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 (MTNHP), 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 works 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.

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. A couple of highlights from the Natural Resource Information System's Fiscal Year 2009 include:

- In September 2008, NRIS staff announced the availability of the Montana GIS Portal. Similar to the familiar online library catalogs that are now prevalent in libraries, the GIS Portal is a searchable metadata repository for GIS data available from Montana organizations. The initial release of the Portal contains records of the data collections of NRIS, the Montana Base Map Service Center, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP), and the Flathead County GIS department. These records represent 400 databases.

- NRIS also received a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the 2009 ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, California. The Award recognized the development of the GIS Portal. NRIS was selected from more than 300,000 organizations worldwide to receive the award, which recognizes extraordinary contributions to our global society through GIS technology.

NRIS staff receiving the SAG Award

Montana Natural Heritage Program

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) 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. A couple of highlights from the Natural Heritage Program's Fiscal Year 2009 include:

- An online species of concern report was created to replace hard copy versions and allow status ranks to be updated in a more dynamic manner as new information becomes available. The new reports provide: all of the narrative information found in the printed reports; up-to-date status information for species of concern; lists of species additions and deletions over time; enhanced search and filtering functions for generating custom reports; ability to save and print reports to a PDF; and information such as documented county occurrences, habitat associations for animals, and other state and federal status information.

- The Montana Field Guide, a collaborative application with Montana FWP, was updated to include such features as: maps that depict distribution of breeding, overwintering, and migratory records for birds; maps of the breeding, wintering, and migratory range across the western hemisphere for most vertebrate animal species; and an advanced search option that allows queries for various federal and state status ranks.

Montana Field Guide

- The Natural Heritage Tracker application was updated to include such features as: faster report and query functions that are more task-oriented; observation data for plants; and range maps and structured survey data for selected species of animals.
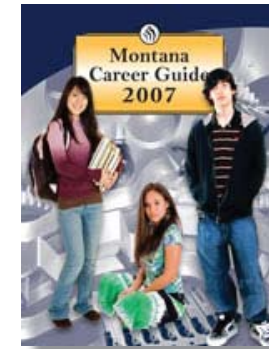
Library Information Services

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. A few highlights from Library Information Services' Fiscal Year 2009 include:
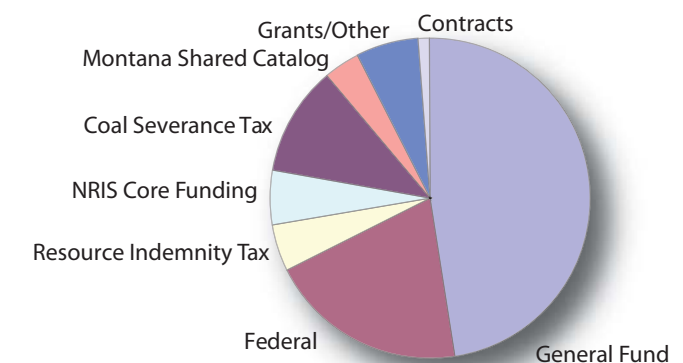
- LIS completed the first year of a multi-year project to digitize and place online its entire legacy print collection dating from 1874. A total of 8,058 print state publications were digitized representing nearly 623,717 pages. These pages are now viewable online for the first time ever.

- LIS refined the collection development policy governing our federal document collection so that it focused exclusively on natural resource information about Montana. A color coding system was implemented to improve browseability. Four major series of Interior Department publications were marked to readily identify for users all documents with "Montana" in the title. Tattered bindings were rebound. Missing items were replaced. Whenever possible, access was provided to digital documents. Nearly 3,000 print items were recently acquired to complete several different U.S. Geological Survey series making these series more valuable to researchers. Most notable, while every federal publication has always been classified and labeled, soon every item will also be part of the online catalog. The sum effect of these developments is improved access to natural resource information at the State Library.
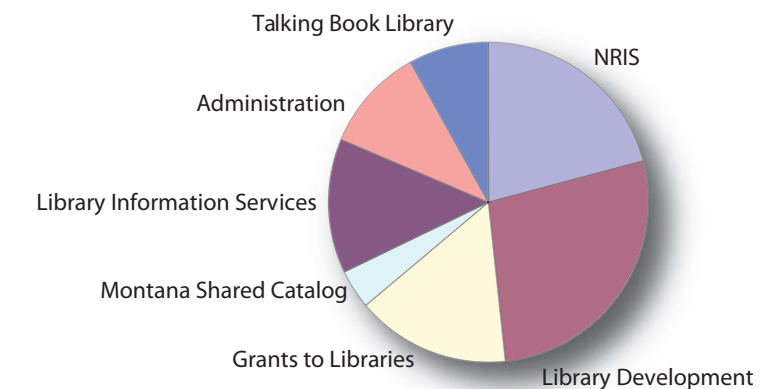
2009 Montana State Library Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue

