

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 2

Montana State Library

Darlene Staffeldt

State Librarian

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EXHIBIT 2
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MONTANA
**State
Library**



MONTANA
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DARLENE STAFFELDT

State Librarian

1-800-338-5087 (toll free in Montana)
OFFICE: 406/444-3115
FAX: 406/444-0266
Email: dstaffeldt@state.mt.us

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Saturday, January 01, 2005

State in thick of digital revolution

By MARTIN J. KIDSTON - IR Feature Writer - 01/01/05

When Darlene Staffeldt embarked on her library career 35 years ago, the only search engine available was her knowledge of the Dewey Decimal System, and her determination to find what she was looking for.

Back then, Staffeldt said, tracking down an obscure article often took hours. If the library didn't have the material on hand, the patron was out of luck.

Jump forward to 2005, where information is retrieved in seconds, not hours, and where card catalogs have given way to data mining and digital files.

"When I started as a library page, they had me tracking down articles for the patrons," Staffeldt said. "Now that same patron can sit down at the computer and have that article in seconds."

Google, a popular search engine that already boasts an online index of 8 billion Web pages, announced earlier this month its plans to establish an online collection from five major libraries, including the New York Public Library.

It's this trend that prompted one Stanford librarian to reason that in 20 years, most of the world's information will be digitalized and available online. The advances have led some to suggest that the library of the future could exist in name only.

Bruce Newell, director of the Montana Library Network, can still recall the teletype tapes and the "round robin" process of splicing and sharing information. When the Apple computer hit the scene in the early 1980s, the future was at hand.

"That computer paid for itself in 11 months,"



Photo by George Lane IR staff - Jim Hill, administrator of the Digital Library Division at the State Library, shows a map of Montana detailing elevations. The Internet allows more people to access the library's archives.

Newell said. "All of a sudden, there was a technology our librarians could use."

In the past few years, Newell said, Montana has made advances in storing and distributing digital information. As many as 250 libraries now participate in the Montana Library Network, which works as an online catalog allowing patrons to brows the collection of other libraries.

Sitting at the computer, Newell demonstrated the power of the network — how a client can conduct geographical searches, view the availability of the needed item, and initiate an interlibrary loan request, all without leaving home.

"At one time, if the book wasn't in the building, the patron was out of luck," Newell said. "Now we've got 56 million books available at the tip of our fingers. This is truly the most interesting thing in resource sharing in Montana for some time."

Resource sharing doesn't stop here. Another evolving branch of the Montana State Library traces its roots back to 1985, when state employees began digitizing documents and storing them in the Natural Resource Information System.

It wasn't until the rise of the Internet in the mid-1990s, however, that this wealth of information become widely accessible.

For Jim Hill, director of the digital division of the Montana State Library, the new system freely distributes information that only 20 years ago was nearly impossible to find.

Today, Hill grins, anyone in the world with Internet access can retrieve the system's information. That includes more than 70 state maps and thousands of information files.

"My goal was to have a collection of topographical maps from the entire state," Hill said. "Now we have that, and anyone in the world can download that data into their computer."

Hill called the system an information clearinghouse. After playing around with the Web site, it's easy to see why.

With one click, Hill entered the information system and moved to the Animal Field Guide. With the stroke of a key, he called up a list of Montana birds, clicked on the common loon, and opened the file.

The page included a general description of the loon, the bird's call, some pictures, the animal's distribution, and additional links. There are thousands of pages like this within the system.

"The work that's being done here is recognized nationwide as cutting edge," Hill said. "It's pretty exciting. The technology is getting better, and if you look at library usage, it's growing."

Sara Groves, the communications coordinator for the Montana State Library, said fears that technology could render libraries obsolete may be farfetched.



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It's the librarian, Groves said, who has helped lead the technological revolution by simplifying the way information is accessed by the public.

It's the libraries, she said, that continue to provide free and unbiased information.

"Libraries are not driven by profit, and people can trust the information that's here," Groves said. "Unlike Google, which is making money from advertising, libraries are public domain, and they're impartial to information."

