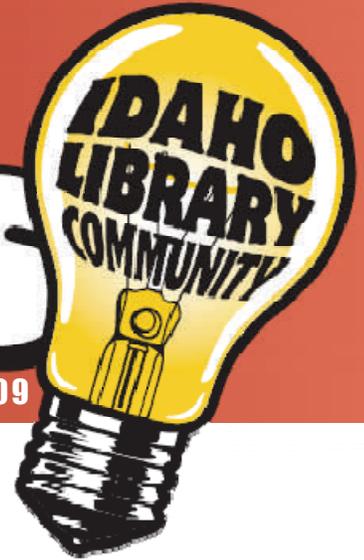


THE Nexus

Vol. 2, No. 1 Jan./Feb. 2009



State Librarian Ann Joslin

Budget Cuts Hit ICFL

by State Librarian Ann Joslin
The Commission for Libraries (ICFL), along with most other state agencies, implemented a four percent holdback of state general account funds in the current fiscal year, FY2009.

With an original FY2009 general account appropriation of \$3,919,500, the four percent, or \$156,700, will be met with a combination of salary savings from vacant positions, about half of our capital replacement budget, and a small percentage of our operating budget. In addition to foregoing scheduled replacement of staff workstations and other equipment, we will reduce spending in a number of expenditure categories including printing, staff development, and travel.

The Governor directed that all agencies hold an additional two percent in reserve in case more holdbacks are needed prior to July 1. We are holding two positions open to help meet that possibility.

The current estimate for FY2010 is that our base budget will be permanently

reduced by 10 percent (the four percent held back this year plus another six percent), or \$381,200.

Our plan to meet the 10 percent reduction, and the budget recommendation we expect from the Governor on January 12, includes:

- Freezing the Professional Development Collection,
- Keeping 1.25 positions vacant for the year, and
- Moving the Talking Book Service program (7 FTE and operating expenses) to LSTA funds.

Congress hasn't appropriated LSTA funds for FY2009, so the full impact of moving the TBS program from state to LSTA funds isn't known. Commission staff who manage LSTA-funded statewide projects are reviewing their FY2009 budgets to identify reductions. Undoubtedly the amount available for competitive grants to libraries will also be reduced.

We've been told that very few requests for new funding will be recommended by the Governor, and we do not expect that our \$652,100 request for the second year expansion of the Read to Me program will

Inside this issue:

Staff Changes	2
Newsletters get a reprieve	
Wal-Mart Donation	2
Find out how your library can cash in!	
ICFL Staff Grieve for Board Member Dick Rognas	3
She Says/She Says	4
A Guest Editorial	
Partnership Secrets or a marriage proposal?	6
News from Around the State	7

Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission:

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

Commissioners:

Pete Black, Bruce Noble,
Sara Staub and Larry Weeks

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

Commission Contacts:

- Anne Abrams, advocacy & marketing consultant
- Charlotte Fowles, electronic service librarian
- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Erin McCusker, southwestern Idaho library consultant
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- Gina Persichini, networking consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho library consultant
- Jennifer Hall, support services supervisor
- Marjorie Hooper, associate state librarian
- Amy Vecchione, digital documents librarian
- Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor
- Peggy McClendon, reading programs coordinator
- Richard Wilson, associate state librarian
- Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant
- Sonja Hudson, grants/contracts officer
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant

be one of them.

We know many of you are in similar budget-cutting positions at your libraries and we hope the economy bounces back

ICFL Staff Changes

The Nexus, *The Envoy*, and the *Talking Book Service Newsletter* will remain in publication. Teresa Lipus will be joining the ICFL team on January 21 as the new Public Information Specialist. She will work on ICFL newsletters and other communications projects. Teresa is a former Idaho library director and has both a degree and considerable experience in the communications field. Julie Pence, who held that position prior to January, was able to find a job closer to her home in the Magic Valley and will be doing PR work for the city of Twin Falls.

Amy Vecchione joined ICFL on January 5 to become the Digital Repository Librarian. "I know many people in the

Wal-Mart donation will fund "Strengthening Library Services for Youth in Idaho" project

In December, Wal-Mart announced its donation of \$100,000 to fund the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) "Strengthening Library Services for Youth in Idaho" project.

The donation will be used to encourage creative thinking and new approaches in for providing innovative services and to help libraries reach more children and families in their communities.

Budget, continued

soon. If you have questions or comments about the impacts of these budget reductions, please contact Ann Joslin at 334-2150 or ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov.

Idaho library community know me from my work with digital content management in other capacities including the IDIG digital consortium," Amy said. "I'm excited to be here and to work on this important project."

Natalie Nation, the former Digital Repository Librarian, is now a branch manager at the Meridian District Library. "We wish her the best of luck in her new position and are glad an Idaho library has tapped into her vast talents," Associate State Librarian Richard Wilson said.

