

THE Nexus

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State Librarian Ann Joslin

Notes from ICfL

In January, the Governor’s FY2016 budget recommendation for the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) included our request for a \$100,000 permanent increase for Read to Me (RTM) Mini-Grants for more elementary school libraries to increase convenient access to quality, age-appropriate books for young children. In February, ICfL had a Budget Hearing in front of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC). In March, JFAC voted for the RTM Mini-Grant enhancement request and drafted the appropriations bill for our budget, House Bill 250. We anticipate that the Governor will sign HB250 in the coming weeks.

In addition to the Read to Me Mini-Grants, ICfL continues to support Idaho libraries by:

- maintaining online resources at LiLI.org, which are available to Idahoans at a huge savings through our statewide contracts.
- providing professional development [opportunities](#), both virtual and in-person, for library staff and trustees.
- developing, piloting, and scaling library [programs](#) that serve all age groups and a wide range of needs.
- leveraging national initiatives that support our mission and require only moderate resources on our part.

Online Resources

In December 2014, ICfL provided yard signs to Idaho public library buildings and high schools to promote the ACT/SAT and GED preparation materials available through LiLI.org in LearningExpress Library. Libraries are reporting new and growing interest in these resources. We are also providing a number of online, one-hour sessions on LiLI tools throughout 2015. Go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/LiLITraining> to register.

Professional Development

The continuing education and staff development grants we provide continue to be well used, as do Alternative Basic Library Education (ABLE) and Supplemental Alternative Basic Library Education (SABLE) courses. Our new [Idaho Librarian Survival Guide](#) contains basic information to help new public or school library staff, library directors, and trustees succeed in their first couple of years.

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

325 W State St.
Boise, ID 83702-6072
208-334-2150 • 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:

John Held, Dave Mecham,
Pat Raffee, Sara Staub,
and Larry Weeks

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

Commission Contacts:

- Ben Bibikov, web designer
- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Dian Scott, office services supervisor
- Edgar Correa, web developer
- Erica Compton, reading programs coordinator
- Gina Persichini, technology and access services consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho library consultant
- Jeannie Standal, school library consultant
- Kevin Tomlinson, southwest/south central Idaho field consultant
- Kristina Taylor, grants/contracts officer
- Marjorie Hooper, associate state librarian
- Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor
- Patrick Bodily, eastern Idaho library consultant
- Roger Dubois, administrative services manager
- Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

The “Libraries Building Community Summit” brings library teams together for two days of learning, networking, and planning. Each team takes home a plan to implement a community project once they return to their libraries. Five libraries participated in the 2014 Summit. See details at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/community>. The 2015 Summit is scheduled for late April.

The Library Leadership Advisory Committee (LiLAC), established through a joint effort by ICfL and the Idaho Library Association (ILA) to develop a culture of leadership within the Idaho library community, formed groups to focus on these areas: 1) Read2Lead, which will head a library community reading on leadership, 2) Mentoring, and 3) Leadership Development, which will hold a workshop at the ILA Annual Conference. LiLAC produces a quarterly newsletter and maintains a webpage on the ILA website with leadership development opportunities. See libraries.idaho.gov/leadership and idaholibraries.org/resources/library-leadership-in-idaho/.

Make It at the Library’s first workshop for the third year of the project was held at the Commission in February. Twenty-four library staff representing 16 libraries across Idaho—including eight [new](#) public libraries and two school libraries—attended the training, which focused on digital and analog circuits, Arduino, and e-textiles. Nick Grove, Meridian District Library, and Adam Day, Twin Falls Public Library, joined the group and lent their expertise. See recent media coverage of Idaho Make It program and year three libraries at libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/more-press-make-it-library.

Idaho’s maker program continues to garner regional, state, and national attention. Commission staff was invited to a national convening of both library and museum staff from all over the country in January. This [initiative](#) to better understand, advance, support, and connect maker spaces and maker programming in museums and libraries was launched by The Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in partnership with the Exploratorium, Maker Education Initiative, Chicago Public Library, and North Carolina State University Library. The convening was a hands-on event with making and discussion on the learning experiences taking place. Commission staff was also invited to serve on the Advisory Committee on 3D Printing in Libraries for Accessible Education. Committee members provided guidance for an early 2015 National Meeting and serve as liaisons to their respective communities to help the Committee better understand specific opportunities, needs, and challenges. View [blog](#).

