Broadband grant program update

On March 15, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) submitted a Public Computing Center (PCC) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant proposal, “High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries,” to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Broadband grant program update

Objectives
The objectives of the BTOP project are to:
• increase connectivity rates in the least connected public libraries
• upgrade public computing resources in those libraries
• leverage partnerships to offer services in education, workforce development, and e-government.

We have completed the “Due Diligence” phase of our application evaluation and continue to plan for what we hope will be approval of our project.

Updating the candidate pool

Connectivity speed
ICFL is in the process of updating the candidate pool for the BTOP project, using data from the Federal Communications Commission consumer broadband MLAB test. All public libraries that wanted to be considered for the PCC project, including those on our initial list of libraries with 5 Mbps or less, were required to submit a copy of the MLAB connectivity speed test results to ICFL by July 2.

If libraries weren’t on our initial candidate list, and the community meets other demographic criteria, they were encouraged to send in connectivity test results to provide more current measures of connectivity speed.

Demographic criteria
Low connectivity speed is only the first factor in defining the candidate pool for the computer and connectivity upgrades. As defined by NTIA—the funding source—PCC projects are to address the needs of vulnerable populations. In our BTOP project, libraries that serve higher percentages of minority populations and/or those with special needs, high unemployment, low income, and/or low education levels will receive higher priority than those whose community demographics include few vulnerable populations.

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Broadband update  continued from page 1

This PCC project, if funded, will require serious commitment from the participating libraries, and not every library that has low connectivity and a high percentage of vulnerable populations may choose to make that commitment. Round 2 BTOP award announcements have begun and we could hear about our proposal any time between now and September. Find out more about our broadband proposal at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/broadband-grant-program.

LSTA Just in Time and Competitive Grants are available

The Idaho Commission for Libraries is reminding Idaho libraries that the Just In Time grant process has been reinstated. We continue to have funds available for planning or well-planned projects from our 2010 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) award, received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The Just in Time grant process will sunset on October 22, 2010, six weeks prior to the Library Board of Commissioners’ December 3 meeting, to make way for the 2012 LSTA Competitive Grant process. The Competitive Grant digital submissions of draft applications are due October 11, 2010, with paper submission due October 13, 2010.

The Commission’s Just In Time grant process typically cuts down the time needed between application and grant award. However, the end result of both processes is the same: getting LSTA funds in the hands of Idaho libraries to assist in building the library’s capacity to better serve their clientele.

Grant application materials can be accessed the following ways:
- on the Commission’s website at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/lsta-library-services-technology
- by contacting the Commission’s grants officer, Sonja Hudson at sonja.hudson@libraries.idaho.gov 800-458-3271 or 208-334-2150
- by contacting your regional library consultant

All applicants must contact their regional library consultant to discuss their project. Their contact information is on the website and listed below:
- Jan Wall–Northern Idaho, 866-212-0646 jan.wall@libraries.idaho.gov
- Frank Nelson–Eastern Idaho, 800-548-6212 frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov
- Anne Abrams–Southwestern and south central Idaho, 800-458-3271 anne.abrams@libraries.idaho.gov

LiLI portal gets a new look

Improvements have been made to the LiLI portal, including a totally new look. You no longer need a username and password; just log in with your zip code and city when prompted. You can also search for resources from the homepage. There have been no changes in the databases or content available through LiLI-D. Check out the updated LiLI portal at http://lili.org.
School Libraries/Media Center Survey open through summer

The reporting window for the 2009-2010 School Libraries/Media Centers Survey is extended through this summer so as many school libraries as possible have the opportunity to participate. 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. If you have not already received your password, call Frank Nelson or Debby Wylie at 800-548-6212 or e-mail frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov or debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov.

Reminder: free CIS subscription to continue

The Career Information System (CIS) subscription will continue after August 31, 2010 at NO charge and without interruption to libraries currently using the CIS tool provided by the Idaho Department of Labor since September 2009. No contract will be required. Login and password stay the same. Service will continue, MINUS the following Exploration Tools: Career Focus, SKILLS, Work Importance Locator, and Career Cluster Inventory. A free Public Access model in the works will be available to all Idaho public libraries sometime in 2011.

