

THE Envoy

Vol. 6, No. 2, Spring 2014



Legislation – 2014 Session Recap

by Jan Wall, northern Idaho field consultant

Bills introduced during the 2014 Legislature that are of most immediate interest to the Idaho library community include:

SB1228 Open Meeting Law— (www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2014/S1228.htm)

This is a housekeeping bill that aligns city library law 33-2606 with the open meeting law 67-2340 through 67-2347. Currently, city library law states that meetings shall be held “pursuant to the open meeting law, sections 67-2340 through 67-2344...” Even though the current city library law does not include several sections of the open meeting law, city libraries are NOT exempt from following the open meeting law in its entirety. This legislation makes it clear.

Effective 7/1/2014

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HB606 Appropriation Idaho Commission for Libraries—

(www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2014/H0606.pdf)

This is the fiscal year 2015 appropriation to the Idaho Commission for Libraries. It includes ongoing funding for LearningExpress Library and an additional one-time increase of \$100,000 for Read to Me mini-grants for school libraries.

Effective 7/1/2014

HB560 Local Governing Entities Central Registry—

(www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2014/H0560.pdf)

This bill applies to all district libraries and requires additional reporting beyond audits. It requires administrative information, including terms of membership for the governing board; financial information, including the most recent adopted budget and an unaudited comparison of the budget to actual revenues and expenditures of the most recently completed fiscal year; and bonds or other debt obligation information, including the cumulative dollar amount, the average length of term, and the average interest rate. The deadline

for reporting to the Legislative Service Office (LSO) is March 1, 2015. The form and format of report requirements will be determined by the LSO. County clerks will notify districts of the requirements of this new legislation. **Effective 1/1/2015**

HB560, with additional reporting requirements, does not take effect until January 1, 2015, and does not cancel the need for an audit. Your audit (if you are required to have one) needs to be filed with the LSO within nine months after the end of the audit period.

Do you need an audit? Briefly:

- If your expenditures exceed \$250,000, you must have an annual audit.
- If your expenditures (from any source) are between \$100,000 and \$250,000, you “shall have an annual audit or may elect to have [your] financial statements audited on a biennial basis.”
- If your annual expenditures are less than \$100,000, there is no requirement.

Find other audit details at 67-450B (<http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title67/T67CH4SECT67-450B.htm>). If you have questions, please contact your regional field consultant.

Idaho Commission for Libraries

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208-334-2150
800-458-3271
<http://libraries.idaho.gov>

Mission:

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

Commissioners:

John Held, Dave Mecham,
Pat Raffee, Sara Staub,
and Larry Weeks

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

Commission Contacts:

- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Dian Scott, office services supervisor
- Erica Compton, reading programs coordinator
- Gina Persichini, networking consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho library consultant
- Jeannie Standal, school library consultant
- Kevin Tomlinson, southwest/south central Idaho library consultant
- Kristina Taylor, grants/contracts officer
- Marjorie Hooper, associate state librarian
- Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor
- Roger Dubois, administrative services manager
- Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

The Envoy is mailed quarterly to all public library directors and trustees listed in the ICfL online library directory. PDFs are available at: libraries.idaho.gov/publications/trustee-news.

Summer Learning Loss

by Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator

Summer learning loss contributes significantly to the achievement gap between middle- and low-income children. Children who continue to read over the summer maintain reading skills; those who do not can lose up to three months of reading proficiency and begin school in the fall at a disadvantage. Low-income children have limited access to books and other print material over the summer, and they are less likely to attend a summer reading program at their public library. Two factors can make a difference: Increased access to books and increased time spent reading.

With summer vacation right around the corner, Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me team has been hitting the streets with this message. We've presented at regional library consortium meetings, the Serve Idaho conference, the State Department of Ed Prevention and Support Conference, the Family Studies conference, the Community Campaign for Grade Level Reading session in North Idaho, and to several schools around the state.

In each venue we've stressed the importance of utilizing the local libraries' in-house and outreach summer programs, have encouraged the establishment of Little Libraries around the community, and have helped support school libraries that want to have open hours for their students over the summer.

I've received several emails from public and school librarians who attended one of our presentations

and were inspired to help us spread this important message in their communities and schools. Several folks have asked to use some of our presentation tools and resources, so I've added a few things to the Resources page of our summer reading website (<http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources>):

- **Parent brochure** showing summer learning loss and time spent in school (Idaho libraries, schools, and non-profits can order free of charge)
- **Script:** Visual Demonstration Activity showing Summer Learning Loss
- **Videos:** *Summer Learning Loss and the Achievement Gap*, narrated by Brian Williams; *The Statistics Lottery*, from the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

We are working on a version of the Brian Williams video to show to parents, in which we use "children who continue to read over the summer" and "children who do not continue to read..." or something along those lines, rather than "middle-income" and "low-income."

In addition to these new resources, you can find the current Idaho Summer Learning Loss handout, research summary and talking points, examples of school and public library partnerships, and much more.

