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

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Maker Movement in Idaho Libraries Expands in Year Two**

BOISE, ID –“Makerspaces bring people together to collaborate, create, design, and share resources and knowledge,” said Ann Joslin, Idaho’s State Librarian. “By providing materials and tools, instruction in the use of new technology, and an environment that supports the creative process, libraries are powerful equalizers that level the playing field for their users who may not otherwise have access to these hubs of community engagement.”

The Idaho Commission for Libraries’ pilot project to implement makerspaces in public libraries across Idaho, “Make It at the Library,” had a successful and exciting first year. In 2013, five libraries including Ada Community Library; Community Library Network, Hayden; Gooding Public Library; Meridian District Library; and Snake River School Community Library, Blackfoot fully embraced “making” and pushed the boundaries of programming with tweens and teens—exceeding expectations and demonstrating innovation and drive in the implementation of the project.

The Commission is pleased to announce that the following six libraries from around the state have been invited to participate in the second year of the project:

- Aberdeen District Library
- Buhl Public Library
- East Bonner County District Library, Sandpoint
- Jerome Public Library
- Portneuf District Library, Chubbuck
- Twin Falls Public Library

Each of these libraries has committed two staff to participate in the year-long project, which encourages the use of new technologies and provides the necessary materials and training for library staff to implement creative, STEAM-based (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) programming. Tools will include state-of-the-art robotic, 3D printing, e-textile, and engineering resources.

Libraries from the first year of the project have also committed one new staff member to participate in the second year in order to expand programming in their libraries. “We welcome these new staff members to the project and look forward to watching the learning, the making, and the creativity start to happen,” said Erica Compton, project coordinator at the Commission.



Commission staff has been asked to share our Make It experiences at a number of events, including two national library conferences, a National *Afterschool Alliance* webinar, a National WebWise conference, and an international *Innovation in U.S. Libraries* video conference broadcast into the U.S. Embassy in Paris and relayed to Germany. Visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/presentations> to see archives of the presentations.

For more information on the project visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/make-it-at-the-library> and [www.facebook.com/MakeItIdaho](http://www.facebook.com/MakeItIdaho).

This project has been made possible through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele through support of statewide databases and online resources, continuing education, consulting, programming, early literacy skills, and building library community. To learn more about ICfL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.