The Idaho Commission for Libraries’ (ICFL) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computer Center grant project, “online @ your library,” was awarded August 18 by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The grant will expand broadband and computing capacity in Idaho’s least connected libraries and expand LiLI online resources statewide for both K-12 students and job seekers.

The total project budget is $2,850,347. Grant award: $1,907,531 Matching funds: $942,816

The matching funds consist of cash from the Gates Foundation and in-kind contributions from the Commission and several state-level partners.

Our content partners include the Idaho Department of Labor, Adult Basic Education, Idaho Public Television, the Idaho State Department of Education, and the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON). Online resources funded through the grant will be available statewide. The rollout of these resources has already begun. See page 3 for more information and watch for updates as more of these online programs become available.

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. The candidate pool of libraries is based on connectivity speed (libraries with 5 Mbps or less) and demographic criteria of the communities they serve.

Staff from the candidate libraries were trained in the E-rate application process and have Request for Proposals (RFPs) for potential broadband service providers. Sustainability for each candidate library will be evaluated when the RFP process is complete.

More information about the “online @ your library” project can be found at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/broadband-grant-program. If you have questions or comments about our BTOP project, please contact your public library consultant.
LSTA Just in Time and Competitive grants deadlines

In July, the Idaho Commission for Libraries reopened its Just in Time Grant process for 2010 LSTA funds. The Just In Time Grant process allows libraries to apply for LSTA funds following an abbreviated grant process. Check out the details of the 2010 LSTA Grant Kit in Appendix C, available online at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/lsta-library-services-technology.

The final date for Just in Time grant submissions is October 22, 2010. The Board of Library Commissioners will make the final funding decision on applications in excess of $10,000 in LSTA funds at its December 3, 2010 meeting. Applications requesting $10,000 or less in LSTA funds will have a decision in a matter of weeks after grant submission.

The Just in Time Grant process will be suspended October 22 to make way for the 2011 LSTA Competitive Grant Process.

2011 LSTA Competitive Draft Grant applications are due October 11, 2010 for digital submissions and October 13, 2010 for paper submissions. Details for this process can be found by clicking on 2011 LSTA Grant Kit at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/lsta-library-services-technology.

All grant information, eligibility criteria, certifications, and application forms can be found in the LSTA Grant Kits on the Commission’s website. This kit also contains specific criteria for a host of LSTA programs or projects. If you have questions or a project idea, call or email your library consultant and share your ideas. They can advise you how to proceed. If you are unable to contact your consultant, call Sonja Hudson, contracts/grants officer at 800-458-3271 or email her at sonja.hudson@libraries.idaho.gov.

Deadlines for E-rate Forms 486 and 472

The deadline for submitting Form 486 Receipt of Service Confirmation Form for 2010–2011 is in October. Form 486 must be filed by an applicant before E-rate payments can be made to a vendor. You can submit Form 486 online at www.sl.universalservice.org/menu.asp.

The deadline for submitting Form 472 Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) for 2009–2010 is October 28. Form 472 must be filed by this date by both you and your vendor to get your E-rate reimbursement. You can file online at www.sl.universalservice.org/menu.asp.

FY2009 Public Library Statistics available online


The tables and graphs include finalized population estimates from Census figures released on June 22, 2010. The main tables are as follows:

- Table 1 contains complete statistical data grouped by County.
- Table 2 contains the same data but grouped by population served
- Table 3 is a mini library directory.

You can load the data into your own spreadsheet from the alphabetical file in Excel format (Alpha Values FY09.xls).

Reminder: We are not mailing printed versions of the statistics this year.
Statewide resources coming online through BTOP project

Idaho students have been able to access Apangea Math and PLATO Learning through school or at home once they get an account and login from their teachers. Now they can also access these learning resources from Idaho public libraries, as part of the Commission’s “online @ your library” broadband stimulus grant project.

Apangea Math
Apangea Math is an online, supplemental math instruction and tutoring program that provides students with instruction, access to live certified teachers, and a motivation program with rewards for working on math problems. The Apangea Math login page can be accessed from the LiLI portal.

Who should use Apangea Math?
Apangea Math is geared toward high-level 4th grade students, all students in grades 5-8, and struggling high school students (through high school Algebra 1 and Geometry). When students are logged in to Apangea, tutorials are available and assistance is available by clicking “help” or selecting the option to speak to a live person.

