



Vol. 6 No. 5 – May 14, 2010

Published monthly by [Read to Me](#), a service of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL)

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Welcome!



We hope your library enjoyed celebrating children's books and authors during **Children's Book Week!**

Since 1919, Children's Book Week has been celebrated nationally in schools, libraries, bookstores, clubs, private homes -- any place there are children and books. Educators, librarians, booksellers, and families have celebrated children's books and the love of reading with storytelling, parties, author and illustrator appearances, and other book-related events.

It all began with the idea that children's books can change lives. In 1913, Franklin K. Matthews, the librarian of the Boy Scouts of America, began touring the country to promote higher standards in children's books. He proposed creating a Children's Book Week, which would be supported by all interested groups: publishers, booksellers, and librarians. [Read more...](#)

Children's Choices Book Awards: One hallmark of Children's Book Week is the only national child-selected book awards program: the Children's Choice Book Awards. See the winners in our [Book Look](#) section!

Future Dates of Children's Book Week:

2011: May 2 - 8

2012: May 7 - 13

Meet Sherrilynn Bair



Sherrilynn Bair has been the library director for the [Snake River School Community Library \(SRSCCL\)](#) for four years. The SRSCCL is a unique partnership serving both the high school and community in the Snake River School District. It is housed in the high school which has approximately 600 students. She describes the library as having an “active and vibrant” environment. I think she means that it is anything but quiet!

As library director Sherrilynn works with all ages – from preschoolers to senior citizens. She originally entered the profession to fulfill a desire to help prepare students for reading success in their lives. She enjoys participating in storytime activities and proudly talks about the program they have developed which serves approximately 300 children per week! They have a new certified teacher joining the team and will be able to better serve the families and increase the number of storytimes to five times per week. The families love the program and continue to spread the word throughout the community.

Sherrilynn is facing many changes and exciting challenges this year. She had two long time staff members retire recently and is in the process of training their replacements. She is excited about having new blood and sees this as a unique opportunity to embrace new philosophies and enact positive changes within the library. They are also starting a remodeling project in June 2010 that will last approximately one year and she is actively involved in monitoring the project. And if that were not enough to keep her busy, she is also revising the library's policy manual this summer.

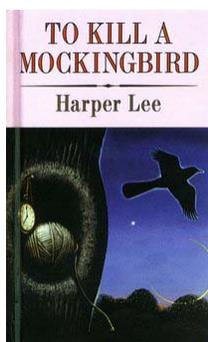


facebook

Sherrilynn states that her biggest success so far has been the addition and improvement of technology services offered at the library. Their new website is up and running and includes audio downloads and electronic resources. They installed a computer lab and created a page on [Facebook](#) so you can visit them there as well.

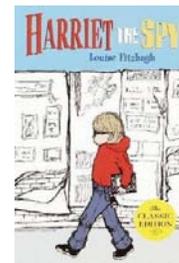
When we met with her at the ILA conference in Soda Springs at the end of April, she explained that maintaining a balance between meeting the needs of the community and meeting the needs of the school students is one of her biggest challenges. Each population has a unique set of requirements and she has high hopes that the new staff will assist her in maintaining the necessary balance.

Sherrilynn says that her favorite aspect of the job is working with her patrons to increase the excitement they have for libraries and reading. She loves to see individuals get turned on to reading and enjoys being a part of helping that happen. Sherrilynn keeps current on new literature through the use of audio books. She listens to them while driving, during housework, and while quilting. They have become her new favorite way to enjoy literature since they allow her to multi-task.



As a child, Sherrilynn loved all types of fiction books and was an avid reader. She enjoyed the book *Mrs. Mike*, by Benedict and Nancy Freedman – “a classic saga of love and courage in the Canadian wilderness” and clearly remembers falling in love with *To Kill A Mockingbird* as a teenager. She still talks passionately about the impact the book had on her to this day.

Sherrilynn lists her favorite book as *Harriet the Spy*, by Louise Fitzhugh. She kept a notebook with “nice things about people” for many years and still keeps a gratitude journal about people for whom she is thankful. Sherrilynn recently finished reading *Tipping Point*, by Malcolm Gladwell and Suzanne Collin’s books *Hunger Games* and *Catching Fire*.



Her favorite flavor of ice-cream is chocolate with lots and lots of nuts. When she's not working she loves to quilt – especially for her grandbabies. She has a 6-month old grandbaby and a new one due in July. Congratulations Sherrilynn!

Library to Library



Star’s Spring Break Luau is a Big Hit



The weather during spring break this year hardly seemed spring-like to most of us, but that didn’t stop about 175 children and their parents from putting on their beach wear and heading to the Star Branch of the Ada Community Library for a fun-filled Spring Break Luau.

Library Director Joy Lear started the event by reading *The Deep Blue Sea*, by Audrey Wood. Then everyone received a lai and a passport. Each “island” had an activity that the children could do. Once the activity was completed, a stamp or sticker was put in their passports.

Youth Services Librarian Denise Burnett said the passports help break up the large crowd and makes things more manageable. “We have staff or teen volunteers at each station (or island in this case) to oversee the activities and stamp the passports. It keeps people moving throughout the library and makes it fun for everyone.” Denise said they had more people turn out than expected so teen volunteers copied more passports to add to the 120 they had prepared in advance.