It wasn't too long ago, Groves said, that Montana's rural charm meant access to information was limited.

"Suddenly," Groves said, "we were connected to the world."

While digital sharing brought Montanans into the information age, it also created a mess of bad information — much of it placed online by unreliable sources. The future librarian, Groves believes, will help patrons sort through this confusion.

Newell also points out that Seattle recently spent millions renovating its public library, which now calls itself "Seattle's living room." Helena spent \$1.3 million doing the same.

To Hill and the rest of the State Library staff, such renovations only confirm that future libraries will play a role in the public's access to information. But that's not to say providing that access won't come without challenges.

"We need to assimilate electronic information, and we need to discover ways to do it well," Hill said. "At the same time, we also need to maintain a physical library. But doing both is getting harder."

Reporter Martin Kidston can be reached at 447-4086, or at mkidston@helenair.com

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Montana State Digital Library Division



Whether you need simple facts or complex analyses appearing in specialized literature or hidden on the vast Web, a simple phone call or e-mail provides instant and confidential librarian response to your query. Professional librarians will help you conduct extensive searches of professional literature. They will also work with you to define questions, identify resources, and develop search strategies to deliver authoritative, pertinent results.

Librarians use quality print and electronic resources, saving state employees hours of research time. Our professional librarians can help you find many types of information, including:

- ☞ People, services, businesses, associations, and government officials.
- ☞ Statistics, facts, quotes, census data, and resources that point to publicly available government records and publications in any state.
- ☞ In-depth material on public policy, management, education, tourism, labor, public health, welfare, budgeting, and much more.
- ☞ Comprehensive sets of statewide geospatial data and information on Montana's natural heritage and natural resources.

Contact: Reference/Circulation: (406) 444-3016 ~ Toll-free in Montana: (800) 338-5087
E-Mail: MSLReference@mt.gov ~ <http://msl.mt.gov/lisd/>

Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery

If the Library does not own an item you need, we can request these materials from either full-text electronic gateways or libraries throughout the country and the world.

Contact: (406) 444-3016 ~ Toll-Free in Montana: (800) 338-5087



The State Publications Center

The State Publications Center (SPC) safeguards one of our state's most critical traditions - the public's right to know. Since its establishment in 1967, the SPC has maintained a comprehensive collection of materials published by Montana state government agencies. Territorial publications and unpublished archival records are available at the Montana State Historical Society.

The SPC designates libraries across Montana from Libby to Glendive as depositories to provide local, no-fee access to state government information. With expert assistance at your depository, you will find:

- 🔍 Environmental assessments
- 🔍 Transportation design manuals
- 🔍 Census and vital statistics
- 🔍 Mineral resource information
- 🔍 Labor and industry reports
- 🔍 Education related materials
- 🔍 And many additional items.

The State Depository Library Program Online

The State Publications Center also maintains an online index of materials published by Montana state government agencies. The index includes monthly lists of all received titles since August 2000. Using this Web site, you can search for printed state government publications via our catalog.

Contact: Jim Kammerer, SPC Coordinator
(406) 444-5432 ~ Toll Free In Montana: (800) 338-5087
E-Mail: ikammerer@mt.gov ~ <http://msl.mt.gov/liep/spc/>

Montana State Digital Library Division



Established in 1985 by the Montana Legislature, the mission of the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) is to make information on Montana's natural resources readily accessible to government agencies, business, and industry, and private citizens.

NRIS acquires, integrates, maintains, and documents natural resource data and information needed for understanding, managing, and utilizing Montana's natural resources and environment, then disseminates this information, primarily via the Internet. NRIS staff work hard to ensure that a broad range of user groups can easily locate the information they need, view it in map and tabular formats, and then print or download the information in a format that they can easily use.

NRIS staff provide outreach and training to ensure that potential users know what is available through the clearinghouse and how to use NRIS information access tools. As with all Montana State Library programs, staff assistance is available when needed to assist users in locating and using NRIS data.

