

THE Nexus

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State Librarian Ann Joslin

ICfL Board Library Tour

The Idaho Board of Library Commissioners visited seven libraries in southeast Idaho in April. The Board tours libraries annually, choosing a different area of the state each year. This spring’s tour included Madison District Library, Rexburg; Sugar-Salem School/Community Library, Sugar City; Valley of the Tetons District Library, Driggs and Victor branches; Victor Elementary School; and Ririe Public Library on April 21; with a tour and a regularly scheduled board meeting at Blackfoot Public Library on April 22.

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At **Madison District Library**, director Valerie Lloyd led a tour through the additions to the library. The Commissioners enjoyed seeing how the tongue-and-groove redwood had been repurposed into a beautiful ceiling during the remodel. They were also impressed with the children’s area and how many children attend storytime. Lloyd “introduced” the Commissioners to the book sorter, fondly named Lucy because an incident with the speedy conveyor belt reminded them of the chocolate factory scene in the “I Love Lucy” TV show.

Sugar-Salem School/Community Library serves the community as well as 400 students in grades 9-12. Director Chantelle Green pointed out the Principal’s Choice artwork on the walls of the inviting library and showed the Commissioners the “Storyland Express” bookmobile, a converted school bus now bright blue with painted clouds and flowers inside. The bus makes weekly trips in the summer, bringing Summer Reading and requested books to the people of Newdale and Plano.

In **Driggs, Valley of the Tetons** branch manager Susie Blair described how the numbers are up 30% district-wide since the new branch opened in December 2014. She showed the many local touches in the library: a local furniture builder built shelving on wheels and a curved circulation desk, community members painted literary characters on the walls, and 1,003 origami cranes are strung from the ceiling. The library received an American Library Association StoryCorps training grant and is in the process of creating their own recording booth.

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission:

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

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Mark Alldredge, John Held,
Dave Mecham, Pat Raffee,
and Sara Staub

State Librarian

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- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Tamra Hawley-House, reading programs/teen activities coordinator
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

At **Victor Elementary School**, Principal Jannifer Cooke greeted the Commissioners and led the tour, as librarian Kenna Kersley was working in another area that day. The library is a modular building behind the school that doubles as a music room and uses repurposed church pews. All 200 students in K-3, can check out library books, and the PTO pays a stipend so the library can open one day per week during the summer. This year's allotted book budget of \$2,000 was doubled when the library received a Read to Me Mini-Grant of \$2,000 from the Idaho Commission for Libraries.



Madison District Library director Valerie Lloyd greets Commissioners Mark Alldredge, Sara Staub, John Held, Dave Mecham, and Pat Raffee

In **Victor, Valley of the Tetons District Library** director Carla Sherman pointed out the original library, which is a modular building on a full basement. They added to the east side of the building in 2003 after raising \$80,000 in donations, and the labor was largely donated. Working with partners, the library created a collection of indexed historical photos of the valley, and plans to build a local history room. The Commissioners were fascinated with the 3-D printing that was taking place in the basement and impressed with staff's enthusiasm with STEM programming and technology.

At **Ririe Public Library**, director Debra Andersen described how staff is re-envisioning the Summer Reading program as more of a community event rather than being solely kid-focused. They developed a Community Summer Reading Challenge with a point system and community-wide prizes (community party and fine forgiveness) for meeting certain goals. The Commissioners enjoyed the tour and all the children coming into the library. They also enjoyed looking at the Vardis Fisher collection. Andersen recently attended Commission-sponsored leadership events and is pursuing ideas gleaned from them.

At **Blackfoot Public Library**, director Lisa Herral, several trustees, and several staff members each led portions of the library tour. Many stayed for the Board meeting that followed. They remodeled three rooms and went from 3,200 sq. ft. to 10,000 sq. ft. The old computer room is now a reading room and the old reading room is now the projects room. There is also a lovely bistro-style computer room with a hot beverage maker. The library is working on becoming more of a community center, with more adult programming and more outreach.

The annual tour of libraries is a highlight for the Commissioners. They enjoy getting into libraries; meeting the librarians; and seeing first-hand the range of services, facilities, and challenges in Idaho. See tour photos at flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/albums/72157665902861164



At the Board meeting in Blackfoot, where she is also a trustee, Sara Staub was honored for 15 years of dedicated service as an ICFL Commissioner
Photo courtesy of Blackfoot Public Library



Library News From Around the State

Find out what is happening in Idaho libraries.



