

# THE Nexus

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State Librarian Ann Joslin

## BTOP update

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant ends in December 2012. But, Idahoans will continue to reap the benefits from this project as the Commission intensifies efforts to foster digital literacy **by building library users' Internet and computer skills, helping them use available online resources, and educating them in the safe and ethical use of technology.**

### New and enhanced online resources

[Scout Video Collections](#): We continue to enhance Scout Video Collections through our partnership with Idaho Public Television (Idaho PTV). Recently added was *Scout Dialogue: Writers*—interviews with authors, playwrights, and journalists about the craft of writing and the examination of individual works. *Scout Dialogue: Writers* is available at <http://scout.lili.org/>.

[LearningExpress Library](#): BTOP funds will support our LearningExpress Library (LEL) subscription through October 2013. New content has been added to LEL. In the Jobs & Careers Learning Center of LearningExpress Library, you will now find Practice Exams for the Certified Medical Assistant exam and Practice Tests for the NCLEX-RN exam.

[Next Avenue](#): The Commission partnered with IdahoPTV to bring Next Avenue to Idahoans between the ages of 50-65. At [idahoptv.org/nextavenue](http://idahoptv.org/nextavenue), Next Avenue is a gathering room for mid-life adults to come together and explore an array of informative and entertaining content. The website offers articles and blog posts from top experts, videos, and tips on topics such as money and security, living and learning, caregiving, work and purpose, and health and well-being.

[Media online @ your library](#): Media online @ your library is both an online and DVD guide on using the Internet to connect with Idaho news and media. Users can build Internet skills and learn to use the Internet to be alert consumers of news and information. See [media.lili.org](http://media.lili.org).

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for Libraries

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Mission:

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

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*online @ your library* continued from page 1

## Digital literacy training and resources

To help build digital proficiency throughout the state we:

- **expanded the Department of Labor's Idaho Youth Corps digital literacy coach** program for summer 2012 to include both BTOP connectivity and non-connectivity libraries, with 29 youth participating in 27 libraries.
- began working with the Idaho Office for Refugees to train over a dozen refugees to coach their peers one-on-one in digital literacy and computer use in Nepali, Kayan, Arabic, French, Somali, and several other languages.
- added to the digital literacy resources at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/digital-literacy>.
- sent a [14 book digital literacy collection](#) to the 60 public library jurisdictions that requested them.
- introduced a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) component to the Every Child Ready to Read workshops in three locations with 27 libraries participating. The libraries are now prepared to conduct workshops for families. Families who attend the workshops will receive an Internet-linked *Encyclopedia of Science* book and a flash drive filled with valuable preschool STEM activities, digital literacy information, and online resources.
- held digital literacy trainings for library trustees via video teleconference (VTC). To date there have been 57 participants attending at 10 locations throughout the state. VTC trainings are being followed up with face-to-face sessions.
- developed [Kids Quest](#), an online scavenger hunt, to drive students to online resources and to their public library.

## Cyberbullying: Let's stop it

Bullies are everywhere—even online. And bullying in any form should be taken seriously. In a recent survey on Cyberbullying conducted for Microsoft Corporation and published in the September issue of *Teaching and Learning Magazine*, youths ages 8-17 provided some interesting statistical information regarding Cyberbullying:

- 58% say they know a lot or some about online bullying.
- 54% are very or somewhat worried about online bullying.
- 86% report being bullied online and/or offline, although most bullying is offline.
- 24% admit to bullying someone online and 42% admit to bullying someone offline.

Cyberbullying can occur in many forms: through instant messaging, social networks, **texting, email, websites, blogs, and other methods of digital communication.** "Students, parents, and educators are encouraged to learn more about bullying—to recognize it, **prevent it, and take action to stop it,**" says State Librarian Ann Joslin.

To help prevent or at least curtail the use of online tools to intimidate or harass another person, Idaho Commission for Libraries joined a statewide alliance offering resources **about the risks and prevention of "cyberbullying."** The alliance also includes Idaho Public Television, the Idaho Education Network, the Office of Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, the Idaho State Department of Education, the Idaho School Boards Association, and the Idaho Association of School Administrators.