Read to Me programs

Project coordinators Julie Armstrong and Staci Shaw have recently been on the road to Twin Falls, Pocatello, Rexburg, Idaho Falls, Preston, and Hailey training for the Idaho Child Care Reads program, which helps public libraries enhance services for child care providers and the children and families they serve. They enjoy hearing participant ideas and appreciate all of the work they do to promote a culture of literacy.



Library Broadband Access Report

In Fall 2014, the Idaho Commission for Libraries in partnership with the Idaho Library Association conducted a survey of broadband access in Idaho's public libraries. The [report](#) from the survey includes conclusions and recommendations for the Idaho library community as the need continues to grow for additional bandwidth and wireless access in libraries across the State.

Idaho Afterschool Network

The [Idaho Afterschool Network \(IAN\)](#) is a statewide network of out-of-school and summer program providers. Project coordinator Erica Compton represents ICfL and the Idaho Library Community on the advisory committee, with support from project coordinators Staci Shaw and Stephanie Bailey-White. Shaw recently accompanied IAN Director Marie Hattaway and other advisory committee members to the 2015 National Network of Statewide Afterschool Networks meeting in Dallas. Many sessions focused on STEM/makerspaces and Summer Learning programs. Shaw said, "It was affirming to see how far the Idaho library community is along those continuums already, and folks were impressed to hear about what is happening here in Idaho." Public libraries have a proud tradition of providing out-of-school (OOS) programs and services for youth. Participating in a sustainable effort to add their OOS activities to the IAN's efforts will benefit youth and parents alike, especially those challenged by poverty. This partnership is a means of letting more Idahoans know about the rich public library programming offered in their communities. See more at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/stacishaw/idahos-new-afterschool-network>.

New Technical Records Specialist at the Commission

Baxter Q. Andrews joined the Idaho Commission for Libraries staff in December as our Technical Records Specialist. She has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, 15 years of experience as a paralegal, and a wide-ranging background in data gathering and record keeping. Andrews works closely with Patrick Bodily, eastern Idaho area field consultant and state data coordinator, in support of the data gathering for the annual public library statistics. Andrews recognizes the value of statistics and believes the collection of data is the surest way to measure progress and highlight the role of libraries as community places.

In her spare time, Andrews puts her energies into the nonprofit that she established in 2014: Idaho Dads Inc. She authored an Idaho Dad's Rights Awareness Month [proclamation](#), signed by Governor Otter, for the month of June to coincide with Father's Day and distributes a brochure on the subject through the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Andrews is a member of the Idaho Legal Historical Society, the Idaho Women Lawyers, the Idaho Mediation Association, the Idaho Nonprofit Center, and the Justice Research and Statistics Association. She was also recently selected as one of 50 Idaho Business Review [2015 Women of the Year](#).



Technical Records Specialist
Baxter Q. Andrews

The Commission is delighted to have Andrews on board. We appreciate the enthusiasm and creativity she brings each day.



Library News From Around the State

Find out what is happening in Idaho libraries. Do you have news about your library that you'd like to share in an upcoming Nexus e-newsletter? Please let [Teresa Lipus](#) know.



Bellevue Elementary School librarian (and former Belleview Public Library director) Patty Gilman was nominated for the Idaho Mountain Express newspaper's annual "Woman of the Year" designation. Read more in the Mountain Express [article](#).

Boise Public Library's new branch at the airport was featured in the American Library Association's *American Libraries* [publication](#).

Boundary County District Library is developing a community-centered and -supported Fab Lab, one of an international network of Fab Labs affiliated with the MIT Center for Bits & Atoms with a learning lab, digital lab, physical lab with 3-D printers, and digital media lab. See more [here](#).

East Bonner County Library District, Sandpoint was featured in the [Sandpoint Magazine](#) Winter 2015 article "Library evolving from the stacks."

Latah County Library District collected data showing that families on one side of town were not as able to come to storytimes because of transportation or other barriers, so in January they created storytime at a mall on that side of town. See more [here](#).

Lemhi County Library District, Leadore Branch welcomed new director Sherry Kauer.