Having NRIS in the State Library encourages broad use of the system by local, state, and federal agencies as well as Montana businesses and citizens. With NRIS focusing on disseminating information for all state agencies, those agencies can concentrate on fulfilling their respective mandates rather than spending resources to maintain their own data dissemination infrastructure.

Contact: NRIS Information Request Line
(406) 444-5354
E-Mail: MSL@mt.gov
<http://nr.is.mt.gov>



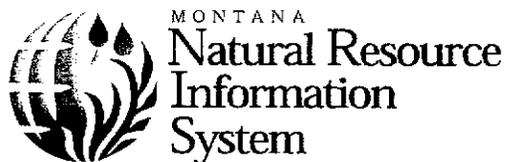
MONTANA
Natural Heritage
Program

The Montana State Library's Natural Heritage Program (NHP), part of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), is the state's source for information on the status and distribution of our native animals and plants, emphasizing species of concern and high quality habitats, such as wetlands. The Natural Heritage Program provides this information

for a broad range of uses, including mining, timber sales, subdivisions, utility and pipeline corridors, oil and gas developments, weed management, highway construction, growth planning, and habitat conservation. The Natural Heritage Program helps to avoid conflicts because developers by can identify sensitive species and areas early in the planning process.



(OVER)



Knowing where species of concern are located also helps developers and land managers avoid needless impacts on valuable habitats, reducing the likelihood of future species listings. Data collected and centralized by the Natural Heritage Program has also led to the "down-ranking" of many species once thought to be very rare or considered for listing. Because the Natural Heritage Program is linked to a network of over 70 similar programs in states, provinces, and nations throughout the Western Hemisphere, it brings to Montana the "big picture" on the status of species and habitats.

Staff of the Natural Heritage Program also provide other state agencies with technical assistance in conducting biological inventory and assessments, saving those agencies time and money.

Contact: Sue Crispin, NHP Director
(406) 444-3019
E-Mail: scrispin@mt.gov
<http://mtnhp.org>



The Water Information System (WIS) provides a broad selection of information pertaining to Montana water resources. The WIS provides information on Montana's streams, lakes, wetlands, wells, and aquifers. In partnership with state, federal, and non-profit organizations, the WIS provides users' access to water rights, water quality, fisheries, water supply, well and well log, and wetland information. This information can be mapped and reported in a variety of ways, as well as combined with other data at NRIS to meet the analytic and mapping needs of the natural resource community. The WIS also hosts and maintains the Web site for the Governor's Drought Monitoring Committee.

Montanans use the WIS in a variety of ways. For example, the WIS supports state officials in writing water quality plans, managing reservoirs and stream flow, and seeking drought aid; contractors can find well logs for areas where they plan to drill; land owners are able to view their water rights information to ensure that state records are up to date; and recreational users can find real-time flow data for rafting or detailed fisheries and stocking information for angling.

Contact: NRIS Information Request Line
(406) 444-5354
E-Mail: MSL@mt.gov
<http://msl.mt.gov/wis/>



Montana State Digital Library Division



After its creation in 2003, the Montana State Digital Library Division merged multiple statutory programs in order to best serve the evolving information needs of the library's users. The programs included in the Montana State Digital Library Division are:

- ☞ Natural Resource Information System
- ☞ Natural Heritage Program
- ☞ Water Information System
- ☞ State Publications Center

The Digital Library Division also includes the more traditional Library Information Services, with professionally trained librarians to help users find and access exactly what they need.

The Montana State Digital Library Division manages a focused collection of print and digital information. It is your point of access for:

- ☞ a definitive collection of state agency publications
- ☞ Montana-related federal documents
- ☞ Montana's digital atlas and printed maps
- ☞ information on Montana's natural resources.

The Montana State Digital Library is a professionally catalogued, maintained, and supported collection of state publications, Montana-related federal publications, reference materials, and appropriate state agency data brokered by highly trained information science specialists. Digital library staff continually employ 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.

