

THE Envoy

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2015 Legislative Session Recap

by Jan Wall, Northern Idaho Field Consultant

Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) FY2016 Appropriation Bill HB250 has been signed.

The one-time \$100,000 increase for our Elementary School Library Access Mini-Grants becomes permanent in FY 2016, for an ongoing total of \$200,000.

The bill also reduces and caps our full-time equivalent positions from 39.5 to 37.5 and increases our personnel funds for a 3% Change in Employee Compensation and an increase in benefit costs. An increase in operating funds includes \$30,600 for general and contract inflation. An increase in capital funds supports the replacement of three aging servers, for a total of \$65,800.

Other bills introduced during the 2015 Legislature that affect the Commission for Libraries or the Idaho library community include:

HO90 Open Meeting Law - Moves current legislation on public records, open meeting, ethics in government and prohibitions against contracts with officers to a new title: Title 74, Transparent and Ethical Government. Effective 7/1/2015

HO91 Open Meeting Law - Provides the correct code citations to the revised public records act. (New Title 74). Effective 7/1/2015

HO167a Open Meeting Law - Defines that "labor negotiations" must be held in open meeting, rather than executive session, except in certain circumstances. Effective 7/1/2015

HO324 Open Meeting Law - Amends existing law to increase monetary civil penalties for violations of the Open Meeting Law. (A first violation is \$250, with

a \$1500 penalty for "knowingly" violating the law. A second violation within a year is subject to a \$2,500 penalty.) This legislation leaves intact the process for "curing" the violation without penalty. This bill takes the place of HO 155a, which was passed by both the House and the Senate. Status: Signed 4/21/2015

HO112 Elections - Amends the Sunshine Act to provide that PACs have the same requirements as political candidates to report contributions over \$1,000 between the 7-Day Pre-general report and election day. (This would affect PACs that are established to support or oppose library levy or bond campaigns.) Effective 7/1/2015

HO213 Public Library Districts - Provides that the annual meeting of a district library board shall be in June, and that the oath of office for newly elected or re-elected trustees shall be on the first regular meeting following the trustee election. Effective 7/1/2015

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

325 W. State St.
Boise, ID 83702-6055
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:

- Ben Bibikov, web designer
- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Dian Scott, office services supervisor
- Edgar Correa, web developer
- Erica Compton, reading programs coordinator
- Gina Persichini, technology and access services 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
- Patrick Bodily, eastern Idaho library consultant
- 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.

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HO220 Income Tax Credit -
Extends the increased charitable donation credit that was enacted in 2010. The current language allows for the tax credit to equal up to 50% of the aggregate amount of charitable contributions, up to 50% of an individual taxpayer's total Idaho income tax liability and a maximum annual amount of \$500 (\$1,000 on a jointly-filed return). For a corporate taxpayer, the amount is limited to 10% of the corporation's total Idaho income tax liability with a maximum annual credit of \$5000.

Effective 1/1/2015

HO302 Science and Technology
- Adds to existing law to create in the Office of the Governor the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Action Center and the STEM Action Center Board, to provide powers and duties and to provide for reports.

Effective 7/1/2015

HCR26 / SCR 131 Broadband Access Study Committee
- Stating findings of the Legislature and authorizing the Legislative Council to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study and make recommendations for broadband services and governance for the State of Idaho and to provide that the committee make recommendations regarding minimum Service Level Agreements.

Status: Adopted 4/16/2015

ICfL will print a new edition of the Library Laws Manual.

Reminders about Other Idaho Laws

Public Libraries - Internet Policy and Filtering:
On October 1, 2012, the internet policy and filtering legislation took effect for public libraries (city and district). Part of the law mandates a policy review every three years. Take a look at when your policy was adopted and review/revise/adopt the policy within the three years required by Idaho Code 33-2741. For more information about the filtering/policy legislation, go to Internet Use in Public Libraries – Policy and Procedure Resources at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/InternetUsePolicies> or contact your Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) area field consultant for more information.

District Libraries - Central Registry: The Central Registry deadline was March 1. Remember that there are potential financial penalties for non-compliance. See <https://registry.legislature.idaho.gov/> for details. If you have questions, contact your county clerk or Registry@LSO.idaho.gov.

If you need help answering questions, contact your ICfL area field consultant.



SPLAT's Summer Adventures by Shirley Biladeau, ICfL continuing education consultant

If you live in Eastern Idaho, Special Projects Library Action Team (SPLAT) is coming to a library near you this summer!

The annual Summer Adventure will be taking the busy SPLAT members to Eastern Idaho. You may remember that, the previous two summers, they went to the Magic Valley and North Idaho. They will be sharing the SPLAT

Idea Lab with staff members and the public. SPLAT focuses on small rural libraries that may not otherwise have access to technology items or the opportunity to network with other librarians. This is a great opportunity to share and learn from each other. New to the Idea Lab this year, along with the tablets and e-readers, will be 3-D printers, Makey-Makey kits,



Circuit Blocks and much more. Watch for the schedule and find out more at <http://splat.lili.org>.

