

**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.