Libri Foundation (www.librifoundation.org/) Grant Recipients

New, quality, hardcover children's books were recently awarded to **Osburn Public Library**; **Priest Lake Public Library**; and **Tri-Community Library, Fernwood**.

Nampa Public Library and community formed a book brigade on February 22 to move books to the new library. See KTVB's [story](#). Also see story about the [new library](#) and [grand opening](#).

Powering Tomorrow (Idaho Power) grant recipients:

The following libraries are among the 37 organizations to receive grants from Idaho Power's Powering Lives Campaign. See www.facebook.com/idahopower/app_130660760316387.

Gooding Public Library (Take-It and Try-It Kits)

Kuna Library District (technology equipment)

Leadore School (school library books, computers and furniture)

Middleton Public Library (books)

Powering Lives grants are available to schools and non-profit organizations through an annual application process.

Read Me Treasure Valley [kicked off](#) February 4, at the Idaho Veterans Home, in Boise. This year's selection is *Fatal Light* by Richard Currey. This community read is presented in partnership with [Ada Community Library](#) (ACL), [Boise Public Library](#) (BPL), [Eagle Public Library](#), [The Cabin](#), and [The Idaho Statesman](#), with support from BPL Friends, ACL Friends, and funding from the [Idaho Humanities Council](#), the State affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities



Ribbon cutting at Driggs

Valley of the Tetons District Library, Driggs branch had their Ribbon Cutting on December 5. Speakers included Library Board Chair Guy Poirier and Driggs Mayor Hyrum Johnson. Library director Carla Sherman cut the ribbon and the festivities continued with music and refreshments. See more [photos](#).



Idaho Library Snapshot Day 2015 *by Hailey Roberts*

Idaho Library Snapshot Day will be held again this year during [National Library Week](#) (April 12-18), an annual, nationwide celebration of the work and contributions of libraries and library personnel sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA). This is an opportunity to document and demonstrate to your community, stakeholders, and policy makers the integral role your libraries play in enhancing the lives of library members in a single day. Snapshot Day is also an excellent opportunity to promote library use and support by highlighting collections and services. The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) encourages all libraries—school, public, academic, special—throughout the state to participate in Idaho Library Snapshot Day. Bonus: The statistics, comments, and photos you capture and submit for Snapshot Day can also be used on your library webpage or social media outlets!



To take part in Snapshot Day, simply decide with your library staff which day between Sunday, April 12 and Saturday, April 18 you will collect statistics to submit. On your chosen “Snapshot Day,” keep track of the number of people that use the library, how many and what types of questions are answered (job-seeking, homework, technology or Internet assistance, etc.), how many resources are circulated, how many programs are offered and attended; don’t forget to document qualitative information that demonstrates people’s experiences, like photographs and user comments. Visit ICfL’s webpage, [Idaho Library Snapshot Day 2015](#), featuring previous years’ results for examples of the information and statistics you may consider collecting during your Snapshot Day.

A number of tools are available to download from ICfL’s Snapshot Day webpage—including a photo release form, a printable survey form, comment sheets, etc.—to help make your library’s Snapshot Day a success. Additionally, web graphics for promoting National Library Week are available for free download at the American Library Association (ALA) website, along with information about library celebrations taking place throughout National Library Week ([Library Workers’ Day](#) is Tuesday, April 14; [Bookmobile Day](#) is Wednesday, April 16; [Teen Literature Day](#) is Thursday, April 17). Even more information about [Library Snapshot Day](#) and tips for organizing your event can be found through the ALA website.

Once you’ve collected Snapshot Day statistics, submit them through the online survey form [here](#), or at ICfL’s Snapshot Day webpage. Any photos taken should be submitted to [Teresa Lipus](#) by e-mail; photos should be sized between 1 and 3 MB. All stats and photos are due on Thursday, April 23, 2015. Finally, wait for the results to be shared after April 30. All results will be compiled and posted on the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ and the Idaho Library Association’s websites for you to review and share. Results will also be shared with members of the Library Leadership Advocacy Committee ([LiLAC](#)) and may be used in their efforts to increase support for the Idaho library community.

Contact [Teresa Lipus](#) (ICfL), [Jeannie Standal](#) (ICfL), or [Sarah North](#) (College of Western Idaho) with questions.

