

THE Nexus



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State Librarian Ann Joslin

Gates Foundation broadband grant program

by State Librarian Ann Joslin

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) is an invited partner in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Opportunity Online broadband grant program. This program will help us compete for federal broadband stimulus dollars available through the National Telecommunications & Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Although the project will evolve over the next several months, what follows is an overview of the program and what we currently expect to happen.

consulting assistance for the Commission to develop a BTOP grant proposal. The Gates Foundation is providing funding for Ben Pierson, a consultant from Alvarez and Marsal, to begin working on-site at the Commission in mid-January. He will help develop the BTOP application for submission to NTIA in Spring 2010. Although the deadline for the BTOP application has not yet been established, we anticipate a very tight timeline.

Contingent on a successful BTOP grant award, the Gates Foundation will provide some or all of our federally-required matching funds, as well as funds to support E-rate training and to convene a statewide launch of the broadband project with our partners and participants. Until then, the Commission is not officially a "grantee" of the foundation, but is a partner participating in its broadband grant program.

The purpose of the Opportunity Online broadband grant program

- To help state library agencies better compete for and leverage federal funds in order to increase and sustain higher levels of connectivity in public libraries.
- To help public libraries secure additional federal E-rate funding to sustain their improved broadband connections into the future.

What this means for the Commission

The Opportunity Online broadband grant program includes technical and

What this means for Idaho public libraries

Contingent on a successful BTOP grant award, the Commission will:

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission:

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

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State Librarian

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- Sonja Hudson, grants/contracts officer
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

Broadband grant program

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1. Develop a plan for a systematic upgrade of Idaho public library Internet connectivity to a minimum of 10 Mbps for all 104 jurisdictions (140 locations).
2. Identify broadband service options and implement upgrades to at least 1.5 Mbps for 40% of the 140 public library locations with the lowest connectivity.
3. Develop a sustainability plan for each of these locations.
4. Design and deliver E-rate training to public libraries.

To reach the goal of 10 Mbps for all locations, we will pursue other funding sources for subsequent phases based on the plan completed through this BTOP project.

Immediate help needed from all public library directors

If you haven't already done so, please check the Broadband Assessment Project spreadsheet enclosed in the letter you received from the Commission in late December. If the connectivity information listed for your library location(s) is inaccurate, please contact Gina Persichini at Gina.Persichini@libraries.idaho.gov or 208-334-2150 with the correct information.

Anticipated next steps and more details

- The 40% of locations with the lowest

- connectivity will be invited to participate in the actual upgrade of broadband capacity. If some choose not to participate, we will move down the list until we have 55 participants.
- The BTOP project budget will cover the upfront and one-time costs of the broadband upgrade. The library will be responsible for ongoing costs; estimated costs will be identified as part of the project planning.
- Participant libraries must be willing and able to respond very quickly to requests as we develop the BTOP application, beginning as early as mid-January.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing an unprecedented opportunity for public libraries in Idaho to have broadband access that is affordable, sustainable, and scalable to meet future needs. For more information on the Foundation's support of public libraries, visit www.gatesfoundation.org/libraries.

We will keep you in the loop as this project progresses. In the meantime, if you have questions about this project, please contact Teresa Lipus at 208-334-2150 or teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov.

Online form for 2009 Public Library Statistics is available

An improved online form for the FY2009 Public Library Statistics report is available at <http://collect.btol.com>. You can now access your previous reports back to FY2000, easily move back and forth between pages, and see the totals on each page as you enter them. Usernames and passwords are the same as last year, but if you don't know yours, please

contact Frank Nelson or Debby Wylie at 208-525-7211 or 800-548-6212 or email debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov.

January 31, 2010 is the due date for this report and the Board Certification page.

As always, you will be able to alert us to changes in the report by leaving a message in the note to the right of each question.



Peggy McClendon retires after 25 years at ICFL

After 25 years of coordinating literacy programs for adults and children, Peggy McClendon has retired. In 1985, she started with ICFL (then the Idaho State Library) to develop and coordinate Let's Talk About It, the reading and discussion program for adults. By 1987, she added Summer Reading and adult literacy services to her job responsibilities. Later she helped develop the early literacy program—Read to Me—which grew into a multi-faceted project offering a variety of outreach programs, professional development, and resources.

The Read to Me project particularly appealed to McClendon. "Sometimes Read to Me is thought of as a children's program," she said, "but really it is directed toward adults—parents and caregivers of children birth to age eight." The idea of having an impact on families all across the state was very motivating and she feels that her biggest success at ICFL was probably getting Read to Me off the ground.

