

THE Nexus

Vol. 6, No. 1 Winter 2013



State Librarian Ann Joslin

BTOP online resources

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is wrapping up the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant project. Although the grant period ended in December 2012, the benefits will continue statewide as we add online resources:

New online resources

[Resources for Idaho Citizens](#): This online portal at citizen.lili.org connects Idahoans with web-based media and government resources and offers a new, Idaho-based digital media literacy training course.

- [Media online @ your library](#): This free, self-paced course provides quick lessons on effective Internet searching, finding, and verifying of news online, and using social media and blogs more effectively.
- The citizen.lili.org portal also provides users with access to the following critical Idaho online resources from Idaho Public Television:
 - *Idaho in Session: [Legislature Live](#)*—comprehensive, live audio and video broadcast of Idaho’s legislative proceedings.
 - *Idaho in Session: [Judiciary Live](#)*—live streaming of Idaho Supreme Court oral arguments in Boise.
 - *Idaho [Statehouse Tour](#)* with video, photos, and tons of background information.
- Other links on the portal include:
 - [Idaho Court Assistance Office and Self-Help Center](#)
 - [Transparent Idaho](#), from the Idaho State Comptroller, shows where money comes from and goes to
 - [e-government](#) pages
 - [\[STACKS\]](#), the digital repository of public information published by the State of Idaho

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Social Media Kit

The do-it-yourself [social media kit](#) for libraries is a foundation for libraries to author their policies regarding social media—the specifics of which will be unique to individual situations. In this starting point for self-discovery—best practices, hints, and how-tos are outlined.

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,
Bruce Noble, 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
- Frank Nelson, southeastern Idaho library consultant
- Gina Persichini, networking consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho 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

Library news from around the state

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

Ada Community Library and Boise Public Library: **This year's community read, Read Me Treasure Valley**, will celebrate the Boise City and Idaho territorial sesquicentennials with great reads and a full calendar of events. See www.readmetv.com for more information. **Read Me Treasure Valley is presented in partnership with Boise State University's Story Initiative, The Cabin, and the Idaho Statesman** and supported by grants from the Idaho Humanities Council and the Boise City Arts and History Department.

American Falls District Library: Director Hava Lyon was hired to replace retiring director Harriet Newlin and started at the beginning of January.

Boise Public Library branch manager Sarah Kelley-Chase won the School Library Journal/ Scholastic Dav Pilkey Sweepstakes out of over 3,000 entries. As the Grand Prize winner, her library will have a visit from Dav Pilkey, author of *Captain Underpants and the Terrifying Return of Tippy Tinkletrousers* this spring. See more at www.slj.com/2012/12/awards/boise-librarian-wins-sljscholastic-dav-pilkey-sweepstakes/.

Grace District Library thanked retiring director Linda Rasmussen for 19 years of dedicated service and welcomed new director, April Smith.

Payette Public Library held a ribbon cutting for their new addition on November 13, 2012. An estimated 80 people attended the celebration. The City of Payette received a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant and loan for the addition and Payette residents passed the Payette Library Expansion bond in 2010. See [more](#).

Richfield District Library welcomed new director Clay Ritter in November.

Stanley Community Library: The new library building on Niece Avenue officially opened the doors to the public on January 2, 2013. Eighty-three people visited the new facility during an open house on January 7. The Grand Celebration is scheduled for July 6. See building photos at <http://newstanleylibrary.org/building-camera/>.

University of Idaho: Dr. Lynn Baird, Dean Library Services, was the speaker for the **University's Fall 2012 Commencement on December 8 in Moscow. She was the first library dean to serve as commencement speaker in the University's 110-year history.** (See <http://bit.ly/Vy8lpg>).

Idaho Community Foundation Grants (www.idcomfdn.org)

Boise Basin Library District – \$2,500 to provide public Internet access and computer use

Bruneau Valley District Library – \$750 to support the luncheon-speaker program for eight programs in 2013

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



Library news continued from page 2

Emmett Public Library – \$2,500 to provide match dollars to complete tagging the collection for the security system

McCall Public Library – \$700 to purchase blocks, storage units, block play related books, and math and language materials for the “Block Play Story Time” program. (See more about block play in the March 9, 2012 issue of [The Scoop](#).)