Hailey Roberts, an MLIS candidate through Texas Woman’s University, is completing a 120-hour practicum at the Idaho Commission for Libraries to fulfill her degree requirements. At the Commission, she has edited catalog records in LILI databases, assisted in updating the SABLE course on library services to young children, and created resources on financial literacy for Idaho teens. She will also be compiling and presenting the data you submit for Snapshot Day. Her interests are in public library services, and she currently works for both the Ada Community and Boise Public Libraries.



Community Building in East Bonner County, *by Ann Nichols, Director, EBCL*

Located in the far northern reaches of the state, the East Bonner County Library District (EBCL) serves a rural community of about 30,000 people. Sandpoint and Clark Fork each have a branch and a bookmobile serves the rest of the population. Both buildings are within easy walking distance of local schools. The influx of students after school gives the district a wonderful opportunity to host programs for enthusiastic students.

Last spring the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) accepted our request to join their Community Building Project. We were already gearing up to work with the ICfL on the “Make It at the Library” program and decided that the Make It program would be a great way to build the community. We are planning to have a Maker Faire next summer to show off the creativity and talent of the youth who participate in our Make It activities throughout the year.

The ICfL provided a two-day workshop in Boise with Pat Wagner, of Pattern Research, to get us started on the project. By just talking to our patrons about the possibility of working with us on a Make It program, we discovered there were a lot of people who wanted to be included. We chose a six-person team, which included the youth librarians from each branch, one of the library’s trustees who works at a high school, two employees from Cygnus (a Sandpoint aerospace company), and myself.

Full of optimism and enthusiasm, we met our first major challenge. Both young adult librarians accepted new jobs in other areas and left our program in early June. By this time we had five or six permanent volunteers helping students with robotics, soldering, sewing, needlepoint, and other Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) projects. Eager tweens, and several younger children, started filling our meeting rooms to work on their creations.

Our next hurdle was to find a space where we could leave the equipment set up for the weekly youth programs. We have been working out of our public meeting rooms and have to dismantle everything after each event. We originally met twice a week but had to cut back to once a week to avoid volunteer burnout. We explored several rental buildings, but decided that students would not be as likely to attend if they had to find transportation to another site after school. Parents were not anxious to drop their children off or stay and wait for them without access to the rest of the library.

During our building search the property adjacent to the Sandpoint branch became available for purchase. It has a 40’ x 60’ Quonset hut and a two-story house with a finished double garage on the lot. The District had money left from the sale of a former building and we completed the purchase in late November.

We had not expected such a dramatic result from our Community Building project. It is leading us in new directions and giving us different opportunities to serve our patrons. We had no idea that people involved with car injector clubs, quilters, sheet metal contractors, and retired teachers, some of whom had never darkened our doors, would be volunteering to help the younger segment of the community learn about their areas of interest and expertise. They want to give kids, who often leave our area because they don’t have the skills to go into the businesses we have here, an edge up to stay here and be part of our community long-term.

We have other obstacles to overcome now—including how exactly to use the land for the most benefit to all, whether or not to demolish the buildings on the new lot and raise more money for new structures, or remodel our existing building and use the new property for storage...the list of possibilities seems endless.

If we had the whole project to do over, we might have chosen a different Community Building project. But the way it has blossomed has led to opportunities we had never even dreamed of. Combining both programs helped us to provide new elements of lifelong learning, exploration, and creativity to the whole community.



Here We Have Idaho Day

The first Idaho Day, March 4, 2015, kicked off at the Idaho State Capitol building and many other locations around the state. In Boise, about 250 people attended the celebration in the Lincoln Auditorium, which included a welcome from Representative Linden Bateman and First Lady Lori Otter, a reading of the Idaho Day proclamation from Governor Otter, singing from Adams Elementary School students plus a [selfie with the Governor](#), remarks from State Historian Keith Peterson, dancing from the Traditional Chinese Dance Group from [Boise Modern Chinese School](#), cowboy poetry from [Sam Mattise](#), and drumming and dancing from [The Shoshone-Bannock Fort Hall Drummers](#), who honored Representative Bateman by asking him to join their circle. Idaho Public Television streamed the event and the archive is viewable at idahoptv.org/video/idahoday.cfm. See photos at www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157650762913048/.



