

# THE Nexus

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State Librarian Ann Joslin

## Notes from ICfL

Good news: The Governor signed the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) FY2015 appropriation bill on March 26. We are happy to report that ongoing funding for LearningExpress Library has been officially approved. In addition, a one-time increase of \$100,000 for mini-grants for school libraries was approved, bringing the total funding for this program in FY2015 to \$200,000.

Spring has arrived and lots is going on at the Commission!

- **My First Books applications:** This program strengthens partnerships between public libraries and local schools, preschools, Head Start sites, and child care providers to increase “underserved” children’s access to quality print materials. *Only publicly-funded public libraries in Idaho are eligible to apply.* To learn more, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/first-book>. **Application deadline is April 24, 2014.**
- **Multilingual Bookworm:** The Bookworm, an early literacy newsletter sent home to the parents of children receiving My First Books, is currently available on our website in English, Spanish, Farsi, French, and German. Chinese and Arabic are also being developed. Find them at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/ell-resources>.
- **CE grants for Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference,** Sept. 3–7, Tacoma, WA: ICfL set aside 20 First Time Conference Attendee Grants for this year’s event. This is a reimbursement grant for up to \$900 in expenses (allowable expenses are hotel, travel, registration). For more information go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lsta>. If you are interested in applying, contact Shirley Biladeau at [shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov) or 208.639.4149. **Application deadline is May 1, 2014.**
- **Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) Family Workshops** is a series of three 45-minute workshops that involve young children and their parents in learning about early literacy practices. Parents also get a book or other resources each week that go with the practices. Materials for families and your library are available from ICfL’s Read to Me program at no cost to your library. Workshop scripts in English and Spanish are also available from ICfL. Training sessions will be held in August. Applications for 2014-2015 are at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ECRR2014>. See more [here](#). **Application deadline is May 16, 2014.**

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### Idaho Commission for Libraries

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<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:

- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Dian Scott, office services supervisor
- Erica Compton, reading programs coordinator
- Gina Persichini, networking 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
- 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

#### Other reminders:

- **OCLC interlibrary loan (ILL):** A reminder that the system is changing, with a new interface called OCLC WorldShare ILL. All libraries with OCLC accounts need to be using the new platform **by April 14**. See more [here](#).
- [@yourlibrary.org](http://yourlibrary.org), the American Library Association's public awareness website, has free tools for targeting a variety of audiences, engaging current supporters, and highlighting the value of libraries. See more at [www.atyourlibrary.org](http://www.atyourlibrary.org) and [www.facebook.com/atyourlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/atyourlibrary), or [sign up](#) for the website's monthly newsletter.

### Retirements at the Eastern Field Office by Marjorie Hooper, Associate State Librarian

While we at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) may be sad as Frank Nelson and Debby Wylie leave us after so many years, we wish them nothing but the best as they enter this new phase of life: Retirement!!

I know all the public libraries will join with me in thanking Nelson and Wylie for their untiring work with the annual data collection. Their collective skills and knowledge make them a hard act for anyone to follow.

During his 25 years of dedication as the eastern Idaho area field consultant, Nelson has covered the gamut of questions and situations for libraries. He has helped many libraries through grant applications, districting projects, building programs, budget development, board orientation sessions, and new library directors while conducting thousands of site visits and meetings—just to name a few of his activities. He has celebrated their victories and supported them through many a crisis. He will be missed.

Even though there will be no staff at the Eastern Field Office (EFO) for awhile, ICfL will continue to provide consulting services. We are asking anyone in the EFO area to call the Boise office for service. If you are already working with someone on a project, please continue as is. If something comes up that would have meant a call to Nelson, please contact me using any of the following methods:

- Boise Office number – 208.334.2150
- Boise Toll-free number – 208.458.3271
- My email – [marj.hooper@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:marj.hooper@libraries.idaho.gov)

I speak for all the staff at the Commission when I say thank you, Frank and Debby, for all your contributions to improved library services throughout the state of Idaho. The library community as well as the citizens of Idaho is in your debt for your untiring service. It's been a great experience and happy trails to both of you!"