Bruneau Valley District Library welcomed new director Michelle Ward in mid-June.

Election Results: Neither the Community Library Network plant facilities levy nor the Kuna Library District bond passed in the May election. Community Library Network’s levy initiative needed to win by 55 percent, but was only able to pull in a 50.7 percent “yes” vote. The Kuna bond to expand the library got 52.8% approval, short of the 66 2/3% approval that is required.

Idaho Humanities Council Grants (www.idahohumanities.org)

Ada Community Library, Boise, received \$4,500 for the 2016 “Read Me Treasure Valley” program, featuring *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline.

Cambridge Community District Library was awarded \$1,000 to help purchase and promote classic and curriculum-related audio books for younger readers.

The Community Library, Ketchum, received \$4,500 to help upgrade its oral history program and improve its extensive collection of oral histories by educating and training the library’s Regional History Librarian in the best practices of oral history collection, preservation, and archiving.

Eli M. Obler Library, Idaho State University, Pocatello, received \$6,000 to support a Special Collections and Archives Preservation Assessment .

Garden City Public Library received \$1,000 for continued support of their “Bells for Books” program. New books, including bilingual books, will be included in their mobile bus designed to bring library services to the community.

The Friends of the Hailey Public Library received \$1,000 to support the development of the community reading program “Wood River Reads.” The program involved libraries in three communities, Hailey, Bellevue, and Ketchum, and featured *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Prairie River Library District, Lapwai, was awarded \$3,500 to support the 15th annual “Everybody Reads” program in northern Idaho, featuring Idaho writer Anthony Doerr’s book *All the Light We Cannot See*.

The Smithsonian exhibition on ‘water’ will tour **Burley Public Library, Idaho Falls Public Library, and Nampa Public Library.**

Meridian Library District won the Meridian Chamber of Commerce 2016 Small Business Award in the category of 11–50 employees for reflecting exceptional business practices and customer services, demonstrating a high level of community involvement, and encouraging employees to participate in community activities through policy and process.

Salmon Public Library (Lemhi County District Library) had a Grand Opening for their new library on May 7. The new building is beautiful and has some great new spaces. Congratulations to the community of Salmon!



Salmon Public Library front desk

University of Idaho Library, Moscow, had a ribbon cutting for their newly renovated library on April 1. See more at <https://www.uiargonaut.com/2016/03/31/turning-the-page-library-renovations-formally-unveiled/>

Idaho Library Snapshot Day Results!

A huge thank you to the 35 libraries that participated in Idaho Library Snapshot Day this year!
View the results and find the link to a 4-minute video at libraries.idaho.gov/IdahoSnapshot.



Public Libraries: Recent Broadband Legislation and Funding

The 2016 Idaho Legislature passed the Education Opportunity Resource (EOR) Act ([SB 1334](#)), which makes available state resources to support Idaho's E-rate eligible entities—including public libraries. This support includes guidance on technical, E-rate, security, contracting, and procurement practices as well as the distribution of funds to reimburse E-rate applicant public libraries for the non-E-rate portion of their Internet services. The Legislature also appropriated \$180,000 to the Idaho Commission for Libraries for the reimbursement in state fiscal year (FY) 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017).

Commission staff met with the State Department of Education IT staff to learn how they have received applications and distributed funds for Internet services to Idaho school districts this past year. Based on that discussion, we plan to use similar Google Forms for the application and reports so that the needed data will be automatically compiled.

We currently expect to distribute the initial application in July. In addition to asking if the public library plans to request state funds in FY2017 (July 2016 – June 2017), we will require information from the E-rate application including:

- FY2017 discount rate, provider(s)
- bandwidth in Mbps ([Megabits per second](#))
- full monthly cost for eligible services
- one-time costs, if any

The EOR legislation requires the reporting of utilization statistics from participating schools and libraries for planning and budgeting at both the local and state levels. The specific data elements to be reported haven't yet been defined, but we will let public libraries know what they are as soon as they are determined.

This past year, the Department of Education made payments to school districts on a quarterly basis. The first payments were made in August using estimates based on district 471 E-rate applications, and subsequent payments were adjusted based on actual invoices. We hope to offer a similar payment schedule to public libraries, but are still working on that process.

