BTOP Update: New Resources

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is wrapping up the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant project. Although the grant period ended in December 2012, benefits will continue statewide as we build on “online @ your library” resources:

New online resources

Resources for Idaho Citizens:

This online portal, available at http://citizen.lili.org, connects Idahoans with web-based media and government resources and offers a new, Idaho-based digital media literacy training course.

• Media online @ your library:

This free, self-paced course provides quick lessons on effective Internet searching, finding news online and verifying its credibility, and using social media and blogs more effectively.

• The citizen.lili.org portal also provides users with access to the following critical online resources from Idaho Public Television:
  - Idaho in Session: Legislature Live—comprehensive, live audio and video broadcast of Idaho’s legislative proceedings.
  - Idaho in Session: Judiciary Live—live streaming of Idaho Supreme Court oral arguments in Boise.
  - Idaho Statehouse Tour—with video, photos, and background information.

• Other links on the portal include:
  - Idaho Court Assistance Office and Self-Help Center
  - Transparent Idaho—from the Idaho State Comptroller, tracks Idaho’s revenue and spending.
  - Idaho e-gov online services—for citizens and businesses.
  - [STACKS]—the digital repository of public information published by the State of Idaho.

Social Media Kit

The do-it-yourself kit at http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/Social-Media-Kit_final.pdf is a foundation for libraries to author their policies regarding social media. It offers best practices, hints, and how-tos, as well as information on successfully using Facebook and Pinterest as marketing/media tools. This kit will be followed by a social media “Libguide” at http://guides.lili.org that will expand to other resources and newer tools as they evolve.

Advocacy tool

A three-minute video called “Libraries and Economic Development, Idaho” was developed as part of a collection of resources for library staff and trustees to create an advocacy plan. The video can be found at http://youtu.be/NdOCj9P7D_E.

A DVD of the video will soon be distributed to public libraries at Idaho Library Association (ILA) conferences and various trainings.
Digital Literacy—What’s It All About?
by Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant

While this term can be defined in a number of different ways, here is how the Idaho Commission for Libraries defines digital literacy: For purposes of the “online @ your library” project, the term “digital literacy” is defined as demonstrating the use of technology tools to find, use, and share information; find and use consumer and workforce development tools; and connect with people in a safe online social environment.

Want to learn more?
Take a look at the guides developed by Commission staff to learn more about digital literacy and how you can use it to enhance your daily activities. Go to http://guides.lili.org/ to further explore the many facets of digital literacy.

3.21—Launching “EveryoneOn” Campaign
On March 21, a three-year national public service campaign to promote digital literacy will launch. The campaign, called “EveryoneOn,” encourages people who are non- or limited Internet users to learn how to do “one thing better online.”

Connect2Compete (C2C)—a national partnership of leaders from communities, businesses, and leading foundations—is leading the campaign efforts. More information is available on their website at www.connect2compete.org/content/everyoneon-library-materials, including the following:
1. Program brief: Explains more about EveryoneOn and what to expect during the campaign.
2. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): As questions arise, the document will be updated.
3. Pre-recorded, online session: 30-minute overview of the campaign and documentation.

Public libraries are key to the success of this effort because of their demonstrated commitment to providing free access to the Internet and digital literacy education.

Public libraries are being asked to update their information in the zip code locator tool at everyoneon.org so people looking for digital literacy training or public access computers can see the library as a provider in their area. The State Library of Ohio has shared their recorded video showing how to register your library as part of EveryoneOn at www.youtu.be/VpOcj4CEYao.

EveryoneOn is a great opportunity to promote public libraries as valuable providers of free public access technology and training, helping to build stronger communities. See Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski’s video highlighting the role of libraries in connecting individuals to digital literacy skills at www.youtu.be/4vBNp0AdWgE.
Important News in Interlibrary Loan by Gina Persichini, networking consultant

ILL System Update
For libraries using OCLC’s interlibrary loan tools, there will be significant changes to the interlibrary loan (ILL) system in 2013. OCLC is currently migrating from WorldCat Resource Sharing (on the FirstSearch Platform) to World Share ILL. All Idaho libraries will begin the process of moving to the new platform in August 2013.