Lana'i, the Pineapple Island, had a beach relay and bowling with pineapple pins and a coconut ball (later replaced with something a little more durable and just as much fun). The O'ahu Island was full of children working on a scratch art craft. The annex building, or the Garden Island Kaua'i, featured hula dancing with bamboo rhythm sticks (borrowed from Boise Public Library) and tropical drinks and fruit. The big island, Hawai'i, brought visitors from all over to witness the amazing volcano. Hawaii trivia and a search for the letters in the Hawaiian alphabet were other activities that entertained all ages. The library promoted the program well in

advance and had cute die-cut flower invitations out at the circulation desk, at storytimes, and at the nearby elementary school.

The staff members at Star have done these big programs during spring break for the past four or five years. Last year's Alice in Wonderland event was also a big success. They've also had good luck with a Pirates & Princess theme and fantasy and fairy tales themes. “We find that many of our families stick around for spring break and they really look forward to these big events. We get the whole staff involved and they are really a lot of fun.”

Denise and Mary Coles shared these tips at ILA in Caldwell:

How to Create a Big Program at a Small Library

- Start planning early.
- Brainstorm and get lots of ideas.
- Include all staff and patrons too.
- Plan ahead and make assignments.
- Get extra help if you can. Teens or other volunteers make things run more smoothly.
- Follow up on assignments.
- Set up early. It helps promote your event and gets people in the mood. The wonderful waves were created out of cardboard boxes and some paint and they plan on using them all summer too!
- Have fun!



The wonderful waves were created out of cardboard boxes and some paint and they plan on using them all summer too!



Program attendance strong at Buhl Public Library



Reaching out to local schools has been very rewarding for Buhl Public Library. A huge crowd came out to join in their Cinco de Mayo program, which featured guest reader Arceli Huicochea, an ESL teacher from Popplewell Elementary. Arceli told the story of Cinco de Mayo and read a bilingual book to a group of 68 children and adults. Mexican corn chips were donated by Mi Puebla Bakery as a special treat, and children had the opportunity to create cute characters out of chili peppers.

Buhl's after school program has also been very active. The After School Book Club children recently planned and hosted two events: One was Disney Coming to Life at which they had 27 kids who portrayed their favorite character, and the other was a Kentucky Derby "Hat" party at which they made hats and watched the derby and parts of "My Fair Lady."



Young Adult Corner



Lewiston City Library Creates New Teen Center Thanks to Wal-Mart Grant

The **Lewiston City Library** recognized the need for a designated Teen Center in their library to better serve the young adults in their community. Almost 25 percent of the population in Lewiston is 12 to 19 years of age, yet there were limited community programs and no special area in the library they could call their own. The library also recognized that teens have



different learning styles and interests which could be specifically targeted with the addition of the Teen Center. They felt strongly that the creation of the center would demonstrate that adults care about and respect their needs and support their activities. Motivated by these important details, the library applied for the Wal-Mart Foundation's "Strengthening Library Services for Youth in Idaho" grant.

As one of 14 projects funded, they were able to fulfill their vision and design a new section of the library just for teens with the \$10,000 grant. In preparation for the changes, they held a ground-breaking ceremony on April 29, 2009. First Lady Lori Otter, Wal-Mart Manager Brian Mansfield, and Confluence Press Publisher James Hepworth joined with local teens and parents to form a 'bucket brigade' in order to move books and kick off the renovation.

Phase One of their project focused on creating the physical space and acquiring new furniture and technology. The new area was painted with bold blue, green, and orange; new café style tables and chairs were installed; and bookshelves were re-arranged to create an inviting teen space. Two new MAC laptops, digital cameras, and an entertainment system including a retractable screen, projector and DVD player were purchased. The project funded the purchase of a core collection of college prep materials to enhance the Teen Center even further.



Another component of the project was a teen publishing workshop called Express Yourself @ Your Library. In June 2009, nine teens attended the workshop led by publisher James Hepworth. The teens were charged with the task of writing their own books including completing the photography, editing, and publishing to create the finished product. Although



some students struggled at times with the instructor's directions and the complexity of the project, each one met the challenge and completed their book by the end of the session. The full color, hardbound books were displayed to the public and then the teens had the opportunity to take them home. The library plans to offer another workshop in the future to capitalize on the teen's success.

In the fall of 2009 Phase Two - Teen Gaming @ Your Library got under way with the purchase of a Nintendo Wii System and several games including *Guitar Hero*. The new

Wii debuted at a Teen Game Night event and was a hit. The library staff are seeing a steady increase in use of the gaming system as teens talk it up among their peers.

The library conducted a survey asking teens several questions about their library use and received a total of 46 responses. Almost 40 percent said they used the library weekly or more. The survey also showed that 50 percent reported using the MAC laptops for research – a surprisingly high percentage! Teens had a section on the survey where they could offer ideas on classes and events they would like to see hosted at the Teen Center. The library took these suggestions to heart and has already incorporated some of their ideas into the programming.

The library's main goals with this project were to increase programs for teens and increase teen attendance at the library. They appear to have met these goals with the creation of the Teen Center. They are seeing a slow and steady rise in attendance by kids ages 12 to 19 since it opened. In addition to increased attendance by their "regulars" they have seen some new faces come through



the door. They expect this trend will be even more pronounced this summer. An added benefit has been the increased use of the teen center during the school day by their home-schooled population.

The library took several steps to ensure sustainability of the program. They are actively pursuing a video game collection and already offer several weekly and monthly teen programs. Ongoing programs using the space include; game night, scrapbooking, teen book club, T-shirt transformation, and teen poetry program. Plans to expand their offerings are already under way with a "Battle of the Bands" program planned for this summer. Teens are already practicing in preparation for the competition and the battle could be a fierce one. Another addition over the summer will be weekly movie nights. Overall the library feels the program is a success and of great benefit to Lewiston area teens.



