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# Montana Library Focus

Volume 27 Issue 1

February 2009

A Publication of the Montana Library Association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Della Dube*

On behalf of myself and the membership, I would like to personally thank the Montana Library Association Board of Directors for their attendance at our January 13 meeting in Helena. All twelve voting members of the board, as well as a couple of committee and interest group chairs, along with Jennie Stapp of the Montana State Library, were in attendance. I think this is a record for voting members in attendance in the four years that I have been on the board. Thank you so much for taking responsibility for the governance of MLA.

It was unfortunate that there was a conflict between the hearings for HB 61 and HB 2 and the board meeting on January 13. Due to prior correspondence, I thought the hearings were to be held on Wednesday, January 14, Library

Legislative Day. The January meeting date was set at our October board meeting, but had we known ahead, we could have changed the meeting time by approximately one hour and allowed those at the meeting to attend the hearings. The positive side is that Honore Bray and John Finn were chosen to testify and were able to leave the board meeting early to do so. Thanks to Honore and John and others who gave testimony. As you know from Lois Fitzpatrick's emails on wiredmt, all went well.

The Library Day Reception on Wednesday evening was excellent. The chance to network with legislators and co-workers across the state, in this casual atmosphere, was invaluable. I encourage you all to attend this event the next time it comes around. Thanks to Lois Fitzpatrick and the Montana State Library for planning this dinner/reception.

MLA sponsors the Library Day reception and pays lobbyist fees each legislative year.

As you know, the Montana Library Association is bigger than the Montana State Library and the Montana Shared Catalog or any other library entity in the state. It is the tie that binds libraries of all types, and the supporters of those

libraries, together. Nothing assists in this effort more than our annual conference. Our conference is truly a win/win situation for all libraries. It provides us with knowledge and support to do the work we do more effectively and it is the main source of revenue for the association. You are giving back to our association just by attending a delightful and informative conference that offers networking, camaraderie, and the best learning experience for librarians in the state.

MLA's two new websites are up and running. Go to the Montana Library Association site at [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org) and select "2009 MLA Conference" for the conference site at [tandtevents.com](http://tandtevents.com). Please take some time and fill out the "Interest Indicator" at the top of the home page. This will help our conference planners make good decisions for a great conference. Please read my invite on the conference home page and come to conference! Registration opens this week, check out the site and register by March 7 for the reduced rate.

Stay warm, take it easy, and dream about your attendance at the **Creating New Paths** conference April 22-25 . . . the friends you will see and make, the luxurious rooms, the fun you will have, the knowledge you will gain...

See you in the steaming waters at Fairmont Hot Springs for Offline 2009, February 20 and 21.

*Della Dube, MLA President  
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## RMC Library Receives Third NEH Grant

By  
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The Rocky Mountain College Library recently received word that it was awarded another preservation grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This is the third in a series of grants to fund the purchase of supplies and furnishings, and to provide staff training in archival management and preservation. The RMC College Archives are housed in the Library and overseen by the library staff. The Archives serves as the final repository for the historical record of RMC and its predecessor schools – Montana Collegiate Institute, The College of Montana, Montana Wesleyan College, Intermountain Union College, and Billings Polytechnic Institute. The Archives contains a rare and valuable book collection, college records and publications, personal and professional papers of faculty and professional staff, scrapbooks and memorabilia, and an extensive photograph collection. As part of the grant obligation, Rocky will be hosting a full day workshop tentatively titled "Archival Maintenance for the Rocky Mountain Region" on May 8, 2009. This workshop will be presented by Eileen Wright, MSU-B Library Archivist, and will be free and open to the public. Registration information for the workshop will be posted on the wired-mt listserv in late March or early April.



*The Archives at Rocky*



**Montana Library Focus** [ISSN 1076-352X] is the official publication of the Montana Library Association and is published as a service to its members. It is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December. It has a print readership of 210 and an online readership of over 500. If you are interested in placing an ad, or sponsoring the MLA Focus Newsletter, please send your request to the editor.

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### MLA Discussion List: WIRED-MT

**WIRED-MT-L** is a listserv sponsored by the Montana Library Association and hosted by **OCLC-Western**. The list is open to everyone interested in Montana libraries and library issues, including MLA members and non-members. Additional information and guidelines for use may be found at [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org).

To subscribe to **WIRED-MT-L**,

1. Send a message to:

**[listserv@OCLC.ORG](mailto:listserv@OCLC.ORG)**;

2. Leave the subject line blank;

3. In the body of the message type:  
SUBSCRIBE WIRED-MT-L <your name>

4. Do not attach a signature.

If you have problems subscribing or have additional questions, contact Stef Johnson, List Manager (on behalf of MLA) at:

**[stjohnson@buttepubliclibrary.info](mailto:stjohnson@buttepubliclibrary.info)**  
or call Stef at 406-723-3361.

## Bruce's Corner

### Open Source Brouhaha

By  
Bruce Newell  
MLN Director, (retired)  
bnewell@mt.net

**Brou-ha-ha (noun): A noisy commotion or uproar. (MS/Word)**

Arguing over the virtues of *open source* library systems, versus *vendor* provided systems, is like quibbling about whether a Ford or Chevy will get us to France faster. Since neither Fords nor Chevys float or fly, it's the wrong discussion; there's way more interesting game afoot, and that game is using collaboration to help improve library services while lowering per unit costs.

Many of our users' lives have changed. Users increasingly live online, on Facebook, blogs, online news sources, and a lot of them subscribe to Netflix, Audible, iTunes, buy from Amazon, and so forth. These online content providers offer quality materials at prices many can privately afford; and they deliver their goods with compelling convenience.

Contrasting with online content providers, libraries have a local presence, and by working smart libraries either are currently or have the capacity of providing great service for both their richer *and* poorer clients.