The current collection excels in personnel management and environmental and natural resource information. Since 1967, the State Publications Center has provided access to environmental assessments, census and vital statistics, mineral resource information, and more. Since 1985, the Natural Resource Information System, Natural Heritage Program, and Water Information System have provided access to state and federally produced information relating to Montana's lands, water, and biological communities. These comprehensive depositories are complimented by a selective collection of federal documents, a reference collection that includes subscriptions to a number of electronic databases, as well as journals, and a general collection of Montana-related information.

Contact: (406) 444-3016

Toll Free in Montana: (800) 338-5087

Fax: (406) 444-0266

E-Mail: mssl@mt.gov

<http://mssl.mt.gov>





The Montana State Library is composed of programs that serve the information needs of all branches of state government, its agencies, local counterparts and individuals seeking information and materials that are not found in their local libraries. Its charge includes effecting statewide planning for library development in all communities.

The mission of the Montana State Library is to help all Montana citizens receive the information they need in order to improve and enhance their lives by:

- ✿ Providing comprehensive information about Montana's natural resources and heritage;
- ✿ Fulfilling the information needs of state agency employees;
- ✿ Preserving state publications;
- ✿ Improving public library services;
- ✿ Promoting cooperation among all Montana libraries of all types;
- ✿ And providing reading materials to those with physical disabilities.

Montana State Library Programs

Montana Digital Library Division

The Montana Digital Library Division maintains a professionally catalogued and supported collection, brokered by highly trained information science specialists and content specialists. The following statutory programs are managed by the Digital Library Division.

The Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) provides comprehensive access to information about Montana's natural resources through the acquisition, storage, and dissemination of that information in meaningful form.

The Natural Heritage Program is the state's source for information on the status and distribution of our native animals and plants, emphasizing species of concern and high quality habitats.

The Water Information System, (WIS) a program of NRIS, provides a starting point for access to information relating to Montana's water resources.

The State Publications Center (SPC) maintains a comprehensive collection of state agency publications safeguarding one of our state's most critical traditions - the public's right to know.

Talking Book Library (MTBL)

MTBL provides a broad range of materials to those individuals who are not able to read traditional print. MTBL also houses its own recording studio, and records a number of Montana-related publications, including books and magazines, every year. This service is free to qualified Montanans.

Library Development Department (LDD)

LDD 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, including the Montana Library Network.

Contact: Montana State Library
(406) 444-3115
Toll Free In Montana: (800) 338-5087
E-Mail: mssl@mt.gov
<http://mssl.mt.gov>



MONTANA
Talking Book

Library

The Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) offers alternative reading materials for Montana citizens who cannot read or use standard print materials because of a visual, physical, or reading handicap. All materials are provided to patrons free of charge and mailed to and from patrons as "Free Matter."

In Montana, approximately 12,000 visually and physically disabled people are eligible to use the Montana Talking Book Library. Every year, the Montana Talking Book Library circulates about 150,000 materials to patrons around the state.

The Montana Talking Book Library collection contains:

- ☞ Over 48,000 recorded fiction and nonfiction book titles, including bestsellers, biographies, romances, westerns, mysteries, how-to-books and more
- ☞ Braille books
- ☞ Large print books
- ☞ Popular magazines, recorded on tape and in Braille, such as *Reader's Digest*, *Guideposts*, *Newsweek*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Sports Illustrated*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and many others
- ☞ Descriptive videos - movies for people who are blind or have low vision. A narrator describes action, characters, locations, costumes, and sets without interfering with dialogue or sound effects
- ☞ Free loan of specialized playback equipment for library provided recordings
- ☞ A children's collection of recorded, Braille, and twin-vision titles covering a variety of subject interests for ages preschool through junior high.

(OVER)



MTBL is also on the forefront of the digital revolution. The State Library houses MTBL's own state-of-the-art recording studio, and a sister recording studio is located at the Montana State Prison. Annually, volunteers record approximately 60 Montana-related books, as well as four issues each of two different Montana magazines. MTBL is also one of a handful of talking book libraries around the country that is participating in The Lobe Library Digital Books Project, which provides books on Otis digital players. This pilot project explores reader demand for, reader acceptance of, and the organizational and service challenges of developing a program that provides digital audio books for blind, visually impaired, and physically challenged patrons.