Is my system compatible? To evaluate your system to see if it will run Apangea:
1. On one of your public computer stations, go to www.apangea.com/products/apangea_math.htm.
2. Click on the online Tech Check.
3. Enter the requested contact information.
4. Submit your results. If the computer passes the check, your site is ready to go. If it fails, then someone from customer support will contact you and work with you on what needs to be done to get your system ready.

Coming soon: Apangea teacher accounts and training for public library staff! Later this fall, public libraries will be given the option to participate in training and have their own Apangea teacher accounts, which will enable library staff to set students up with a login. Trained librarians will be able to create a student account and introduce students to the Apangea Math program in about 10 minutes. Watch for more information on LibIdaho.

PLATO Learning
PLATO Learning provides self-paced intervention and remedial solutions for K-adult students in language arts, mathematics, and reading curriculum aligned to the Idaho Achievement Standards and Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT). The PLATO Learning login page can be accessed from the LiLI portal under “Students.”

Who should use PLATO Learning?
Teachers assign PLATO Learning to students for remedial coursework, credit recovery, ISAT study, or special education. PLATO does not include online tutors; instead students using PLATO will refer content questions to their teachers and will already have a user account and experience with the program.

Is my system compatible? To evaluate your system to see if it will run PLATO:
2. Follow the instructions and the “Test here” links to test or install the required plug-ins. If you do not see pop-up windows telling you that installation was successful, click on "Article 12164" for instructions on how to configure your pop-up blockers.

Coming soon to public libraries, made possible by BTOP funds. Watch for updates:

LearningExpress Library (www.learnatest.com/LEL/index.cfm/) provides an interactive online learning platform to practice for civil service, career, academic, and basic skills exams. Made available through BTOP grant funds.
ICFL has a school library consultant

We are pleased to welcome Glynda Pflieger to the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) as the first school library consultant! Pflieger joined our team in June 2010 but has been in the library field for over 11 years. She is passionate about the importance of libraries to students of every age and enjoys sharing that passion with others.

One of her first and most important tasks is to develop a school library development action plan that aligns with ICFL’s mission and strategic plan. Currently, she is working on an action plan timeline that takes into consideration all of the other events that ICFL is involved in related to school libraries. One example is the new online resources for K-12 students that will be available through public libraries because of the BTOP stimulus grant project.

Pflieger is excited about promoting the expertise of school librarians to support academic achievement through technology integration. She has been accepted to present at the Idaho School Board Association (ISBA) annual conference in November. School librarians are becoming leaders in technology integration, and she believes they are in a unique position to help their districts develop a policy balancing 21st century skills with Internet safety.

During the ISBA presentation, school board members will find out why students need 21st century skills and should be creating blogs, streaming videos, and using online applications and social media. Pflieger will explain why students should be using Web 2.0 tools to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information, as well as how teacher librarians can help develop and implement a policy for technology integration into the districts’ instructional programs.

If you would like more information on how you can collaborate to write an Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) that balances the need for 21st century skills with Internet safety, Pflieger would love to hear from you at glynda.pflieger@libraries.idaho.gov.

Pflieger says that one of the biggest challenges she faces in her new job at the Commission is finding time to collaborate with teachers and incorporate all the ideas she has for using technology in the library. We are confident that she will find the time since this is one of her greatest passions. We are fortunate to have Pflieger on the Commission team and look forward to seeing the school library development action plan.

Aubrey Ellis is our new web developer

If her name sounds familiar, it’s probably because Aubrey Ellis was ICFL’s web design specialist from June 2009 to June 2010. We are delighted that she recently accepted the position of web developer.

Ellis loves getting things to work: the most rewarding part of her job is fixing something that was broken.

Ellis has been building new webpage templates that comply with upcoming state website regulations, supporting e-branch websites, and working on numerous BTOP-related projects.

Ellis looks forward to teaming up with Ben Bibikov, our new web design specialist who started at the Commission on September 20.
Associate State Librarian Richard Wilson retires

After 34 years of service to the Commission, Associate State Librarian Richard Wilson has retired and moved on to new adventures. Wilson moved to Spokane, Washington to be closer to his 84-year-old mother and begin his new work as Dean of Libraries at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA.

Wilson came to the Commission (then the Idaho State Library) in June of 1976 and since that time has served under three state librarians: Helen Miller, Charles Bolles, and Ann Joslin. He was initially hired to develop, implement, and evaluate continuing education programs. Through the years, he “sort of ended up accumulating odds and ends of jobs,” including budget person, Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) coordinator, special projects coordinator, consultant on public library remodels under Title II, and head of the State Library administrative services division. In 2000, Wilson became Associate State Librarian.

