New Technologies and New Literacies for Teens

An Annual Blended Learning Opportunity

The Idaho Commission for Libraries offers an exciting opportunity each spring. A cohort of 25 people participate in a 6 week session to learn how teens' use of technology to play, learn, and create improves their text-based literacy skills. The group of people meet face-to-face in Boise before and after the four online meetings. ICFL pays the registration fee, plus travel and related expenses for the two meetings in Boise.

ICFL partners with YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) to offer this training opportunity. The online course description:

"How does teen use of technology to play, learn, and create improve their text-based literacy skills? How are teens using technology to communicate, collaborate, and create? What technologies should librarians know about to support teen interest in building community online? In this six week course you will find the answers to these questions, become familiar with the tools and techniques teens use to communicate and collaborate online, and discover how to inform your own community about best practices that support teens' technology-based print literacies. Participants in the series will have the opportunity to talk with others about teen use of technology and how that use improves literacy skills. They will also have the chance to create a framework for a program or service at their library that supports teen technology-based print literacy.

More information about the online course can be found at: http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/onlinecourses/info.cfm#fall.

In addition to the YALSA requirements, the Idaho Commission for Libraries asks participants to come to Boise twice for a day-long session. Participants are also required to develop a program or service for teens in their community to be held during Teen Tech Week.

Course participants will be supported by "mentors", persons who have implemented a program for teens. Mentors will participate in the two meetings held in Boise to share information and provide hands-on support.

The call for applications is issued each fall. For more information, contact Sue Walker, 800 458-3271 or sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov.

Instructor Bio

Linda Braun is an Educational Technology Consultant. She started her business, LEO: Librarians & Educators Online, about nine years ago with the goal of helping librarians, teachers, and other educators find out the best methods for integrating technology into their particular setting and for their specific audience and purpose. Currently she works on web design, content creation, and curriculum development projects and also trains librarians, educators, and teens on technology tools and uses.