



ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from the Director — Jimmy Thomas

As we prepare for the next annual Council meeting this May 2011, I am pleased to report Marmot accomplishments during the past year.

First, I remember the pride and excitement of getting a new member library for Christmas. Colorado Christian University has a main campus in Lakewood plus seven College of Adult and Graduate Studies locations across Colorado. Though not the first Marmot library on the other side of the Continental Divide—this honor belongs to Adams State College—CCU is a welcome addition to our consortium native to the Western Slope.

Discovery Layers for One and All

VuFind “catalog discovery” was originally developed by Villanova University on a Lucene/SOLR platform. Marmot enhanced this open source software to serve our multi-type consortium. Now Marmot libraries of all types have a next-generation OPAC with modern search capabilities, faceted navigation, location-sensitive holdings displays, and social web features. VuFind by Marmot is live for 16 Marmot libraries so far. Other libraries in Colorado and around the globe have admired our work.

VuFind also supports “genealogy discovery”. We just completed a special project to increase the visibility of obituary databases built by Mesa County and Eagle Valley. Not only did we develop specialized discovery features for this merged database; we also developed a maintenance application that any Marmot library can use to help build this new Western Slope resource.

Summon “journal discovery” was selected this spring to solve problems with federated search. Begun last July with an evaluation process by the Journal Discovery Task Force, the project is due to be completed this summer. While VuFind supports excellent catalog discovery for most of our users, Summon will tackle a bigger challenge of making journal literature, as well as catalog holdings, quickly and easily accessible from a single search box.

Boopsie mobile web services were evaluated and ordered this spring by most Marmot public libraries. Boopsie is both a catalog discovery tool and a web site maintenance tool. It makes essential library information available on the most common mobile devices, and puts the library catalog and patron account literally at the user’s fingertips.

For the current status of all these projects, please visit www.marmot.org/node/2



Prospector

We made big news this year in Colorado by winning an LSTA grant to join the Prospector union catalog based in Denver. Fifteen Marmot libraries join 25 other libraries in Colorado and Wyoming in a union catalog of 30 million items available to readers east and west. The Prospector system, based on INN-Reach software by Innovative Interfaces, was implemented 10 years ago by the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries. Prospector has grown to serve most of the largest and busiest libraries in Colorado. See www.marmot.org/node/45.

Webcasts Save Time and Money

We made extensive use of webcasts, rather than Tech Forums in Grand Junction, and were able to reach more people more conveniently. Nineteen VuFind demos informed librarians of new product features and kept developers in touch with evolving library priorities. Ten Prospector sessions covered implementation planning, user training, and question and answer sessions. Five ILS demos, two journal discovery demos, and three Boopsie demos were broadcast.

Most of these webcasts were recorded for Marmot librarians to attend at their convenience.

The ILS Question

The Marmot Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) was reorganized last December to evaluate integrated library system (ILS) options after 10 years on Millennium. TAC evaluated 6 responses to a Request for Information, attended demos by 5 vendors, and then drafted a Request for Proposal. The RFP is now being reviewed and augmented by Marmot Task Forces listed at www.marmot.org/node/5. We anticipate sending this RFP to 4 semi-finalists in the next month or so.

Changes to Wide Area Network

Marmot regularly evaluates our Wide Area Network to make sure we are providing the most affordable and best connectivity for our members. The need was identified to improve the bandwidth to several of our sites with incompatible connection speeds to support the number of computers on their networks. Last summer, we started talking with Mammoth Networks (a network aggregator) about their services. A contract was signed in December, and in January, we began moving sites to connections running through Mammoth's aggregation point in Denver.

As a result of this partnership, the bandwidth at four of our most under provisioned libraries has more than doubled. We also now have options to better serve the rest of our libraries as their needs increase in the future. Thirteen of the 58 circuits of the Marmot wide area network have been transferred to Mammoth. We anticipate having the entire WAN running on Mammoth connections by the end of August 2011.

Inconspicuous Infrastructure

Marmot purchased and set up three new Unix servers to replace out-of-warranty equipment hosting email, website, and domain name services. Two new Windows servers were purchased to manage workstation software distribution, and to consolidate 5 PCReservation consoles into five virtual servers in one box. The fact that our users hardly noticed these upgrades is proof that the upgrades were done professionally and successfully.