General Fund	2,470,636
Federal	1,044,666
Resource Indemnity Tax	251,436
NRIS Core Funding	283,570
Coal Severance Tax	571,339
Montana Shared Catalog	196,390
Grants/Other	327,494
Contracts	61,162
	5,206,693

Expense

NRIS	1,080,800
Library Development	1,431,988
Grants to Libraries	820,646
Montana Shared Catalog	196,390
Library Information Services	706,284
Administration	544,698
Talking Book Library	425,887
	5,206,693

http://msl.mt.gov

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 Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL), and statewide projects. A few highlights from the Statewide Library Resources' Fiscal Year 2009 include:

- Twenty-two libraries joined the Montana Library2Go consortium. Additional phases continue to be added quarterly. The collection increased to 2,438 audiobook titles. Currently, 42 libraries participate in this consortium. Library patrons from around the state have raved about this new service.

- The Montana Memory Project is an online source for digital collections relating to Montana's cultural heritage. In part, these collections document the Montana experience. Access is free and open through the Internet. Over time, contents will include digital newspapers, maps, copies of photographs, rare books, historic documents, diaries, oral histories, audio and video clips, paintings, illustrations and art. Montana libraries, museums, archives, and cultural institutions continued to add unique collections of digitized materials throughout the year.

- The Montana State Library's consultants travel throughout Montana and meet one-on-one with librarians and library trustees across the state, assisting with everything from training and technology to applying Montana library law and fundraising. In the last fiscal year, MSL's consultants traveled over 60,000 miles, made over 2,000 contacts and completed over 400 visits with Montana's library community.

- All Montana public libraries were able to offer the leading genealogy search tool, HeritageQuest Online, to their patrons, based on local contributions from public libraries across the state and funding from MSL. Use of this genealogy research tool by local patrons grew quickly: large public libraries showed over 230,000 searches during FY2009, medium public libraries averaged 4000 to 5000 searches and small public libraries generally showed between 100-600 searches over the year.

- The Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) added nine new libraries this year. New members include the largest public library in the state, Parmly Bilings Library, as well as nine additional libraries that represent Montana's public, school, and special libraries from throughout the state. The additions of their collections to the catalog, which included over 350,000 items, greatly increased the number of items available to Montana Shared Catalog library patrons.

- AskMontana answered 3,214 questions from library users across the state last year, an eight percent increase in use from the previous year. 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.

- The Ready 2 Read program was launched with the goal of increasing the understanding among parents and caregivers of children from birth – age five that sharing books and language with their children is vital to the child's development. The first phase of this multi-year program included the development and launch of a new Web site and a series of brochures for parents and caregivers as well as several partnerships with organizations that could help us make contact with this population, such as WIC and local county health offices.

- MTBL began receiving digital cartridge books in 2009. Half of all titles produced by the National Library Service are in digital cartridge format; the other half are still in recorded cassette. An initial digital book bibliography was started to assist patrons in choosing titles in the MTBL collection. A digital loan policy was developed and sent to the State Library Commission for review and approval.

TBL Equipment

- MTBL partnered with the Montana Veteran's Administration's VIST (Visual Impaired Services Team) program and then worked to identify and notify all qualified veterans of the availability of this new digital service. MTBL staff attended a "Vision Fair" sponsored by VIST to discuss the service with patrons attending the fair from the far corners of Montana and to develop plans for training the VIST staff to assist veterans with MTBL services.

- The Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) participated in an National Library Service Braille and Recorded Download (BARD) Survey in February on the preparedness of our library to transition to digital formats. Training of employees on the use of BARD services continued in preparation for new patrons wishing to use this online digital download book service.

MONTANA State Library

http://msl.mt.gov

FY09

Achievements

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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://www.msl.mt.gov/for_state_employees/
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.
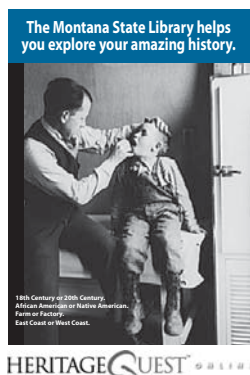
Working Together to

Empower Montana

MONTANA State Library

The Montana State Library helps you explore your amazing history.

18th Century at 20th Century African American or Native American, Farm or Factory, East Coast or West Coast,

HERITAGEQUEST ONLINE