

# COURIER PROGRAM

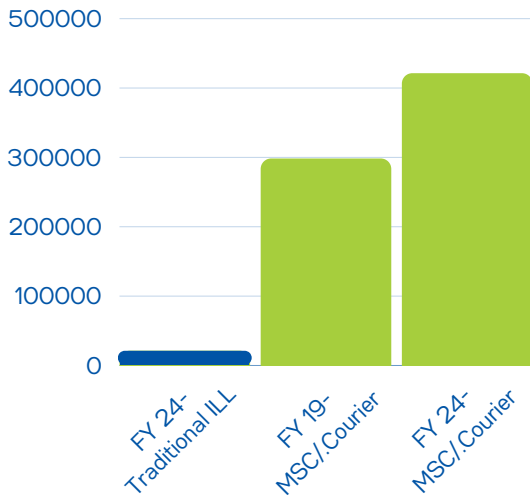


The Courier Program allows Montanans access to books and items from across the state, opening the doors of opportunity for all Montanans with access to this service, while being a more cost effective and time efficient Interlibrary loan option for libraries.

<b>421,391</b> Courier Items Loaned	<b>16,593</b> Crates Moved Through Courier	<b>52</b> Courier Libraries	<b>547,569</b> Pounds Moved Through Courier	<b>421,391</b> Courier Items Received
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Fiscal Year 2024 Courier Data. Courier Libraries- this includes direct access and secondary access libraries. Crates & pounds estimated by average number of crates picked up per stop, plus extra crate count, and average weight of crates at 33 lbs. Courier Items Loaned is based on Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) loans through Sharing Groups.

## Interlibrary Loans (ILL)

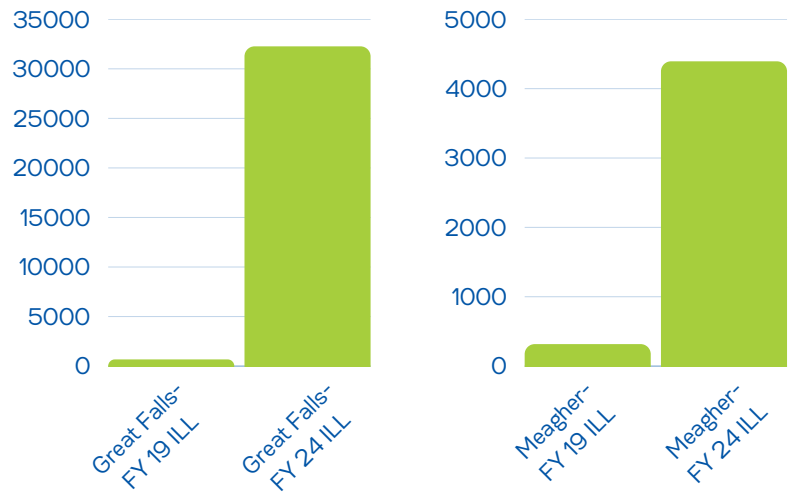


The graph to the left shows the number of traditional Interlibrary loans received (those without access to the Courier and Sharing Groups) compared to fiscal year 2019 & fiscal year 2024 Interlibrary loans for Montana Libraries who utilize the Montana Shared Catalog, Sharing Groups, and have access to the Courier.

The graph below highlights the impact of access to a Courier and Sharing Groups. Great Falls and Meagher County are the newest libraries to join the Courier and a Sharing Group.

**Great Falls: 4,688% Meagher: 1,286%**  
ILL Received Increases

## Interlibrary Loans Highlight



Interlibrary loans allow patrons within a community to check-out a book from another community. This opens the door of opportunity for Montanans to have access to options that better suit their needs. Montana libraries can be a part of the Montana Shared Catalog, join/start a Sharing Group, and those with access to the Courier can easily utilize Interlibrary loans to better serve their community. Our hope is to allow Eureka to Ekalaka, Dillon to Plentywood, and every Montanan in-between to have access to the books and information they seek.

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Shipping savings on the left is based on the price of USPS Media Mail/Library Commercial vs Current Courier Contract Prices.

The savings on the right for book purchases is based on the average cost of books in 2023 based on figures supplied by Follett and Baker & Taylor for the School Library Journal's Average Book Prices Report. Average \$19.07.



Shipping Cost Savings	USPS: Media Mail Rate	Courier	Annual Comparison
<b>Price Breakdown</b>	\$3.10 1 package, 1 Book, Under 1 lb.	\$84,043 FY 24 Shipping \$20,000 Shipping Crates 421,391 Items	<b>USPS: Media Mail Rate</b> <b>\$2,612,624.20</b> <b>Courier</b> <b>\$105,347.75</b>
<b>Cost to Send &amp; Return Per Item</b>	<b>\$6.20</b>	<b>\$0.25</b>	<b>Annual Savings:</b> <b>\$2,507,276.45</b>

The current Courier charges \$25.00 per stop and each stop includes 5 crates. The price is calculated by number of stops and number of crates. Extra crates are \$3.00 and only main hubs pay for extra crates regularly. The average weight of a crate is 33lbs and the average number of items is **51**. Mixed crates are sent to Main Hubs to be sorted/distributed to other communities. The Courier cost is based on current contract rate negotiated in 2019.

## Library Access

# 15%

Montana Libraries have direct access to the Courier



<b>No Access to Courier</b>	<b>54% (61)</b>
<b>Secondary Access</b>	<b>31% (35)</b>
<b>Direct Access</b>	<b>15% (17)</b>



31% utilize the Courier Service, but do not have direct access

We are currently working on increasing access to cost effective Courier services for all/any Montana Libraries that would like to increase the options and opportunities for their community, but still provide savings compared to traditional ILL shipping costs or purchasing individual books that already exist at another Montana Library.

Secondary access libraries utilize staff or volunteers to travel to Direct Access Libraries to pick up books for their patrons delivered through the Courier.

### Libraries Currently Served:

**Direct Access Libraries:** Anaconda, Bozeman, Butte, Columbus, Dillon, Forsyth, Glendive, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Laurel, Livingston, Miles City, Missoula, Polson, Whitefish, Whitehall. **Secondary Access:** Alberton, Augusta, Baker, Belgrade, Big Sky HS, Bigfork, Boulder, Clancy, Colstrip, Columbia Falls, Condon, Darby, Drummond, East Helena, Ennis, Eureka, Frenchtown, Hamilton, Libby, Lincoln, Lolo, Manhattan, Montana City, Philipsburg, Plains, Seeley Lake, Sheridan, Stevensville, Superior, Terry, Three Forks, Troy, Twin Bridges, Virginia City, & White Sulphur Springs. Secondary access libraries utilize staff or volunteers to travel to Direct Access Libraries to pick up books for their patrons delivered through the courier. **To learn more contact: Savanna Sill at [ssill@mt.gov](mailto:ssill@mt.gov)**