President’s Message

Season’s Readings to All!

“Proceeding on…Montana Library Association 1906-2006” will be the theme of our Association’s Centennial Conference next May. Devoted Lewis and Clark enthusiast Cherie Heser of the Rosebud County Library first suggested to me that our centennial conference, which occurs in the final year of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration, might incorporate a reference to the expedition in its theme. Derived from William Clark’s signature closing (“We proceeded on.”) to his diary entries, “proceeding on” seems just right for representing the many paths Montana libraries and librarians have traveled since our Association was founded in 1906.

What a journey we have already taken and continue to make! Librarians and libraries in the early Twentieth Century often did not carry fiction or limited the number of fiction titles that a patron could check out. We had not come to the realization that reading fiction could be a path to discovering truth about our lives and our world. Today, fiction probably accounts for fifty percent of circulation in many of our libraries. In addition to developing literature collections, libraries have added art, audiobooks, recorded music in many formats, and, of course, computer software and computers to our mix of services.

As we add to and alter our product mix, do we know where we are headed? Do we agree about where we should be headed? Do we have any clear idea of what the geography looks like between where we are and where we want to be?

This past October, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Wyoming Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association Joint Conference in Jackson, Wyoming. With a keynote address by Roy Tennant, User Services Architect of the California Digital Library at the University of California—Oakland, and two presentations by Stephen Abrahm, Sirsi’s Vice-President of Innovation, this exciting conference was clearly looking at the path ahead. Both speakers focused on current technologies and trends, and Mr. Abrahm provided a fascinating analysis of the general characteristics and information-seeking behaviors of the Millennial Generation—our future library constitu-

ents. All three of these stimulating presentations can be found online at www.wyla/2005conference/index.shtml, and they certainly provide much to ponder for current librarians who may alternately feel as if they’re plunging into the river of the future or entombed in the past.

As a librarian in a small public library, I have to admit some qualms about our seemingly headlong assault on unknown territory. Perhaps I simply reflect the skepticism of my generation, but, even while I struggle to implement new technologies, I worry about the unforeseen consequences of reaching the great e-library on the other side of the mountains.

On one hand, Google’s project to digitize great library collections offers the promise of increasing accessibility to important works. On the other hand, the truth about optical character recognition is that it often fails and then substitutes one word for another in the literature being scanned. I assume that most librarians disparage Dr. Bowdler’s expurgated texts of the early Twentieth Century. Are digitally altered texts

President’s Message, Continued on Page 2...

Montana State University Libraries and Montana Library Association Suffer Great Loss

R. Brad Coon died on November 30, 2005 after several months of declining health. Brad joined the MSU (Bozeman) faculty as a Reference Librarian in 1999. He held a BA in Anthropology and Linguistics, a Masters in Library Science and a Masters in Liberal Studies (Linguistics) all from Indiana University. Brad served on the MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee and on several subcommittees for the 2003 MLA Conference in Bozeman. His research passions were the Nahuahtl language of the Aztecs and the role of Coyote as Trickster in Native American literature.

Brad will be greatly missed by colleagues across Montana and beyond.

Tamara Miller
Associate Dean
Montana State University Libraries
tamaramiller@montan.edu
Discussion List: WIRED-MT Information

Wired-Mt, our listserv, is open to members and non-members. Not all MLA members subscribe to Wired, and not every member of Wired is a member of MLA. MLA members would do well to remember that it is open to anyone with any interest (not necessarily sympathetic to our issues) in libraries. This is a place where people can get quick feedback to ideas and questions. It is a public forum centered on topics of interest to those interested in libraries. Its guidelines are available on our website www.mtlib.org.

There are two ways to subscribe:
1. a. send an e-mail message to majordomo@bcr.org
   b. leave the subject line blank
   c. in the body of the message type: subscribe wired-mt
   d. include nothing else; do not attach a signature file

OR
2. a. go to the web site: www.bcr.org/cgi-bin/MailServ/majordomo
   b. follow the instructions on the page

For additional information, or if you have problems subscribing, contact Margaret Webster, List Manager (on behalf of MLA) at: mwebster@crowleylaw.com or 406-255-7201

President’s Message, Continued

of the Twenty-first Century any better?