Libraries connect their users to others' stories, either with in-house resources (likes books on a shelf or online journals) or by linking their users to other libraries' resources. Providing a quid pro quo libraries facilitate other libraries' users with access to their community's stories. For example: Library A's catalog provides its users with access to its collection, and through WorldCat or other consortial means, to Library B's collection. Conversely, Library B's users are provided access to Li-

brary A's collection through WorldCat. This sharing goes two ways, and collaboration facilitates smart libraries being at once local and global. (And when I write 'libraries', I really mean libraries, museums, historical societies, or archives-memory institutions.)

Collaborative libraries are thriving, we just have to look to Oregon and Washington for a shining example. The Orbis Cascade Alliance serves thirty-six academic libraries. Their shared Summit Catalog brings 9.2 million titles to 213,000 students. Last year they shuffled 400,000+ items amongst themselves for their users. It will be interesting to see if this increases with the advent of their slick new WorldCat Navigator catalog/management system (see footnote).

**[summit.worldcat.org](http://summit.worldcat.org)**

Similarly, the highly collaborative Partner subset of the Montana Shared Catalog has been famously successful at leveraging resources to their users' benefit and delight.

What made these efforts successful? Not their particular brand of catalog, but rather their willingness to collaborate when they judge that collaboration will likely aid their success. Sadly few if any online library applications, open source or from a vendor, substantially support cross-platform collaboration between libraries using different library management systems. It's difficult for Sirsi libraries to interact with Endeavor libraries, Endeavor libraries to directly share data with Innovative libraries, Innovative libraries to share data with Evergreen libraries, and so forth. Open source systems are based on a catalog model just like vendor-based system, neither are based on a broadly inclusive consortia model. Both open source and vendor-based library management systems tend to limit, not extend, their libraries' global collaborative

options. We live in a time of information abundance (some might say, over-abundance)-more is really more. For users: more books, more DVDs, more articles, more everything is more better. Neither open source or vendor-based library management systems are designed to (metaphorically) transport library users to France.

That's why I think the open source v. vendor OPAC debate misses the point. Traditional library management systems, open source or not, don't make it easier for us to collaborate with other libraries. These systems work fine with their own kind, but that's it-they merely manage collections in silos instead of facilitating access to a galaxy of collections.

The future will not necessarily favor today's biggest or smartest libraries, instead the future will favor those libraries that can change with the times. Collaboration extends the reach of both smaller and larger libraries at the same time as it builds resiliency and adds options. Options are good, they provide room for change. We should be seeking solutions that give us more, not fewer options. Neither open source or traditional vendor-based library systems make it easy for libraries to connect their users to the world, nor do they promote the sharing of local resources with the world. We must do better. Instead of arguing about whether open source or vendor-based systems are best let's look at what strategies will result in the best (affordable) library services for our users. I'll bet that these 'best' solutions will be heavily collaborative.

Footnote and disclosure: WorldCat Navigator is the collaborative result of Summit Catalog libraries and OCLC. I serve on OCLC's Board and I think the intrinsically collaborative WorldCat Navigator is the cat's meow.

# State Library News



All of the following articles relating to programs and services of the Montana State Library, unless otherwise noted, are by:

Sue Jackson

Montana State Library

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## PEEL Stipend Award Recommendations

The PEEL Advisory Committee met on January 14 to review applications from Montana public and school libraries to add a professional librarian to the staff for two years. Four \$35,000 stipends are available. Following review and discussion, the Advisory Committee voted to recommend to the State Library Commission stipend awards for four positions: Technical Services and Digital Collections Librarian at Butte Silver Bow Public Library; Adult Services Librarian at Butte Silver Bow Public Library; K-12 Librarian at Rosebud School District; and half-time K-12 Librarian at Harrison School. The Commission will take action on the recommendation at the February 11th meeting. Libraries receiving stipends must match the award and make every effort to continue the position following the grant period. Public library stipend positions will be filled by individuals with MLIS degrees; school positions will be filled by individuals with MLIS degrees or School Library Media Endorsement credentials.

## Montana Library Calendar

To see what's coming up for libraries and librarians or to post an upcoming event your library is hosting, check out the Montana Library Event Calendar at [msl.mt.gov/calendar](http://msl.mt.gov/calendar)

February 2009

## New Materials at MSL

The State Library has been purchasing new titles for the professional development collection. Notices of new materials are posted on Wired-MT or, if you subscribe to RSS feeds, you can receive weekly updates about recent additions. For more information or to subscribe visit: [msl.mt.gov/PubRSS/RSSNewPubs.asp](http://msl.mt.gov/PubRSS/RSSNewPubs.asp)

## Certification Program Update

February 3 marks the first meeting of the Montana Library Certification Program Update Focus Group. The State Library welcomes assistance on this important project from focus group members Liz Babbitt, Honore Bray, Mary Ann George, Cherie Hesper, Holly Harper, Anne Kish, Alice Meister, Kathy Mora, Jean Nielson, Sami Pierson, and Anita Scheetz. The focus group will provide input and ideas to make the certification program more meaningful for librarians and library administrators. Once details of the program update are available, all MT librarians and trustees will have an opportunity to comment on the changes, make suggestions on strengthening the usefulness of the program, and describe the impact changes might have on the library community. The updated certification program is scheduled to be launched in January 2010.

## Gates PAC-HUG Project

The Gates Foundation's Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grant Project (PAC-HUG) has officially ended. During 2008, the final year of the project, 45 public and branch libraries in Montana spent \$93,705 to upgrade public access to electronic resources by purchasing 84 new computers. Thanks to all the libraries for spending grant funds by the December 31, 2008 deadline.