More information will come, but if for questions about reimbursement of the non-E-rate portion of public libraries' Internet service provider charges, please feel free to contact State Librarian Ann Joslin at ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov or 334-2150 x134.

TumbleBooks™ Service Continues

by **Tammy Hawley-House, read programs/teen activities coordinator**

Idaho Commission for Libraries is happy to announce that we have secured funding to extend the subscription to TumbleBooks™ talking picture books for all publicly-funded public libraries. This three-year extension (beginning July 2016) allows Idaho library users—from anywhere they have an Internet connection—access to hundreds of children's stories including fiction, non-fiction, and foreign language titles; Read-Alongs; and Tumble Puzzles & Games. This fun and valuable early learning resource can be accessed through the TumbleBooks link on Idaho public library websites. This extension will result in NO INTERRUPTION of service to those public libraries already offering TumbleBooks.

Last year 310,691 TumbleBooks were viewed via Idaho libraries. TumbleBooks is a great addition to supplement those heavily used collections during Summer Reading.



The eBooks Collection for Library Staff is Growing

by Gina Persichini, technology and access services consultant

[The Collection: eBooks for Library Staff](#) has grown with the addition of over 40 new titles.

Content in The Collection includes leadership, management, school library issues, cataloging, customer service, teen services, and much more. To access The Collection, you must be employed by a library in Idaho. To request the password, see a title list, and learn more about the service go to [The Collection Website](#).

A Staff Development Tool by Shirley Biladeau continuing education consultant

Libraries are going through an amazing transformation, introducing non-traditional services that go far beyond traditional reading and books. We are rapidly introducing new programs, digital services, and makerspace technology offerings. How can we possibly expect staff to keep up with all of the changes unless we take a structured approach to address that situation?

Library training and even formal library education is struggling to keep pace with new “Internet” and digital transformations. If we expect staff to learn all of this on their own, in an informal and unstructured manner, it’s simply unrealistic. Doing so places staff in a precarious position for serving patrons, and limits their personal job success. Given part-time positions and high turnover that libraries typically suffer, this is a particularly pronounced problem. To provide the best service to our patrons, we need to first ensure staff receives the training and support they need for success in this rapidly changing library world.

One solution is to track the skill level of staff using an easy-to-build training matrix spreadsheet. By filling in staff names and the various devices or competencies needed to operate in various library roles, we can quickly size up the areas where we need to introduce higher skills through training or staffing modifications. This simple, but formal skills/training creates a visual map for keeping staff current with technology. To view a sample training matrix that was created for the Meridian Library District unBound Tech Center, visit: http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/unBoundTrainingMatrix_0.xlsx. The matrix can be modified for any job role or location, for your individual library needs

FY15 Annual Public Library Statistics are Available

The FY15 Idaho Public Library Statistics are available in Excel and PDF formats on the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) website at libraries.idaho.gov/stats. The results are easy to sort on the spreadsheet—just click on the arrow in the bottom left hand corner of Row 2 on each column, and the sheet will sort by that survey question. Patrick Bodily, ICfL’s state data coordinator and field consultant, urges

public libraries to also check out the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services’ Compare Libraries tool at harvester.census.gov/imlscompare/. Using this tool, you can find public libraries similar to yours throughout the U.S. and compare benchmark statistics. This can be especially useful as you prepare your budgets for the upcoming year.

Public libraries can also use the Public Library Association’s Project Outcome tool and process at www.projectoutcome.org/ for measuring and analyzing outcomes in seven categories (Civic/Community Engagement, Digital Inclusion, Early Childhood Literacy, Economic Development, Education/Lifelong Learning, Job Skills, and Summer Reading).





Welcome to Jenner Flowers



The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is pleased to welcome Jenner Flowers as our new technical records specialist. She will help ICfL comply with state records regulations and work with the state data coordinator to gather and compile data for the annual public library statistics.

Flowers earned a Bachelors in Business Administration from Boise State University, where she focused on management, servant leadership, statistics, and marketing research, and honed her skills in Excel and Access. While a student at Boise State, she also worked at Albertsons Library at the circulation desk and helped patrons check out books. Flowers believes that libraries are important to a community and is happy to join the staff at ICfL so she can help support our mission. She likes the atmosphere at the Commission, is willing to help out wherever needed, and is a quick learner who looks forward to learning everything she can.

