Broadband grant program update
by State Librarian Ann Joslin


Links to the Executive Summary and the Project Purpose can be found at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/broadband-grant-program. Objectives for the two-year project are to:
- increase connectivity rates in the least connected public libraries.
- upgrade public computing resources.
- leverage partnerships to offer services in education, workforce development, and e-government.

The total project budget is $2,850,347. The grant request is $1,907,531; the $942,816 in matching funds consists of cash and in-kind from the Gates Foundation, the Commission, and several state-level partners. The size of the project was limited by the amount of match we had available. As a result the project includes additional public access computers for only those libraries participating in the connectivity upgrades. However, online resources funded through the grant will be available statewide.

If our application meets the BTOP eligibility requirements and scores well against the evaluation criteria, we will move into the “Due Diligence” process. The reviewers assigned to our proposal may ask for additional information to clarify or to further document specific portions of our application.

NTIA intends to announce BTOP awards starting in June 2010, and to award all grants by September 30. I am confident that even if our BTOP application is not funded, the Commission will proceed to work with several of our project partners to develop some of the services we’ve planned. With or without BTOP funding, I believe that Idaho public libraries and the communities you serve will benefit from this application process. If you have questions or comments about our BTOP proposal, please don’t hesitate to contact your public library consultant.
2011 LSTA Competitive Grant Program announced by Sonja Hudson, contracts/grants officer

The Idaho Commission for Libraries announces the 2011 Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) Competitive Grant Program. The Commission’s 2011 LSTA Allocation Plan describing the grant program can be found on the website at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/library-services-technology. This document contains the grant timeline and an expanded version of the following information:

The Commission’s competitive grants are awarded to eligible publicly-funded Idaho libraries with programs or projects that exemplify the purposes and priorities outlined by the U.S. Congress as eligible for LSTA support. The competitive grant process consists of a draft and a final application. Final applications are by invitation only. Final grant awards are made by the Commission’s Board of Library Commissioners at their February 2011 meeting.

The 2011 LSTA Grant Kit containing detailed instructions and all the necessary documents for applying will be posted on the Commission’s website on or before May 21, 2010. Hard copies are available on request.

The first step for all applicants is to contact your regional library consultant and discuss your project. You can find contact information on the second page of the Allocation Plan or the Grant Kit.

For more information, refer to the Commission’s website; contact your regional library consultant; or contact me at 800-458-3271 (toll free in Idaho), 208-334-2150, or sonja.hudson@libraries.idaho.gov.

School Libraries\Media Centers Annual Survey open until June 15

The online Idaho School Libraries\Media Centers Survey 2009-2010 is now in progress. We encourage all Idaho school libraries to participate in this groundbreaking effort to collect and analyze accurate data for use by public education decision-makers in our state.

The online Report Form for FY2010 is available at http://collect.btol.com. Instructions and a PDF version of the form are available at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/idaho-school-libraries-media-centers-survey-2009-2010. We strongly encourage participants to complete the survey online. If this is not possible, please download the generic form and mail the completed survey to: Eastern Field Office, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 1820 E. 17th St. Suite 130, Idaho Falls, ID 83404.

Usernames and passwords have been distributed electronically to school libraries with viable email addresses. If you have not received your username and password or if you prefer to receive a paper copy of the survey by mail, please call 800-548-6212 or e-mail frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov or debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov.

The official survey reporting window is from April 1 to June 15, 2010.
Partnering to Shape 21st Century Learners conferences

The Partnering to Shape 21st Century Learners conferences—held in Boise, Coeur d’Alene, and Pocatello this spring—provided “an inspiring opportunity for professional development and networking…with the famous ‘Washington Moms.’ These fiercely dedicated women have spearheaded their grass-roots school library advocacy from a kitchen table in Spokane to the national spotlight,” said Boise school librarian Becky Proctor. “What a great day!”

School librarians served as team leaders and brought along an administrator and one or more parents to help formulate blueprints for their 21st century libraries.

Regional library consultant Frank Nelson highlighted the findings of the “Idaho School Library Impact Study-2009” (see the full report and Executive Summary at http://libraries.idaho.gov/study). The bottom line is that students are more likely to succeed when librarians play active and collaborative roles with both other teachers and with administrators. Conference participants discussed the value of collaboration on a regular basis, as well as communication between teachers and librarians about specific topics that students are studying.

