

Montana State Library

Report for Conrad Public Library Board of Trustees

[presented during the January 2022 Regular Board Meeting]

- **Webisode Chat with Montana State Librarian, Jennie Stapp, on Friday, January 14, 2022 @ Noon**
Zoom meetings (recorded for [MSL Vimeo channel](#)) usually held on the 2nd Friday of each month

Some of the topics addressed included:

- MSL Personnel Updates
 - Jo Flick retired at the end of December and a new training and education coordinator has been hired and will start in the middle of March; a new Montana Shared Catalog coordinator has also been hired and will start next week
- Montana Memory Project
 - The deadline for applying for digitization funding is February 4th. With questions or for more information, contact the Montana Memory Project staff directly.
- ImagineIF Director Hiring Update
 - The ImagineIF library board made a decision to hire a director that does not have a master's degree, after deliberately making that degree optional during the search; Public Library Standards requires that size of library to have a director with a master's degree (on record since 1977), so if the offer is made, the library would not be certified and cannot receive state aid funding; deferral requests may be allowed due to hardship(s), but not in this case, since it was determined at the beginning; MSL has notified ImagineIF of this consequence. The state library has no governing authority over libraries and library boards. [[Flathead Beacon 01/06/2022 article](#)]
- Material & Censorship Challenges
 - Multiple challenges have been coming up, with both public and school libraries, and MSL is available to help libraries review their collection policies and guide through processes relating to these censorship situations. One instance is that a patron is challenging what materials can be accessed by minors through other libraries, through the Montana Shared Catalog program or interlibrary loans. MSL has a policy for MontanaLibrary2Go, but the MSL Commission has the authority over that policy. ALA has been becoming a "bad" word in some areas/instances, but the 1st amendment can always be pointed to. However, the need to be knowledgeable about laws, especially regarding (obscenity, etc.), is important ... or you can say, "I would like to see the law and that legal opinion" to anyone citing laws. [[Flathead Beacon 01/13/2022 article](#)]

Respectfully submitted,
Lacie Vermulm

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Please note: This report was written from personal notes and may contain unintentional errors; this report is designed to be a condensed summarization for the purposes of a Conrad Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.