

THE Nexus

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@ online
your library®



State Librarian Ann Joslin

online @ your library update

Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) and our many partners are working diligently to expand broadband and computing capacity in Idaho's least connected libraries through our "[online @ your library](#)" Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The BTOP project will also expand [LiLi](#) online resources statewide for K-12 students and job seekers.

Training is a key component in the "online @ your library project" and, since the November 2010 project launch, library staff members have completed training for two resources that have been made available through partnerships or grant funding: [Apangea Math](#) and [LearningExpress Library](#). Candidate libraries have also completed E-Rate training for Forms 470 and 471 and are positioned to file by the March 24 deadline.

Proposals from potential broadband service providers are being evaluated, along with sustainability for each candidate library. Some BTOP candidate libraries found great bargains as a result of the Request for Proposals (RFP) and others are at least looking at affordable broadband services, particularly after E-Rate support. Candidate libraries are in the process of submitting Broadband Decision Forms, after which they will receive Memorandum of Understanding packets with forms and information on computers, server/firewall, and data that needs to be collected for grant reports. The ordering of computers and laptops has not yet begun.

One of our BTOP partners, Idaho Public Television, has already begun [television spots](#) promoting the new resources available at <http://lili.org/>, such as LearningExpress Library. LearningExpress Library has been a hit since the statewide subscription became available in November 2010. [At libraries throughout the state](#), job-seekers and students are using the LearningExpress Library's interactive skill-building courses in reading, writing, and math as well as more than 50 multimedia computer-training tutorials. And many resources are available in Spanish. LearningExpress Library also has study guides for academic tests such as the GED, SAT,

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{ Global information, innovative services and community

Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission:

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

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- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

online @ your library, continued

GMAT, and CLEP as well as a wide array of career certification preparation and practice exams in fields such as education and health care.

Statewide online resources coming in summer 2011 include "Scout" (a version of Teachers' Domain customized for Idaho students) and Internet2 resources for libraries via Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON). They will be available through the LiLI portal. Stay tuned.



Go to <http://lili.org> to access new online resources

New staff at ICFL

Administrative services manager

The Commission is very happy to welcome our new administrative services manager, Roger Dubois, who joined the staff on January 3. Dubois comes to us with depth and breadth of experience gained through 30 years in the Air Force. Although it is an adjustment to return to civilian life, Dubois has delved right into learning about the Commission's activities and operations. His approach to budget challenges draws on his understanding of fiscal matters, the long-term impacts of underfunding, and the importance of what the Commission and Idaho libraries do to support the state. Dubois responds to day-to-day issues with insight and a sense of humor, and we appreciate benefitting from his expertise.

Dubois and his wife are happy to be back in Idaho after 10 years of living in the Midwest and overseas. Although not Idaho natives, both have deep roots in the state. Dubois' Grandfather homesteaded in Southwest Idaho more than 70 years ago and he spent many summers here. His two adult children also call Idaho home. In his spare time, Dubois enjoys outdoor activities.

Web design specialist

Ben Bibikov, our web design specialist, has been making some great changes since he joined the Idaho Commission for Libraries in September in 2010. Bringing a new perspective, fresh eyes, and "hands-on" experience working as a graphic and web designer, he looks for practical solutions to improve user experience and site accessibility. He has been instrumental in the redesign of our website and in helping us keep up with the constantly evolving web. Bibikov sees tremendous opportunity for ICFL to explore the web's potential and its future benefits. He says that the challenge is to recognize the diverse opportunities and tap into them.

Born in the former Soviet Union, Bibikov's family migrated to the U.S. in 1988 to seek religious freedom. He has been drawing and painting since childhood, and progressed on that path through high school. Realizing after graduation that the future of art is in graphic and web design, he has been pursuing a graphic design degree at Boise State University. Besides his career, he enjoys playing classical guitar, reading, photography, and spending time with his wife and two little daughters. The Commission is delighted to have Bibikov on board. With his skills, commitment, and passion he makes a great addition to our team.



LiLI Database Study - Final Report

by Gina Persichini

In the later part of 2010, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) contracted with Nancy Bolt & Associates to carry out a study of the LiLI Databases. The intent was to identify success factors, the impact of the LiLI-D on libraries and end users, implications for the future, and to make recommendations for the program. The [full report](#) is available on the [LiLI Databases information page](#).

From the study:

In summary, LiLI-D is a success because it provides needed resources to Idaho residents at no cost to local libraries and in a way that allows local libraries to improve their service and image. LiLI-D, however, is not without its challenges as well. Study participants identified these challenges and provided suggestions for improvement, but did not display any hesitation about LiLI-D's current and future value. The suggestions were directed to making LiLI-D even more successful than it already is.

