FOCUS
a newsletter of the Montana Library Association

[ December 2016 Vol. 34 Issue 5 ]

Montana Library Association
From the Mountains to the Prairies

This Issue Sponsored by NCCE
Providing year-round professional development opportunities
for K-12 administrators, educators and support staff.

www.NCCE.org

MONTANA SCHOOL DISTRICTS
AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

NCCE now offers a full service E-Rate program providing support for schools
and libraries, including:

- Technology planning support and RFP development,
- Completing and submitting of Forms 470, 471, 486, and 500 for category one and
two,
- Preparing bid materials and on-site coordination of vendor walkthroughs if
needed,
- Mitigating the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review process and audits, if needed.
- Completing BEAR forms to request your refunds once the applications have been
approved and services rendered.

For more information on NCCE’s E-Rate services:
Eric Chambers
DIRECTOR OF E-RATE AND SERVICES
303.800.8794 | echambers@ncce.org
www.ncce.org/e-rate
My favorite library-related stuff of 2016!

by Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Interim President of the Montana Library Association

FAVORITE "LIBRARIANS ROCK" EXPERIENCE:

Recently, I was in Billings for a fundraising event for my job. Part of that event required showing a film. I held the film viewing at Billings Public Library because why wouldn't you? Beautiful meeting room, high quality tech equipment, and the price is right (free). Upon my arrival at the public library, I spoke with a gal at the circulation desk who connected me up with Lynne Puckett in the event I had any technical questions about using the equipment in the meeting room. Upon realizing my connection to the Montana Library Association, Lynne took it upon herself to give me the full royal tour of the Billings Library, even the behind-the-scenes stuff. Beautiful new library, terrific staff, and a wonderful impromptu hour for me. I even got to have my picture taken in the “celebrity” chair. Thanks, Cindy! I thought it was so nice of Lynne to take the time and trouble to show me around. Thank you, Lynne, for being a librarian that rocks!

FAVORITE TECH-IN LIBRARY:
I recently stumbled across one of the neatest ideas ever—right at the Mansfield Library on the University of Montana Campus. My Montana innocence Project office is at the university and I am considered affiliate faculty. As such, I have access to university resources including trainings. I saw on the training schedule that there was a class open to faculty and staff that would demonstrate how to make your own videos. Thinking that sounded interesting, I went to the class. It was the coolest thing ever! Mansfield Librarian Glenn Kneebone led the class which took place in a special room in the Mansfield Library called the One Touch Studio. Inserting a flash drive into the machinery turns the system on and one can shoot a video and put it together right in that room with the software on a computer housed in the room. Upload it on your flash drive and you are on your way. Anyone with a university ID can use the room for free! I was so impressed. Librarians are always coming up with the best ideas! Kudos to Glenn and the Mansfield Library for making videos so easy!

FAVORITE LITTLE LIBRARY THAT COULD:

I recently watched a Webinar on state aid funding where libraries were encouraged to use Canva (great resource!) to create reports that could be used to illustrate how libraries are spending the state aid monies they are given. I was particularly impressed by the photos and work of the Clancy Public Library and the North Valley Public Library in capturing images of their fun and colorful kids’ programs that came about as a result of the state aid funding. Lots of happy looking kids!

FAVORITE RETIRING LIBRARIAN:

Hats off to Cherri Bergeron of Helena as she retires from many years of service as the librarian for the Office of Public Instruction. I have known Cherri for many years and she did great things at OPI, always upholding the highest librarian standards. Cherri was also involved with the Sheila Cates efforts for many years. Cherri is someone I always looked forward to seeing around the state complex, both for her sense of humor and her great knowledge. Congratulations on your retirement, Cherri! You will be missed.

FAVORITE RESOURCE:

Love those Webinars put together by Jo Flick at the State Library. The content is great and the ease-of-use is astounding! Just sit at your desk and learn about state funding, available library resources, accomplishments of Montana librarians and so much more—all brought right to you in the comfort and convenience of your own office. If you haven’t signed up for any of these Webinars, you really should. Very informative and well done. If you can’t make it to the live Webinar, the archived Webinars are housed on the State Library’s Vimeo channel.

