

LiLI Steering Committee
Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL)
May 25, 2106 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Purpose: To share information regarding the implementation, planning, and sustainability of Libraries Linking Idaho (LILI) programs and services.

Meeting Leader: Gina Persichini

Facilitator: Shirley Biladeau

Recorder: Teresa Lipus

Present: Sandi Shropshire, Idaho State University (ISU), Oboler Library; Tracy Bicknell-Holmes, Boise State University, Albertsons Library; Sue Niewenhous, Lewis Clark State College Library, Lewiston; Carla Sherman, Valley of the Tetons, Victor; Gretchen Caserotti, Meridian Library District; Eric Suess, Marshall Public Library, Pocatello; Susan Tabor-Boesch, Wood River Middle School, Hailey; Sandy Ashworth, Boundary County District Library, Bonners Ferry; Lynn Hauer, Community Library Network, Post Falls; Lynn Johnson, Mountain View School District, Grangeville; Ben Hunter, University of Idaho (U of I) Library

ICfL: Ann Joslin, Marj Hooper, Gina Persichini, Jan Wall, Kevin Tomlinson, Patrick Bodily, Jeannie Standal, Shirley Biladeau

Resource Sharing

- **LiLI Unlimited Updates since previous meeting:** We're in the middle of open enrollment so we don't know the exact number; some small libraries are considering it, but it's not likely they will be able to continue. Our contract with OCLC is through June 2017. They are well aware of the challenges we have sustaining the program. We need to find a new creative way to support resource sharing services statewide.
- **RFI Statewide Resource Sharing:** We posted a Request for Information and received two responses. Gina requested discussion from the participants about their initial thoughts.
 - **Discussion**
 - One seems to have presumed that we have consortia infrastructure statewide. Not sure they know what they are getting into.
 - AG has good customer service; always a face to go with a name. Their ILS worked for us in Utah.
 - I wanted a brief description of what their service would look like. Will they require that all libraries have an NCIP capabilities? Disappointed the question wasn't understood.
 - There was no summary from Auto-Graphics: What does that mean about what we would all need to have to use the product?
 - Seemed like buying \$1,000 of groceries and not actually having anything.
 - I'd like to make a pitch for the cataloging module because we have had a terrific turnover of public library directors in the state. Not all have the background. Schools may be same situations. There is value in the cataloging, but that's not always passed on with the changes in staff. There is a big learning curve and we are introducing people who have no cataloging experience. We need systems that are easy to learn.

- Would have loved to see some real competition, but it's not here.
- Regarding ILSs in use in Idaho libraries: We know most of them. There are only a few that would not meet the technical requirements for interoperation given what information we have. Would hope that libraries using Apollo would see great service from Apollo to make sure they can comply with technology needs; Apollo vendor is very responsive. Some libraries have no systems at all, or systems with no support, although that number is smaller than it used to be. Some are not in a position to have an annual budget for an ILS. The rest are using compliant systems: SirsiDynix, Polaris, ExLibris, etc.
- Regarding recipients of the Request for Information: We sent the RFI to five vendors specifically—ProQuest, Atlas Systems, Auto-Graphics, OCLC, EBSCO—as well as promoting the RFI on wide-reaching library group mailing lists. The vendors were provided a list of public libraries and which systems they are using. It's tricky when not everyone is using the same system; this becomes a double expense for the library. We need something that wouldn't require some libraries to have two subscriptions.
- Additional research: Gina talked with California universities that are also seeking info and bids. Like us, they are widely spread out with different sizes and local needs. Montana (MT) is still with OCLC statewide and has the Montana State Catalog for libraries without stand-alone systems. MT is also having difficulty sustaining it. A bunch of Montana libraries are looking at a shared ILS. Gina also spoke at length with staff of Minitec, where we share similar features with their consortia.
- **Suggestions for moving forward**
The group agreed that an informational presentation from the vendors would be helpful: Auto-graphics and OCLC for sure and Atlas if possible. We don't want a canned presentation; we want responses to our situation, someone who can respond to questions about real-life situations, a variety of people accessible to answer questions (not just the sales rep), even if not in-person. We want to address their flexibility on types of searches that could be used by as many libraries as possible. We also want them to show us what possibilities exist, what it looks like from staff point of view, and what is not seamless to the user. Gina and the committee will identify questions to ask vendors. We'll approach this with the idea that this may be the opportunity to bring in more libraries that don't participate at this time. We need a decision by March 2017 so we need this information by beginning of February.