Participants contributed to “charrette” wikis, intended to be a starting point for drafting a sketch of what is necessary in order to develop strong, crucial partnerships and Library Information and Technology programs. Elements of what was accomplished in Boise, Coeur d’Alene, and Pocatello will be presented in October 2010 at a pre-conference of the Idaho Library Association’s Annual Conference.


Participants envisioned libraries of the future as “inviting spaces, safe places, cool hangouts, teen friendly, and wireless accessible, with a laptop for every student.” Libraries of the future would also promote global citizenship and include opportunities to network with other librarians.

Some nuggets from the Boise conference include the following observations:

- (From a student): Teach me the technology that I need. Teachers need to be aware so I can be prepared. Teach from your past for our future.
- Instead of teaching abstinence, teach safe surfing.
- FlipCams in every classroom is a must: this brings up level of accountability and students can see immediate feedback.
- Have students present technology to teachers during in-service.
- Task high school videographers to produce Public Service Announcements about Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) and 21st century skills to introduce those terms to parents and other stakeholders.

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Participants envision their libraries of the future.

Teach me the technology that I need. Teachers need to be aware so I can be prepared. Teach from your past for our future.

- Melba Student
Libraries may be seeing an increase in genealogy research these days. A television series showing some celebrities learning about their family history is bound to pique our curiosity. Luckily, Idahoans have free access to a great genealogy research tool, HeritageQuest. HeritageQuest is a product of ProQuest and available at no cost to Idaho residents through the Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) Database program. The HeritageQuest collection consists of six tools to search U.S. Census records, local history books, and more. This amazing resource can help any aspiring genealogist get started with their family research.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries has scheduled three 1-hour training sessions for library staff interested in learning more about how to use HeritageQuest. Sign up for one of these online sessions at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/li-li-d-training-2010. The online training will be offered July 13th, 19th, and 22nd. Training is free to Idaho library staff, but please register ahead of time.
BCR and LYRASIS partnership
by Gina Persichini

In early April the Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR) and LYRASIS announced they are Partners in Transition.

The Idaho library community will know BCR from the discounts, training, and consulting services provided for a number of years. For many years, all Idaho libraries have had member status with BCR through a statewide membership obtained by the Idaho Commission for Libraries. As a result, Idaho libraries have taken advantage of discounts available on databases, supplies, and training. Now, BCR will be joining forces with LYRASIS.

LYRASIS is a very large library network providing services similar to BCR. From their vision statement, “LYRASIS supports library and information professionals by providing opportunities for networking and collaboration and member services including education, group purchasing programs, digitization, preservation, consulting and advocacy.”

So what does this arrangement mean for Idaho libraries? There are a number of things Idaho library staff need to know about this change:

1. There will be no interruption of services as the transition takes place.
2. LYRASIS and BCR now share office space in Aurora, CO, to serve their western members.
3. Your membership will automatically transfer to LYRASIS membership on October 1, 2010.
5. If you purchase products and services with BCR now, continue to do so through BCR. LYRASIS will honor BCR pricing through June 2011.
6. In addition to BCR’s existing products and services, you now have access to an even wider selection of LYRASIS products and services http://www.LYRASIS.org/Products-and-Services.aspx. BCR Support will help you navigate where to purchase these services during the transition (support@bcr.org).

BCR will schedule online Member Forums to answer questions and help introduce their members to LYRASIS. These will be announced through the BCR website and via the BCRReview electronic newsletter. Those interested in keeping up-to-date on the news and service announcements from LYRASIS can subscribe to their mailing lists and regular electronic publications by going to http://www.LYRASIS.org/News/Member-Subscriptions.aspx.

As part of the transition process, the Idaho Commission for Libraries will be working with BCR and LYRASIS staff to determine the options for continued state or group membership with LYRASIS in future years. If you have any questions about the BCR and LYRASIS partnership, contact BCR at 800-397-1552 or info@bcr.org.

Updates are coming to ICFL website and LiLI portal

In order to comply with new website design standards for Idaho state agencies, the ICFL website has been undergoing a significant update. When the new site goes live at the same URL (http://libraries.idaho.gov/), you will find a new layout, look, and logo—but the same content, tools, and publications.

The LiLI Portal (www.lili.org/) is also being updated. In addition to complying with state standards, the portal revisions were designed to:

• make it simpler to access LiLI databases
• make it easier to use the LiLI Unlimited statewide catalog
• make it more straightforward to search for information

The portal also includes a “Getting Started” video for users and brief descriptions of the available databases.

