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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Idaho Library Commission Launches Citizen Tools Portal

Idahoans looking for information on what is happening in state government, how they can participate in state government, how they make use of the government services, public information that is available from state government, media reporting on state government, and self-help tools to navigate the legal system in Idaho will find quick links at [citizen.lili.org](http://citizen.lili.org). The new “Resources for Idaho Citizens” online portal connects Idahoans with web-based media and government resources and offers a new, Idaho-based digital media literacy training course.

- The free, self-paced course, called **Media online @ your library** ([media.lili.org](http://media.lili.org)), provides quick lessons on effective Internet searching, finding and verifying news online, and using social media and blogs more effectively. The course can be completed in a few hours from a library computer or from home.
- The [citizen.lili.org](http://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](#) —\*NEW\* 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 [citizen.lili.org](http://citizen.lili.org) portal include the Idaho Court Assistance Office and Self-Help Center; a link to [STACKS], the digital repository of public information published by the State of Idaho; and more useful e-government pages.

The Media online @ your library course and [citizen.lili.org](http://citizen.lili.org) are among the final pieces of a two-year, \$2.85 million upgrade to Idaho’s library broadband infrastructure. As government and media resources continue to move online, Idaho libraries are quickly becoming digital hubs. For example, more than 70 percent of Idaho’s public libraries serve as the only free source of Internet access in their communities.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries’ “online @ your library” Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant—both federal “stimulus” funds and matching grants—expanded public access computing in 55 of Idaho’s least connected libraries, including computer upgrades and faster access to

the Internet. It also expanded online resources statewide, including free access to job skills training, adult basic education, and informal learning resources for children.

Access the citizen.lili.org portal and Media online @ your library and add the link to your blogroll just in time for the 2013 legislative session.

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele. To learn more about ICFL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.