## 2009 Fall Workshop

Planning for this year's Fall Workshop has begun and we're interested in your input. If you have ideas for training topics or exciting presenters, just send an email to Sue Jackson [sujackson@mt.gov](mailto:sujackson@mt.gov). What would help you better serve library users in your community? Let us know!

## Montana Shared Catalog Upgrades

By

Ken Adams

Montana Shared Catalog Director

Montana State Library

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The Montana Shared Catalog has successfully upgraded to Symphony 3.2.1, the latest and greatest in integrated library system software provided by the vendor, SirsiDynix. For more information about the MSC, please contact Ken with your questions.

## Shared Catalog Update

In the rapidly changing landscape of library automation systems, there are numerous options out there for libraries considering implementing or changing their systems. Some are more robust than others and some are more expensive than others. Some are proprietary and some are not. The bottom line is to choose an affordable system from a trusted vendor that best fits your library size and type and above all, the needs and expectations of your patrons. Why should libraries consider joining the Montana Shared Catalog?

Libraries are consolidating into state-wide union catalogs, consortiums and resource sharing groups all over the country in an effort to maximize their services with reduced funding and to keep up with continuous technological change.

**Shared Catalog News, Next Page...**

## Shared Catalog News Cont...

The MSC has grown to 90 multi-type libraries located across Montana, serving patrons, students and faculty, medical professionals and state agency staff. These libraries work together in areas of collection development, resource sharing, best cataloging practices and the delivery of electronic and digital materials. The strength of sharing a system allows the consortium to consider group purchases and eases implementation with other statewide projects. Joining forces, this group is well prepared to meet and greet the technological challenges and changes ahead for all of us. Other advantages include: State-of-the-art integrated library system, monthly OCLC uploads of holdings, centralized system administration including daily tape backup and unlimited 24x7 system technical support by the indomitable MSC admin team in Helena.

The 2009 MSC application deadline is February 18, 2009. This will be the only application period for 2009. There are 3 potential implementation schedules, dependent on migration choices and library type. LSTA funds will be made available to cover most, if not all, the vendor startup costs. The amount of LSTA funding available for this purpose will depend upon the number, type and size of the libraries selected to join during this application period.

More information, answers to FAQ's, and new library applications are available for download from the MSC web page at [msl.mt.gov/For\\_Librarians/Montana\\_Shared\\_Catalog/default.asp](http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/Montana_Shared_Catalog/default.asp) Contact Ken Adams at 406-444-3004 or [kadams@mt.gov](mailto:kadams@mt.gov) to get a cost estimate and answers to any questions you may have. You are also cordially invited to visit any current MSC member public, school, academic or special library to view the system in action and get first-hand opinions from those using it.

## MT librarians contribute to new "Cookbooks" packed with recipes for computer tech success

By  
Krista Van Lewen  
MaintainIT Project  
[kvanlewen@gmail.com](mailto:kvanlewen@gmail.com)

According to several recent news articles, libraries across the country are reporting significant increases in circulation and usage – primarily attributed to the country's current economic woes. Outpacing the increase in book and music checkouts is the use of library computers. Being used by everyone from college students who've canceled their Internet subscriptions to older individuals re-entering the workforce, these machines are getting a more strenuous workout than ever. Since libraries rarely have their own IT staffs, librarians are tasked with maintaining their public computers. How do they do it? With a little help from their friends – fellow librarians.

Three years ago a nonprofit called TechSoup started the MaintainIT Project with a Gates Foundation grant. As a hub of the program, they initiated "cookbooks" — a free online resource, written by librarians from around the country, featuring current ideas and best practices for planning, building, and managing library computer technology. Librarians also contributed their knowledge on topics ranging from security solutions and strategic maintenance practices to community-building experiences involving Web 2.0 tools and vital partnerships. MaintainIT has just launched its third and final cookbook, entitled "Joy of Computing — Planning for Success." Within it are contributions from a record 11 Montana librarians from libraries across the state.

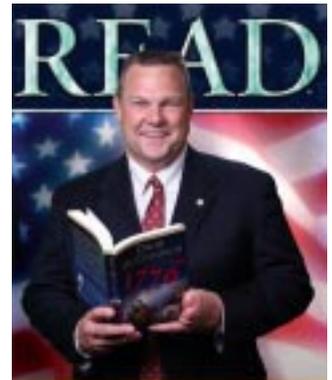
You can learn more about the cookbooks here:  
[www.maintainitproject.org/cookbooks](http://www.maintainitproject.org/cookbooks)

## Legislators Stand in Line for Read Posters

By  
Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson  
MLA PR & Marketing Chair  
[ljackson@mt.gov](mailto:ljackson@mt.gov)

Thank you to all the Montana librarians who encouraged their local legislators to pose for a READ poster at the Library Legislative event Jan. 14 at the State Library. The response was overwhelming and positive with over 50 legislators standing in line for hours to have their photo taken for their own personalized READ poster on behalf of their local library.

We are working to get posters composed, printed, and distributed to legislators and libraries as quickly as possible. We are also sending .jpgs of the posters to legislators and will be posting the .jpg files on the MLA webpage for libraries who wish to print more than one copy of their local legislators' READ poster. Many thanks to Diane Papineau, NRIS, Montana State Library, who was our charming and capable photographer for the poster session on Jan. 14 and to Stacy Bruhn, Montana State Library, who is helping with the poster graphics. If you have any questions regarding these READ posters, please contact Jim Kammerer, [jkammerer@mt.gov](mailto:jkammerer@mt.gov), Montana State Library or Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, [ljackson@mt.gov](mailto:ljackson@mt.gov), MT Legislative Services. Thank you again for your support with this project. It's nice to have photographic evidence that our legislators support Montana libraries!





