

THE Nexus



Vol. 2, No. 2 March/April 2009

Update on ICFL Budget

by State Librarian Ann Joslin



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In the previous issue of The Nexus, I reported the implementation of a 4% holdback in our current fiscal year, which the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) met with a combination of salary savings, half of our capital replacement budget, and a small percentage of our operating budget.

additional cost-cutting measures effective March 1. His Friday the 13th memo specifies a freeze on hiring, overtime, salary increases, and out-of-state travel. For any of these provisions, an exception can be requested from the Division of Financial Management.

Since then, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) instituted a rescission of all unexpended one-time funding appropriated for the current year. Since the \$150,000 in one-time funds for Read to Me mini-grants had already been awarded, that rescission amounted to \$52,700 from our capital replacement budget. In early February the Governor implemented the additional 2% holdback that he asked agencies to hold in reserve; we are meeting that with more salary savings from positions we held open for that purpose.

We have developed an expenditure plan outlining expected expenses through June 30 that are directly related to our core mission—to help build the capacity of libraries to better serve their clientele. As we work to minimize in-state travel, printing, and other operating expenses, it is possible that we will reduce or suspend some services between now and the end of June to help keep the state's budget balanced in light of decreasing revenue.

JFAC postponed setting FY2010 budgets until more details are known about how the Federal American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will impact Idaho.

The cumulative total of these reductions is \$287,700, or 6.7% of our original FY2009 state general fund appropriation. On February 13 Governor Otter announced

Please watch our website and LibIdaho for further updates.

Inside this issue:

The Stimulus Package and Idaho Libraries	2
Teen Tech Programming	3
School Library Impact Study	3
State Aid and Funding for Public Libraries—Idaho and the Nation	4-5
Professional Development Credit for Media Specialists	6
Picturing America Kit Recipients	6
LTAI Applications	6
Resources for Trustees	7
LSTA Grant Approvals	7
News from Around the State	7

Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Boise, ID 83702-6072
208-334-2150;
1-800-458-3271
<http://libraries.idaho.gov>

Mission:

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

Commissioners:

Pete Black, Bruce Noble,
Sara Staub and Larry Weeks

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

Commission Contacts:

- Amy Vecchione, digital documents librarian
- Anne Abrams, advocacy and marketing consultant
- Betty Hoffman, support services supervisor
- Charlotte Fowles, electronic service librarian
- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Erin McCusker, southwestern Idaho library consultant
- Frank Nelson, southeastern Idaho library consultant
- Gina Persichini, networking consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho library consultant
- Marjorie Hooper, associate state 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
- Teresa Lipus, Public Information Specialist

How the Stimulus Package Affects Idaho Libraries

As described by the American Library Association at www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus, there are multiple funding streams in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus package that could benefit Idaho libraries. Following is an explanation of three components of ARRA that Idaho libraries might leverage to better serve their clientele in this economic crisis.

Rural Community Facilities Program

The ARRA increased funding for the Rural Community Facilities Program, available through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This program is designed to construct, enlarge, or improve essential community facilities for public use—including schools and libraries—in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Funding requests can include purchases of equipment required for a facility's operation.

- For more information about your library's eligibility and the Rural Community Facilities Program, visit the USDA Rural Development web page at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm. Locations of the offices for Housing and Community Facilities Programs in your area are found in the FAQs section.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

The ARRA also increased funding for the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which is administered through the Idaho Department of Labor via the Idaho Commission on Aging. SCSEP, which was authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act, is a Federally-funded employment program for low-income persons 55 or older. Program participants are placed in a variety of community service positions at non-profit and

public facilities—including schools and libraries. These positions provide skills and experience to enable a participant to eventually obtain an unsubsidized job. Facilities that participate as employers will provide written job descriptions, assign tasks, supervise, fill out weekly time sheets, and do quarterly evaluations. Libraries work directly with a coordinator at the Idaho Department of Labor.

- Find your local Coordinator for Older Worker Programs at: www.idahoaging.com/programs/ps_olderworker.htm.
- Find out more about SCSEP at: www.doleta.gov/seniors/.

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

This program includes block grants allocated among the states for education and other high-priority needs such as critical services—including public libraries. ICFL submitted a list of "shovel ready" library construction projects throughout the state to the Governor's Office.