And how will libraries cope with the costs of keeping digital materials available in our world of ever-changing formats? Does anyone remember aperture cards? An academic library where I worked in the early ’90’s had a unique collection on aperture cards, once the bright new technology of the day. When I worked there, we had only five out-of-state libraries to which the cards could be sent for printing, because no other entities still owned working readers. Today, the Internet has made it possible to quickly find a company that sells aperture card readers (only $21,900) or has the capability to read and print a library’s aperture cards…for a [slightly lower] price.

Books that were printed centuries ago can still be read. Libraries have not had to spend their collection dollars repeatedly for the same material, which has to be constantly converted from one format to another to another to the next.

Format durability is only one of the many obstacles I can see along the path to the future library. Identifying and funding the mix of services that will be valued by our current constituents as well as the Millennials is an even greater challenge.

The enduring role of libraries has been to provide access to knowledge and a possible path to wisdom. American Library Association President Michael Gorman has stated that the mission of libraries is “to select, acquire, give access to, and preserve the records of human civilization and to provide instruction and assistance in the use of those records.”

Is this goal still the shore we proceed toward?
What paths are we taking? I think it’s time for dialog in addition to enthusiasm for innovation. Please share your thoughts with me, either by regular mail (228 W. Callender St., Livingston, MT 59047) or by e-mail mcummins@ycsi.net

Milla L. Cummins, President
Montana Library Association
Livingston-Park County Public Library
mcummins@ycsi.net

Great Falls Public Library Hires New Head of Information Services

The Great Falls Public Library announces it has hired a new head of Information Services. Beginning December 1st, Suzie McIntyre will join the staff of the Great Falls Public Library. A Great Falls native and resident, Suzie got her Masters of Library Science degree from the University of Washington. She most recently was employed at Voices of Hope, a local non-profit organization. We welcome her and look forward to working with her.

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price

The movie, Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, has been screened at the Great Falls Public Library twice in November, and will be shown twice in December. The film is sponsored by a group of private citizens. The library chose to host the event in order to facilitate showing the movie with our equipment. Turn out has indicated a strong community interest in the subject.

Jude Smith, Public Relations Coordinator
Great Falls Public Library
jusmith@mtlib.org
Offline 2006 Program Announced

Views of tomorrow’s libraries from both 30,000 feet and down among the trees Carroll College, Helena, Friday & Saturday, February 24th & 25th

“What’s the difference,” I asked my 15 year old daughter in reply to her calling me a ‘nerd’, “between a nerd and a geek?” Ellie replied, “Geeks have style.”

You want style? Come and get it at the 2005 OFFLINE retreat, hosted by Carroll College in Helena, February 24th and 25th. Spend a day-and-a-half rubbing elbows with Montana’s best and brightest librarians, learning from each other and an amazing line-up of national-caliber speakers. Leave Saturday before lunch warmed by old and new friends, replete with good memories, and nursing a chocolate hang-over. You’ll drive home better equipped to run your library with style, grace, and with any luck a glimmer of what’s fast looming up in our windshields.

Librarians and friends of libraries are urged to attend. We hope some of our colleagues from surrounding states and provinces will join us and add their perspectives to what promises to be many lively discussions. The price is right: as low as $55 for early registrants (by January 20). Friday’s breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included, as is Saturday’s breakfast. And if you can’t spring for a hotel we’ll see if we can match you up with someone’s spare bed or living room floor. You pretty much just need to get to Helena to have a certain good time.

Presenters have promised to discuss their topic from a 30,000 foot “I see this trend…” view, coupled with a practical overview of the protocols, applications, and skills necessary to master these new technologies. Library managers will find the strategic overview helpful; those in the trenches will meet others wrestling with the operational day-to-day challenges of being a progressive librarian.