Teen Read Week is October 17-23, 2010



Books with Beat @ Your Library is this year's theme for Teen Read Week and the TRW Coordinating Committee is already brainstorming. Every member of the TRW team showed up at our April webinar and we had lively and inspiring discussions about themes, marketing ideas, and next steps.

The Committee goals are to increase throughout Idaho:

1. Awareness of Teen Read Week
2. The number of school and public libraries participating in Teen Read Week
3. The number of teens attending Teen Read Week activities
4. Teen involvement in planning for Teen Read Week

Stay tuned for more ideas and information on TRW 2010 in the coming months. We hope many public and school libraries will consider hosting an event this year.

Book Look

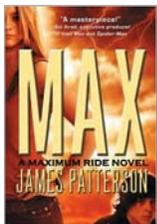


Children's Choice Awards

One hallmark of Children's Book Week is the only national child-selected book awards program: the Children's Choice Book Awards. [Background information...](#) The 2010 awards were announced on May 11.

And the winners are...

Author of the Year



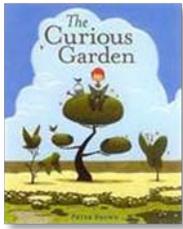
James Patterson for *Max* (A Maximum Ride Novel: vol. 5) (Little, Brown)



When millions of fish start dying off the coast of Hawaii and something is destroying hundreds of ships, the government enlists the Flock--a band of genetically modified children who can fly--to help get to the bottom of the disaster before it is too late.

Illustrator of the Year

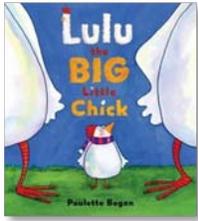
Peter Brown for *The Curious Garden* (Little, Brown)



Liam discovers a hidden garden and with careful tending spreads color throughout the gray city.

Kindergarten to Second Grade Book of the Year

Lulu the Big Little Chick, by Paulette Bogan (Bloomsbury USA)



When Lulu gets tired of being told she is too little to do things, she decides to go far, far away.

Third Grade to Fourth Grade Book of the Year

Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute, by Jarrett J. Krosoczka (Knopf/Random House)



The school lunch lady is a secret crime fighter who uncovers an evil plot to replace all the popular teachers with robots.

Fifth Grade to Sixth Grade Book of the Year

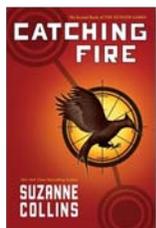
Dork Diaries: Tales from a Not-so-fabulous Life, by Rachel Renee Russell (Aladdin/Simon & Schuster)



Fourteen-year-old Nikki Maxwell writes in her diary of her struggle to be popular at her exclusive new private school, then of finding her place after she gives up on being part of the elite group.

Teen Choice Book of the Year

Catching Fire, (sequel to *Hunger Games*) by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic)



By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion.

Special: Several Idaho schools participated in this year's Children's Choice Award nominee process. See the October 23, 2009 issue of The Scoop, "Idaho Participates in Children's Choice Award."

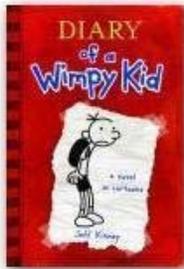


Young Reader's Choice Awards

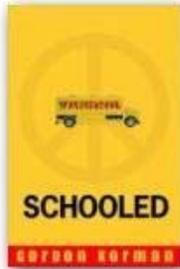
From Joy Lear, Manager, Star and Hidden Springs Branch Libraries

I want to congratulate all of you for promoting and encouraging voting for the YRCA's in Idaho. We had our best turnout ever I believe – with **3,939** votes counted in the state. If you didn't get your votes in, hey – we will do it again next year!

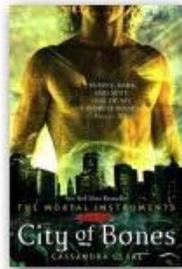
The 2010 winners are:



Junior



Intermediate



Senior

Junior level – **Diary of A Wimpy Kid** (with 42.4% of the entire vote)(winner in ID as well)

Intermediate level – **Schooled** (with 24% of the vote) (ID winner was Peak with 17.5% of total vote)

Senior level – **City of Bones** (with 33.5% of the vote) (winner in ID as well)

Upcoming Events

May is **Get Caught Reading Month** – It is a nationwide campaign to remind people of all ages how much fun it is to read, but the campaign is promoted throughout the year. For more see www.getcaughtreading.org/getcaughtreading.htm

May is also **Latino Book Month** - Throughout the month of May, booksellers, librarians, and others in the book industry are encouraged to promote reading among Latinos in their communities, and to raise awareness of the rich variety of books authored by Latinos that are available in both English and Spanish. Read more at www.publishers.org/main/Latino/latino_02.htm

May is **Better Hearing and Speech Month**... an entire month dedicated to two essential communication tools that can be affected by medical conditions. Find out more at www.asha.org/bhsm/

June 20 is **Father's Day**

Authors' Birthdays in June include:

June 6 – **Geraldine McCaughrean** (born in 1951). Author of *The Pirate's Son*, *Gold Dust*, and *Forever X*. For more see www.teenreads.com/authors/au-mccaughrean-geraldine.asp

June 9 – **Gregory Maguire** (born in 1954). He is the author of the novels *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister*, and many other novels for adults and children. www.gregorymaguire.com/about/ for more.