Gina will do a Doodle poll for a 1-1/2 day meeting so there will be time for the presentations and group discussion after.

State Librarian Update

Two items related to broadband:

1. Internet2 and K12 programs received an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant, for a project called "Toward Gigabit Libraries." They will work with staff from several Regional Optical Networks (but not Idaho Regional Optical Network [IRON]) to work on an assessment guide and toolkit for staff in small rural libraries. The advisory group is made up of state librarians from Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma; three members of Regional Optical Networks; people from Internet 2; and academics. The group understands the situation in small rural libraries: limited staff, limited

understanding, limited IT help, etc. They want to make this as simple as possible, although the workbook is online so if you have inadequate broadband, it's tough to work with. Working through workbook is one thing, but connecting with the links is another.

The [Edge Assessment Workbook](#) is freely available online, but if a library wants any supporting services they (or their state) have to pay for it. (Statewide for Idaho is \$40,000, more than the total if Idaho libraries paid individually.) ICfL paid for a pilot in three libraries, with mixed results. One library used it a lot for developing job descriptions for technology staff, but the other two libraries didn't really use it. They want this guide and toolkit to be available to everyone without charge, but it will be a challenge to maintain and update after the grant period. It's a great group of enthusiastic people. They will pilot this in five states: Alaska, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Washington. We will use this as an opportunity to remind IRON that many libraries need more broadband. IRON doesn't have a lot of money and not all public libraries are close to the backbone.

2. A committee including Representative Malek (Coeur d'Alene) and Senator Mortimer (Idaho Falls) was established to look at how the state should support broadband going forward, with the end of the Idaho Education Network (IEN). Rep Malek asked Ann to testify at a committee meeting after she reminded him that public libraries need broadband. The vendors on the committee were very engaged. The committee heard input and had a lot of discussion about parameters. They decided not to include state agencies. At the third meeting, Representation Clow (Twin Falls) said we should include public libraries, too, including for funding. The e-rate eligible entities they decided to support include Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA), Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind, and Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections.

The advisory group includes two state IT people, two superintendents, the state librarian, people from the State Department of Education (SDE), and no vendors. There was originally no money in the pipeline to reimburse public libraries but, in the end there was an additional appropriation for the Commission for \$180,000. During the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC) meeting, when the motion was made to fund us, the intent language for filtering Wi-Fi was a surprise. Some libraries may be able to segment their broadband and not request reimbursement for Wi-Fi. The silver lining is we do have funding to reimburse libraries for their non-e-Rate portion.

We are moving forward with determining the reimbursement process and received some of the forms that SDE used last year. Their process seemed to work well: in addition to the process of reimbursement, SDE got a lot of data from the schools.

Participant Networking Updates

- **Lynn H:** We just had a levy fail that was for upgraded technology and renovation. The library part was on the back of one of the ballots; but in Shoshone, where it passed, it was on the front. We'll try again next May.
- **Tracy:** Peggy Cooper retired in April and we are looking for new associate dean. We had to wait while the university puts in place new talent acquisitions software. We are space wrangling this spring, replacing signage, and getting administrators on board with what should be available in the library. We've had focus groups about what we should do with the quad. In a 10-question

survey, students ranked the library highest on 7 of 10 questions, which points to importance of the building. The person who ran the survey is sharing this with admin. We may get a tech shop (maker space on steroids) and retreat spaces on campus.