Talking Book Service Goes Digital by Sue Walker

Idaho’s Talking Book Service (TBS) users have transitioned to digital books and are enthusiastic about the improved quality and convenience. Highlights include:

- A smaller, lighter player with improved sound quality and a battery charge that lasts up to 30 hours
- Book titles complete on one cartridge instead of several cassettes
- No rewinding is needed
- All digital book titles are available for convenient download for those with Internet access. The cartridges for downloading can accommodate several titles instead of just one.

The updated players and digital books began circulating in late 2009 and were first distributed to current users. TBS staff now assigns players as users enroll in the service. Staff hopes the updated players and book format will appeal to eligible new users who are comfortable with downloading.

As in the past, the service is free to eligible TBS users. Libraries can promote TBS to users in their service area with updated posters, fliers, demonstration players, and books. TBS staff is available to demonstrate the players as needed.

More information about TBS is available at: http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/talking-book-service, or contact TBS at 800-458-3271 or talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov.

Users receive materials via the USPS Free Matter for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and can request books online via the library OPAC at http://www.klas.com/idph.
Summer Reading reporting due August 31

The official summer reading survey (find at http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading) should be submitted upon completion of your program, and no later than August 31, 2010.

Summer reading program materials, such as Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) manuals and Bright Futures materials, are funded by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Libraries using the statewide theme or participating in Bright Futures are required to submit their participation statistics to ICFL. These statistics are used by ICFL 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. Each library branch should submit a separate survey.

Please contact Staci Shaw at staci.shaw@libraries.idaho.gov if you have any questions about collecting and submitting your data. If your program runs longer than the August 31 reporting deadline, please send her a quick heads-up.

A closer look at new Read to Me (RTM) research

A comprehensive evaluation of ICFL’s Read to Me programs was conducted during the 2008–2009 program cycle. Results clearly showed the programs had positive effects.

For the 2009–2010 Read to Me program cycle, a follow-up telephone survey of parents and caregivers involved in either the First Book program or the Every Child Ready to Read Family Workshops was conducted by Boise State University professor and researcher Dr. Roger Stewart. The survey showed that both programs have sustained positive impacts on parents, caregivers, and children over considerable spans of time. View the complete interim report at http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/Interim-Report-March-2010.pdf.

Record number of libraries to participate in First Book Program

A record number of Idaho libraries will participate in the 2010–2011 Read to Me program, providing approximately 2,500 children with a book each month during the upcoming school year.

Along with the book, a monthly parent newsletter provides information on early literacy and includes rhymes, music, and fun activities for each age group. “We were able to fund every application and are thrilled that so many children will be reached with this program,” ICFL Project Coordinator Staci Shaw said. The Read to Me program has sponsored First Book since 1997 with state funding. Since, 2008 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds have also been used, reaching more children. The 32 libraries participating this year are partnering with local Head Start agencies, daycares, developmental preschool programs, and schools to reach children ages birth to six who are unlikely to have many books or a library card. A map containing the 2010–2011 participating libraries can be found at http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/first-book.
BCR and LYRASIS transition update

In early April, the Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR) and LYRASIS announced that they are Partners in Transition. BCR is transitioning all subscription services to LYRASIS in mid-2010 and phasing out its operations by the end of the calendar year.

For many years, all Idaho libraries have had member status with BCR through a statewide membership obtained by the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Our current membership with BCR entitles Idaho libraries to full LYRASIS membership privileges—including affordable discounts on consulting, training and classes specific for librarians, digitization and preservation services, and database subscriptions—through June 30, 2011.

BCR members’ migration to LYRASIS is effective as of July 1, 2010 and Idaho libraries are eligible to take advantage of member rates for LYRASIS training opportunities (www.LYRASIS.org/Classes-and-Events.aspx), which BCR is no longer offering, and LYRASIS products and services (www.LYRASIS.org/Products-and-Services.aspx).

