

THE Nexus

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Legislation – 2014 Session Recap

by Jan Wall, northern Idaho field consultant



State Librarian Ann Joslin

Bills introduced during the 2014 Legislature that are of most immediate interest to the Idaho library community include the following:

SB1228 Open Meeting Law—This is a housekeeping bill that aligns city library law 33-2606 with the open meeting law 67-2340 through 67-2347. Currently, city library law states that meetings shall be held “pursuant to the open meeting law, sections 67-2340 through 67-2344...” Even though the current city library law does not include several sections of the open meeting law, city libraries are NOT exempt from following the open meeting law in its entirety. This legislation makes it clear.

Effective 7/1/2014

HB606 Appropriation Idaho Commission for Libraries—This is the fiscal year 2015 appropriation to the Idaho Commission for Libraries. It includes ongoing funding for LearningExpress Library and an additional one-time increase of \$100,000 for Read to Me mini-grants to school libraries.

Effective 7/1/2014

HB560 Local Governing Entities Central Registry—This bill applies to all district libraries and requires additional reporting beyond audits. It requires administrative information, including terms of membership for the governing board; financial information, including the most recent adopted budget and an unaudited comparison of the budget to actual revenues and expenditures of the most recently completed fiscal year; and bonds or other debt obligation information, including the cumulative dollar amount, the average length of term, and the average interest rate. The deadline for reporting to the Legislative Service Office (LSO) is March 1, 2015. The form and format of report requirements will be determined by the LSO. County clerks will notify districts of the requirements of this new legislation.

Effective 1/1/2015

HB560, with additional reporting requirements, does not take effect until January 1, 2015, and does not cancel the need for an audit. Your audit (if you are required to have

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission:

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

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

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

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- 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

one) needs to be filed with the LSO within nine months after the end of the audit period.

Do you need an audit? Briefly:

- If your expenditures exceed \$250,000, you must have an annual audit.
 - If your expenditures (from any source) are between \$100,000 and \$250,000, you “shall have an annual audit or may elect to have [your] financial statements audited on a biennial basis.”
 - If your annual expenditures are less than \$100,000, there is no requirement.
- Find other audit details at [67-450B](#).

If you have questions, please contact your regional field consultant.

Summer Learning Loss: Spread the Word by Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator

Summer learning loss contributes significantly to the achievement gap between middle- and low-income children. Children who continue to read over the summer maintain reading skills; those who do not can lose up to three months of reading proficiency and begin school in the fall at a disadvantage. Low-income children have limited access to books and other print material over the summer, and they are less likely to attend a summer reading program at their public library. Two factors can make a difference: Increased access to books and increased time spent reading.



With summer vacation right around the corner, Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me team has been hitting the streets with this message. We've presented at regional library consortium meetings, the Serve Idaho conference, the State Department of Ed Prevention and Support Conference, the Family Studies conference, the Community Campaign for Grade Level Reading session in North Idaho, and to several schools around the state. In each venue we've stressed the importance of utilizing the local libraries' in-house and outreach summer programs, have encouraged the establishment of Little Libraries around the community, and have helped support school libraries that want to have open hours for their students over the summer.

I've received several emails from public and school librarians who attended one of our presentations and were inspired to help us spread this important message in their communities and schools. Several folks have asked to use some of our presentation tools and resources, so I've added a few things to the [Resources page](#) of our summer reading website:

- **Parent brochure** showing summer learning loss and time spent in school (Idaho libraries, schools, and non-profits can order free of charge)
- **Script:** Visual Demonstration Activity showing Summer Learning Loss
- **Videos:** *Summer Learning Loss and the Achievement Gap*, narrated by Brian Williams; *The Statisticks Lottery*, from the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

We are working on a version of the Brian Williams video to show to parents, in which we use “children who continue to read over the summer” and “children who do not continue to read...” or something along those lines, rather than “middle-income” and “low-income.”

In addition to these new resources, you can find the current Idaho Summer Learning Loss handout, research summary and talking points, examples of school and public library partnerships, and much more.

Please help spread the message in your community and schools, and let us know how we can support your efforts to educate parents, teachers, business people, policy-makers, and community partners.



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.



2014 Teens' Top Ten Book Giveaway Recipients

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA) announced the recipients of its 2014 Teens' Top Ten Book Giveaway. A total of 100 recipients will be receiving a set of the 2014 Teens' Top Ten nominees through funding from [WWE](#) (an integrated media/entertainment organization). Idaho's five winners are:

Camas County School District Library, Fairfield (Shirley Cobble)

Eagle Public Library (Stephen Bumgarner)

Hillside Junior High School Library, Boise (Gregory Taylor)

Lewiston City Library (Heather Stout)

Madison Library District Library, Rexburg (Miranda Galbraith)

See more on ALA's website at [2014 Teens' Top Ten Book Giveaway recipients announced](#).