MTBL also conducts a summer reading program for its young patrons.

Contact: (406) 444-2064

Toll Free In Montana: (800) 332-3400





The Montana Library Network (MLN) is a project of the Montana State Library, and is part of the State Library's Library Development Department. The Montana Library Network is Montana libraries working together to make certain that all Montanans have access to quality, best-practices-based, networked library materials and services. MLN's success depends upon Montana librarians 'owning' MLN and shaping it to meet their needs.

MLN Core Services

At MLN's inception, the Networking Task Force and MSL Commission charged the Montana Library Network to address the state's needs for core services. Since 1999, MLN has provided these services and adopted several others:

- ☞ Statewide library network/collaborative/cooperative/consortia-related planning
- ☞ Statewide Union Catalog and infrastructure, with access to Montana libraries' online catalogs
- ☞ Statewide resource sharing and infrastructure, interlibrary loan, holds, fulfillment, and policy development
- ☞ Full-text database selection, negotiation, and provision, including training
- ☞ Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) contract negotiation and provision, including training
- ☞ Shared Catalog planning, recruitment, implementation, training, and operation
- ☞ Authentication

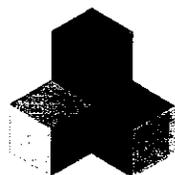
Additional Services

These are services that have been undertaken as additional areas of emphasis. This is not a judgment about relative importance; rather, this is descriptive in terms of how MLN allocated resources over the last five years. In many instances, MLN has been key for establishing projects in these areas.

- ☞ Promulgate and promote library automation best-practices (also called "standards")
- ☞ Montaniana (digital information about Montana)
- ☞ Montana Library Directory and statistics
- ☞ Montana Bar Code Registry
- ☞ Cooperative (virtual) Reference
- ☞ Assist libraries with adequate Internet connections
- ☞ Additional online content negotiation and infrastructure
- ☞ Maintain statewide Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR) membership
- ☞ Undertake research and experiment with promising technologies and practices

Contact: Bruce Newell
(406) 444-9816
Toll Free In Montana: (800) 338-5087
E-Mail: bnewell@mt.gov
<http://montanalibraries.org>





Library Development

Library development is at the heart of excellent library services across Montana. The Library Development Department (LDD) 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. Key activities and products of LDD include:

- ☞ Statewide library planning
- ☞ On-site project monitoring
- ☞ Data collection/dissemination
- ☞ Professional publications
- ☞ *Big Sky Libraries* newsletter
- ☞ Web site development
- ☞ Librarian recruitment, training, and scholarships
- ☞ Creation of public library standards
- ☞ Development and writing of library-related bills for legislature
- ☞ Summer reading program
- ☞ Certification for public librarians
- ☞ Continuing education for library personnel and trustees
- ☞ Publication of Montana Library Directory
- ☞ Publication of Montana Public Library Statistics

The Montana State Library also has LDD consultants on staff who work out of offices in Helena, Great Falls, and Billings to assist libraries around the state. LDD Professional Consultants offer expertise and assistance related to:

- ☞ Database access and training
- ☞ Internet access and training
- ☞ Library management
- ☞ Library planning processes
- ☞ Library policy development
- ☞ Library program development
- ☞ Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) application and projects
- ☞ Proposal development
- ☞ Standards and training for libraries and trustees
- ☞ State grants to public libraries

Contact: Bob Cooper - Helena
(406) 444-5431
Toll Free In Montana: (800) 338-5087
E-Mail: bcooper@mt.gov

Suzanne Reymer - Billings
(406) 255-0732
Toll Free In Montana: (888) 826-0837
E-Mail: sreym@mtlib.org

Sue Jackson - Helena
(406) 444-5350
Toll Free In Montana: (800) 338-5087
E-Mail: sujackson@mt.gov

Tracy Cook - Great Falls
(406) 761-7120
Toll Free In Montana: (888) 502-0012
E-Mail: tcook@mtlib.org

<http://montanalibraries.org/>