

THE Envoy

Vol. 3, No. 1, Spring 2011



ICfL Welcomes New Commissioner

Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) welcomes Dave Mecham to the Board of Library Commissioners. Mecham, a Firth School District administrator, fills the vacancy of a board member residing in eastern Idaho.

Mecham earned his Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Brigham Young University. He worked for a few years as a reference/circulation librarian and later as a consultant and trainer with a library software company.

In 1991, when Mecham—an Idaho native—was visiting his home town, he heard of an open position as school librarian at his alma mater, Firth High School. He applied, and since then has worked with the district as District Media Generalist, coach, teacher, and now principal. He has worked with kids from pre-school to AP (Advanced Placement) courses.

Mecham also has served on the North Bingham County District Library Board for about seven years, and serves on the board of the Mae Nueber Foundation, which assists Idaho Falls Public Library with projects and materials. With nearly 25 years of library experience in various capacities, he brings a wealth of knowledge to the ICfL Board of Commissioners.

Mecham believes that libraries are an excellent place for children to begin to build their future. “One of the best things we do for our kids to help develop bright futures



Dave Mecham joins the Idaho Board of Library Commissioners

is make sure they have access to plenty of materials in the library,” Mecham said. “They can start to see what a big and exciting world they live in by using the resources in their libraries.”

Mecham says that libraries are one of the best investments people make “in a future where information is fast becoming a very important form of currency.”

Mecham’s wife of “25 splendid years” is Deslynn. He has a son, Woody, who is 20, and a daughter, Emma, who is 13.

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission:

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

Commissioners:

Bruce Noble, Dave Mecham,
John Held, Sara Staub,
and Larry Weeks

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

Commission Contacts:

- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Dian Scott, support services supervisor
- Erica Compton, reading programs coordinator
- Frank Nelson, southeastern Idaho library consultant
- Gina Persichini, networking consultant
- Glynda Pflieger, school library consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho library consultant
- Marjorie Hooper, associate state librarian
- Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor
- Roger Dubois, administrative services manager
- Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant
- Sonja Hudson, grants/contracts officer
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

online @ your library® update

The Commission is expanding broadband and public computing capacity in 55 of Idaho’s least connected public libraries through our “online @ your library” Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The BTOP project is also expanding online resources statewide for K-12 students, jobseekers, and adult learners.

Expanded broadband

The Commission matched individual BTOP libraries with the lowest-cost providers for broadband Internet service in their particular communities. In addition, up to 90 percent of the Internet bill for the libraries will be paid by the FCC E-Rate Universal Service Fund. Most of the libraries are also getting wi-fi equipment that will enable library patrons who bring their own computers to the library to access the Internet.

Nearly a dozen of the BTOP libraries are up and running with their expanded broadband.

Reactions from libraries include:

- “We’re already lamenting that using our connections at home will be impossible after this!”
- “Awesome connection!!!! [Katy Perry’s song ‘Firework’] is exactly how I feel right now!”

Libraries are also starting to receive new computers and laptops and excited staff members have been exclaiming, “The computers are here! The computers are here!”

statewide subscription became available in November 2010. At libraries throughout the state, jobseekers and students are using LearningExpress Library courses for reading, writing, math, and computer skills; study guides for academic tests such as the GED and SAT; and a wide array of career certification preparation and practice exams.

Statewide online resources coming in summer 2011 include “Scout” (a version of Teachers’ Domain customized for Idaho students) and Internet2 resources for libraries. Like LearningExpress Library, these resources will be available through the LiLI portal at www.lili.org.

Library and partner training

Training is a key component in the “online @ your library” project, and staff members from BTOP libraries completed E-Rate training as well as training for newly available online resources.

BTOP libraries also participated in “Connecting Resources & Partners Workshops” held throughout Idaho this spring. These workshops connected BTOP libraries with their local grant partners—such as the Idaho Department of Labor and Adult Basic Education—and provided hands-on access to the various resources available to all Idaho residents through the BTOP project.

Online resources

LearningExpress Library has been well-used since the BTOP-funded

Promotion

In late May, BTOP libraries will

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The Envoy trustee newsletter is published quarterly and mailed to all library directors and trustees who are listed in the ICfL library directory. PDFs also available at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/publications/trustee-news>.



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receive a kit with “online @ your library” materials to promote the availability of the expanded broadband and resources. In addition, all public libraries will receive table-top displays to place near their public access computers to show computer users where to find valuable online resources.