We worked with a focus group to test the new design elements, making changes in a separate online location so ICFL website and LiLI users would not be inconvenienced by the construction.

The target “go live” date for the updated ICFL website and LiLI portal is July 1, 2010. We hope that you will like the new look and find the sites useful and efficient to navigate.

Beta site for LiLI portal
Your Summer Reading program

If you are an Idaho library planning to offer a children’s and/or teen summer reading program, please prepare to collect participation statistics this summer and submit them to the Idaho Commission for Libraries by August 31. The questions we will ask and notes on collecting your data can be accessed at http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/2010_SummerReadingQuestions.pdf.

Summer reading program materials, such as Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) program manuals and Bright Futures materials, are Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)-funded. Libraries using the statewide theme or who are participating in Bright Futures, are required to submit their participation statistics to the ICFL. These statistics are used to fulfill reporting requirements issued by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which administers LSTA at the federal level. Failure to report your data will jeopardize your library’s eligibility for future summer reading materials.

We will collect your data using a Survey Monkey survey that we will send out in June. The survey should be completed by each library branch. Please do not send any data directly to ICFL staff.

Thank you in advance for collecting your data and submitting the information to us! Your information helps us demonstrate the amount of summer reading activity taking place in Idaho’s libraries, and helps us continue to improve the services we offer to you.

If you have questions, please email Staci Shaw at staci.shaw@libraries.idaho.gov.

First Book Applications due May 13


Walmart Grant reports

Last year, as a result of a collaborative effort between the Idaho Library Association, First Lady Lori Otter, the Idaho Community Foundation and ICFL, the Walmart Foundation provided $98,000 in one-time funds to support "Strengthening Library Services for Youth in Idaho."

The Commission distributed the funds through a competitive mini-grant process open to all Idaho publicly-funded public libraries. The grant program was designed to encourage creative thinking and new approaches in order to provide innovative services and help libraries reach more youth from birth to age 18 and their families. Grant awards ranged from $1,000 to $10,000.

The Walmart grant reports were due April 30, 2010 and synopses of projects are being posted on the ICFL website. To read more about how libraries went about "Strengthening Library Services for Youth in Idaho" with the funding they received, go to http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/wal-mart-minigrants.
Volunteer Appreciation Event at ICFL

In 2009, 115 volunteers donated 10,258 hours of their time to help with projects and programs at the Idaho Commission for Libraries. To celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 18-24, we hosted an event with the theme “Volunteers Build A Better World,” and invited our dedicated volunteers to a build-your-own potato bar and a presentation showcasing how their time and labor impact library patrons around the state.

Volunteers help the Commission in its mission to assist libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele. They enhance ICFL projects such as literacy programs, networking and resource sharing, and the Talking Book Service (TBS)—spending hours preparing Jumpstart Kits, mailing LiL Unlimited posters, repairing (TBS) machines, inspecting TBS tapes and other tasks.

When welcoming the volunteers to the event, State Librarian Ann Joslin said that Sheila Winther (volunteer coordinator) never has trouble recruiting ICFL staff for the event planning committee because we are all so overwhelmed by the contributions of the volunteers. “We could not do what we do without our volunteers,” Joslin emphasized.

Volunteer Facts for 2009

Total volunteer hours: 10,258
5-year service certificates: Mary Moore, Donald McNarie, and Susan Johnson
15-year service certificates: Carla Stern
20-year service certificates: Larry Weeks
2,000-hour awards: Sue Vap
1,000-hour awards: Ruby Weaver and Truman Stewart
Jumpstart packets assembled and mailed: 15,000
New digital machines checked out to TBS patrons: 380
Books on tape mailed and then received, inspected, and reshelved: 147,242
Books on tape recorded: 40

Career Information System (eCIS) subscriptions to continue

Here is some good news for Idaho public libraries using the Career Information System (CIS) tool provided by the Idaho Department of Labor since September 2009. The CIS subscription will continue at NO charge to your library after August 31, 2010. Subscriptions will continue for those Idaho libraries without cost and without interruption.

CIS received a grant that covers a significant portion of the costs to the current subscribers (schools and libraries).