BCR and LYRASIS have been working together to help libraries transition as seamlessly as possible. However, the transition between BCR and LYRASIS is not without electronic “paperwork.” You will need to complete a LYRASIS transition form to activate your membership and let LYRASIS know that you would like to take advantage of the year of no-cost membership. The form can be found at: www.lyrasis.org/Membership/Member-Enrichment-with-BCR/BCR-Transition-Form.aspx. Once you fill out the form, you will be contacted by LYRASIS staff to complete the setup process and identify the products and services you would like to select.

Disappointing election results

North Bingham Co. District Library

The first ever bond election for the North Bingham County District Library, a 20-year, 4.39 million dollar bond to build a new library, failed on May 25, 2010. For a $150,000 home, taxes would have increased about $50 per year. According to the library, 464 (40.5%) voted yes, while 683 (59.5%) voted no. The bond needed a super-majority of 67% to pass. Although the bond did not pass, the library was appreciative of the wonderful voter turnout. “I know that people are really disappointed because almost 50 percent voted yes. We are not going to give up, we are in process of establishing a foundation and looking for other avenues to improve our building. You always have to have hope,” said library director Heidi Riddoch.

Franklin Co. District (Larsen-Sant) Library

The Larsen-Sant Public Library permanent levy election also failed on May 25, with 362 (56%) voting yes and 280 (44%) voting no. A super-majority was needed to pass. The library had hoped to replace their two-year temporary override levy with one that would be part of their base budget. The election results were particularly discouraging as the proposed override would not have actually increased operating revenues beyond what the library already collects with their operating levy.
Let's Talk About It programs
Idaho libraries have provided Let's Talk About It (LTAI) programs to their communities since 1985. LTAI brings together humanities scholars and adult readers in public libraries to discuss literature that explores American values, history, and culture.

Twenty-one libraries applied to participate in the Fall 2010 and Winter/Spring 2011 programs and there was funding for 15 libraries:

- Ada Community Library, Star Branch
- American Falls District Library
- Boundary County District Library, Bonners Ferry
- Cambridge Community Library
- Gooding Public Library
- Idaho Falls Public Library
- Jerome Public Library
- Larsen-Sant Public Library, Preston
- Lewiston City Library
- McCall Public Library
- Patricia Romanko Public Library, Parma
- Sherburn Smith Memorial Library, Wendell
- Stanley Community Library
- Twin Falls Public Library
- Weiser Public Library

The Let's Talk About It program is made possible by the Idaho Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a generous gift from U.S. Bank. LTAI is administered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries.

For more information about the Let's Talk About It program and to see the themes that participating libraries chose, visit http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/lets-talk-about-it.

Paint the State public art entries
You can view public art entries submitted to the Idaho Meth Project’s Paint the State contest at www.paintthestateidaho.org/gallery.php. Click on a city or search by county to see photos of the artwork, location, and the teen artists’ interpretations of their work. Nearly 350 individual and group projects with the theme “Meth: Not Even Once” are on public display around the state of Idaho, many at libraries and schools.

The Paint the State Awards Gala will be held on August 6 at 2:30 p.m. at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise, with Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter and First Lady Lori Otter attending.

Meth use among Idaho teens dropped 52% between 2007 and 2009, the largest decline in the nation. It’s exciting to have Idaho teens involved in educating their peers and raising public awareness about the risks of Meth use.

For more on the Idaho Meth Project and the Paint the State contest, visit www.idahomethproject.org/.

ILA annual Conference October 6-9
The 2010 annual conference of the Idaho Library Association (ILA)—“Libraries: Bridging the Divide”—will be in Post Falls October 6-9 at the Red Lion Templin’s Hotel on the River. The ILA conference is a great way to mingle with your peers and share ideas. For more information visit www.idaholibraries.org.
Idaho Library Snapshot Day: April 2010

Forty-five libraries—including public, school, academic, and medical—chose one day between April 11 and April 24, 2010 to send their statistics to the Idaho Library Association (ILA) for Idaho Library Snapshot Day. Here are some statistics of one day in Idaho’s libraries:

- 26,966 people visited
- 29,925 items were checked out
- 209 people signed up for a card
- 1,938 reference questions answered
- 23 people got help with resumes
- 5,231 people used computers
- 1,678 people attended programs

Transforming Life After 50 (TLA50) Fellows announced

Idaho Commission for Libraries, the California State Library, Oregon State Library, and Washington State Library collaborated to offer librarians a year-long Fellowship opportunity funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. All 18 of our Idaho applicants were accepted into the Western Regional Fellowship, Transforming Life After 50.