ICFL also submitted a proposal requesting some of the newly allocated State Fiscal Stabilization Funds to help Idaho libraries enhance their employment services for their communities. The proposal includes some electronic resources licensed for statewide use and a mini-grant program so libraries can apply for support for their specific local needs related to building job skills and finding and obtaining jobs. ICFL will keep the library community posted as to the outcome of this grant proposal.

The deadline for governors to "claim" or accept the block grants for which these proposals are submitted is 45 days from the signing of the ARRA bill.



Teen Technology Programming Takes Off

Excitement was high as public library staff and school media specialists met at ICFL in January and February for the 2009 New Technologies and Literacies for Teens course. In addition to participating in the online YALSA course with Linda Braun and two face-to-face meetings, class members joined in weekly Wimba discussions, learned to share information and resources via WebJunction Idaho, and received support from “mentors:” Idaho library staff who shared their expertise and creative programming ideas with the group.

One key aspect of the course was to interview local teens to better understand their use of technology and identify ways to use it with library programming and promotion. For the final project, class members incorporated technology tools into programs to celebrate Teen Tech week in March. (For more information on Teen Tech Week 2009

go to www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw09/home.cfm.)

Several participants plan to partner with other libraries or organizations within their communities to leverage resources or promote the program more widely.

At the end of the course, participants provided information on ways ICFL can support school and public libraries in developing teen programming. ICFL staff will use the information to recommend additional statewide training and programming.

For the first time, those who meet all course requirements will receive certificates with the number of contact hours completed. Certified teacher librarians may use these contact hours for Professional Development Credit. For more information, go to: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/professional-development-credit>.



Norma Jean Sprouffske, Syringa Middle School, Caldwell, reacts to the Teens and Tech presentation at ICFL. Melissa Mayberry and baby Hailey, Weippe Public Library, and Lida Clouser, McCall Public Library, also participated in the course.

School Library Impact Study

Now is the Time! School Library Impact Study began March 2.

The Idaho School Library Impact Study is now available online to all participants. This Idaho Commission For Libraries study is enthusiastically supported by the Idaho State Department of Education. The results of this study will help us assess the status and impact of school library programs, facilitate discussions about their potential, and support more informed decision-making about their future.

Confidentiality

Participants can be sure that any perceptions or opinions expressed in this survey will remain completely

confidential! All survey results will be combined and analyzed statistically, but no single response or survey will be associated with any respondent in published results.

To participate go to:
<http://libraries.idaho.gov/study>.

Win an iPod or Playaway

This important survey will take only 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Also, completing the survey and giving your name and e-mail address will offer you a chance to win an iPod Nano or a Playaway self-contained digital audio book. Do it now!



Complete the Idaho School Library Impact Study survey for a chance to win an iPod or Playaway.

There seems to be a perennial misperception, both in Idaho and elsewhere, that the terms “state aid” and “state funding” are synonymous. In many states this is largely true. In Idaho it is not.

State Aid and State Funding for Public Libraries— Idaho and the Nation

by Frank Nelson

In the November/December 2008 issue of *The Nexus* (Vol. 1, No. 1) a pie chart on page 2 compares Idaho and National average distributions of Public Library Funding [by Source] expressed in percentages. This chart contains errors of fact and omission that must be corrected. Also, a statement in the chart’s caption about the virtual lack of state funding for public libraries in Idaho requires clarification. Simply put: While it is true that Idaho has no “state aid” program for public libraries, that does not mean that there are no state funds in the annual revenue stream for Idaho’s public libraries. All that is state funding is not state aid. For the moment, suffice it to say that Idaho does indeed have a state component in the revenue stream for public libraries. It takes the form of a sales tax distribution, aka “revenue sharing.” Taken together, Idaho public libraries receive an average revenue distribution of 2 to 3% of their total operating income in any given year. While state funding totals for Idaho remain fairly constant at this level, individual libraries often see a wide variation in their state revenue from one year to next. We’ll come back to this.

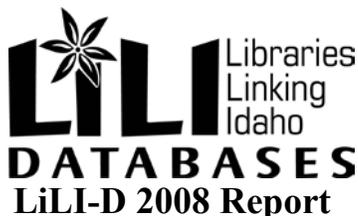
Definition of State Aid

There seems to be a perennial misperception, both in Idaho and elsewhere, that the terms “state aid” and “state funding” are synonymous. In many states this is largely true. In Idaho it is not. With slight variations from state to state, state aid may be defined as a fund administered by a State Library Agency (SLA) from which annual distributions are given directly to individual libraries, usually in the form of grants to support normal maintenance

and operations. Further, individual libraries must meet certain requirements or standards in order to be qualified to receive ongoing support from the state aid fund administered by the respective SLA. With this definition in mind, it is true that Idaho has no state aid. That is, there is no State Aid to Public Libraries fund administered by our State Library Agency, ICFL. Idaho is not unique in this regard. A report of a survey completed in December 2008 by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) published 2/11/2009 in *AL Direct* (www.ala.org/ala/online/alddirect/alddirect.cfm) confirms that no less than 6 states plus the District of Columbia receive no state aid.