Workstation Maintenance Services

Marmot supports 911 member workstations and servers with a variety of software configurations optimized for library staff, public Internet use, and public access catalog use. In 2010 the Maintenance Team achieved 4 goals: 1) built 340 new machines with approximately 46 different software configurations; 2) performed on-site hardware preventative maintenance for every workstation and server we support; 3) upgraded most workstations to Windows 7, and almost eliminated VISTA from our domain; and 4) migrated to a new domain with Active Directory servers and other tools to make remote support of software more effective and more efficient.

High-profile projects related to network and workstation maintenance included setting up new branches in Para

chute, Rifle, and Fruita; less obvious projects included setting up temporary branches in those three towns, plus in Newcastle.

Server changes — The Public Resources Server handles the following: Windows 7 and Office 2010 licensing, redirected public computer desktops, and 5 virtualized PCReservation Management consoles. The Ops server handles the following: Envisionware backups, critical Active Directory Domain backups, virtualized policy testing and software deployment staging, and virtualized reference machines for troubleshooting purposes.

Wireless Service changes — Due to degrading wireless services from PublicIP, Marmot has begun the process of migrating to a self-contained software suite called Untangle. Using a module called Captive Portal, 40% of our sites have been converted and completion is expected before the end of May.

Finance & Policy Committees

The Finance Committee assisted the Board in reviewing price updates that will become effective July 1. Last year an important goal was to reduce prices by an average of 10% for all members. While this goal was achieved, those price cuts mainly benefited small and medium-size members. Price cuts this year will provide bigger benefits to the largest members.

Marmot employed Dalby, Wendland & Co. for the 2010 audit. Costs of DW&C services beyond the basic audit were high again for this second audit by DW&C; however they noted improvements in Marmot accounting procedures. Progress is being made toward making the annual audit an inexpensive, uneventful task.

The Policy Committee compiled five new policy documents (posted with two policy documents created last year at www.marmot.org/node/42).

Looking Ahead

Three dark clouds make all the silver linings above hard to enjoy this month:

- One early result of Marmot's ILS evaluation was to spook a prospective member into postponing a decision to join Marmot.
- New prices to help members with serious revenue problems will require difficult cost-saving measures.
- The potential loss of Mesa County Valley School District 51 could be even more challenging.

Colorado libraries dodged three bullets last November (amendments 60 & 61, and prop 101), but every public agency funded by property taxes is hurting, and Marmot inevitably must do our share.



**Prospector filled holds
1/1/2011—5/4/2011**

	Lends	Borrows	Ratio L/B
CCU	1,030	206	5.0
ADAMS STATE	155	48	3.2
COL MOUNTAIN	448	151	3.0
PITKIN CO	1,209	429	2.8
CSU-Pueblo	725	398	1.8
UWY	11,654	6,490	1.8
Regis	4,264	2,673	1.6
WESTERN ST	1,041	685	1.5
CU-L	414	274	1.5
MDE	5,640	3,961	1.4
DU-L	375	282	1.3
UCCS	5,876	4,579	1.3
UNC	6,324	4,959	1.3
JCPL	36,228	28,637	1.3
CC	3,728	3,095	1.2
MSC	2,137	1,859	1.2
ALD	28,312	25,818	1.1
CSM	900	873	1.0
LSV	3,722	3,663	1.0
CUB	8,791	8,670	1.0
CSU	10,038	10,294	1.0
BPL	9,919	11,929	0.8
DU	6,169	7,424	0.8
Aurora	11,497	14,092	0.8
AUR	6,518	8,003	0.8
EAGLE VALLEY	9	12	0.8
MESA CO	2,475	3,805	0.7
UCHSC	757	1,172	0.7
WILKINSON	14	22	0.6
PRPLD	16,310	29,992	0.5
Colorado Pubs	108	219	0.5
GARFIELD CO	16	34	0.5
FTL	1,230	2,669	0.5
DPL		773	0.0
GRAND CO	-		0.0
GUNNISON	-	11	0.0
VAIL PUBLIC	-		0.0
crI	175	-	0.0
TOTAL	188,210	188,210	

PROSPECTOR and MARMOT COLLABORATE to SHARE RESOURCES

The Marmot Library Network is very pleased by the enthusiasm and interest Prospector is generating in both the public and the academic library setting. By joining Prospector, Marmot libraries are able to provide a great number of resources, more than 30 million items, to a diverse user group.