# More News of the Association

## Modern Librarian Pentathlon Coming To Kalispell... *Oh My!*

By

Lisa Mecklenburg Jackson, Chair  
PR & Marketing Committee  
ljackson@mt.gov

Courtesy of your 2009 Cates Committee ... Kalispell, the 2009 MLA Conference location, will be the exclusive site of the 1st Modern Librarian Pentathlon!

There will opportunities to compete as an individual and on a team for an overall score. Practice up on your basic librarian skills. A hint — take a look at the main categories of the CE credits. And in case of the incredible event of a tie, there is an extra super-duper event for the brave of heart. So, dust of your training shoes, your reading glasses and your pencil and let the games begin! Thursday night, April 23 from 8-10 p.m. at the conference hotel. More details coming soon...

And it's not too early to start thinking about the other component of Cates—the silent auction and quilt raffle which are conducted during the annual MLA event and have proven to be association favorites. Start thinking about what you can donate (baskets are great!) and contact Coby Johnson, [coburn.johnson@umontana.edu](mailto:coburn.johnson@umontana.edu), with details or questions. You won't want to miss one the highlights of the shopping experience at conference!

More than being just tremendously fun, there is a more "serious" purpose to the Cates fundraising event and silent auction at MLA. The Montana Library Association established the Sheila Cates Scholarship in 1994 to honor the memory of Sheila Cates, who served as Library Development Coordinator at the Montana State Library from 1985 until her death from cancer in 1993. Sheila was an inspirational librarian who cared about the development of every library and librarian in Montana. The scholarship provides financial support to MLA members who are seeking graduate degrees in library or information science and who show potential for emulating Sheila's contributions to Montana libraries. The list of those who have received Cates scholarship funding reads like a "who's who" of librarians in Montana. There's Judith Brown McKenna, Kathryn Holt, Frederick Noel, Honore Bray, Sami Pierson, Kathy Mora, Catherine McMullen, Sherre West, Megan Stark, Kathryn Robins, Lee Phillips, Desiree Dramstad, Stef Johnson, Nancy Hatfield, Brett Fisher, Michelle Fenger. Or recognize any of these names? Darlene Hert, Anita Scheetz, Gail Wilkerson, Roberta Gebhardt, Jennie Stapp, and GeneMarie Robson. They've all received Cates funds too.

Bottom line: supporting Cates = supporting the library profession in Montana! And it's so much fun too!

Members of the 2009 Cates Committee include Sami Pierson and Coby Johnson, co-chairs, Mari Jane Orner, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Jamie Greco, Diane Van Gordon, Cherie Hesper, Lauren McMullen, and Donna Worth.

We look forward to pentathloning with you in Kalispell!



## Offline 2009 Plans Progress

By

John Finn, Chair  
Offline Interest Group  
jfinn@mtlib.org

Offline 2009 in Anaconda is right around the frozen corner. Plans are progressing so easily, the organizers are likely forgetting something?

Food? Check.  
Chocolate? Check.  
Projector? Check.  
Presenters? Check. Check.  
Check. Check. Check. Check.  
Check. Check. Check.  
Chocolate? Check.  
Venue? Check.

Space is now suddenly limited. Offline 2009 has more than fifty registrations. If you haven't already registered, please do so soon. Early registration period has already passed. Registration is now \$75 until February 6, and it will jump to \$80 after February 6.

If you have questions about presentations, lodging, food, directions, or anything else, please contact John Finn from Hearst Free Library.

# More News of the Association

## Central Asia Institute Task Force is Officially Recognized as MLA Interest Group

By  
Nancy Venable and  
Norma Glock, Co-Chairs  
C A I Interest Group  
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nglock@cablemt.net

We are happy to report our official existence as an MLA Interest Group, beginning summer 2008.

Currently, our MLA Batangi Girls and Boys School, Batangi, Pakistan, (also known as Job #12) is doing well. Contributions now total \$25,097.48 and actual costs are \$25,236.00. Donations continue to be given, especially through a variety of fundraisers, Pennies for Peace, Gifts in Kind, and automatic banking withdrawals.

Norma Glock and Nancy Venable, as Co-Chairs, continue to promote our Job #12 and to be delighted with the results. We are pleased to represent MLA as it supports CAI and its founder, Greg Mortenson, soon to receive the Star of Pakistan and now a Nobel Peace Prize nominee.



Students at the MLA Sponsored Batangi School

*The CAI Interest Group:*  
Norma Glock - Co-Chair  
Nancy Venable - Co-Chair  
Lou Ann Krantz  
Renee Goss  
Lyn McKinney  
Betsy Garlish  
Suzanne Goodman  
Honore Bray  
Jean Nielsen  
Diane VanGorden  
Gail MacMillan  
Margy Kernan  
Terri Dood  
Tomi Alger  
Colleen Ferguson

## Children and Young Adult Interest Group Report

By  
Linda Blomquist  
Children's and YA Interest Group  
lblom@whitehallmt.org

The Children and Young Adult Interest Group is made up of a conglomerate of librarians from all types of schools, public libraries and several from academic libraries. With all this expertise and wide variety of ideas, we believe our group to be the best!

Our group discusses and helps to plan the summer reading programs. We share ideas with each other and then the voted-on ideas are taken to the national CSLIP meetings by our representatives (1 from the State and 1 from our group). Representatives must be from a public library (I believe that public-school combo will work too). They travel to various exotic locations in the US each year to meet with other representatives from all 50 states.

Our group also discusses how to enhance the experiences of children and young adults in any library setting—which books are popular and why, programs that meet public and school needs, program ideas for the next MLA annual meeting, etc.

The chair serves for 2 years with a vice chair also being elected so that there is continuity in the interest group processes. The chair also attends MLA board meetings (summer is by and far the most fun and the best one). As with other groups and MLA as a whole we are always looking for new ideas to serve our members needs and new faces to help us. So—Join, become chair or vice chair or our representative to CSLIP!