- **Sue N.:** We had a donation of 500 cookbooks. Most are local from small towns. We kept some for a display, got rid of some, and will sell some. We're in the last phases of bringing ALMA up for Ex Libris. We freeze tomorrow. We're having redesign thoughts. Two librarians went to a design institute in Bozeman this month. We intended to redo the first floor, but didn't get the requested seed money so I will leave it up to my successor. Research consultations are up.
- **Ben:** 1st floor of library is done. It's long overdue and beautiful: classroom, special collections, reading room, makerspace. Construction was ahead of schedule but furniture was delayed. We are changing things around with personnel and administration and making some positions full-time. Our Center for Digital Inquiry and Learning is a collaboration with the Humanities department.
- **Eric:** We're having challenges with the budget. The city wants to reduce positions by attrition and some library positions have not been refilled. We moved from three supervisors to one. We lost a full-time position. Our outreach program, which was one of the best in the state, is nearly gone: we are no longer reaching seniors or vets. We still do great things despite outreach changes; we keep fighting the fight.
- **Carla:** We celebrated 50 years recently. We're in the process of building on a local history room with special collections. In March, an "angel" with a physics background walked through the doors and took over the makerspace program. He has a good rapport with ages 7 to 70. Last Saturday he and Rochelle went to Jackson Hole and showed what they are doing; people there were impressed. (Ann noted that when the ICfL Commissioners visited last month, Tucker was printing a hand in three parts. It was fascinating and a great example of how public libraries have moved ahead in the past 10 years with technology.)
- **Sandi S.:** We got a new content management system (webpage). The library's turn came up for our site to be redone but they listened to us and will wait until end of semester. All positions we have are all inhabited; a good thing as having vacant positions can make one vulnerable. We reconfigured when we re-staffed. We expect to be able to pay all bills in upcoming year. We are in the process of figuring out how to function alongside our private partner, Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine. Will they have a library?
- **Marj:** I attended the meeting of library development (LD) directors that the Western Council of State Libraries held. Five states couldn't come; some are not allowed to travel. I felt it was great to be from Idaho. While reporting on statewide projects. I reported on our Strategic Priorities and tying in with Aspen Report. We are one of the only states at this level. Colorado was talking about what all they have been doing and said, "I also look to Idaho." I found out that we are not alone, but we are also out ahead of the game. We are very focused on LD, where other states are focused on collections, etc. Other states are going more toward LD. We are one of the only states incorporating policies from the American Library Association and we are ahead in the maker area. (Eric noted that at the Public Library Directors' Summit, Maureen Sullivan was surprised and impressed with what we are doing, after having seen the Library Showcase.)
- **Sandy A:** Our learning center is operational. We went to a national symposium on fab labs and they treated us like royalty because we were the only library attending. The Network is growing and they are breaking it up in more reasonable regions. We decided that we needed to add a

classroom immediately and had to clear things out in four days to meet a two-week construction window. We offer classes in basic computer skills, interactive video conferencing, Lynda.com, Microsoft Imagine Academy, and Certiport (our high school did not sign up, but may in the future). I don't know if we will ever have grand opening; we may stick with soft openings and tours. Governor Otter, Lieutenant Governor Little, and Senator Keough toured the Fab Lab. Many other dignitaries were there for the tour including a state patrolman, commissioners, and the tribal chair. Little is very focused on economic development and I put in a plug for LiLI databases, and how we need continued statewide support for them. Our Youth Business Incubator is taking hold and will be part of my retirement responsibilities. We'll have a full-time fab lab manager.