FAVORITE FUN LIBRARY WEBSITE:

http://www.blyberg.net/card-generator/

Make your own personal library card! Love it!

FAVORITE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:

You know the answer! We are so fortunate to be members of the Montana Library Association where we see such amazing people and libraries in every direction we look. Thank you to ALL of you librarians who do such terrific work! You are truly changing lives.
- IN THIS ISSUE -

Your Favorites of 2016!

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Programs, Promotions & Projects:

- Cindy Patterson brings the bears to Billings Public Library for a sleepover [VIDEO]
- Fall colors abounded at North Lake County Public Library as Angela Claver led an adult coloring program
- What do journalists and dogs have in common? Find out in this piece by Patricia Spencer of Lewis and Clark Library's East Helena Branch.

Features & Articles:

- Eric Chambers introduces us to E-Rate
- Jim Kammerer expresses gratitude and a "budding love" for Open Data
- Your FOCUS editors would like to congratulate Montana libraries on passing their bonds on election day!
IT'S TIME TO FOCUS

- YOUR FAVORITES OF 2016! -

Great Falls seeds the future

Great Falls Mayor Bob Kelly talking about the new Seed Exchange.

by Alice Kestler, Great Falls Public Library
One of my favorite moments at the Great Falls Public Library was the grand opening of the Seed Exchange on April 16, 2016. We had Mayor Bob Kelly come to give an address and cut the ribbon (garden twine) that was securing garden burlap over our Seed Exchange furniture. After the grand opening we held a seed swap in the Cordingley room. Other Seed Exchange events in April were classes on seed saving, soil enhancement and testing for seed viability. As of November 11th, 1,211 packets have been checked out. The most popular (all varieties for each) were beans at 69, basil at 53 and peas at 50.

(All photos by Kurt Loeffler)

Volunteer Jordy Glick assists at the grand opening. Mayor Kelly cutting the garden twine to unveil the Seed Exchange furniture. The Seed Exchange!

Everybody needs a "bookface"!

by Brooke Bloomenrader, Billings Senior High School

At Senior High this fall we did a "Bookface Photo Contest" and it was a lot of fun. The picture is of me since I can't share our students' pictures, but they had fun with it.
Lolo goes big for Summer Reading
by Erin Casey, Missoula Public Library (Lolo Branch)

Hello from the Missoula Public Library's Lolo Branch Library. We had a fantastic summer program and were able to award some really nice prizes thanks to a $1,000 donation from the Town Pump Charitable Foundation.

The children recorded their reading time by the half hour and everyone who completed a reading log received a prize. All of the grant money was used to purchase prizes including STEM kits, robotics kits, Kindle readers, gift cards & other educational items thanks to Town Pump's generous support.

If you would like more information, please contact me at ecasey@missoula.lib.mt.us

(Photos by Erin Casey)

State Aid—saving the day!
by Jennie Stapp, Montana State Library

Here is a recap of my favorite moment, shared to Wired in September: Please join me in a hearty and heart-felt round of applause for John Finn, Jodi Smiley, Gale Bacon, and Dawn Kingstad for their passionate and thought-provoking testimony to the Education and Local Government Legislative Interim Committee about the impact of State Aid funding in their communities. The committee actually broke into applause when they concluded, something I have never seen before. One legislator said that State Aid is the best use of state funds. As you know, we will present legislation to the 2017 Legislature to ask that the Per Capita/Per Square Mile State Aid statutory appropriation continue beyond the current
Celebrities & Collaborations, oh my!

by the staff of ImagineIF, Kalispell

Senator John Tester was spotted at an ImagineIF ice cream taste test.

Montana Governor, Steve Bullock, was sighted making curry at ImagineIF Library.

CELEBS: THEY'RE JUST LIKE US

Governor Steve Bullock experienced the “Spice of Life” in April by mixing his own curry powder blend at ImagineIF Kalispell. Showing up to honor Sophia Skwarchuk who created an app that helps people facing food shortages, Bullock discovered he could also make curry powder. Bullock joined the fun and created a special blend of his own alongside other customers.

