

VII. STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

A. Operations – Information Item

Following are descriptions of opportunities to build the capacity of Idaho libraries that are being pursued by the Commission or are already underway.

Stimulus Broadband Support Possibilities

- ALA Office of Information Technology (OITP) submitted an application to develop training and web resources to help public library staff conduct broadband audits and make better decisions related to broadband connectivity. The project is based on work in Florida that found that “40 different bad things happen to T1 capacity once it gets into the library,” and ALA is confident that those same bad things happen in libraries across the country. COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies) is a partner in the project, which includes an advisory group of state librarians and state library staff members.
- The Library of Virginia extended an invitation to other state library agencies to be included in an application from Virginia Tech and a broadband mapping partner to extend their speed test and data collection tool to all libraries in the country. Participating states would receive a server to host the software for their state's libraries. While this measures speed at the door rather than at each workstation, it would offer ongoing data rather than a snapshot in time. Virginia is using its data to document that the speed being delivered is far less than that the library has contracted for.
- The Public Library Association division of ALA submitted an application to deliver a *Turning the Page* conference in 17 states. The professional development conference, developed by the Gates Foundation as part of its Opportunity Online initiative, is designed to provide librarians and library supporters with the skills and resources needed to seek out funds, create community partnerships, and build alliances with local and regional decision-makers.
- The Gates Foundations' US Library Programs is offering a 1-time grant opportunity for state library agencies planning to apply for broadband funding in the remaining NTIA application rounds. Those selected will be eligible to receive Gates Foundation support to develop their NTIA proposals with professional consultants, fulfill some or all of the 20% match required, and provide e-rate technical assistance to help public libraries secure more funding to sustain broadband costs.

Multi-state Grant Projects

- NDIIPP (National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program) funding to develop a regional (Washington, Alaska, Montana, Oregon, and Idaho) digital archive of state documents. Underway.

Board Document 10-11

- NEH funding for WestPas (Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service) workshops for small libraries and archives on disaster preparedness and disaster scenario planning. First of two rounds of training in Idaho is complete.
- NASA funding to develop materials and identify resources for science library programs for children ages 8 to 13. Workshops to help Idaho librarians implement those programs are scheduled for 2012. Participating states include Montana, Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Idaho.
- IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) funding under the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program for a western regional (California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho) Boomer training fellowship to help public libraries become more responsive to both serving and engaging baby boomers. Project is just getting underway.
- IMLS funding under the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program for SWIM (South Dakota, Washington, Idaho, and Montana) to recruit and provide scholarships for 50 individuals to earn a master's degree in library science or school library media certification. Emphasis is on recruiting from the region's largest minority groups, Hispanics and Native Americans. Project is just getting underway.

Other

- Georgia Public Library Service invited interested state library agencies to participate in development of an open source TBS (Talking Book Service) booking and circulation system based on the [Evergreen](#) system in use by Georgia public libraries since 2006 and adapted by a number of other libraries in the US and Canada. More than half the states expressed interest in exploring a collaboratively designed open source system to replace current commercial products. Our FY2010 bill to use the KLAS system for TBS is \$24,400. I expect discussion of next steps at the October COSLA meeting.
- Following up on the workforce skills proposal we submitted for the Governor's stimulus funding and Ada Community Library's Wal-Mart mini-grant project to offer online homework help, we've developed "Lifelong Learning @ LiLI.org." The package would offer vetted web-based learning resources for student and workplace skill-building, career development, test preparation, and job seeking through both independent study and live tutor help. The search for a possible funding source is underway.