- Blackfoot: Rachel Grimmett, Snake River School Community Library
- Boise: Diane Rice, Ada Community Library
  Erica Compton, ICFL
  Sarah Kelley-Chase, Boise Public Library
  Sue Walker, ICFL
- Burley: Julie Woodford, Burley Public Library
  Valerie Bame, Burley Public Library
- Chubbuck: Karri Alderson, Chubbuck and North Bannock County
- Coeur d’Alene: Barbara Nolan, Coeur d’Alene Public Library
- Fernwood: Joanne O’Dwyer, Benewah County Library
- Hayden: Twylla Rehder, Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries
- Lewiston: Heather Stout, Lewiston City Library
- Jerome: Edie Waite, Jerome Public Library
- Marsing: Janna Streibel, Lizard Butte Library
- Pocatello: Amy Campbell, Marshall Public Library
- Post Falls: Rebecca Melton, Post Falls Public Library
- Rupert: Sharon Kimber, DeMary Memorial Library
- Twin Falls: Jennifer Hills, Twin Falls Public Library

The Fellowship will run from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

SWIM Scholarship recipients

Due to attrition and other grant monies not being spent, the South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana (SWIM) Regional Library Education Scholarship Grant program has been able to offer additional scholarships to individuals on the waiting list. Two additional Idaho applicants have been offered, and have accepted, scholarships:

- Beth Swenson, Twin Falls Public Library
- Colleen Bonnell, Payette Public Library

Congratulations to all Idaho scholarship recipients. Studies begin September 2.
Library news from around the state

Watching libraries grow

Watch construction projects progress at several Idaho libraries via their great blog sites and in the news.

**Plummer Public Library**'s construction project has been a goal of the library board for over ten years. The new and improved library building will better serve all who go there. Congratulations to Library Director Paulina Freeburg and everyone there who made their vision a reality! Check out the great pictures of their new library at [http://plummerlibrary.blogspot.com/](http://plummerlibrary.blogspot.com/).

**Garden Valley District Library**'s building is going up this summer after a groundbreaking ceremony this spring. Check out [http://gardenvalleylibrary.blogspot.com/](http://gardenvalleylibrary.blogspot.com/) for pictures.

**Madison Library District** in Rexburg reopened to the public recently. While construction continues on the outside, the new wing is open. The library was closed for three weeks and gets over 1,000 visitors each day, so people were anxious for the return. To see a news story about the reopening, visit [www.localnews8.com/video/23824040/index.html](http://www.localnews8.com/video/23824040/index.html).

**IMLS Grant Primes KSAL's Hayden Branch for Honors**

It started with a challenge to make library services accessible to families who couldn’t make it to the Hayden Library Branch of Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries. And it ended with a mobile library that travels to community gathering places—summer lunch programs, senior homes, and even country stores. The outreach program, “From Your Library,” has increased awareness of library services and extended their reach into the community.

In 2007, Hayden Library applied for and was awarded a grant from the Idaho Commission for Libraries that was funded through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (LSTA). The $83,385 project covered what you would expect: a vehicle, circulation access, and other project nuts and bolts. But the creative duo Karen Yother and Twylla Rehder also submitted and won a $45,000 marketing grant to make sure people found out about the service. The “From Your Library” project won a feature spot in a new book, *Winning Grants: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians with Multimedia Tutorials and Grant Development Tools* by Pamela MacKellar and Stephanie Rawlins Gerding. It was selected for the book as “one that illustrates the best in successful library grants”, said MacKellar.

Yother and Rehder will also speak about the “From Your Library” project at the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries joint conference in Denver later this year. “We are proud of our staff and the high quality of programs and services they offer to patrons throughout Kootenai and Western Shoshone counties,” district director John Hartung said. “Karen and Twylla are true assets to the library and our community. They continue to provide excellent programs and contribute to making the library an exciting place to visit for all ages.”
Library news from around the state

Ada Community Library
Ada Community Library received a $14,900 National Endowment for the Arts federal grant to continue the Big Read: Boise and Beyond next year. Focusing on Jack London’s classic The Call of the Wild, the project will feature an array of programs from mid-January through mid-March, all exploring the book and its themes. The library will also receive a grant of $2,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support a humanities program that features the NEH Picturing America collection of art reproductions. For more information on the program see www.adalib.org/services/adult/lets_talk_about_it_making_tracks.