Payette library director Colleen Bonnell and board chair Anne Hanigan cut the ribbon

Public library statistics: reporting and using

By Frank Nelson, library consultant

Reminder: The Public Library FY12 Annual Report is due January 31, 2013. You will find the form at <http://collect.btol.com>. Usernames and passwords are the same as for previous years.

The 2011 Idaho Public Library Statistics and statistics from previous years can be accessed online through the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/idaho-public-library-statistics>. Public library statistics for other states and the nation are also linked at the above website.

And now the Statistics FY11 Data Digest, a pocket summary of the statistics publication, is posted at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/2011-fy-public-library-statistics> as PowerPoint slides that you can download and use in presentations. This tool can help you give stakeholders a snapshot of the critical role that Idaho libraries play as anchor institutions in their communities and how library use has increased in recent years.

The statistics publications also give you an opportunity to track your own library activity from year to year, compare information from libraries of similar size or governance structure, obtain statistics to support budget requests, analyze the needs of your community, and plan how your library will serve the community in the future.

Timely and accurate numbers are becoming more and more important for library decision makers and funding authorities, so please make those reports a priority this and every year. Every library counts!

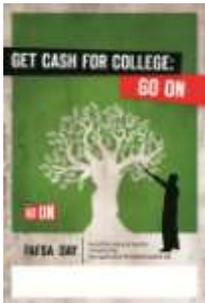
FY 2014 budget recommendation for ICfL

The Idaho Commission for Libraries’ FY2014 budget request was submitted to the Division of Financial Management on August 31, 2012.

The Governor’s January 7, 2013 recommendation included a contract inflation of \$27,800 for the LiLI Databases and \$0 for the Community Anchor Institutions enhancement request. This enhancement request is intended to fund online resources for workforce development, formal and informal education, and digital literacy services; reimburse the non-E-rate portion of public libraries’ Internet (ISP) charges to help sustain sufficient broadband for public internet access; and support a public information program to let Idahoans know about the services supporting jobs and education through LiLI.org.



The Commission is scheduled for a budget presentation to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) on Monday, February 11.



Libraries asked to help promote FAFSA resources

During the College and Career Ready Summit in summer 2012, library staff explored the role they could take in moving more Idaho students onto college and career paths.

The Idaho State Board of Education recently set a goal that 60 percent of adults between the ages of 25 and 34 will have a college degree or certificate by the year 2020. Currently, just a third of Idaho residents have an associate's degree or higher. **Affordability remains one of the biggest barriers** for Idahoans to start and complete college or other post-secondary training.* Helping parents and students take the first step to finding financial aid resources by filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* would go a long way toward reducing the barrier of affordability. Here are several things we can do as individuals, library entities, and as a state to help.

Individuals:

If you know any parents of a high school senior, send them this link today: [Idaho State Board of Education FAFSA link](#). Staff members have looked at hundreds of FAFSA links and narrowed the resources down to four easy-to-understand sources for FAFSA information.

Public, school, and academic libraries:

- [Idaho State Board of Education FAFSA link](#): **Provide this on your library's website.**
- [FAFSA Completion Events Calendar](#): Make this available to the public: you could print out a month and post at the library. **If there's an event in your community, help get the word out.**
- February is Financial Aid Awareness Month. Plan an event or interesting way to share information with patrons. Download this [JPEG poster](#) and customize it to promote upcoming FAFSA events.
- [Idaho Career Information System \(CIS\)](#): Promote resources like CIS, with comprehensive online career information, where users can explore career opportunities; find educational programs, the schools that offer them, and scholarships related to those opportunities; and make successful career decisions and educational plans.
- College Access Network: The State Board of Education is working to create a College Access Network to better share information about college and career ready resources. If any library staff members are interested in helping train volunteers to guide parents through the FAFSA process or have any other ideas for how they can become more active in reducing barriers to college, please contact [Stephanie Bailey White](#) at ICfL and she will pass your name along to the subcommittee that's working on that now. They are hoping to have four or five pilot libraries that might be willing to take on this issue.

As a state:

- Continue to promote and sustain the new [FAFSA Completion Events Calendar](#). Numerous events are taking place around the state to help students fill out their FAFSA. The calendar lists parent nights, financial aid nights, and FAFSA completion events around the state.
- Collaborate when possible with other state and community organizations, agencies and entities to help more people go on to access college and career readiness courses and resources.

