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Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of *The Scoop*, the e-newsletter for Idaho school and public library staff who are interested in improving services to children and young adults. We plan on providing this to you every two weeks. This is your space to share news about what's going on at your library, book reviews, questions, ideas & thoughts. Please send an [e-mail](#) or give us a call with your ideas & contributions! If you have any problems viewing this edition, let us know or view the web version at www.lili.org/scoop.



Meet Sarah Jackson, Young Adult Librarian at Idaho Falls Public Library

interviewed by Stephanie Bailey-White

Sarah Jackson is an enthusiastic supporter of meeting the needs of young adults in the Idaho Falls area. She has been in her current position of Young Adult Librarian for about a year. The library has a “developing” YA section, but it’s one of the biggest that Sarah has seen and attracts between 150 – 200 teens through the doors every day.

“I originally thought I’d like to work in a high school library setting, but felt there was more of a need at the public library to reach out to this age group,” Sarah said when asked what attracted her to serving young adults. She feels like the Idaho Falls Library tries hard to hit all the age groups in the community from infants through seniors.

The teen area is called the “Outer Limits” and features a lounge area, computers, college corner, and a bulletin board where teens can post messages or want ads in

addition to finding out more about community events or other things staff post. The Outer Limits area takes up a little less than half of the space on one floor of the library.

What’s the biggest success & challenge at the library? “The biggest success is when we do hit a big issue or schedule a program that works and they ask us to do it again.” Snowboarding workshops were a big draw and they are working to schedule a second round due to requests. Sarah said the other thing she is most excited about is “being able to connect to the public schools and have their support. We use their expertise to help us understand and reach teens and I think we contribute our library reference background to help them.” Sarah says the biggest challenge is “trying to find money to do all the things we want to do.”



Right now Sarah is working on several projects that are keeping her busy. They are launching a teen book club and working on ways to get kids to share what they are in to. "I'd like to see more student-run workshops. I think that's a great way to build their leadership skills and get them involved." She also coordinates a teen council and a teen writing group. (Check out their teen web site at www.ifpl.org/teen/ for more info about teen programs.)

We asked Sarah what books she was curling up with on these cold winter days and she's mid-way through two: *Trick of the Eye* by Dennis Haseley and *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett. She said her favorite YA author is Patricia Wrede, author of *The Enchanted Forest Chronicles*. "These were the first books I read that challenged the typical princess/female stereotype and show that anyone can grow up to be whatever they want."

When Sarah isn't in the library, she enjoys playing guitar and singing. She recently helped teach a basic guitar workshop at the library and said the teens really liked it.

Sarah wrapped up our conversation by talking about her hopes for the profession. "I hope we connect with teens in our communities in the best way we can. Sometimes I feel like there is a professional wall. I stand on one side of the desk and help answer questions and I'm trying to step out to the other side and understand teens more. I think if we are able to do that more, that library services for teens would be better and teens would feel like their time was better spent."



Well said, Sarah. Thanks for sharing a little bit about you.

Are you a young adult librarian in a public library? The State Library doesn't have a new list of staff who are serving teens in our state and would like to make a more complete list. If you are primarily "in charge" of serving teens in your library, please e-mail Stephanie and let us know your current title and the age-group you serve. Thanks!

Library to Library



Star Branch Youth Services Coordinator Tony Hurst says, "I love finding new music and movement songs and CDs. If you have any FABULOUS song suggestions please send them my way!" I'm sure others would be interested in hearing your suggestions. Send them to THE SCOOP and we'll pass them along to everyone.



Karen Yother, with the Hayden Branch of the Kootenai Shoshone Area Libraries recommends the book *Days of Knights and Damsels: An Activity Guide* by Laurie Carlson to other librarians who may be planning activities using the 2005 Summer Reading Program theme, Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds.



Meg Lojek, YS staff at McCall Public Library, recently met with their staff of five to talk about the 2005 Summer Reading Program. Circulation staff has started a running list of books that kids are checking out and returning so they'll have a up-to-date list of recommended reading by age group when droves of kids come in for summer reading. Circ staff can also ask kids if they would recommend that title to other kids their age and give them a chance to engage kids in discussions about what they are reading.



Staff at Burley Public and Ada Community used statistics, like their area schools' Idaho Reading Indicator scores and community demographics, during staff orientation sessions on upcoming Summer Reading Programs. They both report that using the stats helped build awareness about the needs and commitment on the part of all staff members that summer reading is important to the community.