Online Donations to Your Public Library

Have you thought about collecting donations through your public library website? Here are a couple of options to consider:

- Use your existing payment processor. If you already have an online payment option for collecting fines, your customer rep should be able to provide you with a web interface for adding an online donation option.
- Use an online payment service such as PayPal. Numerous services are available. (*ICfL does not endorse any specific online payment option.*) Factors to consider when choosing one include digital security, customer service, convenience, and costs (start up, per-transaction fees, monthly rates,

etc.). For additional tips, see "How to Select an Online Payment Service Provider" at www.wildapricot.com/membership-articles/how-to-select-an-online-payment-service-provider.

Other things to consider when deciding whether to set up online donations include how potential donors will know it is an option on your website and how you will connect with donors after an online donation to make sure they receive the receipts and acknowledgement they need. For other ideas, see "10 Online Fundraising Best Practices for Nonprofits" at www.nptechforgood.com/2014/08/24/10-online-fundraising-best-practices-

for-nonprofits/. And, don't forget to let people know that their contributions are tax deductible. In Idaho, individuals and corporations who contribute to public libraries are eligible for additional tax credit. See more at libraries.idaho.gov/page/public-library-contribution-tax-credit and visit libraries.idaho.gov/page/donate to see what the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) Donate page looks like.

Online donations have increasingly become the preferred method for many potential donors. Check out some of the resources mentioned above and see if an online donation option makes sense for your library.

eBranch WordPress Websites Now Available by Edgar Correa, ICfL web developer

A new WordPress version of the eBranch program is now available. You can find more details at <http://ebranch.lili.org>. Some of the new features include:

- Multiple theme choices available.
- All themes respond to any mobile device.
- Multiple plugins and widgets to add sliders, newsletters, custom forms, etc.
- Easy WordPress customizer helps you create content.
- Documentation and support available.
- Same domain and web hosting provided.

We will continue support for your current Drupal website, but if you would like to migrate to WordPress, contact us to add you to the waiting list.

Any other questions please contact us at <http://ebranch.lili.org/contact/> or 208-639-4173.

Living the Community's Vision by Shirley Biladeau and Teresa Lipus

Between 2000 and 2014, Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) completed 33 Community Reviews around the state. In 2014, Josh Hightree, working with the Center for Resilient Communities at the University of Idaho, conducted a meta-analysis⁽¹⁾ of 26 of these Community Reviews and provided these results to IRP. Out of 67 community values ranked in the reviews⁽²⁾, fire protection was most valued, with an average score of 4.01. Second in importance, right behind fire protection with an average score of 3.99, was the quality of the library—outranking basic services such as garbage collection and disposal (3.62), water supply/quality (3.40), quality of K–12 education (3.33), and availability and quality of healthcare services (3.13). From Aberdeen to Kuna and from Bonners Ferry to New Meadows to Soda Springs, Idahoans expressed great satisfaction with the quality of the public libraries in their rural communities in the digital age.

Idaho Commission for Libraries staff interviewed the directors of five highly-rated libraries to identify key contributing factors in the libraries' community value:

- Stephanie Adamson, Aberdeen District Library
- Sandra Ashworth, Boundary County District Library, Bonners Ferry
- Anne Hankins, Kuna District Library
- Audrey Crogh, Meadows Valley District Library, New Meadows
- Cindy Erickson, Soda Springs Public Library

Each library was involved in the Community Reviews to some degree. Library representatives or board members served on committees, meetings were held at the library, librarians were interviewed, or reviewers observed library staff in action. "The IRP review opened our eyes," Anne Hankins said. "In 'study circles' they asked community members what they wanted.... We are grateful for the review, because it gave us more opportunities to partner with the community and schools." Cindy Erickson, whose library had just started looking at expansion, said, "The timing of the review was good. The community's perception of building on to the library has changed; now people are supportive of the idea and we put together a committee of movers and shakers."

Some common themes emerged as the directors spoke of the library's role in the community and why they thought their libraries were highly ranked.

Highly Valued Library Services

All five directors believe that their community members value the Internet, community space, customer service, and programs the library provides.

Internet: Public access Internet, computers, and online resources at the library support workforce development, educational needs, recreational activities, and connections with friends and family. Many libraries are the

only source of free or high-speed Internet for some households in their communities. "A lot of people still don't have Internet or computers," said Audrey Crogh. "High-speed Internet options are getting better, but in this economy some still can't afford it." People come to the library to search for jobs, file for unemployment, file taxes, find housing, find homework help, study for GED and other tests, play games, and connect with people online.

Space: Especially in smaller rural communities, libraries provide prized community space. They provide meeting space for homeowners associations, 4-H, Horsemen's Association, Scouts, and many other civic groups. Libraries are also a safe and inviting place for teens to hang out, make activities to happen, and people to socialize. In addition to being the community hub, the library often serves as the "community bulletin board," where people can find out about upcoming events, community meetings, and other important information.