Senator Jon Tester was also spotted at ImagineIF Kalispell during a visit in July. After observing kids experimenting with a wind tunnel, he got in on the action. Then, Tester waited in line with the crowd and sampled some ice cream. When asked if he would vote for the new ImagineIF flavor he agreed quipping “I am a Tester, after all.”
Sean Anderson, Senior Librarian at ImagineIF Libraries

FAVORITE COLLABORATIVE EFFORT 2016

We talk a lot in our Montana libraries about 21st century skills: Creativity, Innovation, collaboration. We develop programs for children and adults to develop these skills in our customers, and it’s incredible to have a State Library that supports these activities. I’ve had the opportunity this year to see those 21st century skills play out in my work with the Cooperative Cataloging Committee. Sure, we didn’t develop and use these skills by having a robot race or making ice cream – our customers get to have all of THAT fun. But we did get to flex our 21st century skills to help streamline and eliminate errors in our collective cataloging practices! BOOYAH!

One of our first steps after coming together was to conduct research with other library consortia, in places like Chicago, Detroit, and Indianapolis. Huge systems! Millions of titles! Something that consistently rose out of those conversations is just how innovative our libraries are in Montana. It’s easy to think that in comparison to large, metro areas, the MSC is small potatoes. It turns out we’re leading the way in developing improvements to cooperative library services, and some of the largest consortia in the nation look to us as a model of responsive, creative, and inclusive services. If you want to see an example of 21st century skills in action, consider the MSC. The scale of services that we provide, over such vast distances is something to be proud of, and it’s our collective creativity that makes us a success.

(All photos courtesy of Lune Axelsen)
The best party in Montana

by Mary O'Brien, North Lake County Public Library District

This summer, we ended Polson's Summer Reading Program with a splash! Local businessman and Happy Hippo operator Bob Ricketts loaned us his signature ride for any participant of the program who completed all eight levels—representing, altogether, about 14,560 hours of reading. After a full morning and afternoon of packed rides, Ricketts was overheard saying “This will be the best party in Montana today!”

For more about this year's reading program in Polson, see the write-up in our local Valley Journal:
www.valleyjournal.net/Article/15920/Library-program-rewards-readers

(Photo by Mary O'Brien)

- 43rd ANNUAL AALT CONFERENCE -

43rd Annual AALT Conference
April 20th-23rd, 2017
Banff Park Lodge Resort Hotel & Conference Centre
Banff, Alberta

by Marcia Homes & Melanie Belliveau, AALT 2017 Conference Co-Chairs

Plans are underway for the 43rd annual Alberta Association of Library Technicians Conference to be held in beautiful Banff, Alberta from April 20-23, 2017 at the Banff Park Lodge Resort & Conference Centre!

The 2017 theme, "Bringing It All Together", expresses the idea that library technicians / library personnel use various concepts, tools, and resources with a focus on collaboration,
creativity and communication, not only to fulfill their duties as technicians but also in their daily lives.

Interesting speakers, fascinating keynotes, and fun filled tours are being booked as we speak! Keep checking the conference website (www.regonline.com/aaltconference2017) as new items will be posted as they are confirmed.

If you think that you’d like to be a speaker at the conference, check out our call for speakers information at www.regonline.com/builder/site/tab2.aspx?EventID=1868237.

We hope to see you all in Banff, AB for AALT’s 43rd Conference April 20-23, 2017!

- MPLA UPDATE -

by Eileen Wright, Montana State University Billings Library

MPLA Professional Development Grants Are Available!

Have an idea for a great program at your state library association conference, but don’t think you can afford to attend? Or is there an upcoming regional or national library program that would enhance your professional development, but you need a little extra funding in order to attend?

