

Montana State Library Commission Policy

Montana Library Network Shared E-Resources Collection Development Policy

Introduction

The purpose of the Montana Library Network E-Resources Collection Development Policy is to describe the general criteria used by the Montana State Library (MSL), Network Advisory Council (NAC), and the Montana State Library Commission to recommend and approve e-content and e-resources services to be funded, procured, or otherwise facilitated through the Montana State Library for use by Montanans through their local libraries. This policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years.

Mission and Guiding Principles

The Montana State Library's mission is to help all organizations, communities, and Montanans thrive through excellent library resources and services. The rights of Montanans of any age, race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious affiliation to lawfully access and share ideas are protected in the Constitution of the State of Montana. The guiding principles of this policy are directives from the State Library Commission as published in the Fair Library Access Resolution (2019) and the Statement on the Freedom to Read (2022) [see appendix].

Scope and Community Served

This policy covers all electronic resources funded, procured, or otherwise supported by MSL for the benefit of all Montanans. These resources help Montana public libraries and other tax-supported libraries to fulfill the library standards described in Administrative Rules of Montana 10.102.1159:

- Everyone has safe, comfortable, and convenient access to the library and its services.
- Everyone has access to updated and regularly maintained physical and digital library content and services.
- Everyone can find library materials online.

Funding Sources

The State Library Commission's statutory authority (22-1-103 MCA) includes accepting and administering any state, federal, or private funds appropriated for library services, and furnishing library assistance and information services to all Montana residents.

In addition, participating libraries may contribute funding from their approved budgets, Friends of the Library groups, Foundations, or other private donations in order to enhance shared e-resources collections, in accordance with the program's selection procedures.

Selection Process

Programs and services funded or facilitated by MSL strive to reflect the needs, interests, and viewpoints of all Montanans sufficient unto their needs, taking into consideration access needs in a digital environment.

Factors in recommendations to the State Library Commission will include ability for all libraries statewide to leverage the service sufficient unto their users' needs, accessibility, interest, demand, timeliness, audience, viewpoint, availability of materials in appropriate formats and licensing or purchasing models, compatibility with State Procurement Bureau requirements, information obtained from professional and user reviews, and budget.

No material that meets the needs of Montanans shall be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of the author or those contributing to its creation. Not all materials may be suitable for all members of the community.

Recommendations for funding priorities come to the Commission from the NAC, a volunteer advisory board appointed by the Commission.

Role of the Network Advisory Council and Core Services Committees

The NAC, with input from the Montana library community and Core Services Committees, identifies and recommends core library services of the Montana Library Network to address Montanans' information needs. They consider core services holistically, prioritize services, assist with evaluating services, identify gaps in service delivery and barriers that prevent the realization of the intent of the fair library access resolution, make decisions and recommend funding priorities to fund current and future services, and help MSL and Montana libraries with service plans.

NAC Core Services Committees are composed of subject matter experts who can more clearly define the scope of core services and funding needs, determine service delivery policies and models, create metrics to evaluate the success of the services, consider future changes in user needs, opportunities for collaboration, and other drivers that might influence these services and the composition of the collections over time.

Collaborative Collections

Wherever possible, services are delivered through a collaborative infrastructure of core services that scale to meet the needs of all Montanans. These core services are those in which MSL invests state and federal dollars. MSL invests state and federal revenues so that every Montana library has affordable access to a core group of services. The intent is to more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of all Montana's communities.

Cooperation among libraries delivers more information from a wider variety of sources than a single library can provide, permits better resource allocation, and leads to more intensive use of collections. Through providing or hosting statewide library resources, MSL allows Montana libraries to:

- Share resources with other libraries for the benefit of all Montanans
- Expand library holdings through a shared collection
- Improve patron access to materials of special interest
- Coordinate or share purchasing in order to minimize duplication of efforts

Intellectual Freedom and Personal Responsibility

The Montana State Library affirms the individual's personal responsibility and freedom to learn and to consider ideas as articulated in the Montana State Library Commission's Statement on the Freedom to Read. An opinion or idea represented in the collection reflects the State Library's commitment to intellectual freedom and is not an endorsement of a point of view or opinion. The Montana State Library serves multiple types of libraries. Levels of patron access vary by library type and by local library policy. Like adults, children and teens have the legal right to find the information they choose. Libraries have a responsibility to provide information for a wide variety of users and may not deny an individual access to materials in the collection. Libraries encourage parents and caregivers to be familiar with what their children are reading and to guide their children's use of the library.

Requests for Reconsideration of Materials in the Collection

Registered Montana library patrons who want to communicate their concerns about materials in the Montana Library Network's shared e-resources collection should contact the Library Director at their local library, who will give the patron a copy of this collection development policy and the materials reconsideration procedure. To the extent that the platform allows we may consider requests to reconsider individual titles or course offerings. Titles or resources that have been contested within the past three years will not be reconsidered. Completed requests will be directed to the E-Resources Core Services Committee, who will make a recommendation to the State Library Commission within four weeks of receipt. The E-Resources Core Services Committee may consult with selection committees for a specific program such as MontanaLibrary2Go if the request is relevant to that program. The Commission will review the request and recommendation at its next scheduled meeting. Requests for reconsideration will only be accepted from a registered patron of a Montana library.

