

May 2013

Random Notes from the Roving Reporter who attended the Montana Library Association Conference in Missoula, April 17-20, 2013.

Key Note Speaker:

- Dr. Mary Bushing, formerly an employee of Parmly Billings Library and now a consultant and trainer.
- She stressed optimism and a positive attitude, “You can’t accomplish anything unless you believe you can!”
- The one thing we can control is our attitude! Working together is important.
- Honor the fact that “From whence we started, how did we get here this Christmas?”—Bushing.

How to be Family Friendly Library: Panel presentation:

- Might check with the state library regarding new monies for early childhood, early literacy
- Montana State Library spoke of Ready to Read Rendezvous program. State is planning a workshop session this fall for librarians in early childhood.
- Use of vertical space is important in the children’s section, according to the Missoula Children’s librarian.
- Use of hand puppets is a great addition to the children’s area
- Blocks are not just for smaller children, the teens love building blocks
- Bozeman librarian did some training on teenage brain usage and changing her interaction with the teens. E.g. “Thanks for whispering.” “But I wasn’t whispering.”—Point made.
- Good idea to have an attraction on one’s desk for the younger children, ages 6 or 7 mos on. e.g. a fish aquarium. Purpose is to give the child the ability to see the librarian as friendly; an opening to gain conversation and the child’s trust.
- Special family nights geared to different themes: movie nights, dances, national autism or other hadicaps, atrial arts, hula hoops. **Parental guided: suggesting activities , etc., Patron/librarian connection.**
- **Getting families involved is key!!!!!!!!!!** Many people are willing to give of their time to present programs for free—IF THEY ARE ASKED!!!! Tap into the family needs in your community.
- Space and furniture in this friendly family library:
 - have 2 or 3-rung step ladder out at the book drop so kids can put their own books in the drop
 - Have a pretend computer next to the older kid’s real computer
- Children need to be allowed to be children, but not unruly! Use if positive discipline: “This is what you can do in the library, but you cannot do _____(the offending action or activity. E.g. You can run outside, but you cannot run in the library.
- Collaboration with family members, patrons is very important. The library or librarians must be responsive to suggestions made by the families, which is really an invitation to get them involved.
- Family friendly library staff: entire staff must understand this concept!
- Library should develop policy about photo usage of library patrons in the library. Parents need to sign a permission release form—photos, electronic media, etc. if used in library promotion or

publicity. Check with the city attorney . Is it ok to use a photo of patrons if the photo is taken of the backs (profile) of people: people in a space, but not the focal point?

Todd Wilkerson, author, presents his latest book: Let Stand: Ted Turner’s Quest to Save a Troubled Planet, a biography.

- “Early to bed, early to rise and work like Hell!”—Turner
- “People aren’t aware that Turner is a great humanitarian”—Wilkerson
In 1997 Turner gave a billion dollars to the United Nation Foundation. He paid for Mikhail Gorbachev’s presidential library when the Russians couldn’t or wouldn’t raise the necessary monies. What a pal!! (my comment.)
- If you want to understand the man, you have to understand the boy.”—Wilkerson
- The book has a strong Montana focus, yet it covers global issues that have direct relevance for future generations.

(Todd Wilkerson would be a good person to do a talk in Billings on his book. He uses a video clip/trailer in his presentation).

Reflections West: Cultivating Readers Through Radio:

Lisa Simon, PHD, is the creator and producer of a 5-minute radio program that combines book passages with diverse definitions of what it is to be living, breathing and thinking about the West.

- The show, Refection West, promotes the history , culture and literature in 5-minute segments;
- With our digital studio coming aboard, we, Billings Library, in conjunction with NPR or any radio station in Billings to join with us as helpmates and/or sponsors to promote, educate, enlighten our community in 5-minute or 10-minute segments on a dialy, weekly, or monthly, semi monthly basis.
- Possible format:
 - Have different hosts or guests or both using students (high school, college, university)
 - Public patrons
 - Library staff
 - Governance: trustees, friend, foundation, sponsors, donors
- Many different formats possible: happenings at the library, book review, e.g.
- Form an advisory council
- Mission:
 - Use the potential airwaves book reviews
 - Circulate thoughts written by people living here
 - Connect thoughts to strong writing
 - Demonstrate how people use literature reflectively
- Include rural and native people

Dr. Simon is willing to come to Billings to lead a discussion on how to take advantage of the digital age. She indicated that she could come for free because she is a part of the state speaker’s bureau which would pay her expenses. www.reflectionswest.org

Loving Literature: Montana Grants and Programs of Libraries:

Gives grants and programs to non-profit organizations—Libraries.

Mission: believes in the capacity of the humanities to:

- Stimulate reflection
- Create knowledge
- Resolve problems
- Inspire delight

“We connect kids to community. Bring Montanans together for deliberation and celebration . We support libraries, museums, and schools.