Have no fear! The Professional Development Committee of MPLA is here to lend a hand. Just a quick click to our website: mpl.us/quick-links/grants.html will put applications for two different types of grants right at your fingertips. We have funding to assist you, for state associations and individuals. Here are the upcoming deadlines for submission:

State Association Grant Application Deadlines:
- Feb 1st (2017) for 2017 Spring Conferences

Individual Grant Application Deadlines:
- Nov 30th
- Jan 27th

What’s been happening in the MPLA region? Check out the latest newsletter: www.mpla.us/documents/newsletter/2016/october-november-2016.pdf

Save the date: Nevada Library Association will be next year’s host state with MPLA. October 16-18, 2017 at South Lake Tahoe, Nevada at the Hard Rock Hotel.
- MLA UPDATES -

Who will you nominate?
by Carly Delsigne, North Jefferson County Library District

We all know people who go above and beyond for libraries, who work tirelessly, and who deserve to be recognized. Nominate them!

The Montana Library Association would like to help you acknowledge them. We want them to feel special, appreciated, and honored by their good library works, but, in order to do that, we need you to nominate them!!

The Awards Committee invites you to send in your nominations for the 2017 Awards. Each nomination must consist of three letters of support; one from the nominator and two from other supporters of the nomination. No more than three letters of support will be considered by the committee. In addition, those nominating a work for the Media Award must provide the committee with a copy of the nominated work. All nominations will be confidential until the recommendations of the committee have been approved by the Board of Directors and the recipients notified. The deadline date should be set no later than the third Monday in January (January 23, 2017) in order for the committee to complete its work. The Montana Library Association honors individuals and groups who have served the Association and/or the Montana library community with distinction. The Montana Library Association confers the following awards and honors:

- Honorary Life Membership Award
- Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award
• Interest Group Excellence Award
• Media Award
• School Administrator of the Year Award
• Special Friend to Libraries Award
• Trustee of the Year Award
• Legislator of the Year Award
• Outstanding Support Staff Award
• School Library Program of the Year Award
• Librarian of the Year Award
• Library of the Year Award

Full NOMINATION GUIDELINES are available via the 'Quick Links' section of MLA homepage:

http://mtlib.org/

Please send all nominations & letters of support to Chair Carly Delsigne at northjeffersoncountylibraries@gmail.com or mail them to 3 N. Main St., Clancy, MT 59634.

MLA Photo Contest

by Stephen Haddad, Missoula Public Library & MLA Webmaster

Do you have pictures of Montana’s great outdoors? We are seeking image contributions to be displayed on the MLA website. MLA’s motto is “from the mountains to the prairies” so we would like to feature images which reinforce Montana’s scenic beauty. If you have a great picture from a recent hike, road trip or night on the town then we would love to see it! Selected images will be displayed on the MLA website. Top finalists will be featured on the MLA website and one grand prize finalist will be selected to receive a year’s free MLA membership!
Rules:
1) Images should feature Montana landscapes or cityscapes
2) Images should not contain recognizable people
3) Images should be submitted in .jpg or .png format
4) Images should have a file size of no more than 2 mb.
5) Images should be no more than 2000 pixels long
6) Submissions should be emailed to stephengeorgehaddad@gmail.com with a subject line: “photo contest”
7) Submissions should include (in the email body):
   • Name and associated library of submitter
   • Approximate location of image subject

Submissions are made with this implicit understanding:
"By submitting this image I allow the MLA webmaster to modify the image as necessary and to display the image on the MLA website."

MLA Handbook on FOCUS

by Yours Truly, the FOCUS Editors

Per the MLA Handbook regarding the FOCUS newsletter:

"The editor(s) should publish the guidelines in brief form at least once a year in the Montana Library Focus itself and they should be distributed to all Board members, committee and interest group chairs at the beginning of each fiscal year."


Focus - Publication Standards and Guidelines
1. Montana Library Focus is published by the Montana Library Association as its official vehicle for communications. It is published six times a year in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December. The deadline for submission of material follows:
   2. January 20 for the February issue
   3. March 20 for the April issue
   4. May 20 for the June issue
   5. July 20 for the August issue
   6. September 20 for the October issue
   7. November 20 for the December issue
8. Send submissions of reports, news releases, or features to: Focus Editor
9. Submissions in electronic copy are preferred. Acceptable formats include .doc, .docx, .pdf, .tif, and .jpeg. If an electronic copy cannot be emailed to the editor, a copy may be submitted, via post, on a CD. If no disk copy can be sent, please submit text in clean, scanable copy. Use facsimile only upon request from the editor.
10. Reports should cover the business of MLA committees, divisions, or interest groups; for example, meetings, activities, announcements, upcoming events. As a general guideline, keep reports to 700 words or less. Please contact the editor prior to submitting any report significantly longer than this.
11. News releases are brief announcements of interest to Montana librarians, but not related to official MLA business; for example, personnel news, grants received, programs
E-rate for Librarians

by Eric Chambers, Director of E-Rate and Services for the Northwest Council for Computer Education (NCCE)

