go, which provides Montana library patrons with unlimited and free access to downloadable audio book titles.
- Developed a partnership with the Montana Historical Society Library to manage and develop the ongoing Montana Memory Project, an online source for digital collections relating to Montana's cultural heritage.
- Negotiated on behalf of Montana libraries a statewide Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) group services contract, which offers statewide, discounted, fixed price access to OCLC cataloging and interlibrary services, as well as reference access to the OCLC WorldCat database, connecting Montana libraries with the world's libraries.
- Continued to grow four resource-sharing groups, located throughout Montana, which work to share their collections in innovative ways, significantly increasing access to information for their patrons and decreasing the amount of time it takes for patrons to receive materials from other libraries. These separate libraries work together to share their collections and patrons as if they were one large library.
- Approached the three million mark in annual circulation for the Montana Shared Catalog.
- Grew the Montana Shared Catalog to 91 libraries in 57 communities, which serves over 50% of Montanans throughout the state. The Montana Shared Catalog now includes 705,000 titles, 2.4 million items, and 13,000 electronic book titles.
- Mailed 952 Talking Book Library applications to individual Montanans, including ophthalmologists and optometrists; nursing, blind and education associations; public libraries; independent living facilities and nursing homes and much more.
- Managed 103 volunteers who donated nearly 12,450 volunteer hours. MTBL gained 11 new volunteers and facilitated four volunteer workshops during the year.



Montana State Library

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Statewide Library Resources

<http://mymontanalibrary.org>
Library Development Department
Montana Shared Catalog
Montana Talking Book Library
http://msl.mt.gov/talking_book_library

Montana State Digital Library

Library Information Services
http://msl.mt.gov/for_state_employees/State_Publications
Natural Resource Information System
<http://nris.mt.gov>
Natural Heritage Program
<http://mtnhp.org/>

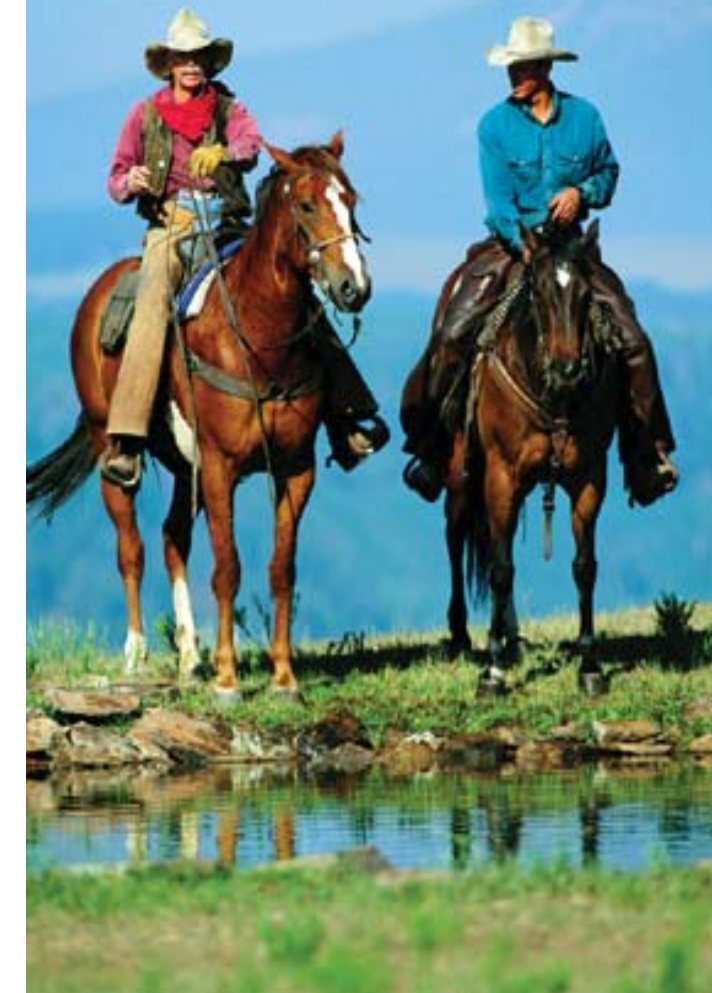
Legislative Snapshot

http://msl.mt.gov/legislative_snapshot/
This booklet is available online with live links and will be updated regularly as new data becomes available.



<http://msl.mt.gov>

FY08 Achievements



Montana State Digital Library

The Montana State Library's Digital Library Division joins the resources of three statutory programs, including the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP), and Library Information Services (LIS). These programs work together to provide Montanans with access to the very best digital resources with our collections focusing on information related to state government information and Montana natural resource data.

The Montana State Digital Library is a professionally catalogued, maintained, and supported collection of state documents, Montana-related federal documents, reference materials and appropriate state agency data brokered by highly trained information science specialists. Digital library staff continually work on employing new methods of integrating and displaying data so that the user can easily discover data of interest, visualize the data in context with related data, and obtain the data in customized formats for the task at hand.