June 12 – **Anne Frank** (1929-1945). Read some of Anne's diary [entries](#).

June 14 – **Michael O. Tunnell** (born in 1950). Author of several picture books, including the award-winning *Mailing May*. Go to www.michaelotunnell.com/ for more.

June 18 – **Angela Johnson** (born in 1961). Author of *Bird, Heaven, I Dream of Trains* and more. See www.visitingauthors.com/authors/johnson_angela/johnson_angela_bio.html

June 26 – **John Archambault** (born in 1959). Known for his best-selling classic *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* which he wrote and dedicated to his son. Read more at www.johnarchambault.com/about.html



Summer Reading News

Have you checked out the ICFL [Summer Reading Resources](#) website lately? We've uploaded several new resources...



Evaluating Your Summer Reading Program

ICFL Library Survey: If you are an Idaho library planning to offer a children's and/or teen summer reading program, please prepare to collect participation statistics this summer and submit them to the ICFL by August 31. The questions we will ask and notes on collecting your data can be accessed below.

Summer reading program materials, such as CSLP program manuals and Bright Futures materials, are LSTA-funded. Libraries using the statewide theme or who are participating in Bright Futures, are required to submit their participation statistics to the ICFL. These statistics are used by the ICFL to fulfill reporting requirements issued by IMLS (the Institute for Museum and Library Services), which administers LSTA at the federal level. Failure to report your data will jeopardize your library's eligibility for future summer reading materials.

We will collect your data using a Survey Monkey survey that we will send out in June. The survey should be completed by each library branch. Please do not send any data directly to ICFL staff.

Thank you in advance for collecting your data and submitting them to us! Your information helps us demonstrate the amount of summer reading activity taking place in Idaho's libraries, and helps us continue to improve the services we offer to you.



[Printable Survey Questions to preview](#)

If you have any questions, please email Staci Shaw at staci.shaw@libraries.idaho.gov.

Patron Surveys: Do you ask students and/or parents to fill out a survey at the end of your summer reading program? If so, we would like to hear from you. We would like to get a feel for

what survey formats libraries are using and which kinds of data are being collected. If you're willing to share your survey with us, please send a sample to Staci.



From Collaborative Summer Library Programs (CSLP):

- CSLP members may now use Upstart catalog materials for library fundraisers. Here is the wording from the Rules of Use section of the CSLP bylaws:

“A CSLP member or a 501(c)(3) organization that is associated with a CSLP member may resell purchased items solely for the purpose of supporting the charitable or educational purposes of the CSLP member. Resale is not permitted in any other circumstances.”
- The Public Service Announcements are now available for your libraries to order through the CSLP/Upstart order outlets. These may be ordered on-line (through the [CSLP website](#)), by fax (800-448-5828), or by phone (800-448-4887).

The available formats and product item numbers are:

- DVD format K2W-H165187 @ 2.75 each
- VHS format K2W-H165188 @ 3.50 each
- Continuous VHS Loop format K2W-H165189 @ 5.00 each
- Beta format K2W-H165186 @ 35.00
- Digi Beta format K2w-H172898 @ 55.00 each

DVD Pro format will be available in the near future. Please call customer service at 1-800-448-4887 if this is the format you need to order.

The PSAs are also loaded on the CSLP website to preview or download.



“Make a Splash” Song from BillyGorilly.com: Free 60 second promotional song



TeachingBooks.net

The links below provide instant access to comprehensive collections of online materials that support the 2010 themes. The collections include:

- Author interviews
- Audio booktalks with authors and illustrators
- Book discussion and activity guides
- Audio recordings of author name pronunciations
- Links to author and illustrator Web sites

Libraries can use these tools for staff development, programming, book clubs, and technology integration.

Youth manual resources: <http://teachingbooks.net/cslp>

Teen manual resources: <http://teachingbooks.net/cslpt>

School Zone



School librarians inspiring teachers to use technology to improve/enhance learning

by Gena Marker, Teacher-Librarian at Centennial High School in Meridian

Collaboration. Sharing. Swapping. Bouncing ideas off one another. Call it what you like; librarians and teachers are pros at it, and therefore, none are better than teacher-librarians to promote literacy of information and communication technology. Especially in times of tight or non-existent budgets, teacher-librarians can and should be the ones promoting, teaching, and encouraging the use of free resources. Not only should we teach our students and assist the teachers with whom we work, but we should also be collaborating with our fellow librarians. Doing so can only benefit our patrons.



How can we get together in order to share great ideas? If you've had your staff cut, or hours reduced, you know how hard it is to get away from your library in order to have a face-to-face with other librarians. If you can attend conferences, and have the budget to do so, more power to you. If you are part of a consortium or school district with members that regularly meet in order to discuss new ideas, best practices, and trouble-shoot common problems, great. If not, no worries – just bring the collaborative environment to your door!

Right about now you might be thinking, "How, can I do that, when I can barely step away from the circ desk?" First of all, make sure that you and your staff are signed up for LibIdaho, and let the good ideas stream across your desktop. Second, sign up for one of the many opportunities offered by ICFL: Teens & Technology, Partnerships and Conversations, the Washington Moms workshop, or the Teen Read Week Committee, just to name a few. The connections you make, both in person and online via Wimba sessions and the like, will surely spark new ideas, and it's these ideas that will breathe new life into your library programming. Are you on WebJunction? How many courses have you signed up for? How many groups do you belong to? Do you monitor those groups periodically – weekly, maybe, or, at least monthly? How many library-related, or technology-related RSS feeds do you have on your Reader? How often do you *at least skim* those feeds? Have you set up any Google Alerts that come directly to your email inbox? Do you read blogs, or blog, yourself? Among your consortium group or fellow school district teacher-librarians, do you post new ideas to a common wiki? Or, at the very least, email each other with best practices? Do you provide in-service training, both to your library staff and the teachers or ancillary staff with which you work? If you are in a public library, have you reached out to teacher-librarians in your service area? If you work in a school, have you contacted your local public librarians to see what "teen expertise" you can share with them?