The Federal Schools and Libraries Universal Services Support Program, commonly known as the E-rate program, is designed to help schools and libraries acquire affordable broadband and make effective and efficient use of that connectivity for students and library patrons. But what exactly is the E-rate program and how can you make use of these funds for your public library?

The E-rate program was created as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and is funded by a specific tax levied against all telecommunications providers. The tax, of course, is passed on to individuals like you and I and accounts for about $1 per phone line per month. These funds are used to reimburse schools and libraries for eligible telecommunications expenses.

All eligible expenses are one of two types called either Category One or Category Two.

Category One includes Internet access and support for wide area networks (WAN). Much like at home, most libraries have a direct connection between one of their buildings and an Internet Service Provider (ISP). In a small, stand-alone library building this might be a direct connection from the library to the ISP. In the case of some municipal libraries, Internet comes into the library by way of a hub managed by the municipality. In these cases, a WAN is created between the hub and each individual library within the system.

A WAN, in its simplest form, is a high-speed connection between two or more buildings. A WAN makes it possible to share data between buildings without having to pass through the Internet. A WAN also makes it possible for all buildings in the network to share one Internet connection rather than have and maintain a connection between each building and the ISP.

Category Two includes the hardware necessary to bring Internet access to the individual...
Category Two includes the hardware necessary to bring Internet access to the individual users in the library and includes routers, switches, wired and wireless access points, cabling, and so forth. A detailed discussion of each of these technologies is beyond the scope of this article. Suffice it to say that these are the technologies needed to connect a computer, tablet, phone, or other device to the Internet.

Any discussion of eligible services ought to include a discussion of those technologies that are not eligible. Phone service, email and web hosting services, though eligible in the past, are no longer eligible. End-user equipment like computers and tablets are also not eligible.

Reimbursement for eligible technology expenses is calculated differently for each category.

Discounts for Category One and Two services are calculated based on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) eligibility of the students in the school district in which the library resides. The relationship between NSLP eligibility rates and discount is not a one-to-one relationship and is best explained in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income as measured by NSLP eligibility</th>
<th>Category One</th>
<th>Category Two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban Discount</td>
<td>Rural Discount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% to 19%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% to 34%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35% to 49%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, if you are a rural library and your local school district has a NSLP eligibility rate of 50% your reimbursement for eligible Category One expenses would be 80%. In other words, if you spend $100 a month on Internet Access you would receive $80 of that back each month! Currently there is no cap on the amount of money you can receive back for eligible expenses. If you spend $1,000 a month you would get back $800 a month, if you spent $10,000 a month you would get back $8,000 a month, and so on. There is a cap, however, on Category Two expenses.

Each library receives a five-year “budget” for Category Two expenses. Budgets are calculated at either $5.00 or $2.30 a square foot for each library building. Libraries with an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) code of 11, 12, or 21 receive the higher amount per square foot while all other libraries receive the lower amount. A practical example follows:

The Smith Library System includes three libraries: a 2,000-square foot main branch and two 500-square foot branch libraries for a total square footage of 3,000-square feet, thus as an IMLS 21 library system their budget is $15,000 ($5 per square foot). Their local school district has a NSLP eligibility rate of 70% so the libraries discount for Category Two purchases is 80%. Putting it all together, if the library spent $15,000 on eligible hardware they would be reimbursed for 80% of that, or $12,000. Note that the $15,000 is a ‘cap’ so in this scenario $12,000 is the most the library would receive back even if they spent $30,000 instead of $15,000.