- **Gretchen:** Lynx going live with Polaris (from Horizon) this morning. We opened unBound in October and since then have had to double staff—almost 1,000 visits/month. Working with the Idaho Department of Labor and a local software company, we launched a workforce development training called Future Force at unBound, using the library as a vehicle to train people. Labor works with the cohort on other skills, resumes, etc. The cohort members will be certified in sales force, and Labor will place them with non-profits. The cohort of 20 is mostly underemployed people and we are also trying to reach stay-at-home parents who wish to reenter the workforce. Our librarian is working with the school library for summer reading. We are exploring working with the children's theatre downtown. Our November bond to build two branches failed. We will rerun it. We are working with EveryLibrary.org to help with measures of all different kinds, including working with local citizens on messaging and supporting campaigns. Everylibrary.org. Action Tool Kit is available at action.everylibrary.org.
- **Lynn J.** A librarian was on leave this year so I worked that location and was also assigned an art class. I did a lot of STEM-based themes with open ended activities in the morning. It was so popular that it actually became a management issue (even physical management of backpacks). If you can do STEM, go for it. It was nice to have my own site for a while, rather than doing admin. Because of those new additional responsibilities, I stepped off the VALNet board during that time. VALNet is half schools and half public libraries, so I will likely get back on the board to help keep school more in the loop.) We passed a levy by 98 votes, so are feeling secure in the library.
- **Susan:** From our discussion last year, I decided to do LearnStorm (KAHN Academy). I sent an email to math teachers and one math teacher did LearnStorm with his five classes. It has both a math and a mindset component, asking students to reflect on video or activity they did. This was especially helpful for the foundation students. It was great for the students and teacher, and the idea of the library as a Learning Commons has come through to other staff. Our challenge in research is that we have been using EasyBib, which is free for citations, but the subscription for research is increasing from \$2000 to \$10,000. We are shifting to Noodle Tools. District-wide, budget is a big thing. They say they are cutting as far from classroom as possible. We are no longer subscribing to International Baccalaureate. Hailey Public Library had a remodel and Bellevue Public Library is getting it back together after losing co-director Betsy Castle. The Hunger Coalition is working on a Book Foodmobile to go all the way up to North Fork Store and all the way down to Carey to make stops where kids are who can't get to library. "Grow Your Mind, Grow your Body."

- **Jeannie:** The Summer Summit in Coeur d'Alene is a three-day workshop for school librarians: the last day is for supervisors. We'll have Breakout Edu, which is like Escape Room but you have to solve puzzles to break into a box rather than out of a room.
- **Gina:** [SB 1290](#), passed in the 2016 Legislative Session, establishes some funding for dedicated career counselors. Schools are encouraged to take a community approach, which could include public libraries. Every school district will get money and they are encouraging districts to work collaboratively. This is through the State Board of Education (SBOE), but SDE and Labor are also involved, and they are formulating outreach to superintendents. We are working on talking points to share with libraries.
- **Patrick:** The public library annual statistics publication will be ready to send to the printer next month.
- **Kevin:** Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference registration includes 28 states, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. Four weeks ago Bellevue Public Library received an anonymous donation in memory of Betsy Castle, helping them meet their fundraising goal. McCall Public Library is in process of hiring an architect to add on to building.
- **Shirley:** We currently have 300 subscriptions to the weekly e-newsletter TechTalk. I can register people. We did a Beta run in March with five librarians. The consensus was that the bite-sized information was valuable and manageable. We got a year's subscription to United for Libraries *Short Takes for Trustees*, which we are rolling out July 1. The 2017 Public Library Directors' Summit will be March 2-3 at the Red Lion Downtowner. We had the Public Library Director Meet and Greet yesterday with 12 directors. It included a program showcase, a tour of the Commission, and a presentation from Ann Joslin. The next one is September 12. We'll do them every six months or so until we determine that once a year is sufficient. The director should be in place for 2-3 months to get the most out of the event. Microsoft Imagine Academy received another year of funding. 50% of LiLAC (the Library Leadership Advisory Committee established by ILA and ICfL) members responding about events they had attended indicated that they had either been promoted or assumed other responsibilities. We will be sponsoring Library Journal's workshop at the Idaho Falls preconference. (Susan and Ben agreed to be mentors.)
- **Ann:** At today's meeting at Labor I learned they've hired outside consultants to identify what the current Career Information System (CIS) needs to be. Clearly there is a role in helping to provide more career information to both adults and students.

