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#### Montana State Report - July 2006

Montana's 2006 Centennial Library Conference (May 3 –May 5 in Missoula, MT) has come and gone, and it was a huge success. Future MLA conference locations are scheduled in Helena, Colonial Inn, April 25-28, 2007; Kalispell, Outlaw Inn, April 25-28, 2008; Great Falls, Heritage Inn, April 22-25, 2009.

Montana Library Events Calendar is now on line. The calendar features upcoming library training events and activities, and it can be found at [www.calendar.mtlib.org](http://www.calendar.mtlib.org).

Montana State Library's 8th annual Fall workshop is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 22-23 2006, at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown. Tentative topics will include programming for patrons of all ages, securing public access computers, InfoTrac databases, parliamentary procedure, sharing strategies, mental health resources, marketing the library, and more.

2006 Trustee Workshop is Fundraising Essentials. The training will be offered in Billings on October 28th and Missoula on November 11th. Ilene Roggensack of Third Sector Innovations in Colorado will present the workshops.

Lewis & Clark Library was named Downtown Helena Business of the Year on May 11th. Tim Lynch stated, "the Lewis & Clark Library is truly an anchor in our community; providing outstanding service and offering excellent programming and classes; Lewis & Clark Library is really a place for everyone." Jim McHugh, executive director of the Downtown Helena Business Improvement District and Downtown Helena, stated, "just made sense. The Lewis & Clark Library is not only a great supporter of this community; it is truly a center of the community. This award is a reflection of the hard work of everyone at the Library to meet the continually changing needs of our community."

April 20, 2006 – MSU-Billings Library Director Jane Howell was honored with the YWCA of Billings Salute to Women Award. Jane was honored with five other women for her commitment to positive change, service in the community, and her inspirational efforts at making a difference in the lives of many people. She was especially noted because she blows the typical "mouser in dusty books" librarian stereotype to bits.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have awarded \$295,500 to Montana for public libraries to purchase new computers between 2006-2008.

This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind by Ivan Doig is the 2006 One Book Montana Selection. Reading and discussion guides, suggestions for library, school and book group projects, and opportunity for reader's comments and other tools can be found on the following website, [www.montanabook.org](http://www.montanabook.org).