#### The job announcement for the consultant's position for eastern Idaho has been posted at

[https://labor.idaho.gov/DHR/ATS/StateJobs/jobannouncement.aspx?](https://labor.idaho.gov/DHR/ATS/StateJobs/jobannouncement.aspx?announcement_no=02908074481)

[announcement\\_no=02908074481](https://labor.idaho.gov/DHR/ATS/StateJobs/jobannouncement.aspx?announcement_no=02908074481). We will fill the position as soon as we can.

### USDA Rural Development Grants & Loans for Small, Rural Libraries

The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program has funds in the form of loans and grants available for the development of essential public community facilities in the most financially needy rural communities with a population of up to 20,000. This round of funding will focus on assisting public libraries in our small, rural communities of Idaho. For more information about the Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants, plus the "Know your Farmer, Know Your Food" program, check out <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/shirley-biladeau/usda-rural-development-grants-and-loans-available-small-rural-libraries>.



## 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 at [teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov).



**Coeur d'Alene Public Library** placed books in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Hayden office through an outreach partnership project. The project was organized by circulation clerk Annabelle Farley, based on a similar program she learned about at an Idaho Library Association conference. See more at <http://cdacity.blogspot.fr/2014/02/partnership-project-places-books-at-wic.html>.

**Hailey Public Library** celebrated its 95th anniversary and 20 years in its current location on February 18. See more at [www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2007150880](http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2007150880).

**Horseshoe Bend District Library** recently had an open house to thank director June Brown for nearly thirty years of service. Brown, who retired February 28, started with the library many years ago as a clerk. The library welcomed Teresa Cooper as the new director, effective March 1. Cooper has been with the library for over 15 years.

**Idaho Humanities Council grant recipients** ([www.idahohumanities.org/images/newsletters/winter\\_2014.pdf](http://www.idahohumanities.org/images/newsletters/winter_2014.pdf))

**Ada Community Library, Boise:** \$2,000 to help support a community-wide reading project in February and March 2014

**Coeur d'Alene Public Library Foundation, Coeur d'Alene:** \$2,000 for a storytelling project in the library

**Garden City Library Foundation, Garden City:** \$750 to support their bilingual books program

**Larsen-Sant (Franklin County District) Library, Preston:** the Smithsonian traveling exhibition on sports culture in America titled "Hometown Teams" in November and December 2014

**Mullan School District, Mullan:** \$1,000 to help purchase equipment for an electronic check-out system for the library

**The Community Library, Ketchum:** \$2,500 to bring Florida writer Sean Poole to speak at the 2014 Ernest Hemingway Symposium

**Idaho Power "Powering Tomorrow" grant recipients** ([www.facebook.com/idahopower/app\\_130660760316387](http://www.facebook.com/idahopower/app_130660760316387)).

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Powering Tomorrow Grants! Idaho libraries in Bruneau, Chubbuck, Marsing, New Plymouth, and Oakley are among the 32 recipients!

**Armoral Tuttle Public Library, New Plymouth:** Teen Power Program

**Bruneau Valley District Library, Bruneau:** "Bruneau and Beyond" Speaker Program

**Lizard Butte District Library, Marsing:** Adding nonfiction material to the eBook collection

**Oakley District Library, Oakley:** New children's books

**Portneuf District Library, Chubbuck:** Computers for mobile digital literacy classroom

**Meridian Library District** was featured in the American Library Association (ALA's) online *American Libraries Direct* for their little free libraries initiative, which Silverstone Branch Manager Natalie Nation launched after participating in ALA's Leadership Institute. See more at [Meridian library helps set up little free libraries](http://www.meridianlibrary.org/meridian-library-helps-set-up-little-free-libraries).

**University of Idaho Library, Moscow:**

- Scholarly Communications Librarian Annie Gaines is named one of American Library Association's Emerging Leaders of 2014. See <http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/a8839abd#/a8839abd/28>, pages 27 and 28.