Bellevue Community Library
Director Patty Gilman received the Lee Pesky Learning Center’s 2010 Educational Leadership Award for her “extraordinary contribution to advancing literacy in her community.” Among the literacy programs that the library offers are Summer Reading, Jumpstart, and First Book. The Pesky Center, a nonprofit organization that focuses on giving children with learning disabilities and children living in poverty the tools they need to be academically successful, singles out one educator each year for the award.

Burley Public Library
After experiencing two years of success selling cappuccino and hot chocolate, Burley Public Library put a snack machine near the coffee machine. They have had the machine since January and decided to use the monthly $50 profits to purchase large, flat screen TVs for the teen section and the children’s section in order to make their movie programs even better.

Coeur d’Alene Public Library
The Women’s Gift Alliance in the Idaho Community Foundation gave Coeur d’Alene Public Library $22,625 to fund its laptop lab, ‘Retool Box’ project. The grant will fund equipment purchases for a project to be offered by the Coeur d’Alene Public Library and North Idaho College Adult Basic Education (ABE) to boost the computer skills of people looking for jobs or hoping to re-enter the job market.

Gooding Public Library
Cindy Bigler, program director at Gooding Public Library, was honored in June by Magic Valley Bank as Community Member of the Year. She also received an award of $1000 for library programs from the Bank.

Idaho State University Library
Idaho State University Library in Pocatello had a farewell reception in June to honor Kay Flowers, University Librarian and Dean, who accepted a position as Dean of University Libraries at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Portneuf District Library
Jezmynne Dene, MLIS, began July 12th as the new director of Portneuf District Library in Chubbuck, replacing retiring director, Karen Pettinger. Dene comes to Portneuf from the Claremont University Consortium in Claremont, California where she was a science librarian.

Twin Falls Public Library
Twin Falls library received a $100,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to convert its collection of local lore and update local historical newspapers to an indexed database.
WESTPAS Disaster Planning Workshop

By Shirley Biladeau

Do you know how well your disaster response plan will work in a real disaster situation? The WESTPAS “Are You Ready?” workshop will:

• help you assess your vulnerabilities.
• test your plan using a scenario table-top exercise.
• explore how collaborations can help you respond to a disaster.
• build a shared vision for regional disaster preparedness.

Register for either workshop at: http://westpas.org/courses.html
(Boise registration to open soon)

When possible, send two or three participants with the following roles from your library or archive to work together:

• staff member(s) responsible for emergency preparedness
• administrator or manager responsible for the building or collection
• key members of the emergency/disaster team responsible for decision-making

Requirements for attendance:

• a written disaster plan (a draft is okay) that includes collections response/recovery
• a letter of institutional commitment to explore collaboration to optimize preparedness
• a completed 3-page vulnerability assessment (distributed three weeks before the workshop)

Commissioner Pete Black retires

After thirteen years of service to the Idaho library community and ICFL, Board of Commissioners Chair Pete Black has retired.

Black also served 31 years as a teacher and elementary school librarian in the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District and was elected to the Idaho House of Representatives in November of 1982. He won the assistant minority leadership spot in 1986 and was also appointed to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) that year. Black retired from the legislature in 1996 and subsequently was appointed to the ICFL (then the Idaho State Library) Board of Commissioners in 1997.

At the June 11, 2010, Board meeting, State Librarian Ann Joslin presented Black with a plaque “in recognition and appreciation of his service and contributions to the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Idaho library community.”

Of his time on the Board of Commissioners Black said, “It really has been fun.... The Commission is a wonderful agency. I marvel at the leadership here and what a great job everybody does.” “We’ll miss the knowledge and humor he shared at our meetings,” Joslin said. “We wish him all the best in his retirement and many enjoyable adventures ahead.”