In her spare time, Flowers enjoys spending time with her husband, salsa dancing, Zumba, and tending to her indoor bunnies: four males that need to roam free individually, as they tend to be a bit territorial. She enjoys reading fantasy, history, and anything by Nicholas Sparks because of his good grip on emotion.

We are very happy to have Jenner Flowers on board and appreciate the positive energy she brings every day.

Upcoming Awards for all Library Types

I Love My Librarian Award

The American Library Association (ALA) invites library users to nominate their favorite librarians for the 2016 *I Love My Librarian Award*. The award recognizes the public service of exceptional public, school, or academic librarians who have transformed lives and communities. Up to 10 librarians will be selected. Each will receive a \$5,000 cash award and a travel stipend to attend the award ceremony in New York City on November 30, 2016.

A nomination form is available at lovelibraries.org/ilovemylibrarian.

ALA is accepting nominations now through September 19, 2016.

National Medal for Museum and Library Service

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is now accepting nominations for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service 2017 awards. The award recognizes libraries and museums that make significant and exceptional contributions in service to their communities. Anyone—an employee, board member, member of the public, or elected official—can nominate an institution. All types of nonprofit libraries and library organizations, associations and consortia are eligible, including academic, school, digital, and special libraries. The ten winning institutions are honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., spotlighted in the media, and invited to host a two-day visit from StoryCorps to record community member stories. A nomination form is available at www.imls.gov/node/7488/.

Deadline is October 3, 2016.

Letters About Literature Winners

Congratulations to the 2016 Letters About Literature Winners! Read more and see photos of the Idaho winners at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/celebrating-2016-LAL-winners>.



TechTalk Available to Idaho Library Staff July 1, 2016

by Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant



As of July 1, Idaho library staff who would like to have a weekly technology-focused e-newsletter may request access to TechTalk! These subscriptions are supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library Services and Technology Act. TechTalk has been creating e-newsletters on technology topics since 1997. There is a vast library of resources, and the answer to your technology question is waiting for you! If you can't find it in the archive, connect with a live support person who will get back with you within 48 hours.

What is TechTalk?

TechTalk (tour at tech-talk.com/become-a-techtalk-member/tech-talk-tour) supports professional development for weekly learning in bite-sized chunks through e-newsletters. TechTalk will help you and other staff increase job productivity and foster innovation to achieve goals. It focuses on the two critical skills needed to succeed in the workplace: MS Office and communications!

What do you get?

1. Weekly e-newsletter featuring one technology
2. 24/7 access to the library of archived articles for reference (both articles and videos)
3. Access to live tech support via the phone

Topics Covered:

Word	Office	Web Tools	Software	Social Media
Excel	Email	Desk Top	Website	Communications
Outlook	Graphics	Internet	Windows	
PowerPoint	Hardware	Web Design	Video/Audio	

Who should subscribe? Any library staff whose daily workflow includes problem-solving related to technology.

What is Idaho Commission for Libraries' expectation of me?

Each subscriber will be asked to complete 1–2 online surveys per year as to how they have used the tool, its usability, and, of course, the success stories! Of course if for some reason you are not able to complete the surveys, we will have to have a conversation about the subscription renewal!

The participants in the March beta test had the following comments:

- *After receiving an issue, I actually just had a coworker ask me this exact question last week..... I'm really impressed with their [TechTalk] utility, and applicable nature.*
- *The step-by-step instructions were well done, super helpful, and came in short, time-friendly, chunks.*
- *Even if staff [members] don't get to the TechTalk website, the articles provide enough useful information on commonly used products to be of interest. I did enjoy exploring the website for more information and tips on software I use frequently (mostly Office products).*
- *One downside: it is PC/ Microsoft centric. However, the information presented was easy to follow, and could be a useful database to have at any service point.*
- *The tools discussed seemed to be very useful and applicable for a librarian's normal day.*

If you would like to start receiving TechTalk in your weekly email after July 1, complete the request form at <http://goo.gl/forms/76IEzYp24b>.

NOTE: Please do not share your subscriptions with your colleagues, there are plenty available so have them sign up for their very own!

Questions can be forwarded to shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov.



College and Career Advising - New Developments

by Shirley Biladeau continuing education consultant

A new initiative mandated by the Idaho State Legislature during the 2016 legislative session is the support for expanded college and career advising in schools. While it focuses on the school districts, there are opportunities for public libraries to participate in the implementation of College and Career Advising.