Working together to empower Montana

Montana Natural Heritage Program

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) continues to provide outstanding service through its expert staff and state-of-the-art web resources. The Heritage Program's vast knowledge base of Montana's animals, plants and habitats is used daily by land and resource managers, Montana businesses, educators, students, and outdoor enthusiasts. In Fiscal Year 2008, the Natural Heritage Program:

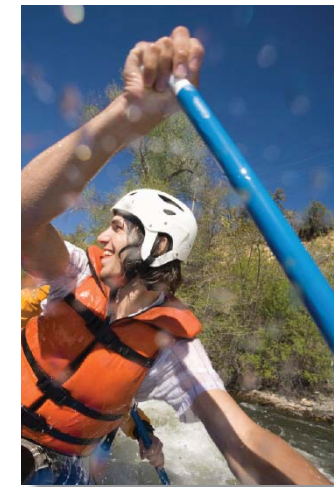
- Launched a completely revised and expanded Field Guide. This on-line encyclopedia of Montana's wildlife and plant diversity now covers all of Montana's vertebrate animal, as well as vascular plants – over 2,500 species – providing descriptions, photos, sounds, illustrations and maps, as well as links to additional information.
- Launched the Natural Heritage Tracker, a powerful web engine for viewing maps and reports on Montana's animals and plant species of concern. For the first time ever, Tracker provides direct access to over 500,000 observation records and 25,000 Species Occurrence records in the MNHP databases.
- Updated the entire MNHP database on Animal Species Occurrences – over 12,000 records. This was possible thanks to new automated procedures developed by MNHP staff that will make it possible to run updates annually. Montana's is the first Natural Heritage Program in the nation to achieve this.
- Updated the statewide Land Stewardship database, which provides easy access to statewide maps showing public lands, special management areas (such as federal Wilderness and State Wildlife Areas), as well as conservation easements.
- Completed surveys and reports describing wetlands of the Bitterroot and Lower Musselshell River valleys, the effects of fire on sagebrush, and the distribution and status of: prairie birds, northern goshawks, aquatic invertebrates, land snails, small mammals and bats.
- Responded to over 1,000 requests for information from public agency staff, businesses, and the public. This represents an average of 3.5 requests per business day, and an increase of 10% over the previous year. Requests for digital data increased 29% over the previous year.



Natural Resource Information System

The Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) serves as a central clearinghouse for access to geographic information system (GIS) data about Montana and as a key resource for state and federal agencies' natural resource data distribution strategies. In Fiscal Year 2008, NRIS:

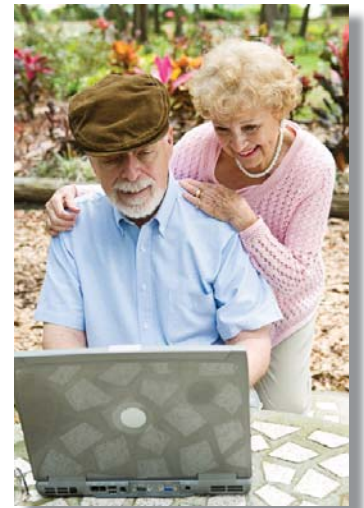
- Completed and posted database updates on an hourly, weekly, or monthly basis as needed for a variety of state and federal agencies, ensuring the most current and accurate information available is made accessible.
- Developed and posted new versions of databases of the DEQ Public Water Supply database, the Department of Agriculture's apiary (beekeeper) database, the Bureau of Mines' groundwater well database, and the federal Geographic Names, Watershed Boundaries, National Wetlands Inventory, Flood Insurance Rate Map, Relative Effective Annual Precipitation, and Soil Survey Information System.
- Worked collaboratively with the U.S. Geological Survey to update the Montana portion of the National Hydrography Dataset, which is the nation's official inventory of surface water and features streams, lakes, and ponds, and to post over 220 satellite images of Montana to the MontanaView Web site.
- Worked for at the State Emergency Command Center in the summer of 2007 to make forest fire maps.
- Developed maps and databases for publications of the Governor's Office, the Office of Public Instruction, Public Health and Human Services, and the Historical Society, and made monthly drought status maps for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Governor's Drought Advisory Committee.
- Installed a development version of the GIS Portal Toolkit, which will allow the State Library to create a central index of all GIS data available in Montana. NRIS modified all of its metadata records to allow their publication in the Portal and conducted workshops for state, federal, and local agencies on how to prepare their metadata for the Portal.



Library Information Services

The Library Information Services (LIS) program develops and manages the State Library's collections. LIS works closely with state agencies to identify, acquire, catalog, preserve, and provide permanent public access to state government information. In Fiscal Year 2008, LIS:

- Launched Archive Montana, a searchable archive of Montana state agency Web sites dating from 1996. Over 2.2 million Web pages had been crawled and added to the archive at the end of the fiscal year.
- Purchased an in-house scanner and began offering scan-on-request services for print Montana state publications that are not currently available in a digital format. The State Library makes available a complete digital version of a document within 72 hours through this service.
- Revised the depository library contract to offer depository libraries throughout Montana the option to become a digital-only depository library. Miles Community College in Miles City, Montana becomes the state's first digital depository library.
- Hosted the Best Practices Exchange in partnership with the Montana Historical Society, the State Law Library of Montana, and the Montana Secretary of State Records and Information Management Division. More than 80 attendees from 25 states participated in this national conference of archivists, librarians, and records managers who are responsible for managing state government information.
- Completed a successful pilot scanning project with the Internet Archive to digitize 200 of MSL's oldest and 200 of MSL's most circulated state publications and add these publications to the State Library's digital repository. The pilot project was the forerunner to the current mass digitization project.



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