Election Results

Boundary County Library District—bond and permanent override levy

Both of these needed a 2/3 majority to pass:

- Boundary County Library District general obligation bonds of up to \$8,000,000

553 Yes , 1712 No – Fail (Unofficial results)

- Boundary County Library District Permanent Tax Override Levy for \$100,000

561 Yes , 1676 No – Fail (Unofficial results)

Boundary County voters failed to pass either the bond or the permanent override levy, even though the library had a [Library Expansion plan](#) that would have benefited the community beyond the scope of a "traditional" library.

South Bannock District Library—plant facilities levy

- 779 yes, 289 no – Pass (72.9%)

Voters renewed the South Bannock County Library District Plant Facilities Reserve Fund Levy for another 10 years—its first renewal. The levy funds upgrades and repairs to library facilities in Lava Hot Springs, Downey, and McCammon, as well as the district's Bookmobile. Renewing the levy did not change what taxpayers have already been paying. See more [here](#).

Valley of the Tetons District Library—temporary override levy

- 946 yes, 765 no – Pass (55%)

Teton County voters passed a temporary override levy to establish a new branch of the Valley of the Tetons Library in Driggs. The two-year levy adds \$16.08 per \$100,000 in property value to the \$16.08 per \$100,000 that county residents currently pay per year for the library district.

The Valley of the Tetons Library held an online survey to gauge support for the branch. Of the 457 respondents, 304 were in favor of the new branch with 153 opposed. Studies by the City of Driggs also showed that a library had strong support. See more [here](#).



Idaho Library Snapshot Day 2014 Results

In April 2014 during National Library Week, 38 Idaho libraries from around the state tracked their activities with statistics and photos, creating a snapshot of a day in the life of Idaho libraries and capturing the impact they have on their communities. Participants included:

- 28 public library locations
- 1 academic library
- 8 school libraries
- 1 special library

In one day in these 38 Idaho libraries:

- 19,139 people visited.
- 22,440 items circulated.
- 70 job seekers were helped.
- 2,858 people used the public access computers.
- 1,625 people used the Internet w/their own devices.
- 313 library cards were issued/borrowers were registered.
- 79 classes visited school libraries
- 1,321 reference questions were answered.
- 1,250 students were helped.
- 1,255 people attended programs.
- 197 people were taught computer/device/Internet skills.

Many thanks to all the libraries that participated.

Find complete results and a link to a 5-minute video at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/IdahoSnapshot>.

Idaho Bandwidth Assessment Tool is Available

Ever wonder how much bandwidth you actually need? LinkIDAHO recently introduced the Idaho Bandwidth Assessment Tool (BAT) to answer that question. To take the survey or learn more about this tool, go to the LinkIDAHO [website](#) and click on Bandwidth Assessment Tool (above the menu on the right side of the Home page) or you can link to the tool directly at <https://apps.costquest.com/bat/home>.

On the BAT website you can watch a short informative video, download FAQs, or register and start the survey. When you log on to the Idaho BAT and take the short survey to determine your bandwidth needs you will also be helping LinkIDAHO map broadband needs across the state. If you have questions, please contact the LinkIDAHO team at idaho@linkamericaalliance.com.

Leadership Training Needs Assessment Summit

by Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant

On April 23 and 24, fifty-five representatives from Idaho libraries met in Boise to discuss the current environment regarding leadership development for library staff—to do an environmental scan, if you will. A wealth of data was gathered regarding desired leadership qualities, leadership versus management, current leadership development activities, target audiences, unmet training needs and potential next steps. All of this data and more can be reviewed at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/leadership> or you can request to join the [Facebook group](#) to continue the discussion.



Summit participants match target audiences and unmet training needs

What is next? The Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Idaho Library Association will partner during the next 12 months to create and convene a Leadership Advisory Group whose charge will be to review the data and develop an infrastructure for sustainable leadership development activities for all members of the Idaho library community to create a leadership culture within our library community. For more information please contact Shirley Biladeau at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov or 208.639.4149.



ICfL Continuing Education Grants: What's New?

by Shirley Biladeau, ICfL continuing education consultant

The Continuing Education Grants provided by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) through funds from the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services have become very popular among the members of the Idaho library community. This is a great way for individuals employed by publicly-funded libraries in Idaho to gain opportunities in professional development.

Because of their popularity and the limited funding available, **some changes will be in place after July 1, 2014**. Let's take a moment to review the types of grants available and their restrictions.