For further details about the 2006 Offline Retreat, including presenter bio’s and program descriptions visit the Offline website at montanalibraries.org/Offline/Offline2006.htm While you’re there, please take the time to fill out a registration form, space is limited!

What is OFFLINE? OFFLINE is an interest group of the Montana Library Association. First organized in the early 1980’s to help Montana librarians become better online (Dialog) searchers, OFFLINE retreats now embrace a wide array of library automation and networking topics. OFFLINE brings librarians together around the common theme of library automation.

Bruce Newell, Co-Chair
2006 Offline Planning Committee
Montana Library Network
bnewell@mt.gov
Awards & Honors
Nominations Sought!!!

’Tis the season to start the process of recognizing all the hard work that’s been making good things happen in our libraries this year.

Nominations are officially open for this year’s round of awards, with our winners to be recognized at the annual awards and honors luncheon at conference in April 2006.

First off, for each nominee a letter of nomination and two letters in support of the nomination are required. For the Media Award, a copy of the nominated work must be submitted along with the necessary letters.

Secondly, all nominations and letters of support are due on or before February 1, 2006.

Since the online MLA Handbook, which details the awards and the criteria for nominations, is not available right now (updates in progress), I must subject you to those numerous details below. If you can’t bear the thought of wading through all of this via your copy of Focus, please e-mail or call me and I will be happy to send you the information separately for your more convenient perusal.

Thanks for your attention. Here’s all my contact info followed by the nomination details (take a deep breath. . . ) Oh, and happy holidays!

Jan Dawson
Chair, 2006 MLA Awards and Honors Committee
Technical Services Librarian
Livingston-Park County Public Library
228 W. Callender
Livingston, MT 59047
jdawson@ycsi.net
406-222-0862

Honorary MLA Life-time membership
May be conferred upon an individual who has either made an outstanding contribution to librarianship or has rendered outstanding service to library interests. To be eligible, an individual shall have made a contribution of lasting importance to the field of librarianship. The contribution must be outstanding enough that there can be no question of her/his suitability. Only living persons may be considered.

Library of the Year
Conferred upon any type of Montana library, library system or network for distinguished achievement in service. The staff, library board or administering body, and the community or people served shall be involved in the work for which recognition is sought. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- User services
- Development of innovative partnerships through networks, systems, cooperative planning and programming
- Sound collection development policies
- Offering opportunities for professional growth and job satisfaction for all employees
- Improvement of physical facilities resulting in better services

Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year
Conferred upon a librarian in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. The librarian must be currently employed in any field of librarianship in Montana and must be a current member of the Montana Library Association. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Provision of high-quality, community-centered library services
- Contribution to any area of service benefiting users
- Distinguished service to the profession, including outstanding participation in activities of professional library associations and/or notable publications
- Leadership in education and in-service training for librarians
- Leadership in cooperative activities
- Outstanding development of library techniques, management, and/or facilities

Trustee of the Year
Conferred upon a Montana public library trustee in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership. Nominations may be made by any library board, individual library, librarian, trustee, MLA member or Montana State Library Commission. Equal consideration shall be given to trustees of small and large libraries. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities and accomplishments such as the following:

- Service to the local library and participation in state and national activities
- Constructive accomplishments in promoting library service shall be considered rather than the length of service as a trustee
- Interest in and contribution to the development of library services beyond those of the local community
- Achievements of nominees are judged according to criteria found in the Montana Public Library Trustee Manual.

Awards and Honors, Continued on Page 5...
Awards and Honors, Continued

recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership in the development and promotion of school libraries. Nominations for this award should come from the librarian currently employed by the school district of the nominee.

The awards shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

• Constructive accomplishment towards the advancement of library service to the students and teachers of the school
• Development of sound school library practices
• Creative and effective work in interpreting the library to the school board, school administration, teaching staff, students, and community
• Fostering cooperative relations with other libraries in the area
• Implementation of programs to address special needs or problems
• Defense of intellectual freedom
• Promoting and supporting the employment of professional librarians in school

Special Friend to Libraries Award

Purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or groups who have rendered outstanding service in support of library interests within Montana. The award is conferred simply as a reward for a job well done. Nominations are accepted from members of the Montana Library Association only. Award need not be based solely on service rendered during the previous year, but may be based on cumulative years of service.