One of our BTOP partners, Idaho Public Television, is already airing television spots promoting the new resources available to Idaho residents at www.lili.org.

End-user training

In the works for this summer are “digital literacy” coaches for computer users at the BTOP libraries. The Idaho Department of Labor field offices are matching Youth Corps participants with BTOP libraries. The Youth Corps participants will work part-time in the public libraries, assisting patrons with basic computer skills and the Learner Web curriculum.

Learner Web is an online system of self-paced learning plans designed to increase broadband use among low-income, low-literate, and other vulnerable populations.

The Youth Corps tutors will also help students get online and access the Apangea 2011 Summer Math Splash program. The plan is to provide at least 50 youths with summer jobs.

The Department of Labor is also leveraging their existing resources for jobseekers to develop an online “Idaho Jobseekers Handbook” that will be available statewide this fall.

Collaboration

Partnering with other state agencies for the “online @ your library” project benefits not only the Commission and Idaho public libraries, but also the partnering agencies. While

the libraries learned about the resources available to their communities, staff at partnering agencies learned what the libraries across the state have to offer and have been “simply amazed” by the discovery.

Partners found workshops and presentations provided by ICfL to be “very professional and informative.” They also appreciate outreach efforts on the part of the Commission to raise awareness about the BTOP project and leverage existing resources within the state. Partners are looking forward to using the information gathered at these sessions to design larger workforce services initiatives.



Seven Idaho librarians receive the LSSC Assistance Award

Seven library support staff members from around the state have received the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Assistance Award. LSSC, a program managed by the American Library Association -Allied Professional Association, offers library employees the opportunity to achieve recognition for their experience; enhance library service; and increase skills and knowledge in areas like the foundations of librarianship, technology, and communication.

This national certification will be a valuable tool for candidates to document their experience and skills and will travel with them regardless of geographic location.

The Registration Assistance Award (\$175) will pay one-half of the candidate registration fee. The LSSC program is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the American Library Association.

Award recipients are from

- Albertsons Library, Boise State University
- Burley Public Library
- Centennial High School Library
- College of Western Idaho Library
- Madison Library District
- Priest Lake Public Library

To find out more information about the LSSC Program go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lssc>.

LSTA competitive grants

Contingent on the Commission receiving the total Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) award, public libraries in Idaho have been approved for \$44,744 in FY2011 LSTA funds for projects that are consistent with LSTA’s priorities and support the Board of Library Commissioners’ strategic issues for Idaho’s libraries. The libraries

involved in the following projects serve a total of nearly 382,000 patrons:

- Boise Public Library: \$31,563 for a survey of library service needs for the Boise-area community to provide valuable information for future planning.
- Cooperative Information Network (CIN): \$13,181 to add

Benewah County Library District to CIN, which will cover the entire panhandle with library and courier services.

LSTA Funding	
Statewide Projects and Grants	
FY09	\$1,344,613
FY10	\$1,369,784
FY11	\$1,299,688

2011 Legislative Session

Bills introduced during the 2011 Legislature that affect the Idaho library community or the Commission include:

HB60. Election Consolidation: Amends existing law to make technical corrections in the election consolidation law enacted in 2009. Sections pertaining to withdrawal of candidacy and procedure for correction of ballots were deleted in this legislation, since the county is now in charge of those aspects of the election. The legislation also removes election duties of the library clerk and speeded up this year’s timeline for petition availability and the declaration of candidacy. This correction means that there will be a clean-up of 33-2717A next year, since the timeline in our law does not match the amended timeline in 34-1405A.

Status: Governor signed 2/23; effective 1/1/11

HB90. Independent Financial Audits: Amends existing law to revise requirements for filing and independent financial audits

of local governmental entities and filing requirements. This legislation clarifies when audits are necessary. Previously, this section of code stated that local governmental entities (e.g. district libraries) “may elect” to have a biennial audit if their expenditures are over \$100,000. This new legislation states that entities with expenditures over \$100,000 “shall have an annual audit or may elect” to have a biennial audit.

Status: Governor signed 2/25; effective 4/1/11

HB205. Public Libraries-Internet Use Policy:

This legislation mandates “a policy of Internet safety for minors including the operation of a technology protection measure” (i.e. filter) that must be in place during the use of a computer accessing the Internet by a minor. The legislation allows libraries to allow unfiltered adult access, and allows “authorized” representatives to unblock filters for lawful purposes. It mandates a safety policy to be reviewed in a public meeting every

three years, but states only what that policy “may” contain.