Customer Service: "The key to getting people in the door and coming back is customer service," Erickson stated, "People need to trust that you will help them. Libraries are repositories of and access to information, but it doesn't matter what you have if someone won't approach you." The Soda Springs Public Library posted lettering on their door that greets people when they arrive: "You've

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Got A Friend At The Library.” And inside Kuna District Library, large, cheerful lettering viewable from behind the service desk reminds staff that “Patrons are the Reason, not the interruption.”

Programs: Librarians in small rural communities report that few cultural, social, or civic activities are available. Libraries offer programs that provide cultural opportunities; early and family literacy resources; recreation/edutainment; workforce development; computer skill building; after-school programs; and educational and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) learning. Stephanie Adamson said, “There are few options for teens in Aberdeen, so the library updated the teen area and offers maker activities, gaming, and more. There has also been a lot of recent interest in the GED preparation resources.” Crogh added, “We are focused on programs and we promote them widely.”

Supporting These Valued Services

Librarians support and enhance these valued library services by listening to what the community needs, developing community partnerships, engaging their trustees, and demonstrating library leadership.

Listening to the Community:

Librarians identify community needs by listening to library users, getting out into the community, and developing relationships. Sandra Ashworth stated, “You need to get out into the community or you

will have no idea what’s going on and you will make assumptions.” Years ago, at a Bonners Ferry high school assembly, students were asked how many planned on leaving town as soon as they graduated and how many hoped to come back. About 75% of the students raised their hands for both questions. They wanted to come back if they could get a job, so Boundary County District Library focuses on programs to keep young people in the area. The library has an ongoing internship program, is now a youth business incubator, and sponsors an annual business fair competition where students envision and develop business ideas. The library also acquired grants to fund a digital technology center—a Fab Lab—that will equip residents with a “toolbox” and provide access to new ideas and technologies.

Community Partnerships:

Librarians nurture community partnerships with businesses, schools, government entities, and other organizations. Crogh explained, “Our community has to work together to get anything done.” Ashworth agreed, saying, “For us, it’s survival. We can’t afford to duplicate services. If we’re going to do anything, it has to involve partners.” Sometimes it’s the organizations reaching out to the library to form partnerships. The Rotary Club of Aberdeen asked Adamson to speak about library services and Blackfoot’s Partners for Prosperity works with Aberdeen District Library to enhance services to the Hispanic population. In Soda Springs, the

Community Vision, continued from page 4

Chamber of Commerce approached the library about partnering for Geyser Days and the Rotary and Lions Clubs partner with the library for 4th of July celebrations. In addition to collaborating with various partners, librarians are also “matchmakers,” connecting people and organizations to each other.

Trustees: Effective libraries recruit trustees who are “key information” people and have a community view. These trustees serve as community liaisons, they keep well-informed about community activities, work at the schools, are business people, and are movers and shakers.

Trustees connect the library to the community and provide the insider information to the library that assists in developing programming and services to meet the ever-changing needs of the community

Leadership: Library leadership needs the “insider’s information” that comes from community partnerships and engaged trustees. Leadership is not necessarily telling people what to do; rather, it’s continuous planning; sharing information so people realize what everyone can do, what their limitations are, and how can they can work together to get somewhere at the same time; and being resourceful and flexible regardless of which path you end up taking to get there. Ashworth said, “The library is part of an ecosystem. It’s a three legged stool with the legs being economic, social, and environmental. The library vision needs to tie in with the community vision.”



325 W. State St.
Boise, ID 83702-6055

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IRP’s analysis shows that public libraries are contributing to rural sustainability by helping meet needs that are common across many rural communities. At a wrap-up Community Review meeting in Aberdeen, the IRP presentation included a slide that speaks to how countless Idahoans view their libraries: “Library: Innovative, friendly, safe, with excellent leadership and positive community impact...Support it with all your heart.” View IRP Community Reviews at irp.idaho.gov/home/community_review/.

1. Hightree, J., Kliskey, A., Alessa, L., Field, M., Barrett, J., Higgins, L., Laninga, T. “Themes in Community Resilience: A Meta-analysis of

15 years of Idaho Community Reviews.” In preparation for *Journal of Rural and Community Development*

2. Each community received a unique survey, but 67 questions with Likert rating scales recurred six or more times and were adjusted to a 1 to 5 scale. Average values for these 67 survey questions were ranked and showed a very normal distribution centered at 3.02 with only two values above two standard deviations, fire protection (4.01) and quality of the library (3.99).

Continuing Education Grants

Continuing Education Grants are available through the Idaho Commission for Libraries for trustees, library directors, and library staff. Find out more in the following brochures:

Trustees -
libraries.idaho.gov/files/trusteeFINAL20141204.pdf

Directors -
libraries.idaho.gov/files/directorFINAL20141204Sbil.pdf

Staff -
libraries.idaho.gov/files/staffFINAL20141204Sbil.pdf