

RECOMMENDATIONS MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM LIBRARY
TASK FORCE

TO: Carrol Krause, Interim Commissioner of Higher Education Krause

FR: Frank D'Andraia, Chair and Dean Of Library Services UM, Missoula 

RE: Final Report & Recommendations, Montana University System Library Task Force

DT: June 18, 2003

1. The Charge

In July 2001, Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Crofts appointed a Montana University System Library Task Force to make recommendations concerning (1) drafting a vision statement for the Libraries of the Montana University System; (2) development of a plan to place all MUS campus libraries on one integrated system; and (3) establishing an ongoing process that supports collaborative efforts that will enhance the availability of information resources for our students and all Montanans. (See appendix A for a comprehensive copy of the Charge to the Committee).

2. Committee Membership

Commissioner Crofts asked Frank D'Andraia (Dean of Library Services UM, Missoula) to serve as Chair and he appointed the following individuals to serve on the Committee:

Carlene Barnett (Library Director Salish Kootenai College, Pablo),
Sheila Bonnard (Librarian College of Technology, MSU Great Falls),
Bob Cimikowski (Professor Department of Computer Sciences MSU, Bozeman),
Cynthia Harrison (Librarian MSU, Northern),
Jeff Hindoien (Office of the Governor, Helena),
Jane Howell (Library Director MSU, Billings),
Linda McCulloch (Superintendent of Public Instruction, Helena),
Bruce Morton (Dean of Libraries MSU, Bozeman),
Christopher Peterson (President Associated Students UM, Missoula),
Charlene Porsild (Director of Library & Archives Montana Historical Society, Helena),
Ginny Richmond (Library Director Helena College of Technology, UM),
Ann St. Clair (Library Director, Montana Tech of the University of Montana, Butte),
Michael Schultz (Library Director UM, Western),
Joyce Scott (Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs, Office
Commissioner of Higher Education, Helena),
Karen Strege (Montana State Librarian, Helena)

Over the course of the Committee's tenure, several individuals went off the committee and were replaced as follows:

Janice Bacino replaced Lois Baker (Interim Library Director, Helena College of Technology

Jon Swan replaced Christopher Peterson (President Associated Students UM, Missoula), Steve Snezek replaced Jeff Hindoen (Office of the Governor, Helena),

Lois Baker replaced Ginny Richmond (Library Director Helena College of Technology, UM)

(See appendix B for a current copy of the Committee roster.)

3. The Process

The Committee held its first meeting on October 8, 2001 and held a number of subsequent sessions throughout 2002. During these sessions the Committee discussed the mission and vision outlined by Commissioner Crofts. Consensus was reached on the following vision statement:

“We envision Montana as a state where citizens have easy access to all information that is relevant, timely, and appropriate to their needs. Montana libraries work together to provide this information.”

The committee continued to investigate its charge and explored existing collaborative consortium, with specific attention to how consortia were organized and structured. Particular attention was given to identifying what type of changes would be needed for these models to be successful, as well as viable, in Montana. In addition, the Task Force agreed that shared electronic purchases were something that merited further discussion.

In late 2002 and early 2003 it became abundantly clear to Task Force membership that due to the worsening economic situation affecting the State and in realization of the current and ongoing financial commitments made by both Montana State University and The University of Montana to existing library management systems, it was not fiscally responsible to propose any changes. Furthermore the Committee unanimously decided upon the following action:

4. The Recommendations

- a. As a result of the economies made to the MUS budget and tight State finances, the Committee recommends no further action be taken regarding the Task Force charge.
- b. The Committee does note that a number of accomplishments have been made as a result of Task Force deliberations and they are as follows:
 1. MUS Students and scholars have easy and reliable access to UM and MSU electronic library catalogs, as well as other online catalogs available in Montana and at other North American locations;
 2. Task Force Deliberations have fostered a collaborative dialog between MUS and other libraries;

3. Task Force deliberations have successfully brought together the entire Montana library community (academic, public, special, government, and tribal colleges libraries);
4. Task Force meetings have served as an excellent model for future collaborations;
5. MUS libraries acknowledge the benefit of working together when planning the selection of the next generation of library management systems.

Attachments: 2

**LIBRARY SYSTEM TASK
FORCE 6/18/2003**

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