In the past year I have at least dabbled in all of the above collaborative and resource-sharing environments. Doing so has had a profound effect on both my learning curve and instructional toolbox. Thanks to ICFL for the Flip Camera and marketing and advocacy strategies, and my principal for allowing me time during an in-service to introduce it to staff, nearly 25% of the staff at Centennial High School spent their classroom funds on Flip Cameras. Teachers have reported using them for everything from filming student presentations in class to having



students make digital booktalks. This was the result of participating in Teen Read Week and ICFL's Partnerships and Conversations workshop. Free Web 2.0 resources abound, and there is no better time than the present to show them to your patrons. Participating this year as a mentor for ICFL's Teens and Technology course gave me just as many new ideas as did being involved last year as a participant. I was already familiar with www.animoto.com as a fabulous tool for making videos, but I didn't know until recently that educators can upgrade their account for free. Are you looking for ways to prevent *Death by PowerPoint*? How about using www.glogster.com, www.voicethread.com or www.xtranormal.com as other presentation options? Do you have patrons

who don't have the latest software on their home computer, or students who work on multiple computers and need to easily save their work? If so, introduce them to Google Docs. What about Google's other features? Do any of your patrons have their own iGoogle homepage? Additionally, what about helping patrons get creative with www.wordle.net or www.picnik.com? How about collaborating by making a wiki using www.pbworks.com or www.wikispaces.org? Looking for great ideas? Follow teacher-librarian Joyce Valenza's blog at www.schoollibraryjournal.com .

No matter where your new information comes from, your patrons will reap the rewards of your collaborative efforts. You'll meet others, either online or in person, and pass on good tips. You'll bring those tips back to your staff or other co-workers, and teach them new ways of solving old problems. Your staff will then show your patrons. It won't stop there – if you share with them, they'll reciprocate, and before you know it, your patrons will be forming your first library advisory board, or other volunteer group, and they'll donate their time to teach others. And to think it all began with an idea that came across Libldaho . . .



Mapping the Filter: What Do You Block?

Will Richardson, who hosts a blog called *weblogg-ed – Learning with the Read/Write Web* has created a project called *Mapping the Filter: What do you Block?* He thought it would be interesting to collect and pool what we know about our approach to filtering on a more global scale and try to make some sense of it collaboratively. What do we block, and where do we block it? And, more importantly, why?

He has created a [Google Map](#) where anyone who wants to participate can take a few minutes to add a pin where their school is and add some data about the extent to which they filter. He has tried to make it easy – use a green pin on the map for open, yellow for somewhat open, or red for mostly closed. His hope is to create a visual of the filtering trends worldwide.

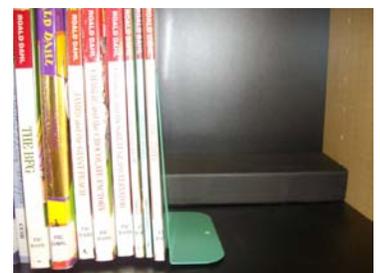
Read the entire blog [here](#).



Elementary Libraries: A Prescription for Success

Not able to attend this great session at the SWILA conference on April 14? Here are some tips and resources from school librarian Sandy Hetzel (Calvary Christian School, Boise):

- Keep baby wipes on hand to wipe down keyboards, table tops, etc.
- Send a list of new arrivals to the teachers including the call numbers for easy locating.
- Have a showing of new arrivals (all types) to the teachers



Use 2" x 4"s cut to size and painted to match shelving. Place them behind books to keep them from being pushed back on the shelves.

- during a faculty meeting. Have a sign out sheet on hand so they can check them out right away. Or host a preview event with refreshments in the library for the teachers.
- Create a Read-a-Like list for students to view. These will help them find other books similar to the authors they prefer.
 - [More...](#)

[Handout: Helpful Books and Websites for School Librarians](#)

[Handout: Building a School Library](#)

Questions? You may contact Sandy Hetzel at shetzel@ccsboise.org



Summer Hiatus

As is tradition, The Scoop will not feature a School Zone section over the summer. See you in September!

Know the Numbers

Texting: Leveraging the Statistics to your Advantage

by Amy Vecchione

- 75 percent of all US teens now own a cell phone
- 88 percent of all US teens, and 72 percent of all US teen cell phone owners, are text-messagers
- 54 percent of all US teens texted daily in September 2009
- 83 percent of all US 17 year olds own a cell phone in 2009
- 32 percent of all US teens share videos on their cell phones



We all know that teens are constantly using their cell phones to text, and the findings from the latest Pew Research Center are only surprising because of how much teens text! One out of every three teens texts over 100 times a day, equating to about 3,000 texts a month! We now also know that there is a gender difference as well. Girls will send and receive 80 messages per day while boys will only send and receive 30.