Conditions that apply to all the CE grants:

1. All are reimbursement grants paid to the grantee.
2. The grantee is the publicly-funded library; the applicant is the attendee.
3. Applicants must be employed by the publicly-funded library during the entire time of the event, otherwise they will not be reimbursed.
4. Director approval must be secured prior to completing the application.
5. Each applicant must contact the Continuing Education Consultant prior to submitting the application.
6. All attendees are required to participate in the six-month follow-up after the event.
7. All attendees must complete a transfer of knowledge/information activity to colleagues and/or end-users.
8. Failure to comply with end-of-event grant documentation or contract deliverables can impact approval of future grant requests.

1st Time Conference Attendee Grant

This grant is designed to provide the opportunity for library staff to attend regional or national library conferences to fulfill an identified professional development need.

Applicants are limited to one 1st Time Conference Attendee Grant during each State Fiscal Year (July-June). Steps for the application process:

1. Receive your library director's approval to attend conference.
2. Contact ICfL Continuing Education Consultant.
3. Identify a professional development need that the conference will fulfill and what the anticipated benefit to the end-user will be.
4. Identify a means to transfer knowledge or training to colleagues or end-users.
5. Complete and submit application.
6. After the event, complete the transfer of training activity with contract deliverable.
7. Participate in the six-month follow-up via AdobeConnect.

1st Time Conference Attendee Grants are to be used to support continuing education at a library conference. If the applicant is presenting at a library conference, there must also be opportunities for professional development which are demonstrated through one of the required deliverables.

Professional Development Grants

This grant supports achievement of an MLS or other library certification which requires formal training and **cannot** be used for non-library related courses or degrees. Each individual has up to \$1,000 per semester for up to 6 consecutive, or intermittent, semesters during their lifetime. Once the \$6,000 ceiling has been reached, an individual is no longer

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eligible to apply for this grant. Steps for the application process:

1. Receive your library director's approval to take the courses.
2. Contact ICfL Continuing Education Consultant.
3. Identify a professional development need that the formal library courses will fulfill and what the anticipated benefit to the end-user will be.
4. Identify a means to transfer knowledge or training to colleagues or end-users.
5. Complete and submit application.
6. After the event, complete the transfer of training activity with contract deliverable.
7. Participate in the six-month follow-up via AdobeConnect.

Staff and Group Training Grants

This grant relates to one library, a group of libraries, or a consortium applying for support relating to a group training. A library entity may apply for up to \$5,000 for a training event.

Applicants are limited to one grant per library group during each State Fiscal Year (July-June). Steps for the application process:

1. Contact ICfL Continuing Education Consultant.
2. Identify a professional development need that the conference will fulfill and what the anticipated benefit to the end-user will be.
3. Identify a means to transfer knowledge or training to colleagues or end-users.
4. Identify a means of collecting individual evaluations.
5. Complete and submit application.
6. After the event, complete the transfer of training activity with contract deliverable.
7. Participate in the six-month follow-up via AdobeConnect.

A list of approved library conferences and more information about the Continuing Education Grants can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lsta>. If the conference you wish to attend is not on the list, yet your director would like it to be considered, complete and submit the New Library Event Form also found at this site. Questions and comments may be referred to Shirley Biladeau, Continuing Education Consultant, shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov, 208.639.4149, or Toll-free 800.458.3271.

Idaho Core Standards Information

During the April Info2Go! webinar, Melissa McGrath, Idaho State Department of Education, provided an informative presentation on the Idaho Core Standards and the many resources available to libraries and parents. If you are looking for resources or talking points, review the 30-minute archive of the session and the slides at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/freetraining#INFO>. Find more information about the Idaho Core Standards, including an overview, professional development resources, a communications kit, and parent brochures available in English and Spanish at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/>.



Idaho Winners of Letters About Literature 2014

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is pleased to announce the Idaho winners of the 2014 “[Letters About Literature](#)” contest. Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion coordinated and funded by the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Students in grades 4–12 read a book from any genre and write a personal letter to the author, living or dead, explaining how the book changed their views of the



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world or themselves. “These talented young readers were among 230 Idaho students who participated in this year’s contest,” said Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor at the Commission. “We are extremely proud of all of the students who took part, because they are developing a lifelong love of literature, reading, and learning.” Each of the Idaho winners receive a Visa gift card; a framed personalized certificate signed by Ann Joslin, State Librarian; and a new hardbound book.

This year’s winners are:

Level I, Grades 4-6:

1st Place – **Cate Cartier** of Sorensen Magnet School of the Arts & Humanities in **Coeur d’Alene**, who wrote to author R. J. Palacio about her novel, *Wonder*.

2nd Place – **Alexandra Plucker** of Sorensen Magnet School of the Arts & Humanities in **Coeur d’Alene**

3rd Place – **Abigail Kirk** of Wood River Middle School in Hailey.

Honorable Mention – **Avery Owens** of Sorensen Magnet School of the Arts & Humanities in **Coeur d’Alene**.

