

More ILA Conference Highlights

Preconference: *"Out of Stacks and Into the Streets: Libraries Building Community."*



Rich Harwood of the [Harwood Institute](#) shared ideas on how libraries can be the heart of the community and build on the good work they have already been doing in Idaho. He began by saying we need libraries more today than at any other time in his life, and at the same time libraries face new challenges they've never faced before such as changes in demographics, ways to gather information, and diminishing resources. As he travelled across the country, people told Harwood that it feels as if we live in a "Tower of Babel": people not speaking the same language, pointing fingers, following own agenda, worried about own survival, and enamored with instant gratification. If something isn't working perfectly—such as public schools—sometimes we tend to opt out, leave, and leave everyone else behind.

[See blog post by Teresa Lipus](#)

Demo of Guided Capitol Tour

Jeff Tucker of Idaho Public Television (IdahoPTV) was on site in Nampa and connected live at the Capitol with Michelle O'Brien of the Legislative Services Office (LSO) to take folks on a quick tour and demonstrate how librarians can use this tool in their library programming, school classroom, or community. The guided tour is a great way to connect people with their Capitol and their legislators.

[See blog post by Teresa Lipus](#)

[See a 4-minute overview of the tour](#)

[Details on how libraries can connect with Capitol Virtual Tour](#)



The ILA Legislative Panel, though low in legislator turnout, was productive in advocating for the critical need of securing school library media specialists in every Idaho school. The panel consisted of (right to left) Michael Greenlee, University of Idaho/Idaho State Law Library; John Watts, Lobbyist for ILA; Representative Janie Ward-Engelking, District 18; Audra Green, Boise Library-Collister branch. A former classroom teacher, Representative Ward-Engelking recognized the importance of public and school libraries and encouraged attendees to contact their local legislators with personal messages.

Other photos:



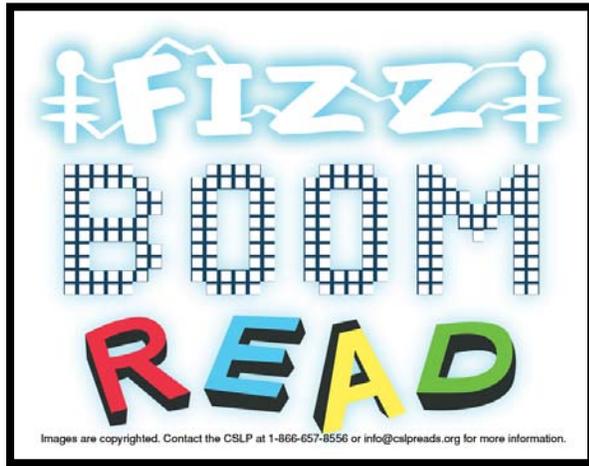
Preconference: Speaker Jennifer Bennett shares how libraries can access the growing database of volunteers through VolunteerMatch.



Sue Walker and Erica Compton man the ICfL booth



Maker Spaces: Erica Compton and Sue Walker share how to engage teens with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) programming.



Staci Shaw presented an overview on the 2014 summer reading program. You can see a PDF of the presentation [here](#).