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## MPLA Report

By  
Pam Henley, MPLA Rep  
Bozeman Public Library  
phenley@bozeman.net

Get ready for the joint MPLA/KLA Conference in Wichita, Kansas April 1-3. Enjoy Will Manley, Brad Meltzer, Roland Smith, over 100 programs, poster sessions and more! Visit the conference website [www.kansaslibraryassociation.org/displayconvention.cfm](http://www.kansaslibraryassociation.org/displayconvention.cfm) for more information. MPLA members can log in to register (use your first name last name without spaces; password is *kla*, which you'll be prompted to change). Regular registration runs through March 6.

It's time to renew your MPLA membership – or join! New members enjoy half-price membership (see the membership form and dues), and you can pay with PayPal (or print the form and send a check). Membership gets you access to professional development grants, members' discussion groups, state conferences and the newsletter. Upcoming opportunities include the Oklahoma conference in 2010, and MLA (Billings!) in 2011.



LEWIS & CLARK  
LIBRARY

Helena Main Library  
120 S. Last Chance Gulch  
Helena

Augusta Branch  
205 Main St.  
Augusta

East Valley Branch  
(EVB)  
East Valley Middle  
School  
400 N. Kalispell  
East Helena

Lincoln Branch  
102 9th St  
Lincoln

## The Big Read Under The Big Sky

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Celebrating Jack London's  
*The Call of the Wild*  
January 31-February 28, 2009

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



THE **BIG  
READ**

INSTITUTE of  
Museum and Library  
SERVICES

Arts  
MIDWEST

## THE BIG READ KICK-OFF Make it a Full Day of Fun!

**Mushing: Dave Armstrong** Saturday, January 31, 2009 @ 10:30 AM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. It's all about mushers and mushing! Dave Armstrong is a founder of Montana's Premier Sled Dog Event, "Race to the Sky" and was a World War II trainer of sled dog teams at Camp Rimini. The central focus for all sled dog doctrine, training, and sled building during World War II was Camp Rimini.

**Snowshoe Demonstration** Saturday, January 31, 2009 @ 1 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. The Montana Discovery Foundation Snow School and Winter Ecology Program will be conducting an introduction to snowshoeing geared towards kids. Bundle up and join in the fun! Kids will be able to test their snowshoeing skills.

**Wolves** Saturday, January 31, 2009 @ 3PM, Exploration Works - 995 Carousel Way. The Big Read Kick-off continues! Exploration Works invites visitors to learn about the natural and cultural history of wolves and to consider how we can coexist with one of nature's wildest and most symbolic animals. Activities for all ages! Call 457-1800 for more information.

**Dogs in Montana History** Thursday, February 5, 2009 @ 6:30 PM, Montana Historical Society Auditorium, 225 N. Roberts. Kirby Lambert, Program Manager for Outreach and Interpretation at the Montana Historical Society, will present a light-hearted look at the role that man's best friend has played in the Treasure State's past. This illustrated lecture will include Montana's famous canines—like Shep, Seaman, and Jag—as well as well as their not-so-famous counterparts that daily enrich life under the Big Sky. Call 444-4741 for more information..

**Adopt-a-Pet Day** Saturday, February 7, 2009 NOON - 3 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. The Lewis & Clark Humane Society (LCHS) has many adoptable animals awaiting their forever home. Meet and greet some of these wonderful creatures and learn all about the Humane Society. **Don't forget to bring a pet toy to donate to the Shelter!**

**Mountain Mushers** Sunday, February 8, 2009 @ 1:30 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. The nation's only hero sled dog educational/therapy team, the Mountain Mushers work with children and adults to provide literacy-based education about dogs. Hug and pet REAL hero sled dogs, learn how to feel safe around dogs, love reading, be a healthy/fat musher, and follow your dreams.

### Fang Nights @ Lincoln Branch

Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19 & 26 @ 7 PM, Lincoln Branch Library. Movie screenings, special presentations, activities and goodies for the entire family. Celebrate "The Call of the Wild" and Race to the Sky with friends and neighbors at your Lincoln Branch Library.

### Alaska Walkabout with Marty Zajanc

Thursday, February 12 @ 7 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. Marty guides you through his first two tumultuous treks along the Aleutian Range, skips quickly through the interior, then romps into the Arctic for the last thousand miles to capture the feel of a great frozen land, and the emotions of a man nearing the end of a quest.

**Augusta Dinner Club Celebrates The Call of the Wild** Monday, February 9, 2009 @ NOON, Augusta Senior Center. A fun and festive meal celebrating "The Call of Wild." Save room for the Baked Alaska!

**The Nature of Wolves** Saturday, February 14, 2009 @ 2 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. It's all about the "wild." The Lewis & Clark Humane Society will present a fun and informative program about the nature of wolves.

**Capital High Drama Club Performance** Sunday, February 15, 2009 @ 1:30 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. It's all about "The Call of the Wild" for this performance. The talented Capital High Drama Club will entertain the entire family.

### The Call of the Wild: The Life of Jack

**London** Thursday, February 19, 2009 @ 6:30 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. In this dynamic portrayal, actor/scholar Michael Oakes tells the greatest story Jack London ever wrote, his own life. From the age of nine, London toiled as a "wage-slave" factory worker, oyster pirate, sailor, writer, and rancher. In his 40 short years, London roamed the globe from the Klondike to the South Seas, and Asia. He twice ran for mayor of Oakland, and was recruited as a presidential candidate. Performance followed by a Q&A with Mr. London.

**Cold Weather Tips for Your Pets** Saturday, February 21, 2009 @ 2 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. When the seasons move from summer into fall and winter, people adjust their routines and plan for colder weather. At the same time, we need to prepare our pets for the changing seasons. Join us for this informative program presented by the Lewis & Clark Humane Society.