* *Reducing Barriers to Postsecondary Education Evaluation Report, January 2012, Office of Performance Evaluations for the Idaho Legislature, www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/publications/reports/r1201.pdf.*



Upcoming CE opportunities

By Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant

Find more information on the following continuing education (CE) opportunities at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/ContinuingEducation>.



Digital literacy Libguides: The familiar digital literacy guides (<http://libraries.idaho.gov/digital-literacy>), a source of information for workforce development, consumer finances, education, and digital literacy, have been transitioned to a new platform called Libguides. Find it at <http://guides.lili.org/digitalliteracy>—and subscribe via RSS to receive updates as new information and resources are added.

Info2Go!: This new monthly webinar provides a platform for you to share your knowledge, connect with other library professionals, and get your questions answered. Join Idaho library community **guest experts from 12:30–1:30 p.m. MT (11:30–12:30 p.m. PT) to explore new library trends and services**. No registration is required and all sessions will be archived. More information is available at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/freetraining>.

Infopeople and Amigos courses: The Idaho Commission for Libraries, through a grant from the Library and Services Technology Act, Institute of Museum and Library Services, is now providing access to [Infopeople](#) and [Amigos](#) courses for members of the Idaho Library Community. [Read further](#) to find out how to qualify and access the courses.

WebJunction: In March and April of 2013, libraries around the state will be hosting WebJunction workshops. Last spring, WebJunction changed to a new platform for both the content and the courses. In these two-hour workshop, we will explore the tips and tricks for navigating the two new sites. If your library would like to host a workshop for staff and colleagues from neighboring libraries, please contact Shirley Biladeau at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov to check on available dates. More information is available at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/freetraining>.

Financial aid for LSSC Program

[Application](#) must be submitted by March 15, 2013

Idaho Commission for Libraries is offering financial assistance to library support staff applying for **certification in the American Library Association's Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program**. LSSC Enrollment Assistance Awards (EAAs) will be granted to four (4) Idaho library support staff members who wish to become candidates in the [program](#). The EAAs (\$175) will pay one-half of the candidate registration fee. Successful award recipients will be asked to pay the remainder of the enrollment fee with their own funds or funds obtained from other sources.



The LSSC Program offers library employees the opportunity to achieve recognition for their experience, enhance library service, and increase skills and knowledge in areas such as the foundations of librarianship, technology, and communication. This national certification not only provides a tool for candidates that document their experience and skills as they seek future employment, but also travels with them regardless of geographic location.

The LSSC program is funded by a grant to the American Library Association from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

An application form and more information is available at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lssc>.



The hunt for the perfect device

By Kevin Tomlinson, library consultant

Idaho Commission for Libraries recently completed the first round of Digital Literacy Updates for Trustees. In these sessions, many of the questions and concerns raised by participants centered on “The Hunt for the Perfect Device.”

The impact of tablets has not turned out to be exactly what manufacturers expected, as consumers have discovered that these devices are good for entertainment, but not really conducive to work or study. The iPad, for instance, was intended to be a mobile storefront, where consumers can part with their money in exchange for movies, music, and games. And tablets perform this function quite well, much to the delight of manufacturers.

Instead of eroding existing demand for notebooks, tablets have created a new—and separate—demand. As the first tablet that consumers really bonded with, the iPad absorbed a portion of consumer budgets that, a few years ago, would have been earmarked for replacing aging notebook computers. Now that the honeymoon period with the iPad is cooling down, Intel continues to launch newer, faster chips, and Microsoft has released Windows 8, both of which are expected to boost demand for notebook computers. Microsoft says that Windows 8 is designed to work especially well with tablets, and time will tell if this is the case.

In the meantime, consumers who have grown accustomed to tablets have also warmed to the idea of a lightweight, very portable device, but they now want these features in a productivity tool. Alas, the tablet is not quite there yet. Consumers are willing to take a chance on tablets because they tend to be small, lightweight, and have few controls that are easy to learn. And—best of all—tablets tend to cost less than notebook computers. The problem is that most tablets do not have much processing capacity or memory, because a mobile storefront does not need those features. And tablets just do not do a satisfactory job of word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, or other productive activities. At least not yet.