- Digital Initiatives and Web Services Librarian Devin Becker is named by the *Library Journal* as one of the 2014 class of Movers & Shakers in the Tech Leaders category. <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/03/people/movers-shakers-2014/devin-becker-movers-shakers-2014-tech-leaders/#>.



## Idaho Library Snapshot Day 2014

Idaho Library Snapshot Day is being held during National Library Week, April 13-19, 2014.

Pick any day during that week and “snapshot” away!

### What is it?

Idaho Library Snapshot Day is designed to capture the impact that Idaho libraries have on their communities on a typical day. Snapshot Day is also a great time to collect library user comments and take photos for your website or other promotional materials.

### How does it work?

Idaho libraries—public, school, academic, and special—document their activities for one day and then enter the results on the online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/IdahoSnapshot2014](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IdahoSnapshot2014). The information will be compiled on a “Results” page on the Idaho Commission for Libraries website and the Idaho Library Association website.

1. Let your staff know you are participating in Library Snapshot Day.
2. Print the [Printable Survey Form](#) to collect statistics during your Library Snapshot Day.
3. Participate on the date you’ve selected then submit your statistics on the [online survey](#) by **Thursday, April 24**.
4. Submit any photos to [teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov). Photo size should be about 1 MB to 3 MB.
5. Watch for a link (on LibIdaho) to the “Results” page after April 30.

(See a 3-minute video of Idaho Library Snapshot Day 2013 results [here](#).)

### Why participate?

Our collective statistics, photos, and stories are a wonderfully unique way to document the growth of libraries in Idaho.

### More info:

Visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/IdahoSnapshot> to learn more and download tools (sample [photo release form](#), library user comment form, etc.) to make your Library Snapshot Day a success.

### Questions? Contact:

Teresa Lipus (ICfL) at [teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov) • Jeannie Standal (ICfL) at [jeannie.standal@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:jeannie.standal@libraries.idaho.gov)  
Sarah North (College of Western Idaho) at [sarahnorth@cwidaho.cc](mailto:sarahnorth@cwidaho.cc) • Rebekah Hosman (Grangeville Centennial Library)

## Upcoming Celebration Weeks and National Library Events

- [School Library Month](#), April 2014, is the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) celebration of school librarians and their programs. Every April, school librarians are encouraged to create activities to help their school and local community celebrate the essential role that strong school library programs play in a student's education.
- [Money Smart Week](#)<sup>®</sup>, April 5–12, promotes personal financial literacy. Libraries partner with community groups, government agencies, educational organizations, and other financial experts to help consumers learn better personal finance management.
- [National Library Week](#), April 13–19, celebrates libraries and librarians and promotes library use and support. Idaho libraries can also participate in Idaho Library Snapshot Day during this week.
- [National Library Workers Day](#), April 15, recognizes all library workers, including librarians, support staff, and others who make library service possible every day. Visit <http://ala-apa.org/nlwd/> to “Submit a Star” from your library and find other ways to celebrate.

See more events at [www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks](http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks).



## Let's Talk About It application deadline May 23

by Dian Scott, office services supervisor

Idaho libraries are invited to apply for the 2014-2015 Let's Talk About It series by completing the application now available on the ICfL website ([http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/LTAI\\_application\\_2014-2015.pdf](http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/LTAI_application_2014-2015.pdf)). Applying is easy, and libraries work with a community partner to promote and host book discussion sessions.



What makes these discussions unique is the presence of a humanities scholar to guide the sessions. Adult readers have access to the library-selected theme and books and then have the opportunity to explore American values, history, culture, and other topics pertinent to the reading selection. Participating libraries report lively, stimulating, and engaging discussions as well as attracting new patrons in the process.

At least 15 libraries statewide will be selected to participate and will be provided book copies and theme and book materials for use in the program. Each library will also provide a \$100 match that may be paid by the library, its community partner, or friends of the library.

**Deadline for applications is May 23**, and applications can be:

Mailed to Idaho Commission for Libraries, Dian Scott, 325 W. State Street, Boise, ID 83702;

Faxed to 208-334-4016; or

Delivered to the Commission office.