What should library staff do to prepare for the system change?
1. Watch for updates on the LibIdaho listserv (see www.idaholibraries.org/libidaho) and in your email.
2. Check that you use one of the following web browsers on staff workstations:
   a. Mozilla Firefox
   b. Google Chrome
   c. Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 9.0 or higher
4. Register for webinars and face-to-face training that will be offered after July 2013.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has chosen a later migration to the new ILL system to allow for early adopters to learn about bugs in advance, and to allow for the library community to learn together when all school, public, academic, and special library staff are available.

LiLI Unlimited Renewals
Each spring, the ICfL conducts an open enrollment for the LiLI Unlimited resource sharing program. Libraries choosing to join the program or withdraw from participation will be able to do so beginning in March.

LiLI Unlimited is a statewide agreement with OCLC for discounted access to resource sharing and cataloging tools. While the tools are provided by OCLC and OCLC handles the billing on our behalf, the agreement to participate is with ICfL. Libraries pay an annual fee to participate in the program, and those fees are proportionate to the size of the library.

All currently participating libraries will receive a letter from ICfL in March with a reminder about the upcoming year’s fees. The deadline to enroll or withdraw from participation for the 2013-2014 program year is May 22, 2013. The new year begins July 1 and invoices are usually sent at the beginning of August.

Library staff or trustees with questions about ILL system changes or the upcoming enrollment for LiLI Unlimited can contact networking consultant Gina Persichini at gina.persichini@libraries.idaho.gov.

FY 2014 Budget Recommendation for ICfL

There was some bipartisan support for a motion that included $110,400 to continue offering LearningExpress Library (LEL) beyond October 2013. However, that motion failed 13-7. The committee then passed the motion to support the Governor’s recommendation, which includes funding for LiLI-D contract inflation and a couple of technical changes but nothing for our enhancement request (LEL, a STEM database, public information, and reimbursement for the non-E-rate portion of public libraries’ ISP charges).

The appropriation will be assigned a bill number, then proceed through both houses and to the Governor’s desk for signature.

The current LEL contract is in place through October 31, 2013. We are just four months into the current contract year. As is the practice with all electronic resource contracts managed by the Commission, a decision about renewing the online resource is not anticipated until we draw closer to October. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to make use of the many valuable resources at www.lili.org/LearningExpress.
Idaho at 150—The Territorial Sesquicentennial Kicks Off

Idaho kicked off a year-long commemoration of its Territorial Sesquicentennial March 4 on the Capitol steps in Boise, where legislators, tribal leaders, and other officials gathered for the ceremony. The event included an invocation; a proclamation by Governor Otter; a Lincoln address; music from the Shoshone-Paiute Sweet Sage Drum Group, Horizon Elementary School Explorers, and Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb; a reading of congratulatory letters from President Obama and Boise Mayor Bieter; and a benediction from the Nez Perce Tribe.

As Master of Ceremonies David Leroy noted, the kick-off event was just the beginning of a series of statewide events to mark the territorial sesquicentennial.

For ideas on how you can celebrate “Idaho at 150,” check out www.history.idaho.gov.

Your library or community can enter events on the Idaho Tourism travel industry database at www.updateIdaho.com. Once on the site, follow the instructions to “Request an Account.”

Governor Otter tells the gathered crowd that Idahoans still value liberty and freedom, as did their territorial ancestors.

For more information on Idaho’s Territorial Sesquicentennial, visit www.Idaho150.com.

Financial Literacy Month and Money Smart Week in April

Many libraries offer financial literacy resources or workshops on topics such as home-buying, foreclosure intervention, debt elimination, loan qualifying, or preventing identity theft. April is Financial Literacy Month and April 20–27, 2013 is “Money Smart Week @ your library.” Both of these events provide a chance to highlight another valuable service Idaho libraries provide to their communities.

“Money Smart Week @ your library” is a national initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to help community members better manage their personal finances. The Money Smart website at www.moneysmartweek.org has information for planning and implementing a successful Money Smart event. More resources are available on the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/money-smart-week-your-library.

In addition, the Idaho Department of Finance also has a Financial Literacy website page with links to financial tips and other informational websites at http://finance.idaho.gov/ Education/FinancialLiteracy.aspx.

Check out these resources for Financial Literacy ideas.