Intellectual Freedom Award

Conferred upon an individual or group who has made significant contributions during the past year to the enhancement of First Amendment rights. The recipient should have demonstrated a clear understanding of the principles, nature, responsibilities and implications of the First Amendment. The recipient should be a Montanan or a non-Montanan whose contribution has a demonstrable effect on Montana. The recipient should have applied that understanding of the principles in one or more of the following ways:

• In defense of the principles in the face of a serious challenge to it which defense is not necessarily limited to libraries
• In support of the principles through an active role in Formulating programs which develop people’s ability to deal with a full range of opinion/controversy and with the issues associated with such controversy, or
• Developing or materially assisting in the development of a legal base for the continued enjoyment of freedom of mind, its strengthening, and its defense, or
• Expanding the philosophical foundation of the principle or contributing to better understanding of it.

Interest Group Excellence Award

Conferred upon an individual member of an MLA interest group or upon an interest group as a whole, for meritorious service on behalf of Montana libraries and/or librarians. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

• Comprehensive projects which benefit the larger library community
• Exemplary programs or outstanding services which are not available through other channels
• Extraordinary assistance to other libraries and/or librarians in Montana

Media Award

Conferred to honor a production for broadcast or work for publication which best underscores the value of libraries to community and society. This includes works prepared for television, radio, cable, film, and/or print media. News articles, programs and documents also qualify. The broadcast or publication of the nominated work should be within the two years preceding the annual conference at which the award is to be made. A copy of the nominated work must be submitted to the Awards and Honors Committee for review.

Jan Dawson
Chair, 2006 MLA Awards and Honors Committee
Livingston-Park County Public Library
jdawson@ycsi.net

Northwest Archivists to Meet in Butte in May

Northwest Archivists, the regional archival association serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, will be holding its Annual Meeting in Butte May 18-20, 2006. The meeting is designed to encourage professional development and networking among archivists and others interested in the preservation of and access to historical information and materials.

The Annual Meeting includes sessions intended to introduce attendees to new ideas in the field as well as refresh knowledge and skills. A Basic Archives workshop, for individuals with responsibilities for archival materials but little or no formal training, will be offered on May 18.

For additional information about the Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting please contact Ellen Crain at the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives - buttearchives@qwest.net or (406) 782-3280
State Library News

PEEL Library Stipends

Just a reminder to public, school (K-12), and tribal libraries that the deadline to apply for a Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) stipend is December 15, 2005. Details and application materials are available at msl.state.mt.us/greatcareer/stipendapp05.pdf

2005 Collection Management Honor Roll

If you would like your library to be considered for the Montana State Library Commission’s 2005 Collection Management Honor Roll, please be sure that a copy of the library’s current collection management policy is on file at Montana State Library by December 31, 2005. The Honor Roll recognizes libraries across the state that have demonstrated a strong commitment to sharing resources.

To be included on the Honor Roll libraries must:
1. have a current and approved collection management policy on file at Montana State Library;
2. have at least 50% of holdings on the OCLC database; and
3. be currently adding/deleting records on the database.

2006 PEEL Scholarships

Library is pleased to announce that application materials for the PEEL II scholarship program are now available at: msl.mt.gov/greatcareer/pdf/schapp06.pdf

PEEL II offers ten $25,000 scholarships in 2006 for Montana residents to earn a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree through the distance program of the University of Washington’s Information School. The scholarships are funded by a grant awarded to Montana State Library from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Scholarship recipients must:
- be a Montana resident
- have a BA or BS degree by fall 2006
- apply to and be accepted into the UW Graduate School (requires GRE scores)
- apply to and be accepted into the UW Information School program
- apply to Montana State Library for a PEEL scholarship award
- begin classes in fall 2006 and complete the degree in 3 calendar years
- have access to technology required for a distance degree program
- travel to Seattle for brief residencies as required by UW (3-5 days per quarter excluding summer)
- agree to work in a professional library position in a public, school (K-12), or tribal library for two years after receiving the MLIS degree.

