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<http://www.mtlib.org/>

New Director

The Butte-Silver Bow Public Library Board has hired Lee Phillips of Belt, Montana, as the new Director of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library.

Montana Library Association conference

Montana Library Association conference will take place at the Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls April 9-12, 2008.

Statewide Periodical Databases

The Montana State Library is pleased to announce that MSL is able to pay the entire cost, for the next two years, of the Gale statewide periodical databases contract. This is thanks to the support of the Governor's budget office and the Legislature and the efforts of the State Librarian, the Library Commission and the Montana Library Association. Any Montana library that is listed in the Montana Library Directory will automatically have access to the periodical databases for this two year period.

Pennies for Peace Campaign

The money which Montana Library Association raised to build a school for the Central Asia Institute is officially built and up and running in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. The school was built in the 2005 Earthquake Zone and has more than 150 students.

Montana State Library Awards \$25,000 Scholarships

The Montana State Library is pleased to announce that another Montana resident was selected to receive a \$25,000 scholarship to attend graduate school as part of the State Library's PEEL (Professional Education and Employment for Librarians) program. The scholarship money is provided through a competitive grant, funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services' "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" program.

"The goal of the PEEL Program is to increase the number of librarians in Montana who have obtained their masters degree in library science," said Darlene Staffeldt, Montana State Librarian. "As technology advances and the amount of available information increases, professional level librarians will be absolutely vital to Montana residents to help them access the information they need."

The \$25,000 scholarship has been offered to Mary Drew Powers of Whitefish. Currently, Ms. Powers is the Assistant Branch Librarian with the Whitefish branch of the Flathead Public Library.