A "cyberbullying information and prevention" website, with video, articles, and specific tips for students, parents, and educators is found at <http://guides.illi.org/cyberbullying>. Check it out – find out how you can prevent online bullying.

The Nexus is available as an e-newsletter and PDF. To subscribe go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/subscribe-to-nexus>.



## College and Career Ready Summit summary and resources

Librarians and other stakeholders from around the state networked during the “College & Career Ready Summit: Moving Idaho Forward” hosted by Idaho Commission for Libraries August 16-17, 2012. The summit was an opportunity for committed participants to share an expanded vision of how to prepare Idaho students with 21st Century skills; raise awareness of available online resources; and develop next steps for leveraging each agency’s resources to build healthy, inclusive communities. Participants represented Idaho libraries, state agencies, and post-secondary educational institutions.



Libraries already play an important role in helping kids graduate from high school ready to be successful in higher education or a career. Idaho libraries provide access to a growing number of online resources that support both formal and informal education, including the information and communication technology skills that are increasingly needed for success in today’s world. Thanks to the “online @ your library” broadband project, many Idaho public libraries have significantly more computers and broadband capacity available free to the public to access those resources. Summit participants identified what more we can do collectively to support student success at every phase of the continuum.

The Summit began with a quest to gain new information about available resources and network with colleagues from participating agencies and programs. Futurist Garry Golden helped the attendees formulate their thoughts into steps to facilitate change. Attendees listed ideas they could commit to on a personal level, organization level, and state level to move Idaho forward. Golden brought each presentation back to what libraries and other educational entities could do to support changes needed in Idaho’s plan for high school graduates.

A panel consisting of Brent D. Reinke, Director of the Idaho Department of Correction; Dawn Schatz, Coordinator of Clark Fork GEAR UP and a library staff member; and Kay Flowers, Director of Academic Programs at Idaho State University presented information about different aspects of the college and career ready picture. Presentations were also given by Selena Grace, Chief Academic Officer from the State Board of Education, and Alex MacDonald, Director of Instructional Technology from the State Department of Education. They discussed state-level goals and projects that foster support for all of Idaho’s students.

Much food for thought was presented and there are plans to continue the discussions. Libraries have an integral role to play in students’ ability to access information and become informed digital citizens.

Summit presentations, handouts, and resources are at:

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/collegeandcareerready>

Summit photos are at:

[www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157631182807464/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157631182807464/)



## Library news from around the state

Find out what has been happening in Idaho libraries. Do you have news about your library you'd like to share in an upcoming Nexus e-newsletter? Please let Teresa Lipus know at [teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov).

Caldwell School District said goodbye to K-8 Library Coordinator Bonnie Speas at the end of August when she moved to join her relocated husband in upstate New York.



Coeur d'Alene named 2012 Public Library of the Year

**Coeur d'Alene Public Library** celebrated its fifth anniversary in September with an open house featuring exhibits highlighting the library's collection and services, such as e-books, databases, and the new Koha check-out system to set up holds and to retain personal reading records. Coeur d'Alene was also named 2012 Public Library of the Year by the Idaho Library Association.

**Coeur d'Alene Public Library, the Community Library Network, East Bonner County Library District, and West Bonner Library District:** North Idaho Reads, a cooperative reading and discussion project by these libraries, was approved by the Idaho Humanities Council to receive a grant of \$1,882 in support of a film festival as part of the group's programs. The project—previously called Our Region Reads—selects a book each year for the regional community to share and to discuss during a series of programs. Humanities grants are funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the “We the People Initiative.” See more about North Idaho Reads at <http://northidahoreads.org/nidr/>.

### Director changes

Clarkia District Library: Director Karen Anderson's last day was October 31 and the new director is Shelley Osborne.

Eagle Public Library welcomed new library director Steve Bumgarner in June. Library Director Ronald Baker retired in March 2012 and Janice Campbell served as the Interim Director.

Grangeville Centennial Library: Director Edie Lustig resigned to pursue other interests and the library welcomes new director Rebekah Hosman.