David Guyer is the agency's human resources manager. He works part time in the Boise office. Patrick Schleibaum is also a recent addition to the ICFL support team.

Wal-Mart spokesperson Karianne Fallow commended ICFL for its effort to expand youth services capabilities in new and different directions.

"This donation represents how we as a community believe early education of our children is a priority. It is our hope that the contribution will help foster literacy skills for children of all ages. Wal-Mart is proud to have a community involvement



Check ICFL's Website for LiLI Updates, CE, and More

You'll find our website jam-packed with information to keep you updated. Go to <http://idaho.libraries.gov> and select "Programs & Services" from the upper tabs for:

Continuing Education

- Find the ICFL and WebJunction Idaho online (only one hour!) online training schedule

- Check out free and reduced cost training events

LiLI (Click on LiLI Databases from the right hand menu)

- Find out about the new databases added for 2009

Read to Me (Click on Jump Start)

- It's time to sign up!



Participating libraries provide early literacy packets to parents and a free copy of *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* to each child during kindergarten registration.

ICFL Staff Grieve Over Board Member Dick Rognas's Death

Idaho Commission for Libraries Board Member Richard (Dick) Rognas passed away on December 22, 2008. Richard served on the Idaho State Library/Commission for Libraries Board for seven years.

Richard was born Jan. 30, 1940, in Bozeman, Mont. and attended college in Montana, transferring to the School of Pharmacy at the University of Montana in Missoula, from which he obtained his degree in pharmacy in June 1963. He supported himself through all five years of college, often working 30 hours a week at his job. He married Anita Staigmillier of Eden, Mont., on April 16, 1960 and they had two daughters, Liza and Heidi. Richard worked in several pharmacies in Montana. In 1984, he went to work for D.A. Davidson, a brokerage firm based in Great Falls. After completing his training in the fall of 1984, he and Anita moved to Lewiston, into DAD's newly opened office. After 20 years with this company, he retired in March 2004.

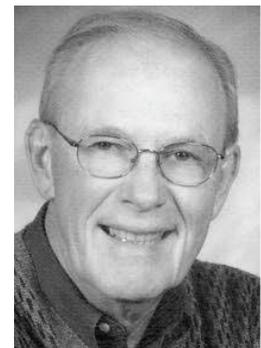
After moving to Lewiston he joined and was very active in the Lewiston Rotary Club. He also volunteered at the Snake

River Community Clinic, where he worked in the pharmacy from its inception in 2000.

In addition to his service to the Commission for Libraries, he also served on the Idaho Community Foundation for one term. The city of Lewiston presented him with an Outstanding Citizen award in the spring of 2003. Recently he was named a 2008 Idaho Business Review Health Care Hero for his volunteerism at the Snake River Community Clinic. A member of the Church of the Nativity, he served on the Vestry and Outreach Committee.

He enjoyed traveling throughout the U.S. and to foreign countries with his wife Anita and their friends, children, and grandchildren. Throughout his life he was a student of history and geography and, after moving to Lewiston, he became interested in theology.

The family requests donations to the Snake River Community Clinic or the Lewiston Library Foundation in lieu of flowers.



Dick Rognas served seven years on the Idaho Commission for Libraries' board.



Beth Twitchell

Beth Twitchell and Jennifer Hills are reference librarians at Twin Falls Public Library.



To shelve your collection is to know your collection.

MLS OR NO MLS, THAT IS THE QUESTION

SHE SAYS/SHE SAYS:

By Beth Twitchell and Jennifer Hills

In between patron questions, the discussion among our Reference Librarians is often scintillating, comprised of witty repartee and heated debate about serious library issues. Okay, not really – we are usually talking about the varying degrees of George Clooney’s hotness. However, since Beth and Jennifer were contractually obligated to write another article, we decided to get a little serious and tackle one of the more interesting topics facing librarians today: the necessity of the MLS. Each of us took a side; here’s our She Says/She Says.

She Says: BETH

Like many professionals in my field, I do not own that magical piece of paper that says, “I know what I’m talking about: I have an MLS!” I believe that a degree is not necessary to make a good librarian. In fact, one does not need it at all, for experience is just as good, if not better, than a classroom setting. Here are a few of my reasons:

1 – *Experience makes you more familiar with your collection.* I spent two years as a library page, shelving books, and in those two years, I practically memorized the Dewey Decimal System. In addition to that, I learned very quickly what books were in the library. This knowledge helps any librarian, as it is very impressive to the patron when you can not only walk right back to the subject area they want, but recommend specific books.