The report also found that many schools and libraries are treating the phones as something that disrupts learning. Despite having cell phones banned in class, 58% of those teens who are in such schools have still reported that they've sent text messages while in class. Researchers are finding that by using cell phones in the classroom teens will be more engaged and learn more. Maybe this doesn't just apply to the classroom, though, because librarians could create new text message oriented library services.

Imagine what we teachers and librarians could do if we harnessed this resource! I like picturing really engaged teens all across the state who use their mobile phones in classrooms and libraries to learn.

Text message reference, or SMS reference, is somewhat new to the library scene, but can be implemented easily because of some free tools. The idea is that anyone could text a question to the library and the library can provide a quick 140 character answer. There are some other web services out there that will answer text questions, but they're not authoritative. New tools like Cha-Cha, Yahoo! Answers, (both free services answered by members of the public) and KGB (a fee based service where each "answer" costs \$0.99) are very successful and currently

dominate the text messaging information world. Why aren't more libraries in on the action? Using cell phones and text messaging will engage learners! Look below for tips and resources.

What We Can Do

- Consider offering SMS (short message service) reference or text message reference services. This service can cost nothing by using Google Voice, or next to nothing by using one of the fee services. SMS reference can be staffed easily, too. This could really make an impact with teens.
- Think about the cell phone like a calculator, says Barbara Schroeder of CoolTeachers.org, "Like in the traditional classroom, some students do not own one. In the same way teachers provide calculators for classroom use. Prepaid, limited use phones and mobile devices can be employed. A phone worth \$80 could supplement the instruction for a number of students while allowing them to participate and even take an active roll." <http://coolteachers.org/chris/2009/10/2/using-mobile-devices-in-the-classroom.html>
- If you are the teacher or instructor you can set up a Google Voice number to communicate with your students! Allow students to text you with questions.
- As a teacher you can also create pop quizzes for students and have them text the answer! One assignment that I came up with asked students to go to a certain call number and tell me what the subject was. Students could send images of the books, text me the subject, email the subject, etc. They could also create mobile phone videos of themselves in that area for extra credit.
- Ask students to do booktalks via text! I've had a lot of success having them video each other on their phones and text me (to my Google Voice number of course) the video of them talking about their book. Giving them alternatives, that they can also write the book talk too, or use email or other methods is helpful for those students who are not interested in using phones for assignments.
- Have students work in teams with one mobile device to do assignments.
- Create assignments that rely on text messaging for the answers! Again the Coolteachers.org website has some amazing ideas such as having them text students in another school, maybe in another country, to learn through socialization. These include:
 - Learning about time zones using the cell phone world clock
 - In an economics class checking stocks
 - Show and tell with the photo messaging capability, which can also be used via email, since each phone has its own unique email address
 - Translating Shakespeare into SMS shorthand (2 b or nt 2 b)

What We Can't Do

Many report that these kinds of services are blocked at their schools and libraries, but watch and listen to Glynda Pfleiger talk about her experiences changing these policies at the Melba School District to get inspired! Turn that "can't" into a "can"! www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSPf9oQ2qo0

More Resources

Teens and Mobile Phones: Text messaging explodes as teens embrace it as the centerpiece of their communication strategies with friends. April 20, 2010
<http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP-Teens-and-Mobile-2010.pdf>

A list of the software used commonly in libraries SMS reference:

[www.libsuccess.org/index.php?title=Online Reference](http://www.libsuccess.org/index.php?title=Online_Reference)

Google Voice www.google.com/voice

Springshare's LibAnswers software www.springshare.com/libanswers/

List of libraries using different types of SMS reference software:

[www.libsuccess.org/index.php?title=Libraries Offering SMS Reference Services](http://www.libsuccess.org/index.php?title=Libraries_Offering_SMS_Reference_Services)



Amy Vecchione is an Assistant Professor/Librarian at Boise State University. She earned her degree from University of Washington I-School in 2007 and loves being a librarian.

A Closer Look at Kuna's Gaming Grant

"Wii Reads" at Kuna Library

Video gaming had been a proven method for drawing school age children to the Kuna Library. Afterschool program attendance increased by roughly 80 percent when the library purchased a Wii gaming system in 2008. Staff felt this was a great start, and they envisioned their library becoming a central hub for the youth in Kuna. However, the one gaming system was soon maxed out and video game programming became painfully time intensive to run. In addition, most of the users were elementary-age children-- teen usage was noticeably low.

Kuna staff did some research, collaborated to define goals and objectives, then applied for and received a Wal-Mart grant from ICFL to implement a gaming program designed to increase literacy and library usage among middle and high school students. "Wii Reads" sought to bring these students back into the library by integrating gaming programs with their children's and young adult book collections.

Grant funding allowed the library to purchase two additional Wii consoles, along with projectors and screens, so that three consoles could run simultaneously during each gaming session in Kuna's community room. New board games were purchased, and tables were set up around the perimeter of the room for board games, card games and reading zones. Gaming magazines and books were also purchased with grant funds and displayed in close proximity to the gaming zone.

Staff created new teen and family programs to add to their existing school-age lineup, such as a special summer reading program targeting teens, a year-round Just for Teens afterschool program, and a specific teen gaming program. "The rewards of this have been significant for our library," said Youth Programs Coordinator Sara Pemberton. "By reaching out to teens, we were actually able to recruit over a dozen teens who, though their volunteering, helped make our summer family and young adult programs a giant



success. In addition, we have a regular crowd of teens who attend our Just for Teens program.”