Hagerman Public Library welcomed new director Charlotte Rosen.

Lewiston City Library: Director Dawn Wittman retired after 13 years of service. New Library Director Alexa Eccles took over the helm in July. See more at [www.lewistonlibrary.org/index.aspx?nid=410](http://www.lewistonlibrary.org/index.aspx?nid=410).

Meridian Library District: Director Patty Younger retired after 20 years of service to the district and library community. An open house in her honor was held in October. Laurel White is serving as the acting director during the search for a new director.

Oneida County District Library in Malad said goodbye to retiring library director Kay Caldwell in August, thanking her for 10 years of service, and welcomed new director Kathy Kent.

Prairie District Library recently welcomed Charlotte Duncan as the new director.

Sherburn Smith Memorial Library in Wendell welcomed new library director Christine Hernandez in September.



Library news continued from page 4

Idaho Community Foundation Grants ([www.idcomfdn.org](http://www.idcomfdn.org))

Franklin County District (Larsen-Sant Public) Library in Preston received \$500 to purchase blocks **and books to create a block play, literacy enriched center in the children's area to enhance early childhood learning.**

Library Consortium of Eastern Idaho (LCEI) received \$2,000 to provide a new integrated library system to serve the 250,000 patrons of the east Idaho libraries served by LCEI.

Mackay Elementary School received \$500 to purchase library books for Mackay Elementary **School's library.**

North Bingham County District Library received \$1,000 to purchase blocks to help children develop skills in math, science, literacy, and communication.

Oneida County District Library **received \$1,500 to buy new children's computers and children's educational software.**

Soda Springs Public Library Friends group received \$1,000 to purchase the equipment and screen needed to expand youth services programming.

Victor Elementary School received \$500 to purchase nonfiction library books for the school library.

## New faces at ICfL

ICfL welcomes new grants officer

Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) grants officer Sonja Hudson retired in June after serving the State of Idaho for more than 22 years and ICfL for more than 13 years. The Commission welcomed new grants officer, Kristina Taylor, in September.

Taylor comes to the Commission from a non-profit background, most recently the Treasure Valley **Family YMCA, and brings a wealth of grant experience, including an understanding of the "other side"** of grant programs—writing, administration, reporting, and donor stewardship. Her non-profit experience of the past six years involved working across many programs and facilities, which demonstrated the interconnectedness of community efforts and reinforced the value of working with various community organizations. Taylor was drawn to the Commission as an opportunity to blend her grant experience and organizational skills with her interest in literacy and her understanding of how families use libraries.

**With fulltime work and two young children, 4 and 8, Taylor's hobbies lean towards outdoor and practical activities.** Her family loves sports, camping, and gardening and they also pick and preserve locally grown fruit, and raise chickens. Taylor is also active in the Parent Teacher Organization at her **son's school.**

The Commission is very happy to have Kristina Taylor on board!

VISTA volunteer at ICfL

VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) member Julie Armstrong joined the ICfL Read to Me team in August. Julie will serve a year-long assignment at the Commission and focus on building capacity for **Read to Me outreach programs and implementing a new "Books to Go" program designed to increase access to books for low-income families through the National Leadership Grant project, "[Routes to Reading.](#)"**



ICfL Grants Officer  
Kristina Taylor



VISTA Volunteer  
Julie Armstrong

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*New Faces*, continued from page 5

Armstrong, mother of eight and grandmother of 11, is excited to be working with the Read to Me team so she can help promote early literacy skills among children throughout the state. She believes that developing strong literacy skills is essential to a successful life.

The Read to Me Coordinators have worked with several VISTA programs in past years, but this is the first time they applied to participate in the program. The program would be a great way for public libraries to increase capacity to serve low-income families. For more information about the AmeriCorps VISTA program, see [www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp).

### ICfL receives Routes to Reading grant

The Idaho Commission for Libraries received a \$250,000 National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to promote early learning among low-income children.