**Moritz: A Bernese Mountain Dog and Author Barry Schieber** Sunday, February 22, 2009 @ 1:30 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. Meet Moritz: therapy dog, yoga assistant, world traveler, and one man's best friend. Author Barry Schieber and Moritz have touched hearts and minds wherever they go. There will be a book signing following the program. Books will be available for purchase.

### The Call of the Wild: Native American

**Perspectives** Thursday, February 26, 2009 @ 6:30 PM, Helena Indian Alliance, 435 N. Jackson. A panel of American Indians will discuss their reactions to the portrayal (or lack thereof) of American Indian issues/perspectives in the book "The Call of the Wild". The book is set mostly during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98 in Canada's Yukon Territory and Alaska. Panelists will share their thoughts and concerns regarding the book and how a more inclusive look at that period of history will help dispel common misconceptions that readers will encounter in the text. Sponsored by the Montana Office of Public Instruction - Indian Education Division and the Helena Indian Alliance. Call 442-9244 for more information.

### Dog Behavior & Training Techniques

Saturday, February 28, 2009 @ 2 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG. It's all about positive reinforcement methods and reward based training. Lewis & Clark Humane Society offers tips to help you understand canine behavior and get you and your pet on the right track.

### RACE TO THE SKY-February 12-17

For a full schedule of events visit

[www.racetothsky.org](http://www.racetothsky.org)

The Big Read will be at Race Events

### Business Card Social-Meet the Mushers

Thursday, February 12, 2009 @ 5 PM, Park Plaza Hotel, soon to be Holiday Inn Conference Center Downtown, 22 NLCG.

**Vet Check and Sponsor Photos** Friday, February 13, 2009 @ 11 AM-2 PM, Downtown Helena Walking Mall and Pioneer Park. Here's your opportunity to meet the sled dog teams.

**Race Start in Lincoln** Saturday, February 14 @ NOON; **Watch staged teams** from 2:30-4:30 PM; **Awards Ceremony for Staged Teams** Approximately 5 PM; Hi Country Snack Foods, Lincoln

**Race to the Sky Awards Ceremony and Dinner** Tuesday, February 17 @ 6 PM, Lincoln Community Center.

**Don't miss this bit of history! Official Race to the Sky Posters on exhibit at the Helena Library through February dating back to 1988.**



## FANG FILM FESTIVAL

Tuesdays in February @ 6:30 PM  
Lewis & Clark Library  
120 S. Last Chance Gulch

### The Call of the Wild: Dog of the Yukon

Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

Richard Dreyfuss narrates this made-for-cable adaptation of the classic novel by Jack London. This particular version of the tale has been hailed as one of the most accurate dramatic presentations of London's work.

### Snow Dogs

Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

When Miami dentist Ted Brooks learns that his birth mother has passed away and that he was named in her will, he travels to Alaska to claim his inheritance. Ted receives his mother's pack of rowdy sled dogs and her property. What follows is a comedy detailing Ted's adventures in learning to run the sled dogs.

### Eight Below

Tuesday, February 17, 2009.

An American geologist flies to Antarctica to participate in a project at the United States Research Base. Once there, he teams up with arctic guide Jerry Shepard and his best friend, Cooper. The scientist soon discovers that Shepard also has eight other valuable friends, a pack of sled dogs he's worked with for years who have rescued him from a number of tight spots.

### White Fang

Tuesday, February 24, 2009.

A young man tries to fulfill his father's wish to find gold in the treacherous Yukon Valley of Alaska. Along the way he befriends a veteran gold miner and a magnificent wolf-dog named White Fang.

### Lewis & Clark Library-East Valley Branch (EVB)—400 N. Kalispell, East Helena

The Call of the Wild: Dog of the Yukon Thursday, February 12, 2009 @ 6 PM.

Eight Below Saturday, February 21, 2009 @ 1:30 PM.

### Lewis & Clark Library-Augusta Branch

The Call of the Wild: Dog of the Yukon Wednesday, February 11, 2009 @ 1 PM, Augusta Senior Center

### Lewis & Clark Library-Lincoln Branch

Eight Below Thursday, February 5, 2009 @ 7 PM

White Fang Thursday, February 12, 2009 @ 7 PM

### The Call of the Wild: Dog of the Yukon

Thursday, February 19, 2009 @ 7 PM

## DAILY DOSES OF THE BIG READ UNDER THE BIG SKY

**Book Discussions in a Bag** Area book discussion groups are invited to celebrate The Big Read Under The Big Sky by reading Jack London's classic *The Call of the Wild*. Book discussion kits are available at all Lewis & Clark Library locations: Helena, and the Augusta, East Helena and Lincoln Branch Libraries. Kits include copies of the book, and Reader's Guides. **Call Suzanne at 447-1690 ext. 130 to order your kit.**

### Readers Going to the Dogs Photo Contest:

Get creative! Submit a photo of yourself and/or your family reading "The Call of the Wild" with your family pet anytime between January 30 and February 28. Prizes will be awarded for the top three photos. Submissions will be accepted at any of our branch libraries in Helena, East Helena, Augusta and Lincoln, or you may submit electronically to [jhart@mtlib.org](mailto:jhart@mtlib.org). Please include your name and contact information with your photo.

### Support the Lewis & Clark Humane Society during The Big Read: Donate a Dog or Cat Toy:

The Lewis & Clark Humane Society wants dogs and cats waiting for adoption to have all the advantages of family pets. We will be accepting donations of toys for dogs and cats at all events during the month-long celebration of The Big Read.