*The Let's Talk About It program is made possible by the Idaho Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and a generous gift from the U.S. Bank Foundation, and is administered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries.*

See more about the Let's Talk About It program at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/lets-talk-about-it>.

## U.S. Citizenship and Libraries

by Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have partnered to provide immigration and citizenship information and resources to public libraries across the country. This agreement is founded upon the recognition that libraries serve as a vital resource for immigrant communities. Through this partnership, USCIS and IMLS seek to ensure that libraries have the necessary tools to refer their patrons to accurate and reliable sources of information on immigration-related topics.

For a general overview of the agreement and how libraries can become involved, visit the USCIS Citizenship Resource Center where you'll find a section of the site dedicated to libraries (<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/organizations/libraries>). On this page, librarians can find information on upcoming USCIS webinars, download educational resources, register for email alerts, and identify contact information for local USCIS Community Relations Officers who can help facilitate opportunities for further engagement.

The first two of four quarterly webinars by IMLS and USCIS on *USCIS Citizenship Education and Initiatives* were held February 4 and March 6. Links to a recording of the webinars and the transcripts is now available on the IMLS website at [www.imls.gov/about/serving\\_new\\_americans.aspx](http://www.imls.gov/about/serving_new_americans.aspx).



## SWIM Graduates: Where are they now? Part 2



In the Jan/Feb 2014 issue of this newsletter we followed up with several graduates of the South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana (SWIM) Regional Collaborative Library Education Project, which was funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. Following are stories from some of the other SWIM graduates.

**Bruce Godfrey**—GIS Librarian, University of Idaho—provides a strategic vision of and leadership in developing and promoting a suite of geospatial services for faculty, staff, and students. He also provides reference assistance and research consultation for geospatial information, identifies and cultivates partnerships with other university programs on geospatial initiatives, participates in the creation and maintenance of metadata records for geospatial resources, evaluates geospatial resources, and collaborates with librarians in related subject areas to identify spatial data needs. Before earning his MLIS he was in a staff position; after earning his MLIS he applied for a GIS librarian position and was hired.



When asked if he recommends an MLIS, Godfrey says, “I would recommend it for those interested in the library profession. It provides a valuable foundation for anyone interested in becoming an information professional.”

Long-term, Godfrey hopes to be viewed as a valuable member of his faculty and university. Additionally, he hopes to be well-respected by other GIS Librarians across academia.

**Kristi Haman**—Technical Services Supervisor, Garden City Public Library—is responsible for adult collection development and acquisitions and the cataloging, processing, and mending of library materials. Her duties also involve library marketing (including newsletter and social media), website content updates, reference services, and weeding initiatives. When she was a grad student, she worked as a part-time assistant at two libraries: Boise Public Library at Collister and College of Western Idaho (CWI) Library. She served patrons at the circulation and reference desk and planned and executed programs. She also marketed events, assisted with technology inquiries, served on the Adult Summer Reading committee, and planned a library-themed art exhibition at CWI. Five days after graduation, she was offered a full-time, professional position and is now responsible for a team of five volunteers and one assistant. As part of the management team, she enjoys making decisions that meet the information needs of Garden City Library patrons. In her new role, she has found that it is advantageous to understand library science methodology. It helps with her work in collection development, cataloging, acquisitions, and technical services. She is grateful, therefore, to have her MLIS because it provided the foundation and technical skills she needs to excel as a librarian.



When asked if she recommends an MLIS, Haman says, “Absolutely, yes, I would recommend that anyone who desires a long-term career working in the library field pursue an MLIS/MLS. Most professional, full-time positions require or prefer an MLIS. Plus, salaries are usually higher for holders of master’s degrees. An MLIS demonstrates to others that you are educated, dedicated, goal oriented, motivated, and resourceful. I also recommend getting involved with library associations, attending conferences, serving on committees, and taking leadership courses.”