Young Adult Corner

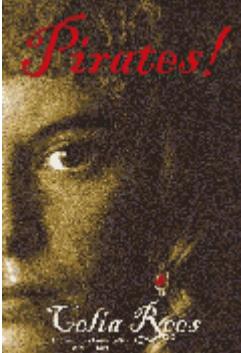
Teens vote for favorite young adult book

Teen readers across the country voted Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix as their favorite book to take the #1 spot on the annual Teens' Top Ten (TTT), sponsored by The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The vote took place during Teen Read Week October 17-23, 2004 and gave teens an opportunity to voice their choice of the best new young adult books.

Five teen voting groups evaluated books that were published from November 2003 to October 2004, and created a list of 44 nominations for the best new books for young adults. Teen voters across the country then cast ballots for their three favorites, creating 2004 Teens' Top Ten booklist of the best new books for young adults.

Teens were encouraged to vote for their favorite young adult books during Teen Read Week, from the official nomination list posted online at the Teens' Top

Ten site. Over 2,000 online ballots were cast and the results, combined with the results of a separate vote of the TTT groups, determined the final ranking of the ten top books of the year, as selected by teen readers. With Rowling's fifth Harry Potter novel topping the list, the 2004 Teens' Top Ten includes:

1. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J. K. Rowling (Scholastic, 2003) Fantasy.
2. *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini (Knopf, 2003) Fantasy.
-  3. *Pirates!* by Celia Rees (Bloomsbury, 2003) Historical Fiction.
4. *Trickster's Choice* by Tamora Pierce (Random House, 2003) Fantasy.
5. *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke (Chicken House/Scholastic, 2003) Fantasy.
6. *A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray (Delacorte, 2004) Supernatural.
7. *The Goose Girl* by Shannon Hale (Bloomsbury, 2003) Fantasy.
-  8. *Princess in Pink* by Meg Cabot (HarperCollins, 2004) Realistic.
9. *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things* by Carolyn Mackler (Candlewick, 2003) Realistic.
10. *Curse of the Blue Tattoo* by L.A. Meyer (Harcourt, 2004) Historical Fiction.

To see more choices that didn't make the "Top 10" read more at
<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenstop10/teenstop10.htm>.

YA Web Sites worth checking out:

See YA Around: Library Programming for Teens.

This site has Ten Ice Breakers for Teens, Group Activities and Games for Teens, over 30 fun programming ideas, and teen read week ideas. Take a look at <http://www.cplrmh.com/> .

Books for the Teen Age 2004.

These titles are prepared every year by The New York Public Library, Office of Young Adult Services. <http://teenlink.nypl.org/bta1.cfm>

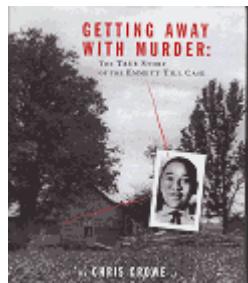
Reading Rants! Out of the Ordinary Teen Booklists.

This site contains groups booklists for teens who need a good read. Age level book recommendations are not included. This site is updated regularly.

<http://tln.lib.mi.us/~amutch/jen/index.html>

Public Library Staff: How are you planning on involving teens in your library's summer reading program? If so, we want to hear from you! Give us the scoop! E-mail your plans to Stephanie and we'll feature them in an upcoming issue.

School Library Staff: Does your school distribute a Summer Reading List of required reading? What do you think of it? Do they get your input? Do you coordinate with the public library? E-mail your plans to Stephanie, and we'll feature them in an upcoming issue.



Book Look

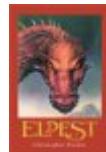
Getting Away With Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case by Chris Crowe. (2003). Dial Books. (ISBN: 0-8037-2804-2)

Reviewed by Stephanie Bailey-White

Kathleen Baxter, a children's lit consultant from Minneapolis, booktalked nonfiction books that get kids excited about reading at last year's PLA conference in Seattle. It was the best booktalk I've heard, and I'd love to get Kathleen to present in Idaho some day. "Getting Away with Murder" was one of the many books she featured and one that I'd like to see purchased for more Idaho middle school, high school and public library collections.

