

NEWS RELEASE

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National Library Week Celebrated in Idaho

Boise, Idaho – National Library Week is April 9 - 15, 2017. Each April, the contributions of our nation’s libraries and librarians are celebrated and library use is promoted. First observed in 1958, National Library Week is a campaign sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country.

In Idaho, as part of National Library Week, Idaho Snapshot Day is celebrated. This is one day that Idaho libraries choose to document their activities, usage, and events. The data captured showcases the impact Idaho libraries have on their communities during a typical day.

In Idaho, visits to public libraries and attendance at library programs have increased dramatically, particularly in the past five years. In fiscal year (FY) 2015, there were more than 8.6 million visits to public libraries throughout Idaho.

Library program attendance by adults grew 40 percent from FY 2010 to 2015. In FY 2014, Idaho libraries had the 5th highest per capita circulation of children’s materials and attendance at children’s programs in the nation. Attendance at young adult programs ranked 7th per capita and has grown 139% percent over the past five years.*

Idaho State Librarian Ann Joslin said, “It is so rewarding to see library usage at an all-time high in our state, particularly by the youngest Idahoans. As children and young adults partake in library programs in record numbers throughout the Gem state, it is encouraging to see that participation in initiatives such as Make It at the Library, along with reading and literacy, are helping to educate and inspire the next generation of Idahoans.”

Libraries have evolved from places known only for research, reading, and reflection, to becoming the community’s bustling hub of innovation, education, and engagement.

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*Source: [Idaho Public Library Statistics](#) (which cites the most recent data available).