Data Sources and Time Frames

First, in the chart in question, data sources are identified as the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Idaho Commission for Libraries; however, the time frames for the data are not specified. Most likely the national data used in the pie chart are from 2005. How do we figure that you may ask? Well, you want to assume the data to be the most recently available at the time the article was written. So being a data geek, you know that the most recent published data at that time are in NCES, Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 2005. To confirm this you go online to the source, i.e., NCES (www.nces.ed.gov) or, since October 2008, to the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) website (www.imls.gov) to get the most current national data available for public libraries. On the IMLS website you click on the Library Statistics tab and are taken to library data files maintained by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for IMLS. You follow the Public Libraries link, click on Publications, and find a list of PDF files,



LiLI Databases LiLI-D 2008 Report

Cost of LiLI-D

For License: \$530,600.00

Per Idahoan: \$.35

Per Logon: \$.53

There were 1,008,831 sessions/
logins to the LiLI Databases.

Per Full Text Article: \$.39

LiLI-D article text was downloaded,
printed, or emailed 1,367,614 times.

Per Search: \$.17

Idahoans performed 3,197,633
LiLI-D searches.

Use of LiLI-D

- The average Idahoan logged onto a LiLI Database 0.66 times in 2008. (This estimate uses a July 1, 2008 population estimate of 1,523,816.)
- 100% of school districts, city and district libraries, and publicly-funded academic libraries have access to the LiLI Databases. Additionally, LiLI-D is freely available through the Internet for all Idaho residents.

For more information, see the full report at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/doc/2008-lili-d-annual-report>.



one of which is Public Libraries in the United States: FY2005. Now, of course, you have to download the file. A little downloading music please . . .

"Ah ha!" you say as you scroll through the Table of Contents to determine that *Table 9* might just be what you are looking for. Scanning *Table 9. Total operating revenue of public libraries and percentage distribution of revenue, by source and state: Fiscal year 2005*, you immediately see that the data are nearly a match, at least for the Total (National) average percentage distribution at the top right of the table. I mentioned earlier that the pie chart in the original article was in error. That chart showed Idaho to have absolutely no state funding and the federal slice was shown to be 3%. The actual Idaho figures from *Table 9* are: Local 86.8% , Federal 0.6%, Other 9.8%, and State 2.7% (See *Figure 1*). Referring to the same *Table (9)* we find that the National percentages are indeed Local 81.4%, Federal 0.5%, Other 8.4%, and State (See *Figure 2*).

Revenue Sharing for Idaho Public Libraries

Now that we understand that Idaho has no state aid, what is this 2.7% state distribution showing in the national summary tables? The simple answer is sales tax. But, of course, it is more complicated than that. Idaho has a fairly elaborate mechanism for revenue sharing, spelled out in Idaho Code 63-3638, wherein monies mostly from the state sales tax and the inventory reduction tax are divided up among the state's cities, counties, and special taxing districts. Most Idaho libraries do receive a portion of these state administered funds. It is not much, but it is something. Figuring out what is apportioned to public libraries is confusing in part because, for

2005 Idaho Public Library Operating Funds [by Source]

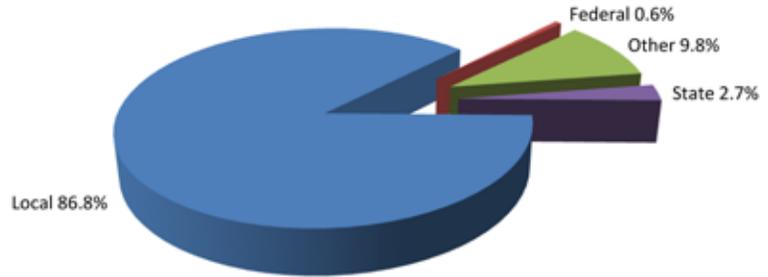


Figure 1 Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 2005

2005 National Average Public Library Funding by Source [%]

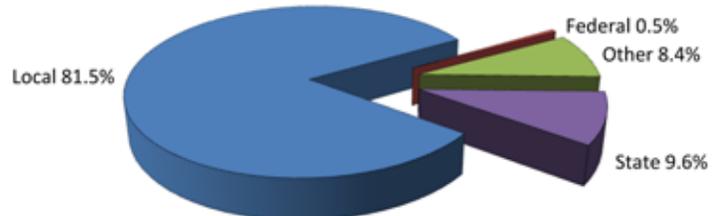


Figure 2. Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 2005

revenue sharing purposes, all libraries in Idaho were not created equal.