The Commission will partner with the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation and Idaho Kids Count on a program titled, **“Routes to Reading: Idaho Paves the Way with Access to Print.”** The project is designed to significantly increase the number of books shared with young children. **“Books to Go” kits will be available over the next three years at 250 Head Start centers, preschools, childcare centers, and home-based childcare sites statewide—allowing parents to take home bags of books to read with their children on a regular basis.** The project team also will create a web-based **“Virtual Storytime” to reach families who do not attend storytime at the library.** This parent-friendly website will also contain electronic children’s books, daily activities to develop early literacy skills, and other educational information, and will be accessible statewide through public library websites.

Research shows that the amount of reading done in the home is crucial to developing good readers. A lack of reading materials in the home contributes to the gap between good and poor readers that tends to increase as children enter school and progress through the grades. **The Commission’s work through the successful [Read to Me](#) First Book program shows that providing families with free, age-appropriate books and easy-to-understand information on activities they can do related to those books builds literacy skills and changes the behavior of parents.**

The Read to Me Team looks forward to working with libraries and partners in the coming years to **build on past partnerships and reach more of Idaho’s children with access to quality books!**

Idaho libraries are encouraged to apply for the new Books to Go program now! Apply at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/books-to-go-application](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/books-to-go-application).

Read more about the Routes to Reading project at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/teresalipus/icfl-wins-grant-to-pave-routes-to-reading> and <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/routes-to-reading>.





## Using technology integration to support learning

With the recent adoption of the new Idaho Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Standards and with research and media skills embedded into the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, it is apparent that technology plays a vital supporting role in Idaho education.

Teacher-librarian Gena Marker and her library advisory board students (LABbies) at Centennial High School (CHS) are providing a great example of how to integrate technology and engage students in the use of technology while providing them with the skills and tools to share that knowledge with other students. Recently, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) Public Information Officer Melissa McGrath visited CHS Library to see 21st Century learning in action.



Gena Marker and Centennial High School LABbies

During the visit, Marker explained that the LABbies are vital to what she does as a teacher-librarian. They help plan and implement all library programs, including those embracing technology. The LABbies showed the Superintendent around and shared how they use technology in the library and how they encourage other students to participate in library events such as Teen Read Week. When the conversation turned to Digital Natives vs. Digital Immigrants, the LABbies were quick to dispel any misperception that all students are tech savvy, noting that some kids don't have the resources to learn "techie stuff." One LABbie added that during his freshman year he had a document on a flash drive but didn't know how to use it; Mrs. Marker had to show him. Marker emphasized that the digital divide exists among students—no matter how affluent the neighborhood may seem to be—and that's why it is important for decision makers to fund not just devices, but to fund access and resources available at public libraries, as well.

Marker noted that the school library, is "so much more than books. It's about access to information." She said that the "LABbies" program benefits the school by helping to integrate technology and showing staff and students how to work in a 21st century environment. The students also gain leadership skills and a sense of ownership.

The impact of Marker's role as a technology integrator and collaborator in her school is supported by the [2009 School Library Impact Study](#). The study found that when librarians teach students as well as their teacher colleagues, and where teachers experience librarians as instructional colleagues and technology integrators, students are more likely to succeed academically.

See more photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157631740496837/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157631740496837/).



## Letters About Literature competition: a call for student entries

Letters About Literature (LAL), a national reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, invites readers in grades 4–10 to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual LAL letter writing competition. The contest challenges young readers to write a personal letter to an **author explaining how that author’s work changed the readers’ view of their world.** LAL awards prizes on both the state and national level in three competition levels: Level 1 for grades 4–6; Level 2 for grades 7–8; and Level 3 for grades 9–10. National winners will receive a cash award of \$1,000.

Submission deadline: *Postmarked by* January 11, 2013

State winners will be notified in April 2013 and national winners by May 2.

More Information (at [www.lettersaboutliterature.org](http://www.lettersaboutliterature.org))

[How to Enter](#) (including information for teachers for their classes)

[Letters About Literature](#) -- with samples of winning letters and 2013 Content Guidelines

**This year, for the first time, Idaho Commission for Libraries is Idaho’s sponsor for the contest.**

Letters About Literature information is also available on our website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lal>.