Please help spread the message in your community and schools, and let us know how we can support your efforts to educate parents, teachers, business people, policy-makers, and community partners.



ICfL Continuing Education Grants: What's New?

by Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant

The Continuing Education (CE) Grants provided by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL)—through funds from the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services—have become very popular among the members of the Idaho library community. This is a great opportunity for individuals employed by publicly-funded libraries in Idaho to fulfill professional development needs and for a library, a group of libraries, or a consortium to apply for support relating to a group training. Because of their popularity and the limited funding available, some changes will be in place after **July 1, 2014**.

Conditions (or “Guidelines”) that apply to all CE grants:

1. All are reimbursement grants

- paid to the grantee.
2. The grantee is the publicly-funded library; the applicant is the attendee.
 3. Applicants must be employed by the publicly-funded library during the entire time of the event, otherwise they will not be reimbursed.
 4. Director approval must be secured prior to completing the application.
 5. Each applicant must contact the Continuing Education Consultant prior to submitting the application.
 6. All attendees are required to participate in the six-month follow-up after the event.
 7. All attendees must complete a transfer of knowledge/information activity to colleagues and/or end-users.
 8. Failure to comply with end of event grant documentation or

contract deliverables can impact approval of future grant requests.

In addition, **1st Time Conference Attendee Grants** and **Staff and Group Training Grants** are limited to one per State Fiscal Year (July-June). **Professional Development Grants** are limited to \$1,000 per semester for up to six semesters during their lifetime. Once the \$6,000 ceiling has been reached, an individual is no longer eligible to apply for this grant.

For more information about CE Grant conditions and guidelines, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/icfl-continuing-education-grants-whats-new>. Contact Shirley Biladeau at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov, 208.639.4149, or toll-free 800.458.3271 with questions.

Leadership Training Needs Assessment Summit

by Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant

On April 23 and 24, fifty-five representatives from Idaho libraries met in Boise to discuss the current environment regarding leadership development for library staff—to do an environmental scan, if you will. A wealth of data was gathered regarding desired leadership qualities, leadership versus management, current leadership development activities, target audiences, unmet training needs and potential next steps. All of this data and more can be reviewed at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/leadership> or you can request

to join the Facebook group to continue the discussion (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IdahoLeadershipSummit/>).

What is next? The Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Idaho Library Association will partner during the next 12 months to create and convene a Leadership Advisory Group whose charge will be to review the data and develop an infrastructure for sustainable leadership development activities for all members of the Idaho



Summit participants matching target audiences and unmet training needs

library community to create a leadership culture within our library community. For more information please contact Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov or 208.639.4149.

Let's Talk About It Application Deadline is May 23

Idaho libraries are invited to apply for the 2014-2015 Let's Talk About It series by completing the application available on the ICfL website (http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/LTAI_application_2014-2015.pdf). Libraries work with a community partner to promote and host book discussion sessions.

What makes these discussions unique is the presence of a humanities scholar to guide the sessions. Adult readers have access to the library-selected theme and books and then have the opportunity to explore American values, history, culture, and other

topics pertinent to the reading selection.

At least 15 libraries statewide will be selected to participate and will be provided book copies and theme and book materials for use in the program. Each library will also provide a \$100 match that may be paid by the library, its community partner, or friends of the library.

Deadline for applications is May 23, and applications can be:

- faxed to 208.334.4016,
- delivered to the Commission office, or

- mailed to:
Dian Scott
Idaho Commission for Libraries
325 W. State Street
Boise, ID 83702.

The Let's Talk About It program is made possible by the Idaho Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and a generous gift from the U.S. Bank Foundation. The program is administered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries. See more about LTAI at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/lets-talk-about-it>.

Idaho Bandwidth Assessment Tool is Available

Ever wonder how much bandwidth you actually need? LinkIDAHO recently introduced the Idaho Bandwidth Assessment Tool (BAT) to answer that question.

To take the survey or learn more about this tool, go to the LinkIDAHO website at linkidaho.org and click on

Bandwidth Assessment Tool, (above the menu on the right side of the Home page), or you can link to the tool directly at <https://apps.costquest.com/bat/home>.

On the BAT website you can watch a short informative video, download FAQs, or register and start the survey.

When you log on to the Idaho BAT and take the short survey to determine your bandwidth needs you will also be helping LinkIDAHO map broadband needs across the state.

If you have questions please contact the LinkIDAHO team at idaho@linkamericaalliance.com.

2014 Idaho Library Snapshot Day

In April 2014 during National Library Week, 38 Idaho libraries from around the state tracked their activities with statistics and photos, creating a snapshot of a day in the life of Idaho libraries and capturing the impact they have on their communities. Participants included:

- 28 public library locations
- 8 school libraries
- 1 academic library
- 1 special library

In one day in these 38 Idaho libraries:

- 19,139 people visited.
- 79 classes visited school libraries
- 22,440 items circulated.
- 1,321 reference questions were answered.
- 70 job seekers were helped.
- 1,250 students were helped.
- 2,858 people used the public access computers.