At the time of this report, twelve Western Colorado Marmot library systems (in addition to trailblazer Mesa State College) are actively using Prospector. By summer's end, it is expected that the remaining three public library systems will be active in Prospector. The school library members have declined to join at this time.

The relationship of Western Colorado libraries with the Front Range through Prospector is proving to be a reciprocal one. As each district becomes active, library patrons from the Front Range are discovering the uniqueness of the collections on the Western Slope. All libraries start out at the lowest priority for loaning materials; this is done to help them ease into the Prospector system. We anticipate a continual increase in the number of items going to Front Range libraries from the Western Slope as Marmot libraries move up in the priority table in an effort to balance the ratio between lending and borrowing.

The positive effects of having 30 million items available in rural Western Colorado at the click of a mouse were discovered almost immediately. Many of the Marmot libraries have seen a great number of new patrons as a result of the service. Prospector is credited for producing this new interest. Staff at Marmot libraries are thrilled by the large increase in the number of successful holds they have been able to place. By avoiding the cumbersome ILL process, library patrons are enjoying a much higher quality of service.

The statistical data coming from the reports functionality is promising and indicates that the objective of doubling inter-library loan activity between Western Colorado and the Front Range will be met. See the chart in the left column for an overview of the holds filled between Marmot and Front Range libraries since the beginning of 2011. The third column is the ratio between lending and borrowing, with the libraries lending at the highest ratio at the top.

Marmot wide holds (PIH) have continued to maintain a steady growth rate. See the chart on page 4.



Colorado Christian University President Bill Armstrong is flanked by a Marmot and a Prospector during the celebration early in March. Although CCU went "live" with Marmot January 1, the party was held in March to celebrate joining both Marmot and Prospector. (Photo courtesy of the CCU Communications Dept.)

MARMOT MEMBERS

MARMOT OVERDRIVE COLLECTION

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- Basalt Regional Library
- Bud Werner Memorial Library
- Eagle Valley Library District
- Garfield County Libraries
- Grand County Libraries
- Gunnison Public Library
- Mesa County Libraries
- Pitkin County Library
- Summit County Libraries
- Town of Vail Public Library
- Wilkinson Public Library

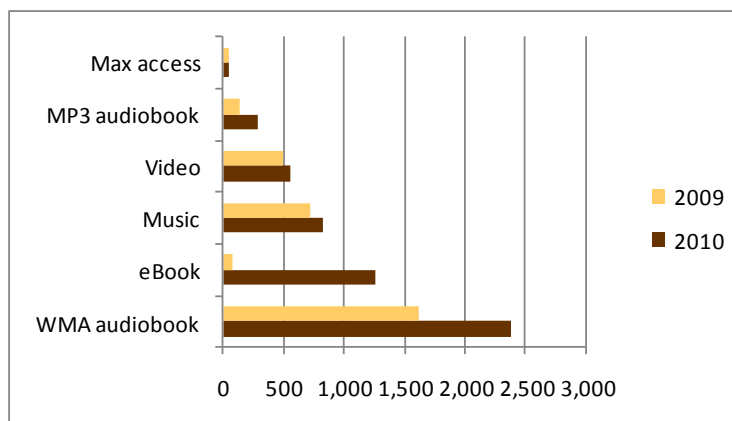
ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

- Adams State College
- Colorado Christian University
- Colorado Mountain College
- Mesa State College
- Western State College

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

- Aspen Schools
- Mesa County Valley Schools
- Plateau Valley School
- Steamboat Springs Schools