Using Public Library Statistics

The 2011 Idaho Public Library Statistics and statistics from previous years can be accessed online through the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/idaho-public-library-statistics. Public library statistics for other states and the nation are also linked at this website.

The Statistics FY11 Data Digest— the pocket summary of the statistics publication that libraries received in the mail in February— is posted as PowerPoint slides that can be downloaded and used in presentations. This tool can help give stakeholders a snapshot of the critical role that Idaho libraries play as anchor institutions in their communities and how library use has increased in recent years.

The statistics publications also provide an opportunity to track library activity from year to year, obtain statistics to support budget requests, and plan how the library will meet future community needs.
Maker Spaces Make Their Way to Idaho by Sue Walker, library consultant

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has launched a pilot project with five public libraries to develop the concept of Maker Spaces in Idaho’s libraries. The concept is quite simple: Maker Spaces are areas where interested persons can create, design, imagine, and build, and the possibilities are endless: crafts, videos, music, electronics, engineering, and robotics. If you can dream it, you can make it!

The yearlong project will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design, and Math (STEAM) applications for tweens and teens. Each participating library received several kits containing various manipulatives and project-based curriculum that will allow for both formal and informal programming opportunities. In addition to the kits, participants will receive training, ongoing support, and networking opportunities. In return, each library will create a Maker Space in their library, host eight formal and six informal programs throughout the year, evaluate the programs, and share their experiences with ICfL staff.

Staff plans to share information about the project with the library community and expand the concept of Maker Spaces to additional libraries in the future. Make way for Maker Spaces Idaho!

DayByDayID.org Storytimes and TumbleBooks eBooks

Many families and child care providers are not able to attend library storytimes for a variety of reasons. DayByDayID.org brings storytimes to them through a parent-friendly website with access to TumbleBooks eBooks in English and Spanish. The site offers daily activities to develop early literacy skills, including fingerplays and songs modeled in video clips, and other educational information. The DayByDayID.org site is a great resource for Idaho families, librarians, and caregivers.

A three-year contract with TumbleBooks provides access to eBooks through every Idaho public library website. Most libraries now have a link to TumbleBooks and DayByDayID on their websites, and 39 libraries have registered to receive customized promotional postcards, with a total of 36,750 postcards sent out.

DayByDayID.org and TumbleBooks are possible through the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Routes to Reading grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The goal of the new Routes to Reading program is to promote early learning and significantly increase the amount of reading done in Idaho homes and child care settings.

The Commission is partnering with the J. A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation and Idaho Kids Count and is working with libraries and community partners to increase awareness of the valuable role libraries play to ensure that children begin school with a strong foundation of early literacy skills. Coalition-building events—community campaigns to address the challenge of grade-level reading proficiency—are happening in mid-April in Pocatello, Twin Falls, and Boise. Find out more at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/route-3-communication-collaboration-and-coalition-building.

See more about Routes to Reading at http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/read-to-me.
Upcoming CE Opportunities by Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant

Find more information on the following continuing education (CE) opportunities at http://libraries.idaho.gov/ContinuingEducation.

Info2Go!
This new monthly webinar provides a platform for you to share your knowledge, connect with other library professionals, and get your questions answered. Join Idaho library community guest experts on the third Monday of the month from 12:30–1:30 p.m. MT (11:30–12:30 p.m. PT) to explore new library trends and services. No registration is required and all sessions will be archived. More information is available at http://libraries.idaho.gov/freetraining.

Digital literacy Libguides
The familiar digital literacy guides (http://libraries.idaho.gov/digital-literacy), a source of information for workforce development, consumer finances, education, and digital literacy, have been transitioned to a new platform called Libguides. Find it at http://guides.lili.org/digitalliteracy—and subscribe via RSS to receive updates as new resources are added.

Infopeople and Amigos courses
The Idaho Commission for Libraries, through a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act, Institute of Museum and Library Services, is now providing access to Infopeople and Amigos courses for members of the Idaho library community. Visit http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/shirley-biladeau/infopeople-and-amigos to find out how to qualify and access the courses.

WebJunction
In March and April of 2013, libraries around the state will be hosting WebJunction workshops. Last spring, WebJunction changed to a new platform for both the content and the courses. In these two-hour workshops, we will explore the tips and tricks for navigating the two new sites. See the schedule at http://libraries.idaho.gov/freetraining.