For many, the name Emmett Till may not sound familiar, but what happened to him in 1955 stunned the nation, causing shock waves that still reverberate today. Emmett was a 14-year-old Black youth from Chicago, visiting family in a small Mississippi town. Likely showing off to friends, Emmett allegedly whistled at a young white woman. Three days later his brutally beaten body was discovered floating in the Tallahatchie River. His death was a spark that ignited the civil rights movement in America. Two white men were put on trial for killing him, but in spite of strong evidence against them, an all-white jury acquitted them in about an hour. Photographs add to the account.

In May 2004, the U.S. Justice Department reopened the Emmett Till case, based on evidence suggesting that more than a dozen people may have been involved in the murder of Till, and that at least five of them are still alive. Those five could face criminal prosecution. Publicity about the case plus a new documentary still in production could spark additional interest in the book. For more information about the case see
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/10/21/60minutes/main650652.shtml>



In case you haven't heard: *Eldest* (Inheritance, Book 2), by Christopher Paolini will be released on August 30, 2005.

Upcoming Events

This section includes listings for upcoming training dates, literacy events, special days to observe, author birthdays, literacy links, and more. If you know of an upcoming event, send an e-mail to stephanie.bailey-white@libraries.idaho.gov.

Meetings & Workshops:

Friday, March 18, 2005: Library Transformation: Library as Place, a College of DuPage teleconference

Discover revolutionary practices that have rejuvenated the image of the library from a building with books to an exciting destination. Industry experts will indicate how libraries are transforming to become community centers and popular facilities with the advent of amenities such as comfortable furnishing, high-speed internet access and onsite cafes.

There are 16 downlink sites where you can view the teleconference live and ask questions. A video of the two-hour teleconference is also available through interlibrary loan at the State Library after March 18. Contact: Pam Bradshaw, 208-334-2150, pbradsha@isl.state.id.us

March Events:

Women's History Month

In 2005, the theme "Women Change America," honors and recognizes the role of American women in transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians, and informed citizens. Read more about the National Women History Project at: www.nwhp.org

Music in Our Schools Month

This celebration of music education features the World's Largest Concert. Find more information about the celebration at: www.menc.org

March 2 - Read Across America Day

The National Education Association (NEA) annually sponsors NEA's Read Across America program as a way to focus the country's attention on how important it is to motivate children to read in addition to helping them master basic skills. The 2005 theme is "Where it's Hat" and NEA is leading the nation in a multicultural, multi-hatted way! Read more about this celebration at: www.nea.org/readacross.

Freedom of Information Day - March 16

Contact: ALA Washington Office. Telephone: 800/941/8478 www.ala.org

Author Birthdays:

March 2 - Theodor Seuss Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss (1904 - 1991). Author of *Cat in the Hat*, *The Butter Battle Book*, *The Foot Book* and other fanciful tales. www.catinthehat.org/history.htm or www.seussville.com or www.seuss.org

March 3 - Patricia MacLachlan (born in 1938). Author of *Skylark* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. You can read about the author at: www.harperchildrens.com/authorintro/index.asp?authorid=12425

March 4 - Dav Pilkey.

Author of *The Paperboy*, and more. www.pilkey.com/meet-dav.php

March 12 - Virginia Hamilton.

Author of *The Girl Who Spun Gold*, *The People Could Fly*, *Paul Robeson* (a biography) and others. www.virginiahhamilton.com/home.htm

March 20 - Lois Lowry.

Author of *The Anastasia Series*, *Attaboy Sam*, *Number the Stars* and more. www.loislowry.com

School Zone

Idaho's school librarians and media generalists can find valuable information in one location on the Department of Education website. Val Fenske, Specialist for Curricular Materials at the Department of Education and a member of our advisory committee, has created a web page with links to tools that will assist anyone working in a school library in achieving their goals.

Here you will find the recently revised edition of **Idaho SLIM: School Librarian's Information Manual**, Library Literacy and Idaho Achievement Standards, and sample lesson plans. Additional links are to accreditation standards for library media programs, the Idaho State Library's LiLI (Libraries Linking Idaho) portal, and the Idaho Library Association website. The direct link to the website is: www.sde.state.id.us/instruct/librarymediacenter/.

Know the Numbers

Statistics are a good way to get to know your community, as well as being necessary to justify programs and services. The U.S. Census Bureau, the largest producer of statistics, makes statistics available online through the American FactFinder. Searching for statistics can be intimidating, but American FactFinder is an easy-to-use tool that has just gotten easier.