Details on PEEL II are being posted at the Great Career @ Your Library web page: msl.mt.gov/greatcareer/index.html
Contact Sue Jackson at Montana State Library for more information about these MSL activities.

Sue Jackson
Montana State Library
800-338-5087
sujackson@mt.gov

Happy Financial News From Great Falls Public Library

The Great Falls Public Library received a $20,000 grant from the estate of Kathleen Cosgriff and Frances Zipperian. $10,000 will go to the Foundation Corpus, $5,000 to the Fiction retrospective collection and $5,000 towards a planned Young Adult Center here in the works.

The Great Falls Rotary Club donated $3,000 to the Great Falls Public library this year, making a total of $81,000 over the many years they have contributed to the library. This money is dedicated to purchasing children’s books.

Finally, the Great Falls Public Library has raised $881.86 for libraries following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. This money was sent to the Louisiana Public Library Foundation. We thank all of our generous patrons who contributed to this cause.

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MLA Membership News

As of November 21, the Association has 505 current members - that’s 151 more than reported in October’s Focus! There are 290 in the public library division (an increase of 62), 121 in the school/library media library division (an increase of 57) and 105 in the academic/special library division (an increase of 34). 11 of us are in more than one division. In 2003 we had 669 members and in April of 2005 we had 556, so we still have a ways to go. Our informal membership drive of 100 new members by the 100th annual conference is going well - only 58 new members to go! Please help us welcome our 21 newest members:

Daniel C Arnsan, Trustee, Mineral County Public Library, Superior
Sally Behr Schendel, English/Art, Sheridan Public Schools Library, Sheridan
Karen Lynn Branzell, Student, UM Library Media Program, Florence
Deborra Fischer, Billings West High School Library, Billings
Judy Hart, Director, Lewis and Clark Library, Helena
Michael Hamlet, Director, Miles City Public Library, Miles City
David Hilde, Flathead County Library Trustee, Big Fork
Lynn Marie Kelly, Flathead County Library, Kalispell
Rita Ann Kroon, Bozeman High School Berg Library, Bozeman
Jean D. Langlas, Library Media Specialist, Target Range Public Schools Library, Missoula
B.J. McCracken, Librarian, Great Falls High School Library, Great Falls
Kimberly Sue Mellott, Trustee, Wedsworth Memorial Library, Cascade
Jeanne Marie Morigeau, Clancy Community Library and Student of Texas Woman’s University
Jennifer Morey, Yellowstone Park School, Yellowstone National Park, WY
Barbara Nordtome, Flathead County Library, Kalispell
Kelly Ann Strandlund, Froid Branch Library, Froid
Karen K Stock, Trustee, Wedsworth Memorial Library, Cascade
Laura Duvernay Trapp, Rossiter Elementary School Media Specialist, Helena
Nancy Typinski, Missoula County Public Schools, Missoula
Patricia J. Von Stein, Trustee, Wedsworth Memorial Library, Cascade
Kate Kristin Zoellner, Reference Librarian, Mansfield Library, Missoula

Central Asia Institute Task Force Update

A very good article in the November issue of the Outside magazine tells about the area of the world where Greg is helping to build schools. He also is authoring a book to be published next spring named “Three Cups of Tea.” The Columbus Middle School has donated over $300 from a Halloween dance and a Thanksgiving ice cream party put on by the Student Council. Roberts Schools are involved in collecting enough pennies to make a mile. Billings Senior High is planning a fundraiser after Christmas. The Bozeman Public library deposited over $425 for the “Pennies for Peace” project. Hopefully, other libraries and schools will again join in this year’s fund raising efforts for Job #12, Montana Library Association’s project to promote building a school/library in Afghanistan.