Her team did a lot of networking, and the Albertson Foundation was interested in supporting the Read to Me program. They received a huge boost in the form of a three-year grant to establish professional development and outreach programs in libraries. A decade later, in 2008, the Idaho Legislature provided ongoing funding for Read to Me. Data from the Read to Me evaluation reveal the tremendous impact that the programs have on parents' attitudes and behaviors with regard to their children's early literacy development.

McClendon's biggest challenge at ICFL was to work within the limitations Idaho libraries experience with their budgets.

She thinks Idaho libraries are amazing in what they accomplish with few resources and believes they could do so much more with increased funding, including adding staff hours devoted to outreach.

McClendon's husband also retired in December and they plan to travel, work on their 120-year-old home, volunteer, and, of course, read! They also look forward to spending time with their new grandson, who is due in February. She has already selected a reading list of board books for his parents!

For McClendon, it has been a rich and rewarding 25 years. Her favorite thing about her job has been the people she worked with. She said, "My team members at ICFL are really smart, funny, creative, and caring people. It was a challenge to keep up with their ideas and energy, and I will miss that. I also appreciate the librarians all around the state with whom I have had the privilege to work. Their dedication and passion continue to energize and inspire me."

We know the Commission and the Idaho library community will miss McClendon tremendously. State Librarian Ann Joslin said, "We will always appreciate Peggy's dedication, compassion, and commitment to advancing literacy opportunities for Idahoans of all ages."

The Commission is in the process of filling the position left vacant by McClendon, and this person will work with reading projects coordinators Stephanie Bailey-White and Staci Shaw.

Support services supervisor Betty Hoffman will coordinate the Let's Talk About It program in FY2010.



Peggy McClendon with some of her favorite reads



Peggy McClendon at her farewell party in December 2009

"I treasure the friendships I have made with many of you. I wish the very best to you as you continue to serve the children, teens, and families of Idaho."

—Peggy McClendon



Betty Hoffman will coordinate the FY2010 Let's Talk About It program



Erin McCusker at her Aloha party in December 2009

Aloha to Erin McCusker

Erin McCusker joined ICFL in 2003 as the library field consultant for southwestern Idaho. In addition to providing guidance on library development services, management, and governance, she collaborated on statewide strategic plans and other forward-thinking projects. She also facilitated numerous meetings and trainings, which she approached with a deep sense of respect for all participants.

McCusker is moving to Flagstaff, AZ,

where her husband transferred to a new job. The Commission is in the process of filling the position she leaves vacant.

In wishing her the all the best, Associate State Librarian Marj Hooper said, "She has made lasting contributions to the development of libraries in Idaho. In parting, I cannot think of a more appropriate wish than Aloha with its depth and breadth of meaning. So, Aloha, Erin."

Teen Read Week 2009 is Unreal

School and public libraries throughout Idaho made Teen Read Week 2009 (October 14–18) one that teens won't soon forget. Using the theme "Read Beyond Reality," library staff worked with teachers, staff, and teens to develop programs that gave a whole new perspective on reading and libraries.

More than 1,500 library staff and users participated in ICFL's "Win a Flip Camera" contest by voting for the Teen Read Week program they would most like to attend. Video clips from the programs demonstrate the diversity and creativity of programs.

Statewide, at least 2,000 teens attended programs and received a "Read Long and Prosper" wallet—perfect for carrying a library card. Almost 40 libraries self-reported on their Teen Read Week event, with 13 of them reporting this was the first year they had participated.

For those who missed the fun, Teen Tech Week 2010, March 7–13, is just around the corner. Great ideas from Idaho and beyond are ready for review. Contact ICFL if you'd like "Read Long and Prosper" wallets for your teen events.

2009 Idaho Family Reading Week

The 2009 Read to Me program partnered with Idaho's *Be Outside* project to promote the wonders of nature as well as the joy of family reading. The theme was "Idaho is Wild About Reading." Statewide, 128 public and school libraries planned events during Idaho Family Reading Week, November 15–21, 2009. Many of Idaho's wonders are captured in the books, live programs, and resources at local libraries and many project leaders see this as an ongoing campaign.

You can see a sampling of programs that Idaho libraries planned for Family Reading Week at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/what-libs-are-doing-for-FRW.pdf>.

Several libraries reported higher turnouts than ever for their Idaho Family Reading Week events. "We don't keep an attendance count for all the events, but library staff who had stories in their local papers or TV and those that emailed us, said they had great turnouts and enjoyed the things they planned," Read to Me coordinator Stephanie Bailey-White said.

read for
the fun of it
**teen
read
week**

See what some libraries did for Teen Read Week at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/TRW09>

Teen Tech Week 2010 is just around the corner: March 7-13.