With 34 years of experience and a doctoral dissertation (www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR12-1/wilson.pdf) that drew on stories about the Idaho State Library, a lot of knowledge walked out the building on Wilson’s last day at the Commission. However, as Wilson said, “The Commission will create new stories. The agency is healthy and strong and has a wonderful culture, people who care, and phenomenal programs.

“Read to Me is as good as any state program that has ever been designed.... Systemically it’s disrupting cycles of illiteracy for at-risk children, generational lifetime cycles. So at a very fundamental level, it’s changing communities. When people are equipped with the tools of literacy...they can use information to make good decisions.

“And the BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program) project will create fundamental long-term change for people in rural Idaho. It will...open avenues for education, commerce, and information for the 21st century. It will allow the people in those communities to, instead of becoming increasingly isolated, maintain their lifestyles and connect to this incredible technological world in ways they haven’t been able to do before.

“Looking to the future, if librarians are consistent with what they’ve done in the past, they will continue to respond to the needs of their customers and provide information using whatever the current technologies are. Librarians acquire, organize, and disseminate information. Humans will always have the need to acquire information. They may use a technology that we can’t even imagine right now, but there will still be a need to organize that information....When information is important for decision making, librarians have played and will continue to play a role.

“All types of libraries—public, school, academics, and special—provide faces, spaces, and places. Faces are the librarians—professionals who have dedicated their lives to the life cycle of information and help people find, analyze, and use the information. Spaces are for the storing and safekeeping of information. Not everything is going to be on the Internet and not everything will be in digitized form. Places are where people can come together over the information, have conversation and dialogue, and share stories. So it bothers me when we’re in a recession and we say we have to protect life and safety by maintaining police and fire, and then we cut libraries....Because when we sacrifice things like libraries, we sacrifice things at the core of what makes us human and gives us the capacity to be able to live with one another.

Yes, I walk out the door of the Commission with a whole lot of historical information, a whole lot of knowledge, a whole lot of stuff about the past. But the key is for the people here to live in the present.... Keep an eye to the future and glance in the rearview mirror from time to time: It’s nice for perspective. But be in the present because that’s when you can truly make a difference.”
Idaho Family Reading Week: November 14–20

Idaho Family Reading Week is November 14–20, 2010. This year’s theme is “Join the Curious Crowd - Read Aloud!” The Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me program and local libraries around the state will be sponsoring special events to show families there’s no better place to satisfy curiosity than the library. Check out http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/idaho-family-reading-week for resources, registration, or to reserve a Curious George costume.

Register your library’s event

Every library that registers will be entered in a drawing to receive a dozen hardback books that will be great to use with this year’s theme. Registration closes Friday, November 5, and the drawing will be held November 8. The winner will receive the books prior to Family Reading Week.

Reserve a Curious George costume

The deadline for public libraries to sign up for a costume is September 29. The Read to Me program will pay the shipping costs for the costume at $140 per site. First preference for costume placement is public libraries who share a costume with another public library. Libraries are also encouraged to arrange for the character to visit at least one other venue (school, Head Start center, etc.) in their community and to invite opinion leaders to the event.

A fun-filled CD with ideas, booklists, reproducible handouts and more on this year’s Family Reading Week was sent to every public and elementary school library in mid-September. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Bailey-White at ICFL, 800-458-3271.

Banned Books Week: September 25–October 2, 2010

Banned Book Week is September 25–October 2, 2010. This annual event celebrates the freedom to read and the importance of the First Amendment. Held during the last week of September, Banned Books Week highlights the benefits of free and open access to information while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted banning of books across the United States. For more information about Banned Books week and to see frequently challenged books, check out ALA’s website at www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm.

IdahoVotes website and the Idaho Voter's Pamphlet

Idaho’s general election is Tuesday, November 2. Idaho Voters’ Pamphlet, published by the Secretary of State, lists the complete wording of each amendment, including rationale for and against each one. The IdahoVotes.gov website also contains information on registering to vote and accessible voting options available at every polling site in Idaho.