What do you think about the findings and recommendations? Let us know on the LiLI Facebook Page. Keep the conversation going there or by following @LiLlorg on Twitter.

LiLI-D RFPs: Your Questions Answered

by Gina Persichini

In early February, the Idaho Commission for Libraries released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the statewide electronic databases. The Idaho library community will recognize it as a request for proposals for services for the LiLI Databases.

The current suite of contracts for services that make up the LiLI Databases will expire June 30th. With no further renewals left with those contracts, the Commission is seeking proposals for services that would begin July 1st.

Having received a number of questions, I'm going to summarize the most common here.

What are we asking for?

With the RFP sent out this month, the Commission is requesting proposals in a variety of topic areas including, but not limited to, K12 general interest, readers advisory, pro/con issues, auto repair, genealogy, foreign language learning, and other topics.

Will [insert database name] be included in the next contract?

Asking for proposals does not mean we will receive proposals from all potential services. If you work with representatives from companies with products you think would fit the scope and service of the LiLI Databases, you should refer them to the [Idaho Division of Purchasing's Bid Opportunities website](#).

It is also important to note that receiving a proposal does not guarantee a contract will be awarded to the proposer.



What do you think about the findings and recommendations?

Let us know on the [LiLI Facebook Page](#).

Keep the conversation going there or by following [@LiLlorg on Twitter](#).



LiLI-D RFPs, continued



The LearningExpress is available as a part of the "online @ your library" project funded through BTOP, The LearningExpress Library contract is in place through October 2012. Changes in contracts for the LiLI Databases will not have an impact on the LearningExpress access.

How do you decide what is purchased?

Each proposal received is evaluated on a number of criteria. Criteria cover business information, the proposer's quality of support staff, the usability of the databases, technical details needed for the services to function in Idaho libraries, a demonstration given by each proposer, and feedback from checked references. The criteria identified are updated each time the Commission seeks new proposals. In this process, we added new criteria based upon feedback from the library community, from the LiLI Steering Committee, and as suggested in the recent study of the LiLI Database program.

Each proposed service gets a thorough review by the Evaluation Team. The Evaluation Team is made up of ICFL staff and members of the library community representing various types and sizes of libraries in the state. The entire process, from the initial request to the evaluation and the awarding of contracts, is overseen by the Idaho Division of Purchasing, which allows everyone involved to be certain proposals are given fair and equal consideration.

When will we know which contracts are awarded?

The Commission is accepting proposals through March 16, 2011, for potential contracts that would begin July 1, 2011. After the proposals are received, a review period will begin. The Commission hopes to have a decision in May 2011. An announcement will be made as soon as contracts are in place. As is always the case with public funding, all decisions are dependent upon available funds.

Will this affect our access to LearningExpress Library?

LearningExpress Library is available as a part of the "online @ your library" project funded through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. While LearningExpress Library can be accessed through the LiLI Portal with other "online @ your library" services, it is not specifically a LiLI Database due to the different funding mechanism. The LearningExpress contract is in place through October 2012. Changes in contracts for the LiLI Databases will not have an impact on the LearningExpress Library access.

Changes to district library trustee elections

HB 60 has been signed into law and will change some of the dates for elections. It is retroactive so is in force now instead of on July 1. Previous law stated that nominations would have to be filed by 5:00 p.m. on the sixth Friday before the election. The new law states that nominations must be filed **on or before the ninth Friday preceding** the election.

2011 LIBRARY TRUSTEE ELECTION TIMELINE



Date	Activity	Code
March 4 - March 11	County Clerk publishes notice of petition availability and filing deadline	34-1405
March 18	Last day candidate nomination petitions accepted with clerk of the district	34-1404
April 1	Last day to supply wording and resolution to the County Clerk for a bond, override levy or plant facilities levy	34-1406
April 1	Last day to file as write-in candidate with clerk of the district	34-1407 33-2717A
April 1	First day to declare the election of a single candidate and the cancellation of the election	34-1407 33-2717
May 5	First notice of election is published by the County Clerk	34-1406
May 12	Second notice of election is published by the County Clerk	34-1406
May 18	Last day to declare the election of a single candidate	33-2717
May 19	Last day (up until 5:00 PM) to request "non-emergency" absentee ballots at the County Clerk's office	34-1002
May 17	Trustee Election Day (8:00 AM to 8:00 PM)	34-1406
May 27	Last day for the Board of County Commissioners to meet and canvass the vote	34-1205 34-1410
May 30	Clerk of the district issues certificate of election	34-1410

With that change (effective February 24) the County Clerk must publish the notice of candidate filing deadline for the May 17 election during the week of March 4-11 in the official newspaper(s) of the political subdivision. (Sec. 34-1405, I.C.). Your County Clerk might need from you the name of the official newspaper for your district, as well as a contact name and phone number.