Appendix

Fair Library Access for All Montanans: A Resolution from the Montana State Library Commission, Regarding Fair Standard Access to Library Content and Services for All Montanans

Montana State Library Commission, Aaron LaFromboise, Chair

Montanans' Dignity

Whereas all Montanans are born with inherent, inviolable dignity;

Whereas all Montanans are at liberty to pursue life's basic necessities, health, and happiness;

Right to Lifelong Learning

Whereas in pursuit of life's basic necessities, health, and happiness, all Montanans have the right to seek information and pursue ideas, through any media, regardless of location, and without discrimination;

Whereas it is Montana's constitutional goal to establish a system of education which will develop the full potential of each person, with equitable education opportunities being guaranteed to each person of the state;

Whereas, the Montana State Library (MSL) is aligned with and affirms the American Library Association's placing high value in a learning society, and in affirming libraries' vital and cooperative role in supporting all Montanans' lifelong pursuit of inquiry and learning for all;

Montana State Library's Role

Whereas libraries exist to help Montanans to enrich and inform themselves;

Whereas Montana State Library's purpose is to assist all organizations, communities, and Montanans to thrive through excellent library resources and services;

Whereas it is MSL's duty to directly provide or distribute access to library content and services, sufficient to each user's needs, to all Montanans;

Whereas MSL's many dynamic relationships with users and partners include, either directly or indirectly, local, State and Federal agencies, all Montanans, and all of Montana's libraries' communities including all those they serve;

Whereas because MSL provides content or services to users through its relationships with governmental agencies, libraries, or other institutional partners, it follows that MSL measures its success by evaluating the degree to which, through its efforts, individual users have access to sufficient library content and services to meet their needs;

Fair (equitable) Access

Whereas to thrive, all Montanans deserve convenient access to sufficient (if not necessarily the same) library content and services, so that they may seek information and pursue ideas;

Whereas Montana's communities vary, in regards to the availability of local resources, in differences between each communities' ability to provide their users with sufficient resources, and in their ability to

participate as a partner with other sources of Montana information resources, including the Montana State Library;

Whereas all Montana communities experience gaps in library services, and vary in their ability to help their users and their communities thrive; therefore, let it be

Resolution

Resolved, that the Montana State Library acknowledges that that there is an uneven distribution of library services throughout Montana, and that there are disparities in the sufficiency of library services;

Montanans have unique critical needs for convenient access to sustainably funded, sufficient unto each Montanan's needs, high-quality library content and services;

With its partners and all Montana Libraries, Montana State Library commits to developing and implementing a statewide strategy, toward the goal of providing all Montanans with equitable, sufficient access to library resources;

That all Montana's libraries, all Montana State Library's partners, and all state agencies will be encouraged to join in this statewide strategy; so that

All Montanans will have access to library content and services, sufficient unto their needs.

Montana State Library Commission Statement on the Freedom to Read (2022)

The principle that access to information will ensure freedom informed the drafting of the First Amendment of the US Constitution. The opportunity to read and inform one's opinions, to engage in open discourse, and to express differing ideas are fundamental rights of Americans and are core aspects of our national character. Public libraries stand as institutions that foster information sharing, discourse, and the free expression of ideas. Banning, removing, or censoring materials, speakers, or displays without due process violates Americans' Constitutional rights.

The Montana State Library Commission maintains and operates the State Library and gives assistance and advice to all tax-supported or public libraries. The Montana State Library Commission stands in firm support of the freedom to read and speak as inalienable rights protected by the First Amendment. We are committed to defending those rights for all Montanans and, through our consulting services, support the selection of library materials that represent a broad range of topics and ideas to meet the information needs of all members of Montana communities.

We recognize that not every book is right for every reader. Libraries have procedures in place for reevaluating resources if library users voice concerns about materials that they find objectionable. We affirm that no one person has the authority to determine what library-provided resources are appropriate for someone else. We affirm the roles of library professionals to follow established collection development policies and professional standards that uphold this principle as they develop collections and programs that reflect and support the communities they serve.

The Montana State Library Commission's affirmation of the freedom to read is inherent to the Commission's resolution that all Montanans will have access to library content and services, sufficient unto their needs. To allow anything less is contrary to the rights afforded to Montanans and Americans.

MontanaLibrary2Go

MontanaLibrary2Go's collection development policy and other governing documents are available at https://msl.mt.gov/libraries/statewide_projects/montanalibrary2go/forparticipatinglibraries

Request for Reconsideration of Materials

The Montana State Library has established a collection development policy and a procedure for gathering input about the contents of the electronic collections described in this document. Registered Montana library patrons who want to communicate their concerns about materials in the Montana Library Network's shared e-resources collection should contact the Library Director at their local library, who will give the patron a copy of this collection development policy and the materials reconsideration procedure.

Completed requests will be directed to the E-Resources Core Services Committee, who will make a recommendation to the State Library Commission within four weeks of receipt. The E-Resources Core Services Committee may consult with selection committees for a specific program such as MontanaLibrary2Go if the request is relevant to that program. The Commission will review the request and recommendation at its next scheduled meeting.

Requests for reconsideration will only be accepted from a registered patron of a Montana library.

Date:

Name:

Library where you are a registered patron:

Phone:

Email:

Do you represent yourself? ____ Or an organization? ____ Name of Organization:

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

___ Book (or e-book)

___ Movie

___ Magazine

___ Audio Recording

___ Newspaper

___ Other Title (please describe):

Author/Producer:

2. What brought this resource to your attention?

3. Have you read, viewed, or listened to the entire resource? If not, what sections did you review?

4. What are your specific objections to this material or subject matter?

5. Can you suggest titles of materials which might be added to the collection which address the same or similar issues?

6. What action are you requesting the committee consider?