Libraries can connect users to voting information by posting the IdahoVotes link on their websites and posting information about the IdahoVotes site in the library. Libraries using Drupal software to host their websites can request that the IdahoVotes logo and link be automatically posted on their websites by contacting ICFL’s web developer, Aubrey Ellis.
Changes to district library trustee terms

District libraries probably have been contacted by their County Clerks about the changes in elections, starting January 1, 2011. One of the changes is in district library trustee terms. Beginning in 2011, trustee terms will be for six years, and the election will be held in May of every odd year. The transition period will look like this:

2011: 1 trustee position will be up for election - elected until 2017
2013: 2 trustee positions (trustee positions up for election in 2012 and 2013) - elected until 2019
2015: 2 trustee positions (trustee positions up for election in 2014 and 2015) - elected until 2021

What this means to your current board is that trustees whose terms end in 2012 and 2014 will have an extra year added to their terms, since the trustee elections will be in odd years. If you have questions, please contact your library consultant.

Audit changes for district libraries

There are audit changes for district libraries with budgets between $50,000 and $100,000. Under previous law, you might have been undergoing a biennial review. The law has changed so that there is no requirement to have a review or audit if your annual expenditures are less than $100,000. For current audit requirements, please check online for Idaho Statute 67-450B at www.legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title67/T67CH4SECT67-450B.htm.

Free bookmarks promoting Diabetes Resource Guide

The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program (DPCP) worked with the seven Idaho Public Health Districts to compile a Diabetes Resource Guide for Idahoans. This free guide, available online-only, has been designed to help people in Idaho identify health care services in their area and to create awareness about diabetes resources outside the clinical setting, such as diabetes education programs, community programs, and support groups. The resource guide is continually being updated.

The DPCP created bookmarks to promote the Diabetes Resource Guide. (The bookmark can also be found under "Materials" on the right hand side of the DPCP home page.) If you would like to order some bookmarks to be sent to your library, please contact:

Nicole Runner, Senior Health Education Specialist for DPCP
ID Department of Health and Welfare
Phone: 208-334-0648
Cell: 208-949-1617
RunnerN@dhw.idaho.gov

Comment on proposed ICT standards by October 27

The Idaho Library Association Committee on Information Literacy / School Library Task Force has been working to create “Information and Communication Technology Standards” to be included among the various existing Idaho academic content standards. A link for public comments on the resulting proposed standards is available at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/2011LegislativeSessionRulesPublicComments.asp.
Update on the Idaho Connecting to Collections grant project

The Idaho Connecting to Collections grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides funding of $39,500 for Ada Community Library, with support from other state institutions including the Commission and the Idaho State Historical Museum, to begin planning for statewide preservation of the collections held in libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies across Idaho.

Statewide survey

With the awarded funding, the first statewide survey to identify urgent preservation needs among collections-holding institutions is currently being conducted. This information will be instrumental in developing a plan for proper care of collections.

The Connecting to Collections-Idaho survey is available at www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22B2EUTNLX. The first page of the survey provides information about filling out the form. Please help get the word out to your colleagues so we can create a comprehensive survey of existing conditions and preservation needs across our state.

Please submit only one survey for your institution whether it is a library, archive, museum, historical society or a combination of all these organization types. Your responses will be kept confidential. Only aggregate results will be reported, and names of responding institutions will not be revealed.

The survey ends October 15, 2010. The results of the survey will be available in a report to be published in print and online in early 2011.

Statewide workshop

In addition to the survey, a statewide workshop resulting in a set of best practices addressing basic collections care needs will be held November 19, at the Boise Public Library Hayes Auditorium. Tentative time is 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. More information will follow on LibIdaho.

Energy Efficiency Kit lending program

The Idaho Commission for Libraries partnered with Idaho Power Company, Avista Utilities, and Rocky Mountain Power Company to create and distribute energy efficiency kits for use in public libraries. The purpose of the project is to make available an energy measuring device through local public libraries so Idahoans can monitor energy use and determine areas in their homes where they can increase energy efficiency.

In April, ICFL staff distributed 243 kits to 139 public library locations throughout Idaho. To date, with 71% of library jurisdictions reporting, 394 circulation transactions have been recorded.

Library staff members were asked to estimate the satisfaction of their customers. The majority of responses were positive with 18% indicating “very satisfied” and 76% indicating “satisfied.”

Based on feedback provided with the first-quarter circulation data, next steps for the project partners are likely to include improving user instructions and raising patron awareness of the kit availability.
Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) Grant Recipients
ICF (www.idcomfdn.org/index.htm) gathers funds from donors, helping them achieve their philanthropic objectives; grows the funds over time; and grants the funds for a broad variety of philanthropic projects statewide.