District Libraries

Idaho district libraries usually know the exact amount of their annual state distributions because they receive them directly. That is, if they receive them at all. Unfortunately, districts formed after 2001 do not get any revenue sharing funds.

City Libraries

Also, many city libraries in Idaho know the number and report it annually, but many more do not have a number to report. This is because the revenue sharing distribution goes to the city itself and not directly to the city library. Whether or not a city library reports any state revenue is entirely

dependent on the local accounting practice, so one city library will show only local revenue, that is, from the city, while another will show both local and state revenue in the same way that district libraries report it.

What Does This Mean?

If each city library reported a prorated state amount based on the city's overall income distributions by source, Idaho would probably be showing a revenue profile a bit closer to the national average. Still no state aid in play, mind you, but state funding nonetheless.



Betty Hoffman is very glad to be part of the dedicated and competent staff at ICFL.

Learn more about receiving professional development credit for media specialists at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/professional-development-credit>.

New ICFL Staff Member

ICFL is delighted to welcome Betty Hoffman as the new support services supervisor. Betty has extensive administrative and supervisory experience and has worked in both public and private sectors, including the Dallas Public Library System. In her spare time, she enjoys

almost all outdoor activities, but especially bicycling, jogging, x-country skiing, hiking, motorcycling (as a passenger, not a driver). Betty also volunteers at the Idaho Humane Society on Saturdays, helping with dog and cat adoptions.

Professional Development Credit for Media Specialists

We have identified ICFL-sponsored continuing education opportunities (as of January 1, 2009) that MAY be used for your teacher license renewal under professional development credit. While these activities are approved by the Department of Education, the final approval for use of these contact hours as in-service credit lies with your district

superintendent and/or district professional development chair person. To learn more details about the process of receiving Professional Development Credit and to access the appropriate forms, go to: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/professional-development-credit>.

Picturing America Kits Awarded to Idaho Libraries

In 2008 and 2009, over two dozen Idaho public libraries and 350 Idaho school libraries were selected to receive Picturing America, a free kit of teaching resources that includes reproductions of selected masterpieces, a teacher's resource book, and lesson plans and additional resources through the Picturing America website.

for the Humanities (NEH) in partnership with U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the American Library Association, the Office of Head Start, the National Park Service, the Department of Defense Education Activity, the U.S. Department of State, The History Channel, and the National Trust for the Humanities.

Picturing America provides reproductions of great American art to public libraries and K-12 schools to enhance studies, and is presented by The National Endowment

For a list of Idaho school and public library recipients, go to: www.picturingamerica.neh.gov/public_aw_results.php and select Idaho.



"Our library was very fortunate to receive this program. Not many book clubs are able to provide someone truly skilled in getting the most out of a book discussion. [Our program] scholars were able to direct questions and comments in a meaningful way yet allowed everyone the opportunity to express their views on the book."

Assistant director,
Hailey Public Library, 2008

Let's Talk About It Applications Now Available for 2009-2010

We are pleased to announce the availability of applications for the 2009-2010 program year. Five-part program series may be held in the fall of 2009 or the winter and spring of 2010. We hope to support fifteen program series, contingent upon receiving funding from the Idaho Humanities Council. Libraries must have a community partner to help publicize,

host, or participate in the program series. Applications are due or must be postmarked by Monday, April 20th. The application is available at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lets-talk-about-it>. For more information, please contact Peggy McClendon at 1-800-458-3271 or 334-2150 (Boise area) or her email: peggy.mcclendon@libraries.idaho.gov.



Resources for Trustees

Are you new to your library's Board of Trustees? Do you need resources to answer questions that your Board is pondering? Check out WebJunction Idaho. Go to <http://id.webjunction.org/trustees> to discover the available resources, including

free classes and webinars, and content regarding recruitment, orientation, training, roles, and responsibilities. You will also find links to short videos that can be useful for quick discussion points.

