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HANDBOOK ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AVAILABLE IN HELENA, MISSOULA

MISSOULA--

The Bureau of Government Research (BGR) at the University of Montana in Missoula has published a book entitled "Handbook of Montana Forms of Local Government."

Copies of the publication are available without charge at the BGR office, room 152, Liberal Arts Building, University of Montana, Missoula, Mont. 59801, or from the State Commission on Local Government (SCLC), room 348, State Capitol, Helena, Mont. 59601.

Authors of the eight-chapter publication are Dr. James J. Lopach (pronounced low-patch) and Dr. Lauren S. McKinsey. They wrote the book while they were affiliated with the UM Department of Political Science and the BGR within the department on the Missoula campus.

"The book is primarily intended for the 182 local government study commissions now conducting a review of the governmental forms in all of Montana's counties and municipalities, Lopach said.

The handbook's first four chapters provide a historical and constitutional background of Montana local government and a discussion of American local government reform activities of the past. Chapter five provides study commissions with a comprehensive guide for evaluating their existing governmental forms and community goals.

A description then follows in the next three chapters of the wide array of new optional forms of government available, the intergovernmental cooperative arrangements that study commissions can recommend in addition to an alternative form and of the nature of self-government charter writing in the state.

Publication of the handbook was funded in part by the Community Service Programs of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and by a planning assistance grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.