

VII. STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

A.2. Operations - Updates – Information Item

Alternative Basic Library Education (ABLE) and SABLE Program

- [Now AvailABLE: ABLE Courses in the WebJunction Catalog](#). "The Alternative Basic Library Education (ABLE) Program is an amazing collection of library-specific self-paced courses."
- In use across all Department of Defense Base/Public Libraries.

IT Academy pilot

The Department of Education (SDE) has developed an RFP for technology education and certification opportunities (Microsoft IT Academy or equivalent) in Idaho public libraries and secondary schools, and for staff who will be instructing participating students. The program will include a classroom curriculum, an online curriculum, and licenses for certification testing sites. Funding for the statewide program will come from the SDE budget.

We're working with ILA to get information about the program to public library directors. This is a great opportunity for public libraries with clientele wanting to upgrade their technical skills beyond or in addition to the resources available in LearningExpress Library. There are some cautions as well, based on our conversations with the Washington State Library staff who are in year 2 of implementing the IT Academy in their public libraries and on questions for which we have yet to find answers.

Enhancement requests for FY2016

Potential enhancement requests for Board consideration at the August meeting:

- Expansion of our early literacy support for libraries
- Expansion of our MakeIT program (currently entirely LSTA-funded)
- Partial support for public library broadband costs
- Boise office telecomm upgrades

Funders Huddle

The Idaho Community Foundation and the Idaho Reads! coalition are hosting nonprofit and foundation leaders from across the state to hear more about the importance of reading at grade level by 3rd grade and to discuss what can be done in Idaho communities to help Idaho children meet that goal. I've been invited to attend their Funders Huddle and to make a brief presentation on the resources and services the Commission and Idaho libraries provide in support of reading at grade level.

This is an important audience of potential partners with which we have very little direct contact. The Funders Huddle is a great opportunity to reach them and to establish some new relationships. The meeting is June 17 in Coeur d'Alene.

2014 IDAHO PUBLIC LIBRARY BROADBAND ACCESS SURVEY

Results are based on responses from 122 public library locations, out of a total of 144 locations for a response rate of 85%. A response to all questions was not required.

SPEED OF INTERNET CONNECTIONS (as measured by speed tests in 93 locations)

Average	22Mbps
Lowest	1.21Mbps
Highest	93.87Mbps

45 locations	1.21 – 9.96Mbps	48.4%
31 locations	10 – 47.43Mbps	33.3%
17 locations	50Mbps or higher	18.3%

BANDWIDTH PER LIBRARY-OWNED DEVICE (93 locations)

Average	0.14Mbps
Lowest	0.10Mbps
Highest	13.24Mbps

48 locations	< 0.60Mbps	51.6%
16 locations	0.60 - 1.0Mbps	17.2%
29 locations	> 1.0Mbps	31.2%

TYPE OF CONNECTION (121 locations)

Wireless & microwave	38	32%
Fiber	29	24%
DSL	26	21%
Cable	24	19%
Satellite	2	2%
Ethernet over copper & bonded T-1	2	2%

ANNUAL COST before E-rate discount (97 locations)

Average	\$ 6,161.26
Lowest	\$ 40.00
Highest	\$44,400.00

COST PER MBPS/MONTH (75 locations)

Average	\$ 59.13
Lowest	\$ 0.22
Highest	\$453.02

The survey report is at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/2014BBAccessSurveyRptFinal.pdf>. It includes recommendations for the Commission to help improve the broadband services that libraries provide. Staff has prioritized the recommendations and is identifying next steps for implementation.