Idaho Commission for Libraries

2010 Overview

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Idaho Public Libraries

Public Computer Center BTOP Project

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) received a federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) award in the Public Computer Center category from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

BTOP Project Objectives:
- Expand broadband capacity in 40% of Idaho’s least connected public libraries
- Upgrade public computing resources in those libraries
- Expand online resources statewide, including access to informal learning resources for children, job skills and adult basic education for the unemployed, and e-government services for all Idahoans.

BTOP Budget

Federal funds: $1,907,531
Matching funds: 942,815*
Total budget: $2,850,346

* Over 20% project match provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, augmented with in-kind and resource contributions from ICfL and key partners, including the Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL), Idaho Public Television (Idaho PTV), and Adult Basic Education (ABE).

For more information about the BTOP project “online @ your library” visit http://libraries.idaho.gov/online.

LiLi-D Study

Recommendations:
- Longer contracts with vendors
- Advanced and better communications about changes
- Changes to interface for easier use
- Improved promotion to increase user awareness

Study of Libraries Linking Idaho Databases (LiLi-D)

In 2010, ICfL engaged Nancy Bolt and Dr. Karen Strege of Nancy Bolt & Associates to identify the impacts of the LiLi-Databases (LiLi-D) service on libraries and library users and to seek ideas for improving LiLi-D. ICfL identified the following outcomes for the study’s focus:
- Impact of LiLi-D on libraries and users
- Success factors
- Implications for the future of the program
- Recommendations for program sustainability
- Recommended next steps for ICfL
- Evaluation of training endeavors
- Promotion of LiLi-D
Summer Reading Program

Over 69,000 Idaho children and teens participated in the 2010 Summer Reading Program at their public libraries, a nine percent increase over last year’s record numbers. These programs are designed to help children build or maintain literacy levels and are one solution to the “summer slide.” Find out more about the Summer Reading Program at http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading.

School Library Impact Study and Development Plan

In 2010 ICfL hired its first school library consultant and has been working on a school library development plan based on the findings from the “Idaho School Library Impact Study-2009,” commissioned by ICfL. The findings suggest that students are more likely to succeed where:

- administrators value strong library programs and can see them doing their part for student success
- teachers experience librarians as instructional colleagues and technology integrators.

See the Executive Summary, research brief, and full report of the study at http://libraries.idaho.gov/study.

FY 2012 Budget Request

The Commission’s FY2012 general fund budget request includes restoration of funding for the annualization of the LiLi Database contracts within the state fiscal year. Line item requests are $199,000 for the Read to Me early literacy program, $64,700 to maintain the digital repository for state publications, and spending authority for $800,000 in federal Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) funds for broadband services in public libraries.

### A Brief History: the General Fund Numbers

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Appropriation</th>
<th>Cumulative % Change</th>
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<td>FY2009 Original</td>
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