- **Bear Lake County Library District**, $1,500 to purchase early literacy workstations for preschoolers
- **Bear Lake County School District 33**, $1,500 to provide library books
- **Grace District Library**, $1,500 to provide a collection of audio books for library and classroom use
- **Madison Library District**, $1,000 to expand The Big Read to include rural communities that would otherwise not be able to participate
- **Preston High School**, $500 to purchase brain games and puzzles for the library
- **Rigby City Library**, $1,000 to purchase audio books
- **West Side School District 202**, in Franklin County, $1,000 to purchase student-selected books for the library

Libri Foundation Grant Recipients
The Libri Foundation (www.librifoundation.org/) helps rural libraries acquire new, quality, hardcover children’s books they could not otherwise afford.

- **Cascade Public Library**
- **Clark County Free Library, Dubois**
- **Council District Library**
- **Eastern Owyhee County Library, Grand View**
- **Grace District Library**
- **Hansen District Library**
- **Prairie River Library District - Kooskia Branch**
- **Nezperce Community Library**
- **Snake River School Community Library**
- **Weiser Public Library**

Election results
Franklin County District (Larsen-Sant) Library override passed overwhelmingly with 442 voting for and 82 voting against in the election held Tuesday August, 3 2010. Voters approved the library’s temporary override levy, which will stay in place for two years.

Payette Public Library expansion $1.5 million bond passed with 446 voting yes and 152 voting no on August 3. Several people who were not library users had come in to see the library to help them decide how to vote. As usual the library was bustling with activity. The voters had their questions answered and left saying they were voting yes.

Garden Valley District Library levy election on August 3 requesting $250,000 to complete the library failed 103 to 192. They got a 34.9% yes vote, but needed a simple majority to pass, so they are looking at fundraising options.

South Bannock District Library breaks ground in McCammon
A ground-breaking ceremony for a new library was held in McCammon on September 13. The library will be located in the center of town across from the Post Office and will be a member of the South Bannock County District Library System. The library anticipates opening its new, 2,950-square foot library before Memorial Day 2011. Funding for the new library, expected to cost roughly $275,000, comes from a plant facilities levy passed in the district in 2005.

Library news from around the state
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
Training

The 2010 College of DuPage Library Learning Network Teleconferences and workshops for library staff and professionals begins September 24. Once again, the Idaho Commission for Libraries will be providing access, via a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library Services & Technology Act, to the 2010 College of DuPage Webinar Series. All Idaho library staff are eligible to register for FREE. The series provides an excellent tool for discussion among you and your library colleagues regarding current library trends. Take advantage of this great opportunity and register at www.dupagepress.com/library-learning-network/. Follow-up discussions for Idaho library staff will be held on the Monday following each webinar from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. MT (1:00-2:00 PT). Connect by going to http://connectpro94671336.na5.acrobat.com/ce/.  

LI LI Unlimited training through LYRASIS
To meet the variety of training needs for the staff at LiLI Unlimited participating libraries, ICFL is making available training coupons through LYRASIS (www.lyrasis.org/). Training coupons may be used for online workshops on topics relating to cataloging, resource sharing, and the OCLC tools available through LiLI Unlimited. LYRASIS has a wide selection of training opportunities, with quarterly schedules made available at http://www.lyrasis.org/Classes-and-Events.aspx. Courses listed as “Distance Education” are delivered online. Some courses of interest to Idaho libraries may include, but are not limited to:  
• OCLC Connexion Browser Copy Cataloging Skills  
• OCLC WorldCat Resource Sharing Beyond the Basics  
• Technical Services Efficiency: Beyond One-by-One OCLC Online Cataloging  
• OCLC Connexion Authority Control Features  

To request a coupon, use the LiLI Unlimited Training Coupon Request Form at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/lili-unlimited-training-resources.  

The 2010 ILA annual conference, Libraries: Bridging the Divide,” will be held in Post Falls October 6-9 at the Red Lion Templin’s Hotel on the River. Register at www.idaholibraries.org.  

Introducing the new Idaho Commission for Libraries logo
This new logo was designed for an updated look that reflects well on ICFL and that can be incorporated effectively into the ICFL website when we redesign it per state-mandated guidelines. We will use the new logo in ICFL newsletters, letters, brochures, etc.—as well as our current website—as we update or produce new versions of these resources.