2 – *A degree is not needed for most reference questions.* My mother, herself a library professional, once said that if you can answer the following questions, you’d be the world’s best Reference Librarian: “Can I use the Internet?”; “Do you have a pen I can borrow?”; and, of course, “Where is the bathroom?” A lot of reference questions are somewhat easy, and one does not need an expensive degree to answer them.

3 – *A degree in itself does not show dedication to the profession.* Showing up to work everyday, ready to help, does (and for me, also a deep desire to keep myself in cute shoes). I know many library professionals, who have no more than an Associate’s or a Bachelor’s degree, working at their library for 10, 20, and even 30 years. They are just as dedicated and they love their jobs just as much as those with an MLS.

Now, just so you know, I’m not knocking those who’ve worked for their degrees. They impress me, and I hope one day to join their ranks. However, just because a library professional gets her MLS, she does not overnight become a better librarian. Years of experience contribute to that. My two coworkers have their MLS degrees, but before that, neither worked in a library. Yes, they may have the degree, but I have the experience they don’t, and in my eyes, that makes us equal.

She Says, continued

She Says: JENNIFER

As someone who has just completed her MLS, I must say I'm finding it increasingly difficult to argue against having one (of course, the fact that the diploma on my wall costs about as much as a small Picasso print may give me a huge reason to justify that point of view). There is definitely much to say for those who enter the profession and gain their experience on the front lines. Yet, while I have the utmost respect for those librarians, I feel there is a dangerous precedent being set if we continue to devalue the MLS. Here are a few of my reasons:

1 - *Most courses in library school are taught by professionals in their fields of expertise.* These professionals bring a depth of knowledge, experience, and research that can't often be found outside the classroom. Library school students definitely benefit from their expertise.

2 - *Library school exposes students to the many flavors of librarianship.* I had no clue before I began what different kinds of librarians there actually were (sort of like finding out as a kid the many varieties of ice cream). Taking courses in various subject areas gives the MLS student a chance to broaden his or her knowledge across the spectrum. Conversely, because there are so many flavors, library school allows students to choose fields of specialization. As with many professions, specialization in certain areas is becoming the norm. And, as more organizations look for specialized training, an MLS

certainly provides evidence that a student has an academic grounding in a subject.

3 - *As in other professions, an advanced degree shows a high level of commitment and interest.* Someone who has dedicated time, money, and energy in earning an MLS has invested in a career. These librarians may be more apt to take on additional responsibilities or join professional organizations in order to supplement their educational backgrounds and support the libraries for which they work.

4 - *Finally, unless librarians stand up and remind the powers-that-be that an MLS is important, we face a future with shifting standards.* We see this already in school libraries, where administrators have replaced certified librarians with others whose experience should be equitable. However, many times this is not the case, and we see libraries staffed with teachers who have little library experience. If we devalue the MLS, the value that others place in our libraries may also decline.

Of course, we both concede that the other has some very good points, and this remains a topic of great interest as library school gets more expensive and more training is available. We applaud the ICFL for helping in both these regards; they offer grants for continuing education and for increasing professional development. We'd love to hear from the Idaho library community.



Jennifer Hills

Comments? Log on the Idaho Commission for Libraries' website (libraries.idaho.gov) and post in the Community section!



Librarianship comes in a lot of flavors.



Partnership Secrets

Field Notes

By Anne Abrams



Anne Abrams is the advocacy and marketing consultant for the Idaho Commission for Libraries.

“When a partnership is good, it’s exhilarating and it just seems to get better and better.”

I’m doing a workshop on partnerships soon, and I’ve been thinking about the topic. While brushing up on my research, I found many business models but I also stumbled across partnership tips for marriage. And guess what? Partnerships are a lot like marriage. I hate to admit that, having styled myself as an independent career woman.

I’ve developed several partnerships in my tenure at the Commission. I’ve followed best practices and created formal partnership agreements to keep the partnership alive after key staff have moved on. I’ve developed timelines, budgets, and communication plans to keep the partnership on track and all parties accountable. And I’ve shouldered the responsibility of doing 75 percent of the work. When a partnership is good, it’s exhilarating and it just seems to get better and better. When a partnership is bad, you find yourself going out of your way to avoid it.

I’ve also discovered the secret to successful partnerships: make sure you are working with someone you respect, that you have the same end-result in mind, and you are contributing what comes easily for you.

The Worst Partnership: I was excited about working with a high-profile, special-population advocacy organization. My part of the partnership was to line up workshops in libraries throughout the

state. The partnering organization brought a high-interest topic, the presenter and great give-aways. And we were successful—until I discovered my partner was too zealous and our participants felt they were being sold a product. After realizing our missions weren’t aligned, I gracefully ended the partnership.