Proper college and career advising has been identified by the Governor’s Taskforce as a key factor for student success at the secondary and postsecondary levels, and critical for Idaho to reach its goal that 60% of Idahoans ages 25–34 will have a degree or certificate by 2020. As a result, S1290 (<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2016/S1290.htm>) created a funding formula to provide support to local school districts for college and career advising for students in grades 8–12. Your local school district is charged with creating its own plan to utilize the funds. Several college and career advising models have been identified and are currently being shared with school districts as they develop their plans.

School districts are encouraged to make this a community-based effort. That is where libraries can play an important role. Public libraries are encouraged to reach out to their local school districts to offer support. Here are some suggestions for how your library might support this initiative:

- Reach out to school counselors in your area to find out their needs.
- Contact the school librarians in your area serving grades 8–12 to find out how you can coordinate efforts with them.
- Host community meetings or provide meeting space for college and career advising.
- Host college and career events in the library.
- Provide access to college and career resources found with LiLI at lili.org/collegecareer.
- Connect with your local Educate Idaho Network group and attend meetings to keep up on further developments with this initiative and other educational activities. Find their contact information at educateidaho.org/contact-us/
- Connect with your local College, Careers, and Coffee group, or start one.

For more information go to Next Steps Idaho at <https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/> or contact Shirley Biladeau at the Idaho Commission for Libraries: 208-639-4149 or shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov

Walker Recognized at NFB Conference

Idaho Commission for Libraries Talking Book Service consultant Sue Walker received the first “Jan and Harry Gawith Award” at the National Federation of the Blind’s Idaho state chapter meeting in April. Jan and Harry Gawith are long-time members and active supporters of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) at both the state and national levels. Walker was honored to be recognized in the company of such distinguished people. The plaque presented to Walker read, in part: “You have asked for our advice and taken it. You have shared in our experiences and our achievements. You are our Friend!”

In addition to the plaque, Walker also received a copy of a recently published book: *The Power of Love: How Kenneth Jernigan Changed the World for the Blind*, a compilation of remembrances about Kenneth Jernigan, activist for the blind. The book was edited by Idahoan Ramona Walhof and contains several submissions by Idaho residents whose lives Mr. Jernigan changed.





2016 Legislative Session Recap

2016 legislation that may affect the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) or the Idaho library community includes the bills summarized below. The Idaho Library Association was instrumental in building recognition of library staff in education-related bills.

- **HO 360 Property Taxes:** Amends existing law to remove an exception to the rule that any taxing district must be formed or organized by the first day of January in order to make a levy for that calendar year.
- **HO 474 Taxing Districts Budgets:** Amends existing law to require notice and a public hearing prior to a taxing district budgeting a forgone increase. This bill would require non-school taxing districts that elect to take a foregone property tax increase to hold a hearing in conjunction with their annual budget hearing.
- **HO 606 Urban Renewal:** Amends and adds to existing law. A new section, IC, §50-2905A, specifies that if urban renewal funds are expended for a municipal building (such as a public library), the project must be approved in an election by at least 60% of the participating voters. The bill does allow for urban renewal funds to be used for a library building, if approved by the voters.
- **S1333 Education:** Adds to existing law to provide the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant Fund and related provisions. Adds a new section in IC Chapter 56, Title 33 reflecting the recommendations of the Interim Broadband Access study committee. Public libraries that are E-rate eligible are eligible to apply for matching grants from the BIIG Fund.
- **S1334 Education:** Repeals, amends, and adds to existing law to establish the Education Opportunity Resource (EOR) Act. This bill establishes a resource for Idaho's education and library system by providing broadband and related services to students. It defines the EOR Committee, its responsibilities, powers, and membership (which includes the state librarian. The outcome was positive in deciding how to replace the Idaho Education Network (IEN) and it now involves public libraries—a very positive step we have been working on for several years.
- **S1392 Appropriations:** Idaho Commission for Libraries – Appropriates \$5,525,300 to the Idaho Commission for Libraries for fiscal year 2017 and limits the number of authorized full-time equivalent positions to 37.5.
- **S1429 Appropriations – Education Effort:** Section 1 appropriates \$180,000 from the General Fund to ICfL to be expended for trustee and benefit payments from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. See more on page 3 of this newsletter.

For more information about these and other bills visit libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/2016-legislative-session-recap.