### Camp Rimini/WWII Sled Dog Exhibit

Lewis @ Clark County History Center  
58 N Last Chance Gulch—Helena  
The downtown History Center goes to the dogs! The satellite exhibit features history of the War Department's secret sled dog teams in WWII at Camp Rimini. Dog-sleds will be on display. Hours: Noon to 4:30 PM Monday—Thursday. School visits welcome—call 447-8357.

## PUBLIC BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Monday, February 9, 2009 @ 4 PM  
Augusta Branch Library, Augusta

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 @  
Lincoln Branch Library

Tuesday, February 24, 2009 @ 6:30 PM  
East Valley Branch Library,  
400 N. Kalispell, East Helena

Saturday, February 21, 2009 @ 10:30 AM  
L&C Library-Helena  
Sponsored by L&C Library Foundation

Tuesday, February 24 2009 @ 7 PM  
University of Montana-Helena  
1115 N. Roberts

Wednesday, February 25, 2009 @ 11 AM  
L&C Library-Helena

Thursday, February 26, 2009 @ 6:30 PM  
Montana Historical Society  
225 N. Roberts

### Teen Book Groups Go Wild:

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 @ 6:30 PM  
Middle School Book Club  
Mezzanine Room—Helena Library

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 @ 3:15 PM  
EVMS Book Club East Valley Branch  
Library 400 N. Kalispell, East Helena

Monday, February 23, 2009 @ 7:00 PM  
High School Book Club  
Mezzanine Room—Helena Library

### Books and Reader's Guides available

**January 31st:** Get your free copy of "The Call of the Wild", a Reader's Guide, bookmark and Calendar of Events at any of The Big Read events, or by stopping by any of the branch libraries in Helena, East Helena, Augusta and Lincoln. "The Call of the Wild" is also available through our new downloadable audio collection. **When you pick up your book, get your eco-friendly reusable book bag (while they last) Donated by Mountain West Bank!**

The Big Read is an initiative of the  
National Endowment for the Arts  
in partnership with the  
Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

[www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org)

Partnering Organizations:

Helena School District #1      Lewis and Clark Humane Society  
Race to the Sky                      Downtown Helena  
MT Office of Public Instruction      Helena Indian Alliance  
HCTV—Cable Channel 11

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



THE  
BIG  
READ

Museum—Library



# Public Library News... *Is Everybody Remodeling?*

## Bigfork Branch Library gets Facelift

By  
Kim Crowley, Director  
Flathead County library  
kcrowley@flathead.mt.gov



The Bigfork Branch of the Flathead County Library System has had some recent updates. Thanks to a grant from the Community Fund for a Better Bigfork, we've installed slatwall shelving to better display our audio/video materials and our magazines and periodicals. Customers love the easier



access to materials and the overall sense of openness that the new shelving allows. After seeing photos of the remodel, another foundation has given \$1,000 for new furnishings, and has challenged others in the community to donate as well.

Checkouts at the Bigfork Branch are up 26% for the first six months of FY 09, which is more than the 19% increase that the system is seeing as a whole.

## Missoula Accomplishes Redesign

By  
Joyce Doyle  
Missoula Public Library  
jdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us

As of this writing, we're putting the finishing touches on our redesign project at Missoula Public Library. It's been a lot of work – and pretty noisy at times – over the past year, but it was definitely worth it as we can offer more browsing and better customer service to our patrons. We'll be celebrating with a two-hour Open House on Thursday, Feb. 5, including guided tours, demonstrations, door prizes, and more. Our goal in redesigning the library was to create a customer-first service style by making materials more easily browsed, speeding up the time it takes to get materials to the shelves, and providing more accessible staff to help you find what you want. And judging from the comments we've heard

from patrons, we hit our target.

The new "book store style" atmosphere includes display shelving offering popular materials by general subject area as well as an "Entertainment Central" spot



for all video and audio materials. Plus, teens now have a room of their own where they can relax with friends, and adults have a great new reading area with a Readers Corner. Our long check-out lines will be abated with self-checkout options as well as self-serve holds pickup. And our new "roving librarian" plan will get our staff out on the floor where we can help best.

So the next time you're in Missoula you'll need to see the new and improved library. We'll even give you a tour!



**Public Library News, Next Page...**

# More Public Library News

## Start Writing for MPL's Contest

By  
Joyce Doyle  
Missoula Public Library  
jdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us

Montana is full of writers. Authors of all ages slave over their fiction and non-fiction masterpieces. But what do you do when you're done? Missoula Public Library thinks that writing shouldn't sit in a drawer where nobody can enjoy it. So we're offering our first-ever Writing Contest.

The contest, based on a similar contest hosted by Coeur D'Alene Library in Idaho, will be broken into a variety of age divisions from 6-10, 11-14, 15-18, and 19 plus. Participants can submit one fiction entry and one non-fiction entry, with submissions being no longer than 2,000 words. Sorry, we're not accepting poetry for this contest – but watch for special National Poetry Month events in April. All contest entries must be received at the library by 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. You can start dropping off entries Feb. 1. Sounds like it's far off, but now is the time to start writing.

The library thanks our local judges who represent professional writers, editors, teachers, and book sellers. Judges, writers and fans are invited to the awards ceremony planned for Sunday, May 3, where we'll distribute the first place prize of \$100, second place prize of \$50, and third place prize of \$25 for each age group.

The library plans to create a book of all entries received so everybody can enjoy our local talent.

To join the contest, visit us online

[www.missoulapubliclibrary.org](http://www.missoulapubliclibrary.org) and download an entry form, which must accompany all submissions.



## Belgrade Community Library is Hopping

By  
Mary Gerlach  
Belgrade Community Library  
mgerlach@mtlib.org

### Spanish Program After School

The Belgrade Community Library has a new program after school for kids from 9-13 years old: a Spanish class. Taught by a K-12 certified teacher, students in this 5 week program meet once a week to learn simple conversation, make vocabulary cards and posters, and learn about Latino cultures. To meet the needs of the 14 students in the class, the library has expanded its collection of Spanish and bilingual books.