The Best Partnership: Well, there are several really good ones, but my favorite is working with First Lady Lori Otter. She agreed to be our Summer Reading Ambassador and I agreed to line up library visits. What made the partnership work well is that she is charming, high-profile, and dedicated to children and education. I liked my side of the partnership too. Libraries were excited about her visit and I helped shape public opinion by ghost-writing press releases and planning the event. What really made the partnership zing was that she became a tremendous advocate for the Read to Me program.

So partnerships are a lot like marriage. They take respect, support, and passion along with a healthy dose of flexibility and tact. And just like any relationship, you never know what the results are going to be unless you try. What makes a partnership maybe even better than a marriage? You can leave it at the office.

How do you feel about partnerships? Log on the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ website (<http://libraries.idaho.gov>) and post in the Community section.



Many ingredients that go into a successful partnership are the same as being happily married.

Wal-Mart , continued

program based on the philosophy of operating globally and giving back locally.”

"This donation from Wal-Mart will help libraries reach more children and families throughout the state. Idaho's public libraries are doing some amazing things and we are excited about the potential to reach more families who can tap into these services," Idaho State Librarian Ann Joslin said.

The \$100,000 donation will be distributed in the form of mini-grants to Idaho public libraries for the purpose of strengthening services for youth up to the age of 18. Awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 will be available on a competitive basis to

Idaho's 104 publicly-funded libraries. The funds will enable librarians to begin needed programs they have previously been unable to undertake. The grants also offer an opportunity to expand youth services capabilities in new or different directions. It is expected that the funding will provide a foundation for ongoing rather than one-time projects that can be continued with community support or through a reallocation of library funds.

Grant application packets have been mailed to every public library in the state and are available on the Commission's web site at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/wal-mart-minigrants>. **They are due February 2, 2009.**



Idaho Library Association Representative Tamra Hawley-House, Wal-Mart Community Involvement Coordinator Amanda Keith, Idaho Community Foundation Interim President Alice Hennessey, First Lady Lori Otter, and State Librarian Ann Joslin were on hand during the news conference at Boise Public Library to accept the donation.

Library News From Around the State

More people than ever are using libraries.

The Idaho Statesman recently printed an article and editorial praising **Boise Public Library**. "When the city's first branch libraries were in the blueprint stage, who could have predicted libraries would become so chic?" the editorial said. With some 17,000 new library cards issued in the past years, the editorial urged Boise leaders to continue plans for a new main library building. Two other branch libraries will open by 2010. Boise Mayor Dave Beiter would like to collect \$15 million to \$20 million in private donations toward the project. (Idaho Statesman, 12-31-08)

Gooding Public Library renovated their library and recently reopened to the public. Volunteers helped with painting and other projects to get the library in shape for the new year. (Times News)

An open house celebrating the "Between Fences" exhibit was held on January 6 at the **Twin Falls Public Library**. BSU's Dr. Lisa Brady presented a talk called "Don't Fence Me In."

Garden City Public Library received a \$3,000 grant from the Idaho Community Foundation to replace aging children's books (Idaho Statesman, 12/27/08)

Eagle Public Library is trying a new program series aimed at ages 9 – 14 and one adult reading partner. The "Race 2 Read Book Club" features great book choices, guest speakers, door prizes, grand prizes, and lots of fun. The free program starts January 20 and then will be held on a Tuesday night once a month through April. The programs are scheduled from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

The American Library

Association reports that library use is up nationwide and that more people than ever are utilizing library resources and services.

Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Applicants Sought for Board of Library Commissioners

The Idaho Commission for Libraries is seeking applicants for the Board of Library Commissioners. A resident of Idaho's First Congressional District is being sought to complete a term that runs through June 30, 2012.

The Board of Library Commissioners is the policymaking body for the Idaho Commission for Libraries, a state agency established to assist libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele. Commission staff actively work with libraries throughout the state to plan and deliver 21st century library services.

The State Board of Education has designated the Board of Library Commissioners as the screening committee for this appointment. The Commissioners intend to have a

recommendation to the State Board of Education for action at its February 2009 meeting.

Service on the Board of Library Commissioners requires that a member be available for meetings approximately eight days each year. The meetings are conference calls or face-to-face, with the majority of the face-to-face meetings held in Boise. Members receive an honorarium, travel, lodging and per diem expenses when conducting Commission business.

Qualifications include residency in Idaho, being 18 years of age or older, and having an interest in library services. Familiarity with the Idaho library community and experience serving on a governing board or

holding a public office are desirable. Applicants must provide a written statement expressing interest in serving on the Board, evidence of qualifications, and location of primary residence. Consideration will be given to geographical representation, interest, knowledge, experience, and willingness to advocate for the development and delivery of library services in Idaho.

Applications are to be submitted to Ann Joslin, State Librarian, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 325 W. State Street, Boise, ID 83702 by January 30, 2009. Questions may be directed to the State Librarian at the above address or by calling 208-334-2150. More information about the Commission can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov>.