

ST-4

Montana Representative Report  
Paula Duffy  
MPLA Board Meeting  
April 2000

PBS Video Training Hosted by Montana Libraries  
Four Montana Libraries will be sponsoring the PBS Videoconferences in April for librarians and educators free of charge. The videoconferences are: "How to Customize an Online Course" and "Developing Web-Based Courses on a Shoestring."

Offline 2000 Great Falls

During February 25-26, 2000 at the Great Falls Public Library hosted this year's Offline Retreat in February. The retreat had workshops and speakers on Web cataloguing, library automation standards, PC security, critical Web page evaluation, and a demonstration of the Full-Text Source Finder at MSU-Bozeman (<http://collect.lib.montana.edu/periodicals>).

MUSSDI Training

A number of academic libraries in the Montana University System implemented

Staff Development Institute Sessions (MUSSDI for short) during April. These training sessions for librarians and staff concentrated on reference issues--Introduction to Reference for Paraprofessionals, Business Reference, and Montana Reference Resources. The workshops were presented by librarians from MSU-Billings and MSU-Bozeman. The concept behind these sessions was that expertise existed within our academic librarians and this expertise could be shared with others. Hopefully, next year additional libraries will take part as participants or as trainers. BTW if you are looking for a great links to Business Resources on the Web go to:

[www.lib.montana.edu/~bcoon/bp](http://www.lib.montana.edu/~bcoon/bp)

Lewis and Clark Passports

Montana libraries are planning for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Observance. MLA is considering the best method to take advantage of this event in Montana. Montana Libraries are represented on the statewide Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission by an MLA Board member. Several ways to promote libraries have been suggested including coloring/reading books and/or a Montana Library passport. The passport would be provided to libraries and tourism offices. The passport would have a welcome from Montana libraries, histories, and the mission of MLA. Patrons could then get their passport stamped at libraries across the state. Libraries could use their library stamp or a special stamp for the event.

### Summer Training for Public Librarians

The first Montana State Library Summer Institute (coordinated by the State Library) will be held on the MSU-Billings Campus, June 4-9, 2000. Funded with LSTA grant funds, the weeklong Institute is intended for directors of smaller public libraries, managers of branch libraries, and any directors new to the Montana library community. The Institute will assist public library administrators by enhancing their administrative skills, by developing their leadership abilities, and by providing opportunities for networking, teambuilding, and informal discussions with others attending the Institute. The only cost to participants is transportation.