Here are the details:
1. A contract will not be required.
2. Service will continue, MINUS the following Exploration Tools: Career Focus, SKILLS, Work Importance Locator, and Career Cluster Inventory.
3. Login and password stay the same.
4. No user reports will be provided.

The people at CIS are working on a Public Access (PA) model, which will be ready sometime after January 1, 2011. The PA model is what libraries currently subscribing to CIS will be using after August 31. It will be available to other Idaho public libraries sometime in 2011.

For questions and/or further information please contact Shirley Biladeau at Shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov.
Paint the State Contest

The Idaho Meth Project launched a statewide public art contest—Paint the State—that encourages Idaho teens to create artistic representations of the dangers of methamphetamine use. Idaho teens ages 13–18 have the opportunity to create public art that communicates an anti-Meth message surrounding the theme: “Not Even Once.”

Winners will be selected by local judging panels and $3,000 in prizes will be awarded in each of Idaho’s 44 counties. First place winners from all counties will compete for the statewide Grand Prize of $5,000. Winners will be announced at a special art gala featuring Governor C. L. “Butch” and First Lady Lori Otter in Boise on August 6. The Project is asking libraries across the state to help promote this program by:

• displaying posters and flyers at your school or public library.
• encouraging teens with whom you interact to participate in this contest.
• asking any teen-based councils associated with your library to develop an entry for Paint the State.

Download flyers and posters from www.paintthestateidaho.org/tips.php, or if you would like to have posters or flyers mailed to your library, contact Elli Brown toll-free at 888-331-2060 or ebrown@idahomethproject.org.

ILA Award nominations due May 15

Although May 1 was the original deadline, nominations will be accepted for the six Idaho Library Association (ILA) Awards until May 15. The ILA honors individuals and groups who have served the Association and/or the Idaho library community with distinction.

Except for the School Library Media Program of the Year Award, each nomination packet should include the completed ILA Awards Nomination Form (at www.idaholibraries.org/awards) and three letters of support; one from the nominator and two from other supporters of the nomination. No more than three letters of support will be considered by the selection committee.

The School Library Media Program of the Year Award nomination packet should include the Idaho School Library Media Program of the Year application and profile information, which can be found at http://www.idaholibraries.org/awards.

All nominators will be notified in August by the Scholarship and Awards Committee if their nominee has been selected, and will be invited to make the presentation of the award at the annual conference.

Save the Date: Idaho Library Association Annual Conference

The 2010 annual conference of the Idaho Library Association (ILA—“Libraries: Bridging the Divide”—will be October 6–9 at the Red Lion Templin’s Hotel on the River in Post Falls. Preconference events will include an academic librarians retreat and a program on intellectual freedom, among others, on Wednesday, October 6. The scheduled keynote speaker for Thursday will be author Jess Walter. The ILA conference is the best way to meet and mingle with your peers, to learn, and to share ideas. So plan to attend. For more on the conference schedule visit the ILA website at www.idaholibraries.org.
Library news from around the state

SWIM scholarship recipients
The Idaho SWIM Scholarship Selection Committee selected six Idaho recipients for the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) Scholarship and one Idaho recipient for the School Library Media Endorsement Scholarship. All selections were approved by the SWIM Advisory Council. In addition, five Idaho applicants were recommended for consideration in the at-large MLIS scholarship pool.

Idaho MLIS Scholarships Awarded:
- Erica Littlefield – Youth Services Department Head, Twin Falls Public Library, Twin Falls
- Jessica Tueller – Youth Services Assistant, Twin Falls Public Library, Twin Falls
- Kate Baker – Circulation Specialist, Meridian Library District, Meridian
- Kristine Brumley – Department Specialist, Boise Public Library at Collister, Boise
- Megan Egbert – Library Assistant, Boise Public Library, Boise
- Thomas Ivie – Library Assistant 3, University of Idaho College of Law, Moscow

Idaho SLME Scholarships Awarded:
- Janet Williamson – Teacher, Gooding School District, Gooding

Nampa Public Library
Mark Rose began his work as the new Nampa Public Library director on April 26th. For the past five years, Rose served as the Director of the Marion Public Library, in Marion, Ohio. He spent two years prior to that as the Assistant Director of the Provo City Library. Rose received his MLIS from Brigham Young University, and before beginning his library career served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army for four years. Former director Karen Ganske retired in March.