LSTA Grant Approvals

At its February 20, 2009 Regular Board Meeting, the Idaho Board of Library Commissions approved the following FY2009 competitive grant applications in accordance with the conditions stated in the State Librarian's notification of award and/or grant agreement, and contingent upon receipt of the full IMLS award:

- Library Consortium of Eastern Idaho: One catalog for all users

- Cooperative Information Network: Add Priest Lake & West Bonner District to CIN—add authority control
- Emmett Public Library: Emmett Public Library Connects—join LYNX Consortium

For more information on these grants, please see Board Document 09-34 at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/boarddoc/by-meeting/2009-02-20>.

Library News From Around the State

Coeur d'Alene Public Library has been nominated for a National Medal for Museum and Library Service, which is awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to honor institutions that "make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities." Democrat Congressman Walt Minnick nominated the library, calling it "a shining example of the great things that happen when a community comes together to work toward a common goal." The medal includes a prize of \$10,000 to be given to each recipient at an awards ceremony to be held in Washington, D.C. in the fall.

populations under 25,000." The library was recognized for partnering with local entities to house the library, giving a wireless provider a spot on the roof for an antenna in exchange for waiving the library's phone and Internet fees, and providing programs for all ages, including an innovative Teen Zone. Weippe library was also recognized in the February 2, 2009 issue of Library Hotline, the weekly newsletter of Library Journal and School Library Journal.

Weippe Public Library was recently named a finalist for Best Small Library in America. Library Journal's annual award, sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was created in 2005 to "encourage and showcase the exemplary work of libraries serving

Aberdeen District Library, Ola Free District Library, Oneida County Library, and St. Maries Public Library have been recent recipients of the Libri Foundation Books For Children grant. The Foundation is a nationwide, non-profit organization that helps rural libraries acquire new, quality hardcover children's books, matching contributions from the library's Friends group or other local organizations on a 2-to-1 ratio.

Do you miss Field Notes?

Were you disappointed when you opened this issue of Nexus and didn't find any pearls of wisdom from Anne Abrams? If so, contact Teresa Lipus at teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov and we'll make sure that you hear from Anne in the next issue.

Just in Time Grants

Because of budget uncertainties we do not know at this time what the schedule will be for Just in Time Grants. ICFL will keep the library community posted as we learn more about funding availability.

Camas County District Library Grand Opening



Camas County District Library celebrates with a grand opening on Saturday, February 28, 2009



Camas County District Library children's area

Idaho Commission for Libraries
325 W. State St.
Boise, ID 83702-6072

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Boise, Idaho
Permit No. 1



Nominations Sought for Two Seats on LSTA Advisory Council

The Idaho Board of Library Commissioners is seeking nominations for two seats on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Council. One seat is for the academic library representative. The second seat is for the special library representative. Council members are asked to consider plans and issues from a statewide perspective.

Diane Prorak from the University of Idaho Library has completed one term on the LSTA Advisory Council as the academic representative and is seeking a second term. The special library position does not have an incumbent seeking a second term. A special library is defined as a library that is not an academic, public, or school library, usually organized to meet a specialized mission and operating with a specialized collection, and/or to serve a specialized clientele.

Advisory Council members provide input to the ICFL Board of Commissioners on the development of the state plan for LSTA, the annual LSTA program, and evaluation of LSTA grant applications and projects. Council members, both individually and as a group, are expected to advocate for the improvement of library services in Idaho and for the LSTA program.

The Council meets once a year in Boise for two days; additional input is solicited as needed via conference call or e-mail. Members are reimbursed for travel expenses. More information about the Council is available at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/advisory-council> or contact Sonja Hudson (sonja.hudson@libraries.idaho.gov) or Marj Hooper (marj.hooper@libraries.idaho.gov) or at 208-334-2150.

Individuals interested in applying should send a letter to Ann Joslin, State Librarian, (ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov) describing his or her interest in and experience with libraries. When sending an e-mail notice of interest, please also include a mailing address and phone number where you may be reached. Letters may also be sent to 325 West State Street, Boise, ID, 83702.

Advisory Council members are appointed for terms of five (5) state fiscal years (July-June). Appointments are scheduled to be made at the June 5, 2009 board meeting. All letters must be received at the Idaho Commission for Libraries by 5 p.m. on April 30, 2009.