- 1,625 people used the Internet with their own devices.
- 197 people were taught computer/device/Internet skills.
- 313 library cards were issued/ borrowers were registered.
- 1,255 people attended programs.

Find complete results and a link to a 5-minute video at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/IdahoSnapshot>.



SWIM Graduates: Where are They Now? Part 2

In the Winter 2014 Envoy issue we followed up with several graduates of the South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana (SWIM) Regional Collaborative Library Education Project, which was funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. Following are stories from some of the other SWIM graduates.

Bruce Godfrey—GIS Librarian, University of Idaho—provides leadership in developing and promoting a suite of geospatial services for faculty, staff, and students. He also provides reference assistance and research consultation for geospatial information, cultivates partnerships with other university programs on geospatial initiatives, participates in the creation and maintenance of metadata records for geospatial resources, evaluates geospatial resources, and collaborates with librarians in related subject areas to identify spatial data needs. Before earning his MLIS he was in a staff position; after earning his MLIS he applied for a GIS librarian position and was hired.

Long-term, Godfrey hopes to be viewed as a valuable member of his faculty and university. Additionally, he hopes to be well-respected by other GIS Librarians across academia.

Kristi Haman—Technical Services Supervisor, Garden City Public Library—is responsible for adult collection development and acquisitions and the cataloging, processing, and mending of library

materials. Her duties also involve library marketing, website content updates, reference services, and weeding initiatives. When she was a grad student, she worked as a part-time assistant at two libraries: Boise Public Library at Collister and College of Western Idaho (CWI) Library. She served patrons at the circulation and reference desk and planned and executed programs. She also marketed events, served on the Adult Summer Reading committee, and planned a library-themed art exhibition at CWI. Five days after graduation, she was offered a full-time, professional position and is now responsible for a team of five volunteers and one assistant. As part of the management team, she enjoys making decisions that meet the information needs of Garden City Library patrons. In her new role, she has found that it is advantageous to understand library science methodology. It helps with her work in collection development, cataloging, acquisitions, and technical services. She is grateful, therefore, to have her MLIS because it provided the foundation and technical skills she needs to excel as a librarian.

Long-term, Haman says the great thing about working in this field is that there are plenty of opportunities. She can see herself becoming a library director. She would also enjoy being a marketing or collection development manager. She

could work for an academic, government, or museum library as an arts librarian and archivist. It would also be a dream-come-true for her to work for the Disney Animation Research Library or to own an old world bookstore with sliding ladders and a spiral staircase.

Bev McKay—Librarian, Stevens-Henager College—assists students with research needs, develops course curriculum, manages the campus bookroom, and tutors students in various subjects. McKay was unemployed before getting her MLIS.

Long-term, McKay is going back to school to work on a masters in education.

Jill Mitchell—Adult Services Manager, Meridian Library District—oversees interlibrary loan (ILL), programming, bookmobile, homebound, volunteers, and much more. She began her library career doing interlibrary loan and then was advanced to be a manager.

Long-term, due to family circumstances, Mitchell's career plans are currently in flux.

Kate Radford—Bookmobile Coordinator, Meridian Library District—manages bookmobile activities, promotion, and scheduling, as well as coordinating bookmobile outreach events and activities. Before earning her MLIS, she was a library assistant.

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SWIM *continued from page 5*

Long-term, Radford hopes to move into a strong outreach position or to work her way into MakerSpace activities, particularly those with an outreach component. She also feels strongly about working with community organizations and businesses to improve library connectivity through the community.

SWIM librarians were asked if they recommend an MLIS, drawing a variety of responses:

- “I would recommend it for those interested in the library profession. It provides a valuable foundation for anyone interested in becoming an information professional.”
- “Absolutely, yes, I would recommend that anyone who desires a long-term career working in the library field pursue an MLIS/MLS. Most professional, full-time

positions require or prefer an MLIS. Plus, salaries are usually higher for holders of master’s degrees. An MLIS demonstrates to others that you are educated, dedicated, goal oriented, motivated, and resourceful. I also recommend getting involved with library associations, attending conferences, serving on committees, and taking leadership courses.”

- “I would recommend [it] but I would also caution people that you’re not going to make a lot of money and jobs are hard to get. Because I was a student of Stevens-Henager before going to graduate school, I feel that helped me get the job more than anything. That alone helps me in my job.”
- “It depends on what type of library one works in whether an MLIS is

important. I believe for an academic library, it would be a must. I think an MLIS is important with a technology emphasis, otherwise, if one works in a small public library, I am not so sure it is important.”

- I feel that having an MLIS opens some doors that might otherwise remain closed, but I believe the actual educational components of an MLIS leave something to be desired. I very much hope to see changes to the educational requirements for an MLIS in the future, including a broadening of courses involving the humanities, advertising, etc.”

Congratulations to these SWIM graduates for their hard work and achievements, and many thanks to them for their dedication to improving library services in Idaho.