Washington Moms (school library advocates) coming to Coeur d'Alene, Pocatello, and Boise by Anne Abrams

Hold on school librarians! Lisa Layera Brunkan and Susan McBurney, aka the “Washington Moms,” are on their way to bolster your spirits and inspire confidence despite these difficult economic times. The organization they co-founded is officially known as the Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Information Technology. These practical, smart, and creative women will lead you through a process to build a blueprint for success in your school library media center and transform your professional practice.

And, they are prepared to tell you their secrets. The Moms have spent the better part of the last three years engaged in a grassroots campaign to increase state funding for school library programs. The effort managed to secure four million dollars allocated in school budgets from the state general fund the first year, and, in a massive reform to Washington State education statute during the second, they successfully lobbied for certified library staffing and library materials to be codified. Idaho is poised to benefit from what is on deck this year—a strategic and aggressive plan to transform school libraries into 21st century learning centers led by an indispensable educator: the Library and Information Technology Teacher (school librarians). Come find out what the Moms have learned and why they believe it is time to move the transformation of the profession from an abstraction to a concrete reality.

Brunkan and McBurney have continued to learn more by working with star school librarians nationwide and will share their view of what practices lead some of the best school library programs to flourish in the 21st century. One lesson drilled

into them from their time in the state capitol is that librarians have to be willing to dissect their stakeholders’ needs and then be ready to help meet those needs. Stakeholders include parents, teachers, administrators, and legislators. All share the goal of bringing the best education possible to students, but each has particular needs that can shape what you do in your library. Your connection to these stakeholders is what will make you indispensable to the schoolhouse and to the broader school community!

“If a blueprint is drawn correctly and executed faithfully, then the library stands as solid as the Pentagon,” Brunkan said. And that leads to a solid and secure future for library programs. But librarians can’t do it single-handedly. They need to have their stakeholders, especially parents and administrators, help build the blueprint. The Washington Moms are prepared to give you and your stakeholders concrete examples of how to effectively get it done.

The duos’ workshop on how to leverage school library partnerships in order to meet the needs of an evolving schoolhouse community dovetails with preliminary findings of the Idaho School Library Impact study to be released this spring. The study’s author, Keith Curry Lance, recently cited some of the best practices in Idaho that lead to student academic success. These include librarians collaborating on instructional design and delivery; teaching information, communication and technology skills; and being perceived by administrators as

in-service teachers-of-teachers and instructional resources managers.

The workshops are sponsored by the Idaho Commission for Libraries and funded through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. They are the second event in the Commission’s advocacy initiative, School Library Partnerships: Building strong libraries, building powerful students.

Register at:
www.libraries.idaho.gov/event2

Workshop schedule for Partnering to Shape 21st Century Learners—

Coeur d'Alene:
February 3, 2010 (Wednesday).
Registration deadline:
January 21, 2010

Pocatello:
February 20, 2010 (Saturday).
Registration deadline:
February 5, 2010

Boise:
April 24, 2010 (Saturday).
Registration deadline:
April 10, 2010



Anne Abrams is the advocacy and marketing consultant for the Idaho Commission for Libraries.

FlipCams + Partnerships + School Librarians = Fun!

Field Notes by Anne Abrams

Since November, Shirley Biladeau and I have roamed the state giving away Flip video cameras to school librarians. Well, maybe not giving them away, because there were strings attached. Just ask any of the 130 school librarians who received one.

To qualify for a FlipCam, librarians had to bring a team to a two-hour Partnerships and Conversation session. During the session, the teams worked on partnership ideas that benefitted their school library. And the ideas were creative. Dennis Hass, Rocky Mountain High School Librarian (Meridian), and his team will be promoting best reads with short book reviews. The videos will be uploaded into a digital photo viewer and displayed at the circulation desk. In Nampa, librarians plan to document class projects using the FlipCam as well as producing instructional videos.

Which brings up the second attached string: librarians must be able to shoot, edit, download, and upload the videos to complete their FlipCam contract requirement. Margaret Nielson, Washington Elementary (Pocatello, ID), used her FlipCam to capture an interview with her principal explaining his role in helping organize the school's book fair. And Juliana Schiweck at Webster Elementary School (Lewiston) already produced her video featuring new book titles purchased with PTA funds. She told me she had fun creating it and already used the FlipCam to record a reader's theater.

That's the heart of the project. To let librarians, especially elementary school librarians, explore tools used to engage

21st century learners. Part of the Partnerships and Conversations session includes a brainstorm of everything our school librarians do. Yes, they check out books, but they are also required to keep up with technology and skills used in navigating technology and pass that on to students and teachers.