Long-term, Haman says that the great thing about working in this field is that there are plenty of opportunities. She can see herself becoming a library director. She would also enjoy being a marketing or collection



development manager. She could work for an academic, government, or museum library as an arts librarian and archivist (her BA is in photography and she previously worked for the Smithsonian). It would also be a dream-come-true for her to work for the Disney Animation Research Library or to own an old world bookstore with sliding ladders and a spiral staircase.

**Bev McKay**—Librarian, Stevens-Henager College—assists students with research needs, develops course curriculum, manages the campus bookroom, and tutors students in various subjects. McKay was unemployed before getting her MLIS.



When asked if she recommends an MLIS, McKay says, “I would recommend [it] but I would also caution people that you’re not going to make a lot of money and jobs are hard to get. Because I was a student of Stevens-Henager before going to graduate school, I feel that helped me get the job more than anything. That alone helps me in my job.”

Long-term, McKay is going back to school to work on a masters in education.

**Jill Mitchell**—Adult Services Manager, Meridian Library District—oversees interlibrary loan (ILL) , programming, bookmobile, homebound, volunteers, and much more. She began her library career doing interlibrary loan and then was advanced to be a manager.



When asked if she recommends an MLIS, Mitchell says, “It depends on what type of library one works in whether an MLIS is important. I believe for an academic library, it would be a must. I think an MLIS is important with a technology emphasis, otherwise, if one works in a small public library, I am not so sure it is important.”

Long-term, due to family circumstances, Mitchell’s career plans are currently in flux.

**Kate Radford**—Bookmobile Coordinator, Meridian Library District—manages bookmobile activities, promotion, and scheduling, as well as coordinating bookmobile outreach events and activities. Before earning her MLIS, she was a library assistant.



When asked if she recommends an MLIS, Radford says, “I feel that having an MLIS opens some doors that might otherwise remain closed, but I believe the actual educational components of an MLIS leave something to be desired. I very much hope to see changes to the educational requirements for an MLIS in the future, including a broadening of courses involving the humanities, advertising, etc. ”

Long-term, Radford hopes to move into a strong outreach position or to work her way into MakerSpace activities, particularly those with an outreach component. She also feels strongly about working with community organizations and businesses to improve library connectivity through the community.

**Congratulations to these SWIM graduates for all of their hard work and achievements, and many thanks to them for their dedication to improving library services in Idaho.**



## Making the Most of ICfL CE Opportunities

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) provides continuing education (CE) opportunities to the staff of publicly funded libraries by offering programs, webinars, workshops, and grants to attend non-ICfL-sponsored events, such as library related conferences and courses. In 2013, 44 CE grants were awarded to publicly funded library staff across Idaho for First Time Conference and Formal Library Science Course/Professional Development Grants through Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Several of the 2013 CE grantees attended a two-day *Grant Writing Workshop* taught by Grant Writing USA and hosted by ICfL, in the fall of 2013. This spring, our CE Consultant, Shirley Biladeau, and Grants Officer, Kristina Taylor, caught up with the grantees six months after this learning opportunity and asked these individuals to share how they have applied what they learned and how this has enhanced their library services.



Building little free libraries at the Meridian Library  
– Photo by Meridian Library District

Alyce Kelley, Emmett Public Library Director, said that since attending the grant writing workshop she's had the opportunity to write a number of grants on behalf of the Emmett Public Library and the Friends of the Emmett Public Library, several of which have been funded. "One of the most exciting outcomes has been the improved confidence I have felt since completing the workshop," said Kelley. "Recently Gem County was given an opportunity to participate in the *High Five Community Health Grant*. The Gem County Community Health Connection agreed to pursue the opportunity. Feeling a renewed confidence from the workshop, I volunteered to help write the grant. We received an honorable mention award of \$1,000 for Gem County." Janna Streibel, Lizard Butte Library Director, is also much more confident writing grants as a result of attending the workshop. She has written a few grants since the workshop and recently received an Idaho Power "Powering Tomorrow" grant to purchase non-fiction titles for their eBook consortium (See more at [www.facebook.com/idahopower/app\\_130660760316387](http://www.facebook.com/idahopower/app_130660760316387)).