The Capitol event was the result of a partnership that includes the Idaho State Historical Society, Idaho Department of Commerce & Tourism, Idaho Parks and Recreation, the Idaho Commission on the Arts, Idaho Public Television, the Idaho National Guard, and Idaho Commission for Libraries. State Librarian Ann Joslin said, "Idaho Day fosters civic engagement and strengthens our sense of community statewide. Idaho libraries, schools, and communities large and small have the opportunity to engage people of all ages in exploring all aspects of Idaho, learning about our heritage, and working together toward Idaho's future."

A number of schools, school districts, and libraries throughout the state also celebrated the first Idaho Day:

Ada Community Library, Hidden Springs had a display of Celebrate Idaho books, written by Idaho authors or with Idaho themes etc. They also dedicated their display case to "all things Idaho." During school class visits they talked about Idaho and handed out the Idaho State Symbols [bookmark](#).

Gooding Elementary School library hosted an Idaho Trivia Contest between 4th & 5th graders at Gooding Elementary School, with prizes including the Idaho State Symbol [bookmark](#), the Idaho potato button, blue rosettes with Idaho Day Trivia 2015 in gold letters AND an Idaho printed from the 3-D printer at **Gooding Public Library**, Idaho-shaped sugar cookies, and Idaho Spud Bars. The Idaho Potato Commission donated a Spuddy Buddy as their traveling trophy that goes to the classroom of the winning team.

Idaho Commission for Libraries celebrated a day early with "ICfL Reads," a staff lunchtime discussion of Grace Jordan's *Home Below Hell's Canyon*. Staff members also received an "Idaho Day" potato and two Idaho Placename word searches.

Kooskia Community Library (Prairie-River District) is running a series of Idaho trivia questions on their Facebook page.

Mountain Home Public Library had an ongoing Trivia Quiz. Each trivia question had a QR code associated with it and when scanned with an electronic device, the code took them to a website where they could find the answer to the question. They let patrons use the library's iPad to assist them and when they completed the sheet, their prize was an Idaho Potato and some "gold" treasure in the form of chocolate. The staff also had their picture taken holding a book by one of their favorite Idaho authors.

See what some **Boise and West Ada District schools** did at http://history.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/IdahoDaySchoolEvents_IDDaywebpage.pdf

Idahoans across the state posted selfies of their favorite Idaho places, favorite Idaho foods, and the things they love about Idaho to their preferred social media site with the hashtag #myidaho. See <https://twitter.com/hashtag/myidaho>.

For more information about Idaho Day go to www.history.idaho.gov/idaho-day.



Aspen Report: Rising to the Challenge

Last October, the Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries released a report stemming from work done over the last year, including conversations and explorations with Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) members. “Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries” explores how communities and their public libraries can respond as the digital age increases the demand for high-speed information access, changes in our education systems, innovative job training models and additional community services to help people and communities compete in the new economy. See the [Executive Summary](#) and the [full report](#) for Strategies for Success and 15 Action Steps for Library Leaders, Policymakers, and the Community.



eBranch WordPress Websites Now Available

by Edgar Correa, ICfL web developer

A new WordPress version of the eBranch program is now available. You can find more details at <http://ebranch.lili.org>.

Some of the new features include:

- Multiple themes available to choose.
- All themes respond to any mobile device.
- Multiple plugins and widgets to add sliders, newsletters custom forms, etc.
- Easy WordPress customizer helps you create content.
- Documentation and support available.
- Same domain and web hosting provided.
- and more....

We will continue support for your current Drupal website, but if you would like to migrate to WordPress, [contact us](#) to add you to the waiting list.

Any other questions please contact us by [email](#) or phone at 208-639-4173.



SPLAT Corner

The Special Projects Library Action Team (SPLAT) acts in the “crow’s nest” capacity, searching for innovation, proposing and leading experiments and pilot projects, and discovering new opportunities. SPLAT members pledge to build their own expertise in innovative practices and share their expertise and experiences with their colleagues in the Idaho library community. Check out their most recent blogs at <http://splat.lili.org/>, which include the following: *Agile Web Development & Heat Tracking*, *3D Printing with the Cloud*, *JobScout for Job Seekers*, and *When technology fails*.