

Descriptions of statewide library programs and services

Terminology:

Library types: There are four broad categories of libraries which we may refer to in this document: Academic libraries (community college, tribal, and university libraries); public libraries; school (grades K-12) libraries; and “special” [government, medical, privately funded, or corporate] libraries.

Resource sharing: The State Library thinks of resource sharing as the sharing of materials, services, technology and expertise among libraries for the purpose of developing cost effective, user focused library services that respond to community needs.

Fall Workshops has always focused on the needs of public librarians and trustees who are not able to participate in other regional conferences due to financial or travel restrictions. State Library staff seeks to differentiate Fall Workshops from the professional development opportunities offered by other organizations in Montana to promote the greatest number of thriving professional development opportunities for all Montana librarians.

Summer Institute provides leadership training and networking opportunities for Montana librarians and has served in the past as a “boot camp” for new library directors. Based on a recommendation from the State Library’s Network Advisory Council, the “Institute” is held every other summer.

Trustee Training provides the opportunity for public library trustees to learn how to maximize their roles as local library leaders. Focused workshop sessions on topics specifically targeted to trustee interests insure that these local library leaders are prepared to face the challenges associated with providing leadership and direction for a dynamic public library. Additionally, trustees are provided the opportunity to network with their colleagues across the state, to be informed about the trustee certification program, and to learn about additional resources available to them.

The mission of the Montana **OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) Group Services** contract is to facilitate sharing of collections among libraries by providing access to unlimited cataloging and interlibrary loan services at a fair, equitable, affordable cost for Montana libraries of all types. Group Services enrolled libraries pay an annual fee in order to have access to these tools:

- WorldCat, a worldwide library collection inventory which users can search online at no cost. If any library adds an item to the WorldCat database using the cataloging tools described below, it is discoverable online.
- CatExpress and Connexion, web-based cataloging services that enable library staff to catalog (create records for) materials and make them discoverable in the library catalog and in WorldCat for library users.
- WorldShare Interlibrary Loan, a web-based service that library staff use to lend and borrow library materials to and from other libraries when those materials are not available from the patron’s home library or library sharing group.

The purpose of the **Montana Courier Alliance** is to support the affordable and efficient transfer of physical library materials (meaning books, audiovisual materials, and any other physical items that can be shared) among participating libraries across the state of Montana. The courier service currently serves 54 academic and public libraries through 19 drop sites that receive deliveries directly via delivery truck. Any Montana library within the service area is eligible to participate in the courier service at a discounted rate. Participating libraries send and receive materials via delivery truck between 2 and 5 days per week, Monday through Friday.

Montana's contract with EBSCO provides a set of 24 online **statewide subscription databases** which cover a broad range of content for researchers of all ages and skill levels. Content sources range from popular magazines to state and national newspapers to professional and academic research journals. Library patrons can use their library card numbers to sign in at no cost to read or download this subscription content. The State Library provides these databases at no charge for all Montana libraries and their patrons.

MontanaLibrary2Go is a consortium service that offers a collection of over 21,000 mostly contemporary popular and bestseller downloadable digital books (e-books) and digital audiobooks to patrons at participating libraries. All participating libraries contribute funding annually for the shared collection, which is selected by a volunteer committee of librarians. Patrons can sign in, browse or search for titles, and then check out and download titles just like they would check out a physical book in a library. Any public or tribal library may currently join the MontanaLibrary2Go consortium; several academic library members are also grandfathered in to the current contract. The State Library currently contracts with OverDrive, Inc. to provide this service.

MontanaLibrary2Go Local is a pilot to test a different model for acquiring and creating access to digital library content such as e-books, and particularly content that is published or otherwise created locally in Montana communities. One objective is to explore how easily libraries can purchase content for permanent ownership, rather than lease through a vendor, and create access to that content. To this end, MSL purchased an Adobe Content Server, which is software that stores e-book titles and provides options for adjusting checkout, printing, and copying settings. Aside from testing out the technology, the pilot also explores the work of curating a collection over which libraries have complete control, entailing direct communications and negotiations with publishers and content creators. This pilot is currently available at no additional cost to SIP-authenticating members of MontanaLibrary2Go.

Discover It is an online search tool, much like a search engine, but populated with content selected by librarians from premium resources such as the statewide EBSCO databases, the Montana Shared Catalog, the Lewis and Clark Library and Butte Silver Bow Library catalogs, as well as unique content created in the state of Montana, such as the Natural Heritage Program Field Guide and digitized items in the Montana Memory Project. Library staff at any Montana library can use Discover It at no cost and select which of these or any other subscriptions they would like to add to this all-in-one search for their patrons. Patrons can also change the search settings as they like, and sign in at no cost to view or download content.

The **Montana Shared Catalog** is both a statewide program of the State Library and a library consortium in which nearly 180 public, school, academic, and special libraries collectively support technology and staff expenses for what is called an "integrated library system" (ILS). The ILS is essentially software that allows libraries to catalog items, check items out to patrons, and share items with other libraries.

However, beyond the value of merely sharing costs for the ILS, all libraries benefit from sharing training and expertise through a supportive community. Many libraries in the MSC also share collections and allow their patrons to check out from any sharing group library, which increases the scope of the collection available to each participating library's community.

The **Montana Memory Project** is an online set of digital collections relating to Montana's cultural heritage. Access is free and open to the public, and Montana libraries may contribute at no cost. Many of these items are digitized copies of historic material, while some material is contemporary. All serve as a resource for education, business, pleasure, and lifelong learning. Many Montana academic and public libraries, museums, archives, and cultural institutions add materials to this collection. Over time, collections may include digital newspapers, maps, copies of photographs, rare books, historic documents, diaries, oral histories, audio and video clips, paintings, illustrations and art. The software and storage used by Montana Memory Project contributors is called CONTENTdm. Master files of digitized content reside in a secure digital repository called the Digital Archive. CONTENTdm and the Digital Archive are additional software and services purchased through the State Library's OCLC Group Services contract.

The **Ready2Read Rendezvous** provides training for librarians in the area of early literacy and learning and provides materials for outreach to parents and care givers, and for children ages birth to five. Based on a recommendation from the State Library's Network Advisory Council, the Ready2Read Rendezvous is held every other fall, alternating years with the Summer Institute.

The **Summer Reading Program** provides programming materials to public libraries based on a central theme, for local programs targeted for patrons of all ages from early childhood through adult. This project also funds travel by a Montana librarian to the annual Collaborative Summer Reading Program conference and to have that individual train libraries on summer reading both in person at the annual Montana Library Association conference and through webinars.

EZproxy is an authentication tool which enables library patrons to sign in to online subscription services using only their library card numbers, rather than having to keep track of various passwords for different subscriptions. A central, statewide instance of EZproxy, maintained by the Montana State Library, is available to all Montana libraries at no cost for one stop, simple user authentication.

Libraries in Montana are organized into six regional **Federations**. Federations were established to encourage the most efficient delivery of library services to Montanans, pooling resources and information to avoid duplication of effort. These regional groups work together to improve resources and services to their communities. Federations receive funding through the Coal Severance Tax monies that the State Library receives. This money is divided amongst federations using a formula that is based both on population and evenly dividing half of the funding equally between the libraries. Federations are guided by a federation coordinator who is responsible for leading the federation and acting as a liaison between the Montana State Library and the federation.