### Computer Tutor at the Belgrade Community Library

In partnership with IKUW Solutions (pronounced IQ), a computer training and consulting business in Belgrade, the library now offers computer classes. Taught by the Microsoft certified owners of the business, library patrons can take Computer Basics, Internet Basics, Beginning Word, and Beginning Excel. The Saturday morning classes have been so popular that there is a waiting list for every class.

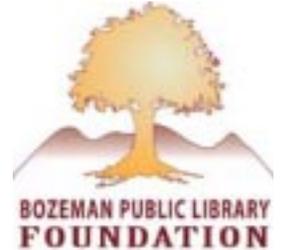
### Topics That Make Cent\$

The Belgrade Community Library is starting the year with a financial series at the library. Patrons may take as many of the classes as they like. They can learn how the FDIC works to keep money safe, who gets their money when you die, how to protect themselves from identity theft, how to align money and values, how to get tax breaks, and how to plan an estate. Local experts present the programs, and local establishments provide desserts for the series of seven seminars.

## Gallatin Valley Forum Radio Programs

By  
Cindy Christin  
Bozeman Public Library  
cchristin@bozeman.net

The Library Foundation is sponsoring a new series of six public lectures and discussions featuring issues and speakers that are topical to the Gallatin Valley and beyond. These free programs will be recorded live and aired on public and commercial radio stations. The first program of the series will be Wednesday, February 25 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room. Join a panel discussion on Civil Discourse with local facilitators Sarah Glover, Pam Poon, and Ris Higgins. With a new administration, new leadership, new initiatives, and a burgeoning push for civility and relationship building, where do we go from here in working together? Please join the discussion. Call Paula Beswick at the Library Foundation at 582-2426 for more information.



### Model Railroad Here

Montana NTRAK, Montana's highly acclaimed N Scale model railroading club, will set up its train layout in the Library's Community Room the last weekend in February and offer the public two days of running miniature model trains on more than 10 scale miles of track. The Library will display books on trains and American railroad history, along with a special children's storytime on trains on Friday, Feb. 27 at 10:15 a.m. The layout will be open and free to the public Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, March 1, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

# More Public Library News

## Library Book Groups

By  
Cindy Christin  
Bozeman Public Library  
cchristin@bozeman.net

The Bozeman Public Library now has four book groups open to the public. For adults, the Library Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Titles are chosen in advance and are available for checkout at the Reference Desk. This month readers meet to talk about the Henry James classic, *The Portrait of a Lady*. The Book Club is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

The Albert Gallatin Society for Great Books Discussion Group began meeting at the Library last fall. The group meets Saturday, February 21 at 10:15 a.m. to continue with the discussion of *Ulysses* led by Valerie Hemingway.

The Kids' Book Group has been meeting since 2001 for kids ages 8 and up. Readers talk about the selected title, enjoy snacks, and choose the next book at each meeting. They will meet on Thursday, February 19 at 4 p.m. to talk about *No Talking!* by Andrew Clements.

A new book group for middle school students met at the end of January to decide on a book to read, a name for the group, and when they plan to meet. This group is for kids ages 11 and up who enjoy reading and talking about books.

The Library's website, [www.bozemanlibrary.org](http://www.bozemanlibrary.org), has details about each book group, or you can call the Reference Desk at 582-2410 or the Children's Desk at 582-2404.

## New Yoga Class for Moms

Moms and babies can enjoy free yoga classes every Thursday from 11:00-11:45 a.m. in the Library's Community Room, thanks to certified yoga instructor Karen Averitt. These classes will help develop core strength, increase flexibility, and boost energy levels. These free classes are sponsored by the Library Foundation.

## Week of Events for MPL's "Inside Mockingbird"

By  
Joyce Doyle  
Missoula Public Library  
jdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us

Missoula Public Library is taking a journey through Harper Lee's iconic novel of the South, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, in a week of events Feb. 5-13 including book discussions, film screenings, and themed lectures.

We're especially pleased that Mockingbird expert Claudia Durst Johnson is here to offer three lectures including Inside the Great Depression: Economic Realities in *To Kill a Mockingbird* with De-

pression era jazz and blues, Inside a Girl's Story: Gender Transgression in *To Kill a Mockingbird* with a poetry and prose jam by Missoula Respect Clubs, and Inside the Gothic Tower: The Literary Heritage of *To Kill a Mockingbird* with a sampling of Southern cuisine. Plus, Johnson will be visiting Missoula County Schools to talk to both students and teachers about the themes in the classic novel.

The *Inside Mockingbird* series coincides with the Montana Repertory production of the play.

## Warm Up With a Good Book at Missoula Public Library

By  
Joyce Doyle  
Missoula Public Library  
jdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us

Is your favorite winter pastime curling up on the couch with a good book? You're not alone. Missoula Public Library is offering its first-annual Adult Winter Reading Program. The program is open to ages 18 and over, and includes prizes plus monthly author events from January through March. All three of our branches are taking part.

Librarian Molly Kliss brainstormed the idea based on other adult reading programs she researched. Kliss booked amazing author events to coincide with monthly raffles including a Mystery Lovers Book Discussion featuring Jon A. Jackson, an Adult Story Time with Debra Earling, and our Winter Reading Celebration with Deirdre McNamer.

The winter reading program is the perfect opportunity to tout our new Readers Advisory Corner, too, where patrons can access NoveList as well as find genre bookmarks compiled by our reference staff, and other publications to help them find the reading materials they like.

So there's no need to feel left out in the cold this winter, when you can warm up with a good book at the library!