PNLA News

Mark your calendars for August 9-12, 2006 for the annual PNLA conference that will be in Eugene, Oregon. Common Places and Far Out Spaces: Libraries in the Pacific Northwest, the theme for the conference, promises to be “far out” in providing educational and leadership experiences for all types of libraries.

PNLA Leadership Institute: Watch the PNLA website for information about the 2nd Leadership Institute being planned for October 22-27, 2006. The site for next year’s institute is Tamarack Lodge, the Lodge where President Bush stayed last summer during his visit to Idaho. Four librarians from Montana will be chosen to attend. The Application process opens next February but it is not to early to plan on finances and time needed to attend this worthwhile institute.

PNLA Young Readers Choice Award: Barbra Meisenheimer, from the Vancouver Mall Community Library, Vancouver, WA is the new YRCA chairperson. The voting for the 2006 nominees will take place between March 15 and April 1. A list of nominated books for each division are listed on the Pacific Northwest Library Association web site at www.pnla.org. The committee representatives from each state and province are looking for people to read recommended books in each division for 2007 nominations.

The above articles were submitted by PNLA Representative, Norma Glock

Magi Malone
Director at Large-West
George C. Ruhle Library
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Norma Glock, PNLA Representative
Columbus High School
nglock@cablemt.net
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation have been awarded Prestigious IMLS Library Enhancement Grant.

Thanks to a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Fort Peck Tribal Library will use grant funds to microfilm the *Wotanin Wowapi*, Fort Peck Reservation newspaper, and provide copies of the microfilm to the Montana Historical Society, MSU-Bozeman, Roosevelt County Library, Fort Peck Tribal Archives and Fort Peck Tribal Library. Another component of the grant will provide a security system for Fort Peck Tribal Library to curb the removal of materials without checking them out. The grant will provide up-to-date equipment and storage units for the involved parties. The third component of the grant will be to provide a Summer Reading Program for the children of Poplar and surrounding area in Summer 2006.

“It was exciting to get the news of funding of this project. The *Wotanin* has been in existence since the late 1960’s and it will be great to have it available on microfilm for Fort Peck tribal members to use for research,” said Anita Scheetz, Fort Peck Tribal Library Director, the grant writer and project manager of the grant. “We will be working with MSU-Bozeman to microfilm a complete run of the *Wotanin*, using backfiles from MSU-Bozeman, Fort Peck Tribal Library, Fort Peck Tribal Archives and the *Wotanin Wowapi*. This is an exciting component of the grant which will help preserve reservation history that has been published in the weekly newspaper.”

“The thirteen recipients of this year’s Enhancement Grants have demonstrated great dedication to their Native American communities,” said Mary L. Chute, Acting Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. “They’re doing innovative work to improve library holdings, provide essential computer access and training, establish new programming, and improve the lives of Native Americans.”

The Native American Library Services program provides opportunities for improved library services for an important part of the nation’s community of library users. The IMLS Native American Library Services program offers two types of support to serve the range of needs of Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages: non-competitive Basic Grants and competitive Enhancement Grants. Today IMLS makes grants in the Enhancement category.

Enhancement Grants support activities to advance the applicant library’s operations to new levels of service. These competitive grants are intended to encourage the implementation of both mainstream and innovative library practices. These grants may be used to expand services for learning, provide electronic and other linkages between libraries, develop public and private partnerships, and to increase access to information resources.

Anita Scheetz, Library Director
Fort Peck Tribal Library
Fort Peck Community College
ascheetz@fpcc.edu

Deadline Quickly Approaching for the ALA “We the People Bookshelf Grant”

For the first time ever, we will be awarding a Bookshelf - 15 classic books for young readers on the theme of “Becoming American” - to 2,000 school and public libraries. This is four times the number of Bookshelves we’ve awarded in the past for a single application deadline! We hope you’ll take advantage of this easy opportunity to acquire free books for your library.