Natalie Nation, Meridian Library District, Silverstone Branch Manager, took advantage of a CE grant from ICfL to attend the American Library Association (ALA) Leadership Institute. "The Institute deeply inspired me to pursue leadership projects in my library," said Nation. "As a result of the Institute I emerged with a strong community-focus and am better equipped to identify and work with community stakeholders. I became inspired to increase access to books for children that are not near libraries in our community, and also hoped to facilitate a stronger sense of community. Finally, I wanted to encourage people to create and be makers. I found the synthesis of these three goals in a community-wide little free library project. I submitted a proposal to Home Depot to fund raw materials to make little free libraries and worked with the Eagle High School Special Education Department to cut and assemble six library kits. I reached out to schools and community members through our website and chose two schools, the Mayor's Office, and three neighborhood residences as little free library hosts. I sought book donations through an underserved grant with the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Finally, I recruited building volunteers to help families and schools create their very own little free libraries on Saturday, February 22nd. In a few weeks, Meridian will go from having one little free library to seven! I have also submitted a proposal to Meridian Parks and Recreation to move forward with creating little free libraries in Meridian Parks. I am in the process of identifying a partner to help fund them. I am also meeting with Eagle Scouts to share my little free library model in the hopes that they can expand the legacy within Meridian." See [more](#) about Meridian's little free libraries.

Check out the [Continuing Education](#) page on the ICfL website and see if there is an opportunity that will help you reach goals that you've set for yourself or your library.

*Many of the CE opportunities that ICfL offers are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*



## SPLAT Corner: SPLAT Members Engage ICfL Commissioners

On February 21, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) Board of Commissioners attended their regularly scheduled meeting and then enjoyed a presentation by the Special Projects Library Action Team ([SPLAT](#)) members.

Members shared some of the rewarding experiences they've had since being involved with SPLAT. Several talked about SPLAT events that included Gizmo Garages, an ICfL initiative. There are four Garages throughout the state, each containing eReaders, tablet computers, and other devices. These Garages are under the care of the SPLAT members and are shared with other libraries for staff training/development and library user exploration.



SPLAT members demonstrate how to use the Gizmo Garage devices

At one public library, staff checked out the Gizmo Garage devices for a few weeks at a time, exploring how the device worked and how it interfaced with library digital content. As a result, library staff is now well-equipped to answer questions and assist library users with the devices that they bring into the library. At another library the devices were used to give library users some hands-on experience. Staff finds that many people are less intimidated with technology if someone can walk them through it, and they become better technology consumers by knowing what questions to ask when they come into the library. Other library staff used a Gizmo Garage to network with neighboring rural libraries, demonstrating how libraries can take a digital leadership role in their community.

Several SPLAT members enjoyed the 2013 "Summer Adventures" road trips with the Gizmo Garages. One worked mostly with library staff, modeling teaching behavior, and noted that library staff members don't learn how to teach in library school—yet they do it every day. Another SPLAT member coaxed someone into trying a device by making it relevant for her, explaining how technology made a difference in her grandchild's life. Yet another SPLAT member enjoyed watching teens in various towns and making them more comfortable with technology. He explains, "Just because teens are digital natives doesn't mean they know what they are doing." These SPLAT members are looking forward to the upcoming 2014 "Summer Adventures."

An academic library took advantage of the Gizmo Garage by showing faculty how students were using many of the devices. A school librarian SPLAT member noted that the digital divide still exists in some areas. She used the devices to instruct her students, who then put on "device day" for staff, with price sheet handouts and directions for downloading books. Yet another SPLAT member, from a public library, takes the Gizmo Garages out into his local school district for training.

SPLAT members are always willing to try new technologies and this enthusiasm gives them the reputation of being experts. They sometimes engage hesitant people who have tech questions by saying, "I don't know either. Let's figure this out together." This approachability makes them valuable ambassadors for digital literacy because, as one SPLAT member so eloquently put it, "None of these devices have meaning unless the experience using it has meaning."

*SPLAT activities and the Gizmo Garages are made possible in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.*