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### Montana Report for MPLA- October 2009

The Montana State Library is pleased to announce that the Gale statewide periodical databases have been renewed for the next two years, at no cost to libraries. MSL is able to pay the cost of this renewal thanks to the support of the Governor's budget office and the 2009 Legislature, and to the efforts of the State Librarian, the Library Commission, the Montana Library Association and Montana librarians. In addition, Gale's **Small Business Resource Center** has been added to the statewide suite for one year (through June 30, 2010).

The State Library also announced that the existing EBSCO statewide databases have been renewed through August, 2010. New to the EBSCO suite this year is "Career Library". This EBSCO database offers patrons the ability to create resumes, work plans and research careers.

The Montana Festival of the Book will be held October 22 – 24 in Missoula. This annual festival is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, in association with the Montana Arts Council and Humanities Montana.

The Montana Legislator READ poster series won in the category Innovative Advocacy at a recent National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Photos of legislators were taken during a reception sponsored by the State Library and superimposed on READ posters with "I support Montana Libraries" written on them.

**The Big Read under the Big Sky** is a month-long event at the Lewis and Clark Library in Helena, featuring *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. The Library will host a series of lectures, documentary viewings, book discussion groups, and programs based on the themes presented in O'Brien's work.

Lewis & Clark Library also plans to expand its East Helena branch, presently part of the East Valley Middle School library. The branch has outgrown the present space, and will move to a vacant building which will be renovated by the owner and leased back to the library.

The annual Academic & Special Libraries/Public Libraries retreat takes place October 25-26 at Chico Hot Springs. Topics include genealogy research, medical resources online, hosting a movie night at the library, digitizing your collection and serving the mentally ill.

The **Children's Festival of the Book** was held in Bozeman September 25. Artist Chris Raschka, poet Paul Janeczko, and authors Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, Ben Mikaelson and Sneed Collard were some of the featured speakers.

Jim Peters, Assistant Director of Billings-Parmlly Library has retired after a long career, and DeeAnn Redmond has been promoted to that position.

Pam Henley, MT Representative