Level II, Grades 7-8

1st Place – **Rose Thompson** of East Junior High School in **Boise**, who wrote to author Marie Lu about her collection, *The Legend Trilogy*.

2nd Place – **Caleb Orlovich** of Riverglen Junior High in **Boise**.

3rd Place – **Grace Malohn** of Lake Hazel Middle School in **Boise**.

Honorable Mention – **Makenzy Whittekiend** of Wendell Middle School in **Wendell**.

Level III, Grades 9-12

1st Place – **Parth Kashikar** of Boise High School in **Boise**, who wrote to author Nancy Farmer about her novel *The House of the Scorpion*.

2nd Place – **Sienna White** of Boise High School in **Boise**.

3rd Place – **Gabrielle Boliou** of Idaho Distance Education Academy in **Boise**.

Honorable Mention – **Maria Hansen** of Bonneville High School in **Idaho Falls**.

Two rounds of initial judging were conducted at the Center for the Book in Washington D.C. and the entries were forwarded to the Idaho Commission for Libraries, where they were further narrowed down. From there, three Idaho professors selected the top essayists on each competition level. The three 1st place letters from Idaho advanced to the National Competition, where a panel of national judges selected one national winner and one second place winner per competition level. After the first round of judging in the National Competition, the submission by **Parth Kashikar** was on the Level III “short list” of six essays, which the judges reread and discussed at length before making the final selection. Although those on the short list do not receive any national award or additional cash prize, getting this far from 50,000 entries is truly remarkable.

Special thanks to our Idaho judges—Stan Steiner, Boise State University, (grades 4-6); Matthew Haynes, College of Western Idaho, (grades 7-8); and Ronald McFarland, University of Idaho, (grades 9-12)—who volunteered their time and expertise to read and rank the Idaho entries.



Front row left to right: Cate Cartier, Alexandra Plucker, Avery Owens
Back row: Charlene Babb, Sorensen School and Jan Wall, ICfl



Makenzy Whittekiend, Librarian Pam Crawford, and Principal Luke Kelsey, Wendell Middle School



Parth Kashikar, Boise High School and Pam Bradshaw, Idaho Commission for Libraries



New LiLI.org Databases

Beginning July 1, 2014, the LiLI Databases – available at LiLI.org – will include new content from Ebscohost. The two new databases to be added are:

- **History Reference Center:** Designed for secondary schools, public libraries, junior/community colleges and undergraduate research, this database features full text for more than 1,990 reference books, encyclopedias, and non-fiction books from leading history publishers. Learn more about it at <http://www.ebscohost.com/us-high-schools/history-reference-center>.
- **Literary Reference Center:** This comprehensive, full-text database provides a broad spectrum of information on thousands of authors and their works across literary disciplines and timeframes—to give students, professors, and researchers a foundation of literary reference works to meet their research needs. Learn more about it at <http://www.ebscohost.com/us-high-schools/literary-reference-center>.



Information about training on the use and application of these two databases will be shared as soon as it is available.

“Outside the Lines” Week

[Outside the Lines](#) is a weeklong celebration—September 14–20, 2014—demonstrating the creativity and innovation happening in libraries. Whether your organization is large or small, a school library or a public library, you can participate by hosting at least one event or campaign that:

1. Gets people thinking – and talking – about libraries in a different way
2. Showcases the library out in the community as well as in the library
3. Highlights how your library is relevant to people’s lives
4. Represents your local community
5. Is active versus passive – gets people engaged
6. Is extraordinary and unexpected
7. Most importantly, is fun!



Outside the Lines is an initiative designed by Colorado library marketers and directors that gets libraries “walking the walk” – taking action to show communities how important libraries are and how they’ve changed. This celebration takes many of the concepts discussed at [R-Squared – The Risk & Reward Conference](#), such as creativity, customer curiosity, culture, community and creative spaces, and puts them into action where they count – in our local communities.

Check it out at getoutsidethelines.org/. See which Idaho library has already signed up!

Best Small Library in America Nomination Deadline **LIBRARY JOURNAL**

Postmark deadline: September 10, 2014

The *Library Journal*’s annual award for the “Best Small Library in America,” cosponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was founded to encourage and showcase exemplary work. The award honors the U.S. **public library** that most profoundly demonstrates outstanding service to populations of 25,000 or less. The winning library will receive a \$20,000 cash award, a feature story in the February 1, 2015, *Library Journal*, membership and conference costs for two library representatives to attend the Public Library Association Biannual Conference in 2016, and a gala reception at the conference. Two finalist libraries will be awarded a \$10,000 cash award, PLA membership and conference costs for two library representatives, and special mention in *Library Journal*. For eligibility requirements and nomination information, see <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/awards/best-small-library-in-america-award-nomination-guidelines/#>.