What we learned from our love affair with the tablet is that consumers are pleased with the user-friendliness of tablets, but disappointed by their limited functionality. The result is that people are now purchasing notebook computers to replace their old desktop and laptops, although they are still intrigued by tablets and seem to be looking forward to lighter weight, faster, shinier versions of these handheld devices that serve as movie theater, reference library, e-reader, arcade, and babysitter all rolled into one. Amazon and Barnes & Noble are well aware of this, and are now offering lightweight new HD handheld reading devices that not only let you enjoy the latest Grisham, but also surf the Web, post to Facebook, send and receive e-mail, screen Netflix movies, and listen to your favorite radio program from anywhere in the world as well. But this still does not solve the problem of a productivity tool that is also a good traveling companion. Consumers want enough



Devices continued from page 6

computing power to get real work done, and in a package that is lightweight and compact. But is that too much to ask?

One solution that is seeing a marked increase in sales is the ultrabook, a very lightweight Windows-based notebook computer with long battery life and a solid state hard drive. Because the solid state hard drive has no moving parts and is very thin, it helps make a small, lightweight computing device possible. In 2008, Apple pioneered this concept with its beautiful-but-expensive MacBook Air, which is thin enough to fit into a manila envelope, weighs a mere 2.96 pounds, and boasts a battery life of up to seven hours. So we know that powerful and lightweight are not an impossible combination. Now that tablets have caught **the fancy of consumers, other manufacturers are finally responding to Apple's MacBook Air** with an assortment of lightweight notebook computers, tablets, and convertible hybrids that **are designed to be both tablet and notebook. If Microsoft adopts Apple's model of** manufacturing its own computers, using hardware specifically designed to work with its operating system, then we could soon see tablets that are affordable and capable of serving both as portable consumer emporium (something we enjoy using) and productivity tool **(something the boss enjoys seeing us use). And don't forget about Barnes & Noble or Amazon,** who may decide to capitalize on our hunger for The Perfect Device by introducing something new and innovative. When there is a demand, someone will eventually figure out a way to meet it. The question is: Who will do it first?

In the meantime, don't forget that employers will never tire of trying to block out the fun elements of any device they purchase for employee use, so having two tools—one for productivity, and one for entertainment—may not be such a bad thing after all.

[STACKS] digital repository milestone

[Stacks], the Idaho Digital Repository, is a cooperative project of the Idaho Commission for Libraries and all state agencies. Created by state statute [33-2505](#), it is a searchable centralized collection of digital publications created by state agencies for the purpose of public information. ICfL state publications, cataloging and acquisitions librarian, Danna Angevine, coordinates the capture and control of state publications and makes them all findable online.

Late in 2012, [STACKS] hit a milestone of 20,000 items. To find these state documents online, go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/stacks>.





Idaho at 150

March 4, 2013 is the official day of the Idaho Territorial Sesquicentennial. For ideas on how you can celebrate "Idaho at 150" this year, check out the following:

- Idaho State Historical Society webpage: [Idaho at 150](#).
- [Fifteen Things To Do in Your Community](#).

New! Social media kit for libraries

By Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant

Trying to identify the best way to use today's social media is a struggle at best! If you are feeling a bit left out and wondering where to go—no worries, you are not alone!



To help ease the confusion and give Idaho libraries a competitive edge, the Idaho Commission for Libraries through its online @ your library project (funded by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Project, Broadband USA), has commissioned the development of a [Social Media Kit](#). In this kit, you will find information on successfully using Facebook and Pinterist as marketing/ media tools. This will be followed by a Libguide on social media which will expand to other resources such as Twitter and newer tools as they evolve.



E-rate deadlines

Form 470

Absolute deadline: Thursday, February 14, 2013

This is the first form in the E-rate process. Without this form (unless you are in the middle of a contract that goes until at least 6/30/2014), you cannot proceed to the next Form.

Form 471

Window opened: Wednesday, December 12, 2012, noon EST

Window closes: Thursday, March 14, 2013, 11:59 EDT

Apply Online at www.sl.universalservice.org/menu.asp.

Email Jan Wall at jan.wall@libraries.idaho.gov with any questions.