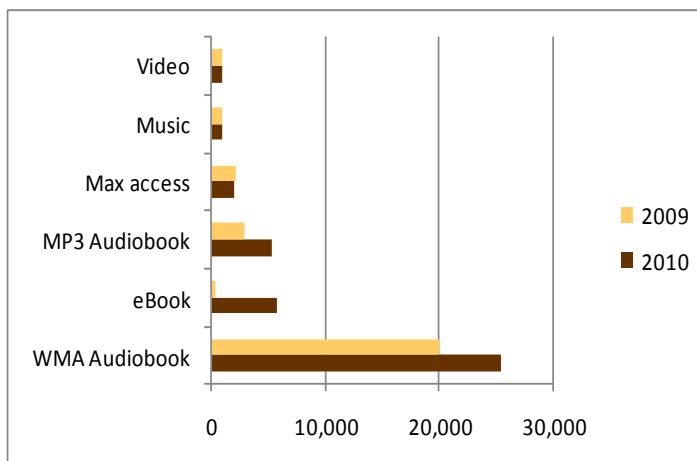
COLLECTION STATISTICS BY FORMAT



The OverDrive collection grew by small jumps and large leaps in the past year. The chart to the left compares the growth in 2009 and 2010. The max access collection, also known as “always available,” has the 50 titles that we subscribe to annually. It is entirely WMA format and contains a number of titles that are included on the reading lists in the

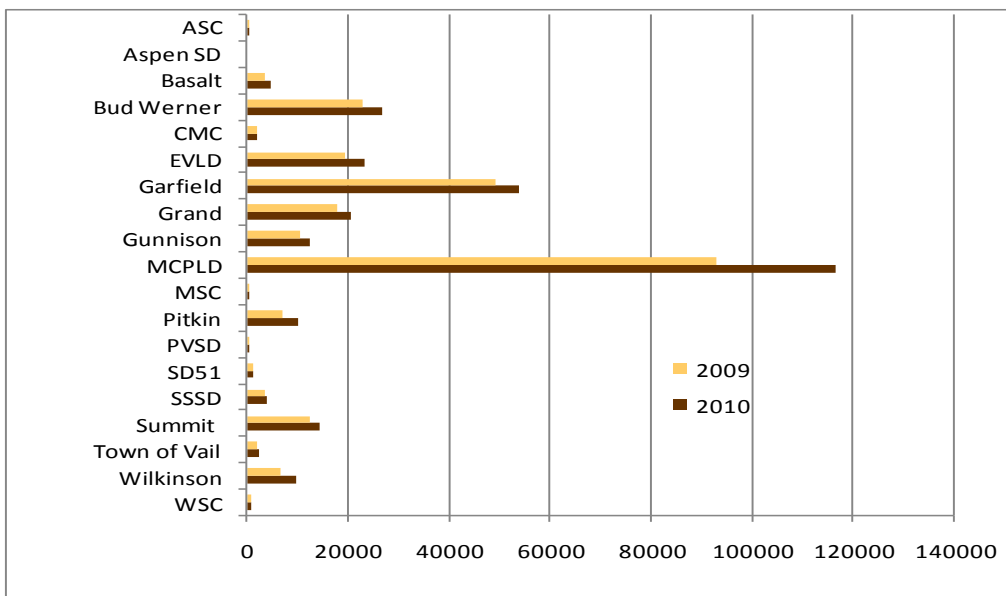
schools. A few video and music titles were purchased prior to the decision to no longer purchase those formats that have low circulation. The eBook format became available late in 2009 and was instantly popular. The decision was made to apply the video and music budget towards purchasing eBooks. A smaller percentage of mp3 audio books was also purchased as the restrictions lessened and the number of devices increased for listening to the WMA format .

CIRCULATION STATISTICS BY FORMAT



Usage of downloadable materials continues to grow. This is reflected not only in the circulation statistics illustrated in the chart to the right, but also in the increase of the number of unique patrons. In 2010, 10,864 unique patrons used the OverDrive collection. That is an increase of more than 40% over the 6,090 unique patrons in 2009.

Holds filled Marmot wide (PIH) 2009 and 2010



MARMOT EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010-2011

- Betsy Brodak—President
- Amelia Shelley—Vice president
- Eve Tallman—Treasurer
- Kathy Chandler—At-large rep
- Di Herald—School Lib. Rep

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