Idaho Humanities Council Grants
The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded several Idaho libraries the Picturing America package of 40 reproductions of American masterpieces. The Idaho Humanities Council awarded six grants for library programs exploring these masterpieces:
- American Falls District Library: $500 for a Veteran’s Day commemoration
- Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center: $500 for classes on Native American history
- Burley Public Library: $500 for a presentation on the Bill of Rights
- Coeur d’Alene Public Library: $1,000 towards a program titled “Fiber & Fabric: Art Born of Necessity”
- Hayden Library: $1,800 for three speakers in an eight-month series on topics from literature to history
- Jerome Public Library: $650 for student and adult art classes

Ada Community Library
On behalf of Idaho libraries, archives, and museums, Ada Community Library submitted a successful grant application, “Idaho Connecting to Collections,” to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). With the awarded funding of $39,500, the library, in cooperation with museums, libraries, and archives across Idaho, will conduct the first-ever statewide survey to identify preservation needs among collections-holding institutions. This information will be useful in developing a plan for proper care of collections and will allow the creation of a collaborative network among cultural heritage communities. In addition, a statewide workshop will be held, resulting in a set of best practices documents addressing basic collections care needs.

Weippe Public Library
Weippe Public Library/Clearwater County Free Library District was a 2009 finalist for the “Best Small Library in America.” Library Journal’s annual award, cosponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was founded to encourage and showcase libraries that most profoundly demonstrate outstanding service to populations of 25,000 or less. Nominations are judged on factors such as:
- creativity in developing services and programs that can be replicated by other libraries
- innovation in introducing and supporting public access computing
- success in educating patrons in computer use
- use of technology to expand the reach of library services
- sustained cooperation with other libraries
- partnerships with other agencies and businesses
- evidence of library’s role as community center
Applicants sought for Board of Library Commissioners

The Idaho Commission for Libraries Board of Commissioners is seeking applicants who are residents of Eastern Idaho for a term on the Board running through June 30, 2015.

The Board of Library Commissioners assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele. It promulgates rules for the Commission, administers the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in Idaho, and delivers statewide library programs and services.

Service on the Board requires that a member be available for meetings approximately ten days each year. The meetings are both face to face and telephone conference calls. The majority of the face to face meetings are in Boise. Members receive an honorarium, travel, lodging, and per diem expenses when conducting Commission business.

Qualifications include residency in Idaho, being 18 years of age or older, and an interest in libraries. Familiarity with the Idaho library community and experience serving on a governing board or holding a public office are desirable.

The Governor has designated the Board of Library Commissioners as the screening committee for this appointment. The Commissioners intend to have a recommendation to the Governor by July 16, 2010.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest accompanied by a brief resume to:
Ann Joslin, State Librarian
Idaho Commission for Libraries
325 W. State Street,
Boise, ID 83702
by June 30, 2010.

Questions or requests for further information may also be directed to the State Librarian at the above address or by calling 208-334-2150.

WebJunction Idaho workshops by Shirley Biladeau

The Commission for Libraries will be providing a full day of hands-on activities with WebJunction Idaho starting on May 10 and running through June 4. If you have been procrastinating, this is your chance to learn about navigating the site, social networking tools, and continuing education opportunities that are available to you at no cost via WebJunction Idaho.

You may be eligible to earn a FlipCam for your library! It’s easy—here’s how:
1. You are eligible if your public or school library has not yet earned a FlipCam from the Commission.
2. Attend both the morning and the afternoon sessions.
3. Make a 1-3 minute video about your online learning experience and how you will use WebJunction Idaho.

Register today – space is limited.

WebJunction Idaho offers the opportunity to connect with other librarians throughout the world, as well as discover valuable tools to assist in your daily workflow. To learn more or to register for a workshop near you, go to: http://libraries.idaho.gov/webjunction

Questions? Give me a call 208-639-4149.

Training Sites:
Blackfoot: May 20 and May 21 at Blackfoot Public Schools Training Center
Boise: May 10 at ICFL
Burley: May 27 at Burley Public Library
Caldwell: May 17 at Caldwell Public Library
Gooding: May 14 at Gooding High School Library
Lewiston: June 2 at LCSC Workforce Training Center
Post Falls: June 3 at NIC Workforce Training Center
3-hour in-service workshops have been scheduled for Bonners Ferry (June 4), Cascade, (May 24), and McCall (May 24 and 25).
Please bring a laptop to participate. Call 208-639-4149 to register for these workshops.

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