LiLI Databases

- **Updates since previous meeting:**
 - New content added to Gale Reference includes STEM and history. We subscribed to EBSCO's full-text finder. It's not a true cross database search; it's really more of a publication finder. It should be live soon.
 - I'm working on different subject guides: [LiLI Tools for Schools](#) highlights databases with the sections What is it, Why should I use it, Go try it out, and additional information like scavenger hunts, presentation materials, etc.
 - West Ada School District is working on tutorials for using LiLI that can be shared widely. Teachers can use them to make lesson plans.
- **2016 Survey**

- o **Results of Survey:** 113 responses: 94% agree it helps meet users' information needs. The most common reason people don't use is they are unaware. Many don't understand the difference between database and web search. Some said the Internet was too slow on their computers. Not knowing which database to use was another reason. Many said full-text articles are very important. It takes time to develop tutorials but it's worth it if that's what people would like. The survey was time well-spent and we're pleased with positive responses.
- o **Action Items:** Finalize the reports and distribute results.

SimplyE Update: This is an app for searching eBooks across platforms. Ann has been talking with other states. The bottom line is that there's not a bottom line yet. It's still in development and we are watching to see how things progress.

LiLI Action Plan

- **What does LiLI look like in 2020?**
 - Focus on statewide, not the state of Ada: we can't be involved with all of the opportunities that are available in Boise. They should be spread out around the state. Stream advisor workshops? Announcements for things related here. Libraries in other areas could replicate.
 - Integration of all library types: academic, public, school: structural issues for the audiences we are trying to serve. There's not a continuous library stream established for library users. Perhaps ICfL could come up with some ideas on how to foster relationships. U of I starting Read to Me program for employees. We were building that connection years ago with Read to Me. LiLI can play a role as it ties to curriculum standard. Tools in LiLI directly tie to early literacy goals. Could be as simple as tying in to the idea that summer reading doesn't have to be "books."
 - Reimagined communication/collaboration/learning from each other
 - Staff/peer resource sharing
 - More advocacy training
 - LiLI partnerships to help reach a broader audience
 - Substitute librarians
 - Instruction on instruction (how to teach)
 - Federated Searching
 - Serves all Idaho residents, all ages (continues to)
 - E or audio subscription for all (statewide subscription)
 - Education research tools
 - Graphical interface for all resources
 - One click you're in and ask your question, Easy easy easy
 - Audio Search (like "OK LiLI"... "Let's Look LiLI")
 - No boundaries, no borders
 - Friendlier results, interface--lay terms
 - Seamless platform (easily downloadable form)
 - Explore database user interface options...make it easier

- Improved attention to reading comprehension. Heavier focus even then on STEM. Legislation this year to improve reading.
- Exploit connections between Google and library catalogs, holdings
- Idaho regional hub for DPLA. Mountain West Digital Library? Local history collections at Public Libraries very valuable. Digitize and expose more people. We have permission to share our Content DM subscription with smaller libraries. ISU, Boise Public, Preston, and Lewiston had seats on it.
- ICfL retains central sustaining role.
- Continuing LiLI as a catalyst to leverage buying power, maximize efficiencies.

Next Steps

- **Steering Committee, by June 3:**
 - Write down your comments about the two vendors and send Gina an email so she has something to work with when contacting them.
 - Identify questions for vendors to answer in their presentations.
- **Gina:**
 - Do a Doodle poll for next meeting/presentations about resource sharing systems.
 - Distribute LiLI Survey results.
 - Contact vendors, set up presentation times.

Next Meeting: To be determined

Agenda Items: Resource sharing systems

Meeting Review

Plus	Delta
Excellent collegial discussions across library types	Not have to say goodbye to as many people next time
Variety of topics	
Well-facilitated--kind and efficient	
Enjoyed lunch conversation with colleagues from other places	
Gina appreciates active participation and willingness to start meeting with positive sharing	