The program has now been in existence for a little over one year, and has allowed the library to successfully reach out to kids who were not regular library users. School fliers and word of mouth helped bring in a noticeably different clientele. “Having a gaming program and gaming-related materials was a fantastic way to show non-library users that there were materials at the library *just for them*,” Sara said. “These children tended to snap up the gaming magazines, which remained available to kids at all gaming events instead of going into circulation.”

The board games in particular paid tremendous dividends. While the Wii games were a large draw, the board games have been used heavily. “It’s been a joy to watch children teach each other how to play and revel in a mix of low-tech and high-tech offerings,” Sara expressed. “Anyone who claims games have nothing to do with literacy has never seen seven-year-olds stretch their skills to read the rules of *Life* or *Sorry!*”

Attendance and circulation records showed that although there was no discernable change in checkout rates, the programs reached 372 school-age youth, and teen usage of library programs increased from 0 to 71. Sara also said that on an anecdotal note, Wii gaming offered a fantastic method for encouraging group participation. Children who don’t normally participate heavily in group activities were sometimes the stars of the show on gaming days, and sets of kids who normally didn’t pair up would play side-by-side on Wii days. Gaming creates social situations in which kids have to learn and use social skills to interact with one another.

Kuna has plans to keep these programs going. Sara said, “Now that we have the equipment, we can easily refresh the game collection to keep the programs fresh, exciting and relevant to our target audiences.” Kuna is also choosing to add gaming magazine subscriptions to their regular collection due to the success of the grant-funded magazines. In the fall, Wii Reads programming will include interactive leaderboards and avatars.

“In terms of creating a welcoming, engaging environment for all ages and genders, the Wii programs were a giant success,” Sara concluded.

Tips & Tools



Grants and Funding:

Lisa Libraries Foundation

The Lisa Libraries Foundation supplements under-filled bookshelves and provides books to children who may never have owned a book before. The foundation donates new children's books and small libraries to organizations that work with kids in poor and under-served areas. To apply, send a letter about your organization, number of children served, age range of children served, and a breakdown of how the books will be used.

Deadline: Rolling

[Lisa Libraries Foundation](#)

Grants for Urban, Public, and School Libraries

The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation, Inc. annually awards grants to rural and urban public and school libraries serving at-risk children. The Foundation will give priority to applications from

libraries and agencies with real need and limited book budgets. Funds are earmarked for purchasing books for young people, and are not intended for administrative or operational use. Previously-awarded grants have ranged between \$500 to \$3,000. Successful applicants have proposed purchases to update their children's book collections or to expand their holdings in specific areas.

Deadline: June 15, 2010

[Grants for Urban, Public, and School Libraries](#)

Recycle Forward

• [Watch the Video](#)

Digital Wish and CFK are offering Recycle Forward, an approach to getting new technology for preK-12 classrooms by collecting and recycling used electronics and ink cartridges for cash. Anyone can participate in Recycle Forward. Teachers may start their own collection and get their local community involved by approaching local businesses and reaching out to community members and parents.

Deadline: Rolling

Web Site• [Recycle Forward](#)

Science Fair Central

Scotch Brand Products and Discovery Education recently launched a new website supporting educators, parents, and young scientists as they embrace one of the school year's greatest opportunities for project-based learning - The Science Fair. Featuring comprehensive free resources, Scotch Science Fair Central provides clear guidance to teachers and science fair leaders on how to help students capture the spirit of innovation as they plan, complete, and present a successful science fair project.

Deadline: Rolling

Web Site• [Science Fair Central](#)



(The following are reprinted with permission from New Mexico State Library youth services newsletter, April 2010)

Teaching Web Page Evaluation Using Hoax Sites

The Teaching Web Page Evaluation Using Hoax Sites web page lists well-done online hoaxes that librarians, teachers, and parents can use to teach kids and teens about evaluating websites. Go to www.shsu.edu/~lis_mah/documents/TCEA/hoaxtable.html to view the site.

Free First Chapter

To promote John Grisham's new book *Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer*, Dutton Children's Books is offering the first chapter as a free download at www.theodoreboone.com/.

Helping Books/Helping Families Program

The [Helping Books/Helping Families Program](#) is a resource center compiled to assist families and adults with finding and using quality children's literature as a tool for individual and group discussion activities. The [Literature Database](#) is a collection of children's literature titles, both fiction and nonfiction, covering topics that focus on ethical and personal issues relevant to young people. These titles have been reviewed and selected by librarians, teachers, and other trained adults working with children's literature. [Helping Books Resources](#) lists programs, web sites, books, videos, and other tools that provide guidelines for the use of children's literature to generate discussion.



Text4Baby

This is a great service to share with new or expecting moms at your storytimes or on your website- Text4Baby will send FREE messages each week to moms' cell phones to help through pregnancy and baby's first year. Text4baby is an educational program of the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition.
<http://www.text4baby.org/>



Google Wonder Wheel

Thanks to Nancy Peters-Oliver, school librarian at Taft Elementary in Boise, for sharing this tool at the SWILA spring conference in April. Google Wonder Wheel sorts and classifies searches into a visual web, making it easier for kids (and adults!) to narrow down topics. Put your search into the Google bar, then click on Wonder Wheel on the left. Here's what a search on "storytime programming" would look like:

The screenshot shows a Google search for "storytime programming" with approximately 1,550,000 results. The Wonder Wheel visualization is centered on "storytime programming" and branches out into several related terms: "storytime instructions", "storytime api", "fingerplays programming", "early literacy storytimes", "preschool storytime", "children's programs", "storytime programming public library", and "storytime development".