Guidelines and the online application are available at [www.ala.org/wethepeople](http://www.ala.org/wethepeople) from September 6, 2005 - January 17, 2006. Libraries interested in receiving the collection are required to develop and host a program to introduce the collection and its theme of “Becoming American” to students and/or patrons. Unlike past We the People Bookshelves, there will be no second deadline for “Becoming American.” All applications are due by January 17, 2006.

To access a list of titles and further details, please visit [www.ala.org/wethepeople](http://www.ala.org/wethepeople). With questions, contact [publicprograms@ala.org](mailto:publicprograms@ala.org)

Beth Boyson, ALA Representative
Bozeman Public Library
bboyson@mtlib.org
With a Public Performance Site License from Movie Licensing USA, your school or library can use fun movies like these for many great programs including:

- After School/After Care
- Holiday Events
- Summer Reading
- Family Movie Nights
- Snow Days/Indoor Recess
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- Staffing Emergencies
- And much more

To help make your Montana library copyright compliant or for FUN program ideas, contact:

Movie Licensing USA
A Division of Swook Media, Inc. • Tim Swook, President

Toll-free: 1-877-321-1300 (school libraries)
Toll-free: 1-888-267-2658 (public libraries)
mail@movlic.com • www.movlic.com

“This is one of the best things I have ever spent money on for my school in my career as a librarian. Even if I lost the funding for the license, I believe in it so much, I would pay for it out of my own pocket.”

—White Pines Middle School, Michigan
A Look Back at the 2005 ASLD/PLD Retreat

It's a long drive to Chico Hot Springs for many of us, but you have to admit that it's beautiful, no matter what direction you come from. I know it always reminds me that my decision to move back to Montana was the right one. For this year’s retreat we had gorgeous warm weather, great food, convivial company, some excellent presentations, and a very informal book discussion about *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde (it got mixed reviews) while soaking in the hot pool.

Della Dubbe and I are very interested in your ideas for programs for next year. Academic & special librarians: I have heard that some of you are feeling that the programming is too far to the public library side of the fence. I would especially like to hear some ideas from you about what kinds of programs would entice you to come to the retreat.

Though we hope to put together a great program next year that will sound fascinating to everyone, let me remind you that the retreat is not just about the program content. It gives people a chance to visit with their colleagues from around the state, it allows the new staff at all types of libraries to meet in person the people they’ve been “meeting” on WIRED-MT, and for a person like me, who is works in a very small library with no professional colleagues, it’s just a major treat to talk to other librarians. I have been much happier since I decided to ignore the programming at the ASLD/PLD retreat and at the MLA Annual Meeting and just go.

Martha Thayer, Librarian
Rocky Mountain Laboratories
MThayer@niaid.nih.gov

Time to Get Excited About MLA’s 100 Year Celebration

The proposals are in, the programs have been selected, a logo has been designed, and the Centennial celebration of the Montana Library Association is moving full-steam ahead! Missoula will be the site of this year’s annual Montana Library Association Conference, “Proceeding on...” to be held May 3-6 at the Holiday Inn - Parkside. The conference planning committee, ably co-chaired by Elaine Higgins and Jennie Burroughs from the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana, has been busy for months already, putting everything into motion for the big event.

Plan on the usual stellar and informative programs, a fun-filled Cates night event, and some special Centennial activities at this year’s conference. I can hardly wait myself!

Look for continuing conference details in future issues of *FOCUS*, on the MLA Website at www.mtlib.org, and on Wired.

Here is a list of your conference committee contacts if you have any specific questions:

**Conference Co-Chairs**
Jennie Burroughs - jennie.burroughs@umontana.edu
Elaine Higgins - elaine.higgins@umontana.edu

**Registration Committee**
Gail Hanowell - gailh@missoula.lib.mt.us
Rita Squires - rita@missoula.lib.um.us

**Program Booklet Committee**
Stacey Gordon - stacey.gordon@umontana.edu

**Exhibits Committee**
Steve White - whites@frenchtown.k12.mt.us

**Hospitality Committee**
Merinda McClure - merinda.mclure@umontana.edu

**Meeting Rooms & Equipment Committee**
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