Candidates must file by March 18 for the May 17 election. Several county clerks have suggested having the candidate take the petitions to the county clerk prior to the 18th for verification of signatures, and then take the petitions to the district by 5:00 p.m. March 18.

See the revised election calendar at http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/11Trustee_election_calendar_rev_1.pdf.



2010 Let's Talk About It report

By Betty Hoffman

The Idaho Humanities Council and the Idaho Commission for Libraries have been bringing Let's Talk About It reading and discussion programs to communities in Idaho for 25 years. The Let's Talk About It project brings together humanities scholars and adult readers in public libraries to read and discuss literature that explores a variety of topics. During calendar year 2010 the Idaho Commission for Libraries coordinated 89 reading and discussion program series. Total reported attendance for 2010 was 1,168. A total of 43 program scholars from Idaho colleges and universities participated (including a few non-affiliated presenters). Let's Talk About It continues to bring humanities programs to Idahoans and enhances public libraries' visibility in their communities. [Click here for the full report.](#)

Apply for the Fall 2010 through Spring 2011 programs. [Get the application here.](#) The deadline is Monday, April 25, 2011. Funding is available for fifteen libraries to participate. Participating libraries provide a \$100 cash match. Call Betty Hoffman at 208-334-2150 (Boise area) or 800-458-3271 if you have questions.

Getting wild at the Big Read kickoff

This year's Big Read program kicked off with a celebration January 14 at the Morris Hill Dog Park in Boise, complete with doggy biscuits for dogs, doggy cookies for dog lovers, and Big Read bandanas for all--fitting for this year's title, *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. The Big Read Boise and Beyond is presented in partnership with Ada Community Library, Boise Public Library, The Cabin, and the Idaho Statesman.

Project coordinator, Mary DeWalt, welcomed attendees, and Idaho Statesman Columnist, Dan Popkey, gave a brief history of the origin of the Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. Boise's community reading project began in 2001 and was called "What if Everybody Read the Same Book? A community-wide book club." The project shifted to the Big Read in 2006, when the NEA chose Boise as one of 10 communities to pilot the project. Organizers have won a Big Read grant each year since then.

Associate State Librarian, Marj Hooper spoke of the importance of adult reading and described how libraries from Marsing to Driggs to Lake Pend Orielle are facilitating this community conversation. Boise Mayor Dave Bieter emphasized the value of the Big Read and libraries to the community, noting that in the past two years area libraries have gained 25,000 new cardholders.

See photos from the kickoff at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/38963497@N03/sets/72157625830817202/>

The Call of the Wild is being celebrated with a full calendar of events including author appearances, film screenings, outdoor activities, and lively book discussions in and out of libraries across the state.

See the full calendar of events for The Big Read at http://media.idahostatesman.com/smedia/2011/01/10/17/Big_Read_2011_Calendar.source.prod_affiliate.36.pdf.

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.



Boise Parks and Rec spokesdog



SWIM cohort member Kate Baker served as SWILA planning committee chair.

SWIM cohort members take on leadership roles!

By Shirley Biladeau

Several Idaho scholarship recipients in the [SWIM Cohort](#) took up the reigns of leadership at the Southwest Idaho Library Association ([SWILA](#)) spring conference on February 9, 2011.

Colleen Bonnell and Kristine Brumley presented their stories on the Pursuing an MLS Degree-First Steps panel, along with Lizzy Smith, Gena Marker, and Fiona May, who are also participating in the University of North Texas MLIS cohort. Twenty individuals listened to their personal stories, which included challenges and successes as well as encouraging others to work toward their educational goals.

Some of the common themes expressed by the panel members included:

- "I just didn't really understand how much time and commitment this project would take – but I am glad I am doing it."
- "Really important to have the support of family and work colleagues/managers."
- "I have learned so much and the neat thing is that I get to implement it in my daily work activities, right away."

Kate Baker took the leadership role as SWILA planning committee chair and also presented the workshop "The great good place: Developing your Library as a Community Destination." Megan Egbert, presented the workshop "Technology Assistance through Community Involvement."

These enthusiastic members have taken up the reigns of leadership and will be assets to the Idaho library community. Thank you for your contributions.

2011 LSTA Competitive Grants Approved

By Sonja Hudson

On February 18th, the Idaho Commission for Libraries Board of Commissioners reviewed and approved the two grant applications submitted in response to the 2011 LSTA Competitive Grant announcement.

Due to the fact the Federal Government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution, the Board's award of these grants is contingent on the Commission receiving their full LSTA award for 2011.

The grants approved were the Boise Public Library's application titled "Survey of Library Service Needs for Boise Area Community," and Cooperative Information Network's application titled "Add Benewah County Library District to CIN."

The Commission's LSTA funding will continue to be monitored, and applicants will be notified of any change in status.





