

**VII. STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

**A.1 Operations - 2017 Public Library Directors Summit Draft Report – Information Item**

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Introduction & Welcome

Welcome to the Commission's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Summit for Public Library Directors!

We designed last year's summit to provide an opportunity for you to meet with your peers from around the state - to network, share, and learn from each other – and to exchange ideas with us at the Commission to help guide our work.

We had great feedback from the participants, and some suggestions for changes. One message was loud and clear: "We need to get together more often!" So for the foreseeable future, we are planning the summit to be an annual event.

Here is a brief summary of what we learned, took away, or took action on:

- From the Library showcase, we all heard specific examples of how Idaho public libraries are creatively delivering valuable services to their communities.
- We learned from PL directors' perspective the major challenges they – you – are facing; these were grouped into 12 categories ranging from developing Board leadership to reaching a new generation of patrons to forming innovative partnerships. The list is very instructive and thought-provoking & is included in the Summit Report on the Summit website.
- The staff debriefed the experience and started planning a 2017 Summit. And we invited several PL directors to help in initial planning.
- We established a PL Directors FB Group page & invited all of you to join to continue conversations started at the Summit, and share new challenges and accomplishments with your peers. That hasn't quite happened yet, as Shirley has won the award for most postings. Readership is between 30 and 40, so it appears to be a way for us to push information out to some of you. But the sharing among directors through the FB page has yet to develop.
- With Board approval, tweaked our mission, changing "building capacity to better serve their clientele" to "building capacity to better serve their communities."
- Developed a 2<sup>nd</sup> day-long "Meet & Greet" event at the Commission to help new directors get to know our staff and learn about our services - held 2 in 2016, scheduled 1 for 2017
- Produced a series of short video clips on the library role in college & career readiness; they're available on YouTube.
- Addressing need for more trustee development by subscribing to United for Libraries "Short Takes" videos for all Idaho directors and trustees to access; & we're planning a 6-hour "Trustee Connections" meeting in 4 locations in August.

We hope these next 2 days will re-energize the community of practice, expand your network of peers, and strengthen our collective commitment to keeping our libraries flexible and relevant in the changing environment.

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### Summit Purpose & Outcomes

The second annual Public Library Directors Summit was focused on a single purpose: to provide Public Library Directors an opportunity to explore and discuss the role of their library in a changing world, a changing Idaho.

To fulfill that purpose the Summit agenda was constructed with the following outcomes where participants would be:

- willing and able to affect change at local and state level to impact the ICfL Strategic Priorities.
- able to work as a community of practice.
- empowered and equipped to lead their libraries, strengthening their communities and the State of Idaho

Achievement of those outcomes was accomplished over the two-day Summit through a series of speakers and workshop events. In the process the 51 participants were energized and equipped to talk about the challenges of public libraries within their communities.

The Summit Agenda is in Appendix A.

### Leading Libraries in a Changing World

The Summit opened with an address and facilitated session by Miguel Figueroa. Miguel's ground breaking work in the future of libraries for the American Library Association both informed and equipped the participants with emerging trends that could/should impact libraries. He further facilitated a workshop in which he demonstrated how participants can use his research and format to identify trends and innovate within their libraries.

### Community Innovators

Following a networking break the participants were introduced to two community innovators from different industries. Corey Cook from Boise State University's School of Public Service and Dwight Pond from St. Alphonsus Health System provided a look inside their respective industries and the attendant challenges in each. The panelists fielded questions from the audience that helped participants connect trends, issues and opportunities from other industries to the challenges facing public libraries.

### Strategic Priorities

The third major session of day one focused on the strategic priorities of the ICfL and how those priorities can translate into local action on the part of Directors. Ann reviewed three significant priorities:

- strengthening community's talent pipeline
- rural sustainability
- broadband

Following the presentation and questions, each participant chose one of those topics and developed a communication key message for stakeholders in their communities. This allowed Directors the time and focus needed to translate statewide strategic priorities into local actions.

### Library Showcase

A continuing favorite segment of the Summit was the library showcase in which Directors shared ideas and programs with one another. Directors had prepared ahead of time to share based on one of three categories:

- “keepers”-ideas that worked well and should be repeated
- “do-overs”-good ideas that need modification to be more successful
- “what were we thinking”-ideas that did not work and should not be repeated

Appendix B contains the Library Showcase Directory.

### Strategic Planning

The focus of day two of the Summit was to put ideas into action. Consequently, the day opened with a session about strategic planning. Phil Eastman shared the Dimension Strategy® planning framework and made available to participants the book and tools associated with the framework.

### Rethinking Libraries and Local Transformations

Two additional sessions focused on a panel of librarians who have put innovative ideas to work in their organization with great success and facilitated workshop discussions about how to put innovation to work.

The panelists consisted of:

- Erin Downey
- Amy Vecchione
- Nick Grove
- Kate Baker

The workshop that followed the panel then focused on subjects prioritized at the end of day one. The participants had voted on topics. The successful implementation of those topics was done in two workshop rounds. In round one the participants worked with ICfL staff member facilitators to approach one subject. A second round of workshop discussions allowed participants to rotate to subjects of their choice.

The output of those facilitated sessions is contained in Appendix C.

### Trustee Development

The final workshop of the Summit centered on Trustee Development. One of the great challenges identified in the previous and current year’s Summits was the need for strengthening board members and boards. To that end, the ICfL will be conducting Trustee Connection workshops in August of 2017. To focus those upcoming workshops on matters most pressing to Directors the group generated a set of priorities to be considered in those workshops. The topics include:

- Defining the roles and responsibilities of Trustees
- Knowledge of the laws and principles that direct libraries
- How to demonstrate support for libraries

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- Financial management
- Meeting preparation and participation
- Patron driven strategies and programs
- Supporting the library director
- Leading as a volunteer

To continue the conversations and strengthen the Community of Practice among public library directors a Facebook group has been created. Idaho Public Library Directors are encouraged to join the conversation at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/publiclibrarydirectors/>