LIBRARYJOURNAL

presents the





Lisa PeetAssociate News Editor
Library Journal

Now in its eleventh year, the award, sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, honors the public library that most profoundly demonstrates outstanding service to a population of 25,000 or less.

























The winning library will receive:

- \$20,000 cash award
- Feature story in the Feb. 1 issue of *Library Journal*
- Membership and travel costs for two representatives to attend the biannual Public Library Association (PLA) conference,
 April 5-9, 2016, in Denver, CO, and a gala reception to be held there

Two finalists will receive:

- \$10,000 cash award
- Special mention in the LJ feature
- Membership and travel costs for two representatives to attend the PLA conference and reception



Nominations will be based on key factors, including:

- Creativity in developing services and programs that can be replicated by other libraries
- Innovation in introducing and supporting public access computing, educating patrons in its use, and measuring the impact of this technology usage
- Use of technology to expand the reach of library services
- Demonstrated community support
- Success in developing cooperation with other libraries
- Partnerships with other agencies and businesses
- Increase in library use, particularly by new users
- Evidence of library's role as community center



Deadline for submissions is September 9, 2015

Visit http://lj.libraryjournal.com/awards/best-small-library-in-america-award-nomination-guidelines/ for complete entry information or contact Meredith Schwartz at 646.380.0745 or mschwartz@mediasourceinc.com

Sponsored by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Reaching New Users

Changing community, changing library





Then (1932) and now





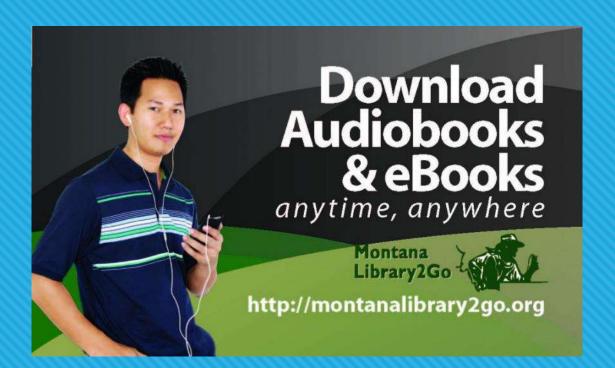
VISTA Volunteer

- In 2000 we had 1,788 registered borrowers...in 2014 we had 7,039.
- In 2000 we had 33,956 visits... in 2014 we had 81,120 visits.
- Over 84,000 book and media uses in FY 14-15...that's nearly 24,000 more annual uses than in 2010.
- 204% growth in event attendance since 2010.
- 1,767 computer uses in a typical month...not including WiFi.

Growth from all directions...how to sustain success?

Sustaining Public Access to Technology

OThinking outside the box



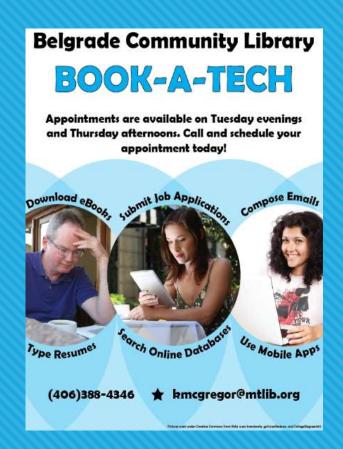


Expanding access through partnerships with local tech companies





Teen Tech Tutoring: building a bridge between two groups while introducing new technology





Book-A-Tech: knowledge gap rather than a lack of hardware





Revamping the website to address the reality of limited high speed internet access and mobile use







Providing hands-on opportunities with emerging technologies through strategic partnerships





...don't forget "low tech"

Establishing Community Partnerships

OExpanding the library's reach through collaboration



Reaching out to underserved populations









Breaking through to a tough audience by combining resources









Partnering to bring together families from local afterschool sites













Sharing resources with the university system to expand programming to rural areas and to promote lifelong learning







Strengthening the community by providing health opportunities



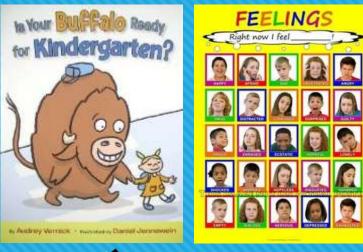




Making connections to enhance the building itself









Bringing many partners together to achieve shared objectives



"Stories to Grow has provided the children at our center with a great opportunity to access the Belgrade Community Library! They are also learning to love reading and books, through the example of our volunteer reader. We love Stories to Grow!"

-Miranda Briggs,
Director of Cradles to Crayons

Connecting with community members as valuable partners to expand outreach efforts

Working as an Innovator

OMaximize impact by thinking toward the future





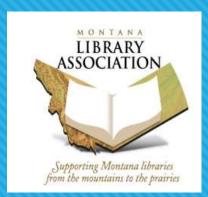
Mentoring volunteers from local training programs and social services organizations



Courier pilot project: Acting as a model for other libraries (BridgerNet and beyond)









Being active on a state and national level and investing in the staff through continuing education





Community recognition...





Community support...





...and a community celebration!

Come Visit Us!

Gale Bacon, Library Director gbacon@mtlib.org

Keiley McGregor, Public Services Librarian kmcgregor@mtlib.org

Rebekah Kamp, Youth Services Librarian rkamp@mtlib.org