Status: Governor signed 4/8; effective 10/1/12

SB1160. Appropriation for Idaho Commission for Libraries:

Appropriates \$5,353,300 (state and federal funds) to the Commission for fiscal year 2012; restores one-time savings from FY2011 appropriation (for LiLI databases); limits the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to 41.5.

Status: Governor signed 4/5; effective 7/1/11

See more about these and other bills at www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2011/legIndex.htm.

State Funding	
The General Fund Numbers	
FY09 Adjusted Appropriation	\$3,960,400
FY10 Adjusted Appropriation	\$3,134,300
FY11 Appropriation	\$2,796,400
FY12 Appropriation	\$2,997,700*

*Includes funding restoration for the annualization of the LiLI-D contracts within the state fiscal year



Payette receives USDA grant/loan

The City of Payette received a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant of \$80,000 and a loan of \$1,100,000 to build an addition to the Payette Public Library. Ground was broken on March 24, 2011. The current building doesn't have sufficient capacity for its collection and programs, wasn't designed for computer usage, and is not ADA

accessible. The expansion will double the size of the existing library facility and will include a public meeting room, dedicated personal computer space, dedicated children's reading area, and space for study and meetings.

In August 2010, the residents of Payette passed the Payette Public



Payette library expansion plans

Library Expansion bond of \$1.5 million with 446 Yes votes (75%) and 152 No votes.

Grand openings

Ada Community Library—Lake Hazel Branch

The Lake Hazel Branch of the Ada Community Library opened April 11. The two-story, 14,000-square-foot branch was opened in response to overflow crowds, a packed parking lot, teeming story times, constantly busy computer terminals, and insufficient room for expansion at the library's 22-year-old main branch. Trustee Carol Mills said that library use has gone up every year. "Libraries are just as relevant as they were before the technology age—as a place of information, a gathering place, a secure and safe place," Mills emphasized.

Garden Valley District Library

The Garden Valley community celebrated the Grand Opening of the Garden Valley District Library on March 5. "Community effort has culminated in this great building," library trustee Richard Goetsch told the attendees. "This speaks to the community spirit of small communities all over this country." Board chair Richard Wilson thanked the library's many community partners and noted that these partnerships will continue as they work on remaining projects.

See more photos at <http://gardenvalleylibrary.blogspot.com/>.



Ada Community Library—Lake Hazel Branch



Garden Valley District Library

Lewiston looking at new library

On April 25, the Lewiston City Council approved an agreement to purchase the Cornerstone/ Erb Hardware building located downtown at 5th and D Street. The building will provide five times the space of the existing Thain Road structure, which is also a converted hardware store, acquired around 1970.

The city will pay \$595,000 of the building's \$800,000 selling price. The owner, Bennett Industries, is donating the remaining \$205,000.

In addition to the \$2 million already raised by the Library Foundation from businesses and individuals, another \$1 million will be needed to completely

remodel the building. In the near future, the Foundation will launch a public campaign to raise the necessary additional funds.

The library board is looking at various means, such as kiosks and a bookmobile, to continue serving the part of town where the library is currently located.



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**Funded by
the Institute of Museum and Library Services**

Golden Rules for Board Members

- Leave the actual management of the library to the library director. It is the librarian’s responsibility to select books, employ the staff, and supervise day-to-day operations.
- After a policy or rule is adopted by the majority vote of the library board, do not criticize or re-voice your opposition publicly.
- Respect confidential information that is protected by the Public Records Act - IC 9-340E. Do not divulge information regarding future board actions or plans until such action is officially taken.
- Observe any publicity and information policies of the board and library. Do not give information individually but refer requests to the librarian or appropriate representative to interpret policies.
- Treat the library director and staff members in an objective manner. Under no circumstances should you listen to grievances of staff members or treat individual problems on your own. The library director is in charge of the staff and has administrative control up to the point where a grievance is presented to the library board.
- Do not suggest hiring a relative or two members of the same family as library employees.
- All rules and policies directed to the library director must be approved by a quorum of the board at a regular meeting.
- Do not hold board meetings without the library director.
- Complaints from the public are the library director’s responsibility. Continued dissatisfaction and problems should be taken up at the board meeting only if policy revision is necessary or legal ramifications are involved.
- Assume your full responsibility as a board member. If you are unable to attend meetings regularly and complete work delegated to you, resign so that an active member can be appointed.

From the Idaho Trustee Manual on the Commission's website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/trustees>.