How do you apply for E-rate? The E-rate application process is a multi-step process that begins each summer or fall with the posting of the FCC Form 470 and possibly a Request for Proposal (RFP). This initial form lets service providers know what kinds of services you are interested in. This is followed by a FCC Form 471 which is a specific request for services and identifies the service provider you have selected through a competitive bidding process.
Next, the Universal Services Administration Company (USAC) the organization that administers the E-rate program on behalf of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reviews your application, may ask questions, and eventually issues a Funding Commitment Decision Letter either approving or denying your request. The last step is to request your reimbursement by either seeking reimbursement after you have paid your bill in full or asking the service provider to bill you only for the undiscounted portion. The process, of course, is more complicated than the broad stokes painted here and will be the topic of a subsequent article.

The most often question for small libraries is: “Is it worth it?” The answer is as individual as the library itself. It can be a complicated process with a steep and often unforgiving learning curve but once the process is mastered can be a significant source or revenue for libraries.

*Eric Chambers is the Director of E-rate and Services for the Northwest Council for Computer Education (NCCE) and has been helping schools and libraries successfully apply for E-rate for over 12 years. Eric may be reached at echambers@ncce.org.*

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**Gratitude for MLA Grant and Budding Librarian Love for Open Data**

by Jim Kammerer, Montana State Library

First, let me express my deep gratitude to the MLA board and MLA Professional Development Committee to be one of the 2016 MLA grant recipients. Your financial support was a big help in my attending TransparencyCamp, a.k.a. TCamp, October 14-15, 2016 at the Cleveland Public Library and hosted by the Sunlight Foundation. TCamp is an annual “unconference” of technologists, activists, journalists, non-profit leaders, civic advocates, academics, etc. and a small sprinkling of librarians who are passionate about the value of open data to solve community problems, improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency in government.

In brief, “open data” in the context of government refers to electronically stored information that is complete, primary, timely, accessible, machine readable, non-discriminatory, and license free. Past TCamp meetings focused on unlocking federal level information. This year attendees zeroed in on unleashing the potential of state, municipal, county, and special district data. TCamp attendees shared their ideas, struggles, and successes with projects addressing community health issues, expensive school bonds, recycling, pedestrian safety, declining property values, prisoner recidivism, close-door budget meetings, etc., etc.

Aren’t these same topics also of interest to our patrons here in Montana? I know our public libraries already host many regular meetings of concerned citizens. Our Montana libraries are already partial repositories of government information, e.g. environmental assessments, etc.
The more eyes that can simultaneously look at, analyze, and dissect open public data using software tools, the greater likelihood of developing timely, mutually agreeable solutions to local problems. Entrepreneurs love open data as well because it identifies business opportunities. Open data is also a boon for elected officials because it can polish their image, increase trust with their constituents, foster civic engagement, and economic development.

Take a moment at your earliest convenience, to learn more how to connect stakeholders in your community with local data sets held by your city, county, and special districts. For more ideas, read this article for another librarian perspective on open data.

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**Congratulations, Montana libraries & librarians!**

by [Caroline Campbell](mailto:caroline.campbell@mt.gov) and [Kendra Mullison](mailto:kendra.mullison@mt.gov), co-editors of the [FOCUS](http://www.focus.mt.gov)

We'd like to offer kudos to following MLA Members...

[Wendy Campbell](mailto:wendy.campbell@darbylibrary.org) (Darby Public Library) for winning the Robert B. Downs intellectual freedom award from the University of Illinois, School of Information Sciences!

[View more](http://tinyurl.com/jy3ujpq)

And congratulations to the following for completing the [Montana State Library Certification Program](http://www.msl.mt.gov/consulting/online_publications/certificationmanual):

- [Denise Ard](mailto:denise.ard@northvalleypubliclibrary.org) (North Valley Public Library - Stevensville)
- [Richard Ball](mailto:richard.ball@lincolnlibrary.org) (Lincoln County Public Libraries - Libby)

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[TCamp session on open data and city councils.](http://sunlightfoundation.com)

[“The Wall” of proposed presentations voted upon by TransparencyCamp 2015 attendees using colorful stickers.](http://sunlightfoundation.com)

[Happy hour to review the day’s learning.](http://sunlightfoundation.com)
We'd also like to celebrate the great gains made by Montana libraries at the polls this election. Congratulations, libraries!

