



2009 Overview

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Evaluator's Comments

"All the programs have been highly successful to date. The changes in parent behaviors in regard to children's early literacy are striking. Parents are reading more to their children and focusing on the six early literacy skills. Parent evaluations of all of the programs where they have been surveyed have been stellar."

—Dr. Roger Steward,
Boise State University

Read to Me

Read to Me is designed to help libraries assist parents in nurturing early reading skills. It consists of a variety of program elements so each library can choose those that best match its community's needs and resources.

Mini-grants. In July, 2008, 30 Idaho libraries began implementing early literacy programs and services in their communities supported by these \$5,000 mini-grants. Librarians created projects to foster increased library outreach and to reach out to parents and children who do not regularly participate in library programs or services. 17,000 children and more than 1,300 families were impacted by these programs.

First Book. The state funding also allowed the Commission to double the number of children Read to Me reaches through the First Book Program. In

FY2009, 2,174 children received services through 25 library programs. Over the nine months of the First Book project a total of 19,568 books were distributed.

Jump Start. Librarians encourage parents of children registering for kindergarten to "Get a Jump Start on Reading @ Your Library." Participating librarians provide early literacy information and a book to each child and his/her family during kindergarten registration. In FY 2009, 85 public and school libraries participated in the program reaching over 10,000 families.



19,568 books were distributed to Idaho children through Read to Me's First Book program.

Summer Reading Skyrockets

Hard work by Idaho librarians has paid off for summer readers with 63,107 children registering in 2009; a 38% increase over 2008.

FY 2011 Budget Request

The Commission's FY2011 general fund budget request includes \$199,000 to return the Read to Me program to the FY2009 level – an increase of \$49,000 for educational materials and \$150,000 for mini-grants to libraries. The request also reflects a reduction of 4 full-time positions. The total request from all funding sources is \$5,154,300.

The General Fund Numbers:

FY 09 Appropriation	\$ 4,269,300
FY09 Adjusted Appropriation	\$ 3,960,400
FY10 Appropriation	\$ 3,426,000
FY10 Holdback	(\$ 257,000)
FY11 Request	\$ 3,550,300

Talking Book Service

As a result of FY2009 budget adjustments, the Talking Book Service is now funded through the Library Services and Technology Act.

Continuing Education

School, public, and academic library staff have access to virtual learning opportunities through the ICFL with 562 courses completed in FY2009. Professional development grants for individuals are available from the Commission.



To assist libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

Teacher Librarians & School Library Media Centers

School library data

With Superintendent Luna’s support, we have completed the statistics pilot on Idaho school library services and resources. The statistical survey will be annual beginning next year.

Impact study

By February 2010, the results from a commissioned impact study to assess how Idaho students, teachers, and principals benefit from strong school libraries will be published. The study will correlate the findings with ISAT and IRI scores.

Stacks: Digital Repository

The 2008 Legislature passed the revision of Idaho Code 33-2505, and we have been working since then to establish a secure, fully searchable digital repository of publications from state agencies. We call the program “Stacks.”

The benefits include:

- Easy and open access to state publications for the public through any Internet connection, and

Teacher librarian role

The challenges of preparing students for the 21st century are many. We assist school librarians through workshops and seminars to increase their knowledge of 21st century teaching tools.

Through partnerships with the Parent Teacher Association, Department of Education, Boise State University Albertson Library, and Idaho Library Association, we continuously work to highlight the role school libraries play in student achievement.

- A streamlined, efficient process that makes compliance easy for state agencies.

To date 13,296 publications from state agency websites have been harvested. More than 9,800 of these have been uploaded to the permanent digital repository. So far 110 Gigabytes of disk space has been used —one Gigabyte equals 10 yards of books on a shelf.*

* <http://www.whatsabyte.com/>

Libraries Linking Idaho Services

Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) continues to grow. With combined state, federal and local funding, LiLI services provide all Idaho libraries, regardless of size, location, or budget, the opportunity to offer their clientele a suite of basic electronic information services.

The LiLI Databases provide full text content from trusted sources including national newspapers, top journals, and multi-media sources. LiLI Unlimited, the

statewide library catalog, allows users to locate materials in libraries throughout the state. It is the foundation for resource sharing among Idaho’s libraries.

The LiLI eAudioBook Collection, a two-year demonstration project with federal funding, saw great success with users. Though economic conditions prevented many from doing so, thirteen library organizations will continue the eaudio service through a group subscription.