A new search capability called "Fast Access to Information" provides detailed statistics for areas that you choose. Go to www.factfinder.census.gov. This feature is displayed prominently in the middle of the screen. All you do is type in the name of a city or town, county or zip code. Select a state (unless searching for zip code), and your "Fact Sheet" is ready for you.

The Fact Sheet has four categories (general, social, economic, and housing). Each of the categories has an option to “show more” which gives more detailed information. For example, the “general” category shows three broad age groupings for population: under 5, 18 years & over, and 65 years & over. When you click on “show more”, the detailed report breaks down the age groupings into smaller units: under 5 years, 5-9 years, 10-14 years, 15-19 years, for a total of 13 age groupings.

Some of the “show more” features for the general category are: race, Hispanic or Latino population and household population; for the social category: school enrollment, educational attainment, grandparents as caregivers, disability, and language spoken at home; for the economic category: employment status, occupation, income, and poverty status.

Take a look at Fast Access to Information. Gathering statistics has never been easier!



A Closer Look

Kelsey Versum didn't realize it, but she and her mother were making history of a sort this week when they left the Coeur d'Alene Public Library carrying a bright red canvas tote full of fun.

They were the first patrons to check out a LEAP Tote. LEAP stands for Library Early-learning Activities Project.

The project was made possible by a \$1,500 grant from the Target Corporation and is designed to serve families with preschool-aged children.

According to David Townsend, Library Public Relations/Volunteer Coordinator, who wrote the grant application, the idea is to have a bundle of items that stimulate early learning while the children play.

“We had in mind a mother or father with a busy schedule coming to the Library to find books for their preschooler,” Townsend said. “Each of the totes has a theme – numbers for example – and they are convenient to take home and use as you read and play with your children.”

Alicia Clark, Library Deputy Director, and Executive Assistant Suzanne Podrobsky selected the LEAP Tote items. The inventory varies for each theme, but includes items such as board books, flannel story boards, puzzles, music tapes and CDs, videos, puzzles and puppets.

"It has been a labor of love for the Library staff," Townsend said. "I would go into Alicia and Suzanne's office and find new items every day that had been collected for the totes. It is hard to resist reading the books and playing with the accompanying items."

So far five of the totes have been added to the collection and are available to check out.

These include:

- 1,2,3 For Me - Numbers and Counting
- Alphabet Soup – Learning Letters
- Animal Tracks – Animals in the Wild
- Animals Astir – Cats and Dogs
- Hand Talk – American Sign Language



In the works are seven more totes with themes that include the senses, learning Spanish, music, opposites, shapes, colors and the weather.

LEAP Totes can be checked out for up to two weeks.

Townsend said the inspiration for LEAP Totes came from another successful project developed by Clark. The HELP (Homework Education Library Project) Hub was created as a study resource for children, parents and educators in the community.

Funded by a grant from the Idaho State Library and community donations, the HELP Hub provides a link to the library's computer catalog and the Internet for public schools, nonpublic school and home-schooled students.

The project further assists students, parents, researchers and educators by providing Homework Backpack kits containing books, fact cards, audiotapes, videotapes and CD ROMs on 60 different subjects.

The LEAP Totes and HELP Hub Backpacks can be available to check out in the Youth Department at the Library at 201 E. Harrison Ave.

For more news and information about the Library visit www.cdalibrary.org on the Internet.

Tips & Tools

Books to Build Empathy

Reading Rockets has a list of books that parents and teachers can use to help children grasp the human aspect of the disaster in a non-threatening way. The books on the list don't explain how a tsunami is formed or illustrate its terrible aftermath -- instead, they highlight children whose lives are outwardly different but inwardly the same as children everywhere. See www.readingrockets.org/article.php?ID=545



News Beyond Idaho

Here's an idea from a school library in Australia. They host a RATS (Read a Terrific Story) program where children list all novels read throughout the year. Each time a student reads five novels they receive a certificate. On reaching 100 novels children can receive a prize of a \$5 book order with a book club. They have a large cut out of a RAT on the wall and children's names (the top 10) are hung from this weekly. We found the idea at www.asla.nsw.edu.au/bookslit.htm, a great web site from the Australian School Library Association.

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Contact Us: *The Scoop* is a service of the Idaho State Library's Read to Me Program. To contribute or provide suggestions, contact [Peggy McClendon](mailto:Peggy.McClendon@idaho.gov) or [Stephanie Bailey-White](mailto:Stephanie.Bailey-White@idaho.gov) at (208) 334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271.