2012 Librarian of the Year Dawn Wittman with Lewiston City Library trustees and incoming director, Alexa Eccles

## ILA 2012 Annual Conference and Awards

The 2012 Idaho Library Association (ILA) Annual Conference, Everywhere You Want to Be, offered a little something for everyone, with workshops, business meetings, panels, and presentations.

The notes, handouts, PowerPoint presentations, and videos of the October 3 Pre-Conference “**Libraries as Brain Health Centers,**” sponsored in part by Idaho Commission for Libraries “**online @ your library**” project, are now available at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/brain-health>. This workshop included information and discussions about how libraries can support a healthy brain lifestyle for families and communities of all ages in the programs and services they offer.

Congratulations to the following people, who were recognized at the 2012 Awards Banquet and Ceremony for their contributions to Idaho libraries.

- ILA Scholarship: Katelyn Volle - Eli M. Obeler Library at Idaho State University
- Gard Hanks Scholarship: Jenaleigh Kiebert - Boise Public Library, Collister Branch
- Friend of the Year: Kathleen Hedberg - Burley Public Library
- Special Services to Libraries: Jillian Huang formerly Jillian Subach, formerly of Boise Public Library
- School Library Media Program of the Year: Wood River Middle School/Susan Tabor Bosch
- Public Library of the Year: **Coeur d’Alene Public Library**
- Legislator of the Year: Senator Bart Davis from Idaho Falls
- Librarian of the Year: Dawn Wittman - Lewiston City Library

Read the ILA press release at [www.idaholibraries.org/files/ILA2012PressReleaseAwards%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.idaholibraries.org/files/ILA2012PressReleaseAwards%20(1).pdf).

View additional conference photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157631854778412/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157631854778412/).



## ICfL Commissioners tour SW Idaho libraries

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) Board of Commissioners visited public and school libraries in southwest Idaho last week on their annual fall library tour. The board, which is designated as the policymaking body for ICfL, visits libraries in a different area of the state each year. This year's visit included Centennial High School, Payette Public Library, Garden Valley District Library, and Eagle Public Library, with a tour and a regularly scheduled board meeting at the Boise Public Library! Cole & Ustick branch on Friday, October 26.

The Commissioners toured new or recently remodeled facilities in Boise, Garden Valley, and Payette. The Cole & Ustick branch, with a LEED® Gold Certification, opened in June 2009. In February 2011 the Garden Valley library moved to its new home overlooking the Middle Fork of the Payette River. And, Payette recently received a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant/loan and passed a bond to build their addition, which doubled the capacity of their library.

At Centennial High School Library, teacher-librarian Gena Marker gave a big picture overview of how libraries of all types work together with ICfL. During the Eagle Public Library tour, the Commissioners met new director Steve Bumgarner and learned about projects he has implemented since his arrival a few months ago.

The annual fall tour of libraries is a highlight for the Commissioners. They enjoy getting out to visit libraries, meet the librarians, and see the facilities and services first-hand.

See photos of the board tour at: [www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157631891124394/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157631891124394/).



Boise Public Library Director Kevin Booe shows the ICfL Board of Commissioners some of the public art at the Cole and Ustick branch

## Get Territorial! Get Involved!

March 4, 2013 is the official day of the Idaho Territorial Sesquicentennial. The sesquicentennial, "Idaho at 150," will illuminate our state's future by helping people of all ages explore the territorial roots and history.

Idaho Commission for Libraries is helping promote the celebration on our website, through our newsletters, and through upcoming events and programs, including Let's Talk About It (LTAI). LTAI added the [category "Idaho at 150,"](#) which encourages Idahoans to learn about the state's history and culture and reflect on shared experiences.



The Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) is tapping interested organizations for ideas to celebrate this event economically with existing resources. For ideas on how you can celebrate Idaho at 150 check out the following:

Idaho State Historical Society: [Idaho at 150](#).

15 Things To do in Your Community:

[www.history.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/Basic\\_Community\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.history.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/Basic_Community_fact_sheet.pdf).

