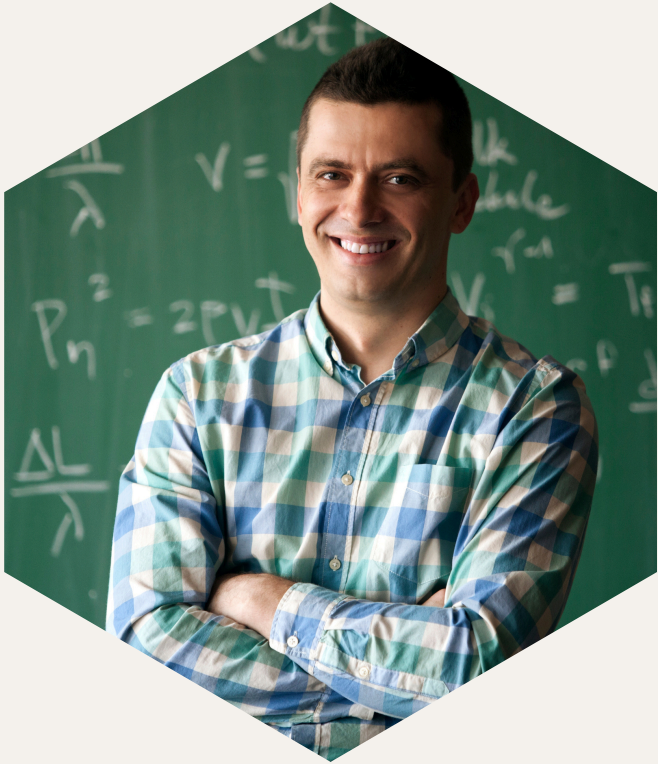# Investing in Montana State Library helps you, your neighbors, and your communities

Teachers

Montana teachers, academics, and researchers use MSL information to...

- Transform their classroom lessons into explorations of the state's diverse plants, animals, and habitats.
- Find age-appropriate digital library materials that encourage research and align to learning goals through MontanaLibrary2Go.
- Find a book about cystic fibrosis for a student in Conrad using our digital card catalog and courier service.
- Design classroom projects to capture one-of-a kind local history, create digital collections of primary source materials, and curate exhibits that excite future researchers.

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Grandma

Grandma uses MSL information to...

- Learn how to encourage her grandchildren to read at story times and summer reading programs that are supported by MSL's Lifelong Learning program.
- Discover a new hobby and passion by tuning into MSL's virtual programs to learn about topics like fiber arts, mushroom foraging, and bat habitats.
- Laugh over old yearbook photos or listen to a lost loved one's voice via an oral history on the Montana History Portal.
- Identify her geocode through Montana Cadastral to apply for a property tax rebate.
- Get specialized help and access to reading materials through Talking Books as she loses her sight.
- Listen to audio books from MontanaLibrary2Go from home at any time, especially when the weather is bad, and she doesn't want to risk slipping and falling while leaving the house.
- Borrow a hotspot from MSL's Hotspot Lending Program to connect with friends and family and to attend tele-health appointments with her doctor.

Tribes

Montana reservations, Tribes and tribal members use MSL information to...

- Use species and habitat information from the Montana Natural Heritage Program to create tribal natural resource management plans.
- Receive improved community library services thanks to new state aid funding.
- Connect GPS base stations to the Montana State Reference Network, improving precision location information for surveying and infrastructure projects.
- Consult on GIS projects such as documenting tribal cemeteries.
- Access imagery, the lidar inventory, and other MSL GIS data for planning, review, and presentation of cultural resources and preservation.
- Record books important to their tribal community, including *My Powerful Hair* by Carole Lindstrom and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Eric Carle that have been translated into Cree. The books are now available to Talking Book patrons nationwide.
- Manage library collections, check out books, and provide library account access for students, faculty, and community members using our digital card catalog, Montana Shared Catalog.

Farmers

Montana farmers and ranchers use MSL information to...

- Monitor drought status and report on moisture conditions and drought impacts in their area through MSL's Montana Drought Impact Reporter.
- Explore the lidar inventory to view and download elevation data to understand how water flows and accumulates on their fields and to locate ditches and canals to plan irrigation strategies.
- Seed and fertilize fields with precision thanks to GPS correction from the Montana State Reference Network.
- Find information about neighboring properties and property access using Montana Cadastral.
- Discover images of digitized livestock brands when exploring the Montana History Portal.
- Download an Environmental Summary Report from the Montana Natural Heritage Program to apply for funding for infrastructure and property improvements.
- Listen to audio books from Montana Library 2 Go while riding in the tractor.

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Recreationists

**Tourists and recreationists
use MSL information to...**

- Learn more about the Going-to-the-Sun Highway through a new exhibit in the Montana History Portal.
- Download a species checklist to plan a birding adventure.
- Plan a fall hunt through the Hunt Planner which is built using public lands data from MSL.
- Borrow a flyfishing book from the Livingston-Park County Library even though they live in Colstrip.
- Research Monana's highest peaks to create a climbing bucket list.

Realtors

**Realtors use MSL information
to...**

- Compare property tax values in their neighborhood through Montana Cadastral.
- Research native and invasive species, or protected habitats like wetlands, that may exist on a new property listing.
- Identify locations of libraries, schools, hospitals, and other community resources that may be of interest to buyers.
- Use aerial imagery to identify building components such as roofing materials to provide information to appraisers and insurance companies.

State Agency

All state agencies use MSL information and reference services. Here are a few key examples...

- All agencies communicate and mail information to stakeholders. MSL is the source for standardized address data in Montana.
- All agencies can look up historical agency information using MSL's web archive to maintain transparency in government information.
- **FWP** uses Natural Heritage Program non-game species information in the State Wildlife Action Plan to inform funding priorities and decisions.
- **DNRC** uses MSL's lidar inventory to model floodplains and, when deciding how to fight wildfires, they call on MSL's maps.
- **DEQ** reviews environmental reports from the Natural Heritage Program to assess the impact of proposals on water quality, habitats, and species of concern.
- **MDT** saves time and money by using MSL's lidar inventory and the Montana State Reference Network to streamline the work of planners and surveyors on construction projects.
- **DOR** relies on Montana Cadastral to help people find geocodes to apply for property tax rebates.
- **SOS** locates and verifies addresses for voters statewide using the MSDI address data and maps voting precincts using MSDI boundaries data.
- **DOC** benefits from MSL grants for census data updates especially in rural census designated places.

Libraries

Montana librarians and trustees use MSL information to...

- Meet Montana's public library standard to provide access to great libraries.
- Continue learning and maintain professional certification.
- Build confidence in their understanding of complex library governance.
- Expand resources beyond local capacity to support Montana learners of all ages.
- Grow readers within families and communities using MSL's early literacy training.
- Allow libraries of all sizes to have a high-quality digital catalog that would otherwise be beyond the capacity of most Montana libraries.

Investing in MSL helps you, your neighbors, and your communities.

MONTANA
STATE LIBRARY
A GREATER STATE OF KNOWLEDGE

Key Takeaways

MSL's information is reliable. We gather it from trusted resources.

Our work saves Montana taxpayers money.

MSL adds value and helps people be self-sufficient.

Like a librarian at your local library who helps you find the book you need, our staff help Montana citizens find the information they need.

Like libraries that share their collections, MSL shares our information with anyone who needs it.

Yes, our programs are always changing but we do it in a thoughtful way.

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