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Montana State Report - January 2007

MLA board renewed their commitment in support of attendees to the MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch. They agreed to continue the Professional Development grant monies for two participants that are accepted into Leadership Institute each year from our state.

On January 9th, Montana librarians from across the state came together for an enjoyable evening at the Montana State Library. It was the annual Legislative Day. It was an evening of visiting with old friends and making new ones, thanking legislators for their continual support, and some great food.

The Montana Library Association Conference, The Tipping Point – Moving Montana Libraries from Good to Great, will take place April 25-28 in Helena Montana. Two wonderful guest speakers are attending this year: Nancy Pearl will be the keynote speaker and Neil Gaiman will be the featured author. There will also be a public held event with Neil Gaiman on Saturday afternoon, where he will be autographing books.

Offline 2007, MLA technology conference, is coming. February 23-24th librarians will gather for the fun, informative 2 day meeting at the new Bozeman Public Library. A few of the topics that will be presented are New Techno gadgets, always a favorite, Screen casting for quick online instruction, Can Web2.0 become Library 2.0?, and Running games on Public PCs/Virtual drives.

Libraries are a good representation of the word collaboration. Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis, The Thompson-Hickman County Library in Virginia City, Twin Bridges Public Library, Sheridan Public Library, Three Forks Community Library, and Whitehall Public Library have joined to together to create “The 4-Rivers Partner Group.” Patrons at any one of these libraries may check out and return materials at any of the above libraries. Patrons can also place a hold at any of the libraries, and their item will arrive at the library they designate. The patrons now gain access to nearly 121,000 items.