See image below.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MONTANA LIBRARIES AT THE POLLS!

we'd like to congratulate the following libraries & the communities they serve:

MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY
(a library bond for a brand new building and updated services; already a member of the Montana Shared Catalog Partners)

HAYRE-HILL COUNTY LIBRARY
(a mill increase to sustain ongoing services)

PRESTON HOT SPRINGS TOWN-COUNTY LIBRARY
(a mill levy increase to "take some of the pressure off" due to rising operating costs)

LIVINGSTON-PARK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
(a mill levy to maintain current services & launch a bookmobile; Livingston will soon be joining the Montana Shared Catalog Partners)

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."

□ WALTER CRONKITE

(Image courtesy of North Lake County Public Library District)

- MARGINALIA -

PUBLIC

*If you think government information isn't hassle-free, think about the documents I fight to get for you. After all, you paid for them. I just help you read them.*
UNT Pearl Website

by Dr. Yunfei Du, Principal Investigator for the PEARL Project

The University of North Texas developed a website with free resources for rural and small public libraries as part of its Rural Library Initiative project entitled PEARL (Promoting & Enhancing the Advancement of Rural Libraries). The website address is: http://pearl.unt.edu.

There are over one hundred community outreach plans written by small and rural libraries. Each community outreach plan has a detailed action grid with step-by-step key tasks one needs to do to plan and implement the program. It includes how much time, money, materials, and personnel are needed for each task.

The website has a keyword index of the community outreach plan programs. For example, if one is interested in providing computer skill programs for senior citizens, one can check the index to see which libraries did that type of outreach program.

In addition, a series of four free webinars on topics of interest to public libraries was developed. Information about each can be found on the website. Webinars will be archived and available for anyone to view after the webinar is held.

The webinar titles are:

- Marketing and Branding
- Cultural Diversity and Inclusion
- Intellectual Property
- Communication
Each webinar has a legal issues component on the topic being discussed.

From the Editorial Desk

Hello Dear Readers,

The year-end issue of FOCUS offers us a chance to reflect upon all that 2016 has brought to our library doorsteps. Based on the items we received as newsletter editors I know it was a jam-packed year for Montana libraries. As we pieced together this issue I pondered about my own favorite library moments.

Something exciting takes place daily, sometime hourly at Missoula Public Library where I work (mainly) in the cataloging department. There is a special energy I can feel when I take time to witness my co-workers orchestrate fabulous events, participate in parades, enrapture kids during storytime week after week, build electronics in our MakerSpace, dazzle our patrons with reference & reader’s advisory magic, promote a big campaign... phew, I could go on and on! I also have my own pet-projects that bring me amusement such as the library’s annual TolleTree drive where patrons are invited to decorate a tree with travel-size personal hygiene items that are donated to a local shelter. With all that transpires at MPL, coming up with a singular favorite memory required me to dig deep.

My favorite library moment is of a very personal nature. My father suffered a neck injury in 2014 that left him paralyzed and put life for my entire family on hold as we adapted to the situation and became care-givers. This was an intensely stressful & painful time for everyone involved that finally came to end this spring when my father passed away. I cannot describe to you the gratitude I have for my co-workers, my library family, who kindly offered encouragement and even donated sick-leave throughout this ordeal so that I didn’t have to miss a paycheck while I was at the hospital or making burial arrangements. The generosity I experienced from my colleagues is my favorite memory.

Libraries have never been about buildings or books; they have always been about people. I usually take that people part to mean our patrons, but librarians are people too! This year I really came to appreciate my library people at home and across Montana. I’ve enjoyed connecting with you through the newsletter and I hope we all can make some happy library memories in 2017!

-Sincerely, Caroline

Montana Library FOCUS

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The *FOCUS* welcomes your input! To submit feedback, articles, reviews, inquiries, and ideas—or to place an ad or provide sponsorship—please contact the editorial staff directly:

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