As budgets get tighter and responsibilities get more demanding, there is no need for school librarians to feel as if they have to do it all by themselves. FlipCams are fun for now, but what happens when teachers and students expect the librarians to manage the video recording while keeping up with their tasks? That's where partners come in. Along with 21st century tools comes a whole new cadre of volunteer specialties. The world of technology and 21st century tools can be a draw for parents who love to explore these areas. It would make sense to put interested parents in charge of recording and editing library projects.

And I know our school librarians will expertly match the right parent to the right project, just as they match the right book to the right student.



Library news from around the state

University of Idaho Library, Special Collections & Archives

Through a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation, two color films of Idaho mining history have been preserved and are accessible for public viewing at the University of Idaho Library's website feature "Digital Memories." In 1949 and 1950, mining engineer Harry Webb Marsh filmed these scenes, which include images of gold dredging barges on the Yankee Fork River; the Page Mine sawmill; the Bunker Hill smelter; the Bradley Mining Company at Stibnite; the Bunker Hill open pit mine; and residential views of the Morning Star, Hercules, and Burke mining communities. The link to these films is: www.lib.uidaho.edu/special-collections/dm/dm2009/films.html.

Emmett Public Library

The Emmett Public Library was awarded a \$25,000 grant through the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation earlier this year and has been able to fix a critical sink hole, remodel their entrance, and put in an internal book drop.

NIC's Molstead Library

Denise Clark retired from North Idaho College's Molstead Library December 17th. Clark came to NIC in 1986 and worked as a reference librarian, taught bibliographic instruction classes, built and improved the collection, and was team leader of the library's management team. She also contributed to the creation and growth of Washington-Idaho Network (WIN) as a member of the INLAN Deans and Directors Board.

West Bonner Library District

Priest River Library and Blanchard Library, branches of the West Bonner

Library District, joined the Cooperative Information Network (CIN). The CIN library card is now good in Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah Counties in Idaho and Pend Oreille County in Washington, as well as western Bonner County (Priest River, Blanchard, and Priest Lake).

Boise libraries

In November, Boise libraries earned a mention in The New York Times newspaper for their National Gaming Day program, a Nintendo Wii Super Smash Bros Brawl tournament.

American Falls District Library

For Idaho Family Reading Week, November 15 – 21, 2009, many libraries went wild with the "Idaho is Wild About Reading" theme. American Falls District Library temporarily housed part of the Idaho Safari Club's taxidermy collection, displaying about 50 animals amidst the shelves of books. Over 1,000 people attended each day.

Twin Falls Public Library

Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, helped Twin Falls Public Library secure \$100,000 funding from a workforce development program to modernize and digitize records dating back to 1904, including newspapers that are currently on microfilm.

Oakley Free Library

Oakley Free Library received a grant of new children's books with a retail value of \$1413 through the Libri Foundation. The library raised \$350 in matching funds.

Next issue:

Learn how SPLAT changed one teacher librarian's life!

Got news to share about your library?

We would love to include it in The Nexus newsletter for the Idaho library community. Please send it to teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov



Anne Abrams checks out the wild life at American Falls District Library



A deer in the stacks

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Western Regional Fellowship Opportunity—Transforming Life After 50

Census figures estimate that 30.4% of Idaho's population was in the 50+ age category in 2008, and that figure is expected to grow in the coming decade.

A year and a half ago, ICFL began collaborative efforts with the state libraries of California, Oregon, and Washington on a project focused on developing services for the 50+ populations in our communities. In July 2009 this project was funded by a grant from the Laura Bush Foundation. Since then, several ICFL staff members have been working with the Project Advisory Committee to put together the logistics for a one-year Fellowship, designed to help public libraries better engage and serve its 50+ population. A minimum of 10 spots will be available to library staff in the Idaho public library community.

Application process: Tentatively, applications will be available some time after January 22 at <http://transforminglifeafter50.org/> with submission due by **April 2, 2010**.

Fellowship applicants will be expected to have the following:

- Commitment to full participation in a year-long Fellowship which will expand and/or strengthen library services and resources for mid-life and active, older adults.
 - Support of your public library director/manager
 - Experience in designing and implementing library programs and services
 - Experience building partnership opportunities
- Partnerships within your public library or between smaller libraries are highly recommended and will strengthen

your application.

Fellowship activities will include:

1. Informational /Community Building Webinar: July/August 2010
 2. Fellowship Institute: September 15-17, 2010 – Doubletree Hotel, Lloyd Center, Portland
 3. Local Services Development and Implementation
 4. Six-month facilitated on-line learning community
- Stay tuned for more details and the upcoming application announcement.

Learn more about Transforming Life After 50: a successful California Fellowship at <http://transforminglifeafter50.org/>. The Western Regional Fellowship will mirror these activities in many ways. Contact Shirley Biladeau at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov with questions or your interest in this program.