Programs:

- Speaker’s Bureau—reflect community reading and conversations
- Grants available for capacity building and programming. They have matching and non-matching grants.
- Opportunity grant, which they highly recommend, does not require a match, such as, reading and discussion programs, exhibits, panel discussions, work shop , oral histories
- **“Surprise Us”**. **Be creative and ask for funding for well thought out programs or events.**

Currently seeking applications for programs focused on the 150th Anniversary of Montana Territory (2014):

Encouraged are conferences, community conversation and reading discussions, groups examining Montana’s beginnings in the 1860, the legacy of industries, such as, mining, logging, ranching

<i>Grants</i>	<i>Amt</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Opportunity	\$1000	at least 2 weeks prior to program (no match)
Regular	\$5000 or less	annually, 20 th of the month in Feb, May, Aug, Nov (match)
Major	\$5000 or more	annually, 20 th of the months in Aug , Dec
Films/digital prod.	\$8000-\$10000	20 th of the months of Aug, Dec

Check out www.humanitiesmontana.org for more information (I think the cost of bringing in someone fits our Feb 2014 Lib opening???)

Digital Humanities: Libraries are on the cusp. Humanities Montana is getting requests for digital projects. (Let’s apply for a digital grant!)

Montana State Government Information: Harvesting the Bounty for Your Patrons:

Mt State Library is mandated to distribute any and all publications created by any stateagency

- Connect at msl.mt.gov and researchmt.gov
- Web archive/ digital or hard copy
 - If it is old, check out the digital library; new, check out the web archive; not sure, check both!
- MSL is digitizing entire print legacy collection

For more info go to: MSC, MMP, internet archives, wildcat

Montana State Library Commission:

(Let's host a meeting at our new library in 2014.) Brent Roberts, MSUB Library Director and Jim Gransbury, formerly with the Gazette, are two of the members on this committee. Check out msl.mt.gov and mtlib.org

- Discussed the ELSA Award (**The Billing Library was one of a number of libraries within the state who were recognized**) as to whether the standard criteria are good and whether the form is easy to complete.
- The shared catalog program: a long time goal has been and is to add more libraries. Not enough staff to be able to add more libraries at this time.
- Workshops for patrons on how to use MontanaLibrary2Go are available or will be soon.
 - The shared catalog motto is reported to be "We reach right into your bedroom" because the ability to use the program is 24/7... It was indicated that the 24/7 availability appeals to the older generations almost more than the younger generations.
 - There is a problem in transporting the kindle program across the Canadian border.

LAWS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Open meeting law
 - Personnel: privacy trumps public right to know
 - Closed meeting: don't go there
- Library record Confidential Act, MCA 22-1-1101 through 22-2-1111
 - What is a library record? **Any documents, records, etc., that identifies what a person has requested or read.**

Creating Partnerships in Your Community: a panel

The goal is collaboration.

- Definition of partnership: **is to partner with all sections of the community—profit and non-profit, alike.**
- What does this partnership accomplish? Community building, great teamwork, economic benefits, new outreach to bring in new patrons!
- Partners: e.g. 4-H clubs, school district, businesses and organizations, all of whom can supply prizes, sponsorships, media, hockey teams, breweries
- Possible events
 - alive at 5 (youth bands, get to perform) march madness: promote education of what the library does and means to the community, contests, connect with the media people for prizes and coverage, personalities come to the library to read to groups, team lock ins. board games on into the night!!
- How to find partnerships? Many organizations and businesses come forth and volunteers when they know what help or kinds of partnerships the library needs or wants
- Staff really needs to be involved, hard work. Tap into the businesses. Thank the partners in a public way!
- All should have their feelers out—always be on the lookout for partners in your daily routines or in your non-routine events.
- **Partnerships take a lot of work; but, in the end, really pays off.**

- Important to keep an overall spreadsheet of the business partners the library is involved with so as to not wear out one's welcome; especially so, for those businesses who contribute prizes for contests the library may be sponsoring.
- Have receptions for partners, judges, and writers. Nothing beats a face to face meeting.
- Missoula has a funky bus that goes around to retirement homes and gives the people who live there training on the internet as a service from the library (could possibly partner with a internet business; maybe they would sponsors the program or pay for such a vehicle. (checkout the funky vehicle on Missoula's Public Library webpage)
- What can you do for the library in return for using a library space for a meeting, etc?
- Artist groups can do paint workshops for the children in the library
- Pet therapy group can give the children a new challenge which helps their reading ability, socializing, etc.
- One library goes to the daycare centers with a number of items that the centers can keep for a longer period of time. Library delivers and exchanges the items on a routine basis.
- **A clear understanding of what is expected of both partners in a partnership, must be understood by both parties. For a successful partnership there is no room for surprises!!!!!!**

As I view my crystal ball I can see the need for a new library position in the new library for a person who is the coordinator of events, spaces. partnerships, etc! Hear, hear!

Submitted by

**Lloyd D Mickelson, vice chair,
Board of Trustee**

Disclaimer: Any information not the gospel truth, or heaven forbid, is in error can be blamed on the poor sound system or my hearing, or both!!