SPLAT in action

[SPLAT](#), the Special Projects Library Action Team, acts in the “crow’s nest” capacity--searching for innovation, proposing and leading experiments and pilot projects, and discovering new opportunities. Some of the things going on with SPLAT recently include:

SPLAT Unconference Report: Top Ten Library Trends

SPLAT members published an [article](#) about library trends in Vol 60, No 2 (2010) of [The Idaho Librarian](#): A Publication of the Idaho Library Association. Read more about trends, tools, and technologies that were discussed at the SPLAT Unconference in October 2010 or at recent SPLAT meetings, including:

- Boise Public Library “Gadget Garage”
- Machinima
- Mobile Everything For Libraries
- QR codes
- Unconferences

Conference presentations

SPLAT members Amy Vecchione and Memo Cordova presented at two national conferences in 2010: presenting “[Collaborate to Succeed: Implementing New Reference Services with SPLAT](#)” at Reference Renaissance 2010 and “[SPLAT: Spreading Innovation & Ideas](#)” at Internet Librarian 2010.

Getting out there

The SPLAT blog has been mentioned in Techbits: Bits of Technology for Your Library as a “[Library Tech Blog I love](#),” for discussing technology in a library context (or libraries in a technology context) and posting topics that interest the blogger (trends, mobile devices, interesting projects being done by libraries, tips & tricks, software).

And, most recently, Barbara & Chris of the CoolTeacher Podcasts gave a Shout-Out to SPLAT (and Idaho Librarians) at the end of their podcast at [CPT #69: Read Barbara’s Lips](#).

SPLAT survey

SPLAT members are conducting a study to learn of your experiences with SPLAT, and to determine if SPLAT is on track to fulfilling its mission. Please complete this [survey](#) if you have had any experience with SPLAT. The entire process will take about five minutes, and can be completed anywhere there is Internet access.

Thanks to SPLAT members Amy Vecchione, Gena Marker, Heather Redding, Kate Baker, Memo Cordova, Ruth Funabiki, and Shirley Biladeau for keeping us on top of trends and technology. And a big welcome to new members Jezmynne Dene, Director, Portneuf District Library and Nick Madsen, Young Adult Librarian, Community Library Network at Hayden.



Special Projects Library
Action Team acts in the
“crow’s nest” capacity



LSSC Registration Assistance Awards for Idaho

By Shirley Biladeau

LSSC Registration Assistance Awards will be granted to four (4) Idaho library support staff members who wish to become candidates for the Library Support Staff Certification, a [program](#) managed by the ALA-Allied Professional Association. The Registration Assistance Awards (\$175) will pay one-half of the candidate registration fee. The LSSC program is funded by a grant to American Library Association from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

The LSSC Program offers library employees the opportunity to achieve recognition for their experience, enhance library service, and increase skills and knowledge in areas like the foundations of librarianship, technology, and communication. This national certification will be of value as it not only provides a tool for candidates to place on their resumes to document their experience and skills as they seek future employment, it also will travel with them regardless of geographic location.

To find out more information go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lssc>.

Library news from around the state

Community Library Network is the new name for Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries (KSAL) and Post Falls Public Library. The name change comes as Post Falls Public Library merges with the KSAL district. The Community Library Network provides library services in the cities of Athol, Harrison, Hayden, Pinehurst, Post Falls, Rathdrum, and Spirit Lake and through its mobile library. The district now has seamless service throughout the area in partnership with the Coeur d'Alene Public Library and others throughout the region. ([CDA Press](#)).

DeMary Public Library received \$1,992 for the purchase of computer tables from the First Federal Charitable Foundation. ([Times News](#))

Garden City Library received \$25,000 from the Fred Meyer Foundation for its Bells for Books mobile literacy program for children and families.

Garden Valley District Library celebrated the Grand Opening of its new library building on March 5, 2011. Read more about it and see photos at <http://gvdailynews.blogspot.com/> and <http://gardenvalleylibrary.blogspot.com/>.

Grangeville Centennial Library and **Lizard Butte Public Library**, Marsing, recently received grants in the form of new children's books from the [Libri Foundation](#).

Marshall Public Library welcomed Michigan native Eric D. Suess as the new library director. Suess, who has 14 years of experience as a library director, earned a Masters in Library Science from the University of Michigan in 1987 and a 1983 BA in Government and English from the University of Notre Dame. His appointment began January 31. ([Idaho State Journal](#)) Marshall Public Library also received a \$14,000 grant from the Fred Meyer Foundation for its youth services program. ([Idaho State Journal](#))

Payette Public Library— The City of Payette has received a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant of \$80,000 and loan of \$1,000,000 to build an addition on to the Payette Public Library. ([USDA News Release](#))



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