Search results include:

- Amazon.com: Simply Super Storytimes: Programming Ideas for Ages 3 ...** - Twelve excellent ideas for themed storytimes, with plans for programs that educate and entertain equally well. The same song opens each session, ...
- Amazon.com: Storytime Magic: 400 Fingerplays, Flannelboards, and ...** - A unique addition to the programming shelf, this treasure trove of storytime tools is designed to help veteran librarians refresh and enliven ongoing ...
- How to Start a Highly Effective Children's Story Hour at Your Library** - Your local library is the ideal host for your storytime program, because most libraries offer resources and internet access on site. ...
- WebJunction - Webinar Archives** - Jul 29, 2009 ... Libraries are expanding storytime programming to build early literacy skills in their community. The Mission Branch of the San Francisco ...

Multicultural Connections



Mexican Bicentennial

2010 is the 200 year anniversary of Mexican independence from Spain, celebrated on September 16th. Many of us are serving populations who have ongoing ties to Mexico through family, culture, and tradition, and the bicentennial is a big event for them. If you would like to

create a program for the Mexican Bicentennial, or just learn more about the Mexican revolution and the centennial celebrations, check out our featured web link of the month of April: [The Mexican Bicentennial website of the Mexican government, in English.](#)

The site features information in English (also available in Spanish, of course) about Mexican Independence and the history of Mexico that can serve as a guide for your Bicentennial celebration in your library. A video will guide you through the a visual tour of the Paseo de Reforma in Mexico City, you can hear the Mexican national anthem, view and learn the history of the Mexican flag, trace the route of the revolutionary war across Mexican geography and cities, and learn about some of the key figures of the Mexican revolution.



Don't miss out on the celebration of this historic event. Celebrate the 200 year anniversary of the United States of Mexico with your patrons!



Just the Facts...

The holiday of Cinco De Mayo, the 5th of May, commemorates the victory of the Mexican militia over the French army at The Battle of Puebla in 1862. It is primarily a regional holiday celebrated in the Mexican state capital city of Puebla and through the state of Puebla with some limited recognition in other parts of Mexico. It is especially celebrated in U.S cities with a significant Mexican population. It is not, as many people think, Mexico's Independence Day, which is actually September 16th.



Serving Non-English Speakers in U.S. Public Libraries

- [Toolkit from ALA](#)
- [English/Spanish Library Vocabulary](#)
- [Spanish In Our Libraries \(SOL\)](#) – Forms, Flyers and other Resources in Spanish

Children and Libraries in Spanish (CHILES) – resource pages

- [Community outreach ideas submitted in the CHILES Survey](#)
- [Basic guidelines for developing a Spanish-language children's collection](#)
- [New reviews of children's Spanish and bilingual titles from Críticas available](#)
- [Programming Ideas submitted in the CHILES Survey](#) – birth through upper elementary
- [Healthcare information for Spanish-speaking families](#)
- [Poll Results: What are libraries already doing?](#)



Idaho celebrated El Día de Los Niños with some great FIESTAS!

Check out pictures from events across Idaho at the [ICFL website.](#)

CE News You Can Use



Opportunities on WebJunction Idaho – Your only cost is time!

May 26 @ 3 p.m. Mountain / 2 p.m. Pacific: Mission Critical: Services to Spanish Speakers

Now more than ever, programs for Spanish speakers at libraries around the country are seeing record attendance and positive feedback from participants. Find out how your outreach efforts and your community can help position the *library as critical* in the eyes of stakeholders and decision makers. Come hear practical, successful examples of library services targeted to new immigrants, including English Language Learning (ELL), computer instruction, children's concurrent programming, Life Skills workshops and resources, GED workshops, family literacy programming, and how to successfully communicate with library decision-makers, staff, community leaders and officials. [Register Now!](#)



Spanish Language Outreach – Self Directed Course on WebJunction Idaho

This course is for any library staff interested in learning specific, concrete steps they can take to improve their library's outreach efforts to identify and meet the needs of their local Spanish speakers. The course is filled with best practices, case studies, resources, and Web sites to support outreach.

Learning Goals

By the end of this course, learners will be able to:

- Create a plan for developing a computer class for Spanish speakers in your library
- Identify four online sources of curriculum materials for teaching computer skills to Spanish speakers

News Beyond Idaho

When Rosemary Peterson, a Florida school bus driver, grew frustrated with the constant fighting and misbehaving that was taking place on her bus, she came up with simple yet innovative idea. Peterson decided to use the elementary school students' energy and competitive spirit to help them practice reading. Now her bus is as quiet as a library, with students reading books that they will write book reports about in order to win prizes from their beloved driver, known to them as "Miss Kookyi."

See the two-minute story on Nightly News...

Bringing Along a Book for the Ride

NBC, May 05, 2010

Editor's Note: With the large amount of bus time a lot of Idaho students spend each day traveling from rural communities to schools, this could be an excellent partnership opportunity for schools and libraries. Even those who have a relatively short bus ride could greatly benefit. What if there were library book drops on the bus? Contests sponsored by the public library, where the kids were required to walk in the library doors to collect their prizes? Book exchanges? What if the public librarian rode the bus route once per week to check out books

and make book talks? Consider the funding possibilities as well—Target Grants, Read for Your Library, Scholastic Summer Readers, Title I funds, LSTA—there are so many opportunities to take this project to the next level...



Talk Back: We welcome your feedback on anything in *The Scoop*. Just e-mail [Stephanie](#) or [Staci](#) and we'll print your comments in *The Scoop*.

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