LiLI Unlimited participation tops 200

Each spring is open enrollment for LiLI Unlimited. Invitations are sent statewide so libraries can choose to participate during the following year of the project. This year, the Commission for Libraries made a considerable effort to provide information to school librarians about the program. Live demonstrations were held in five locations and information packets were sent to school superintendents and principals. "The results were incredible," ICFL Networking Consultant Gina Persichini said.

As of July 1, 217 libraries are participating in LiLI Unlimited. "That's nearly double the number from the previous year," Persichini said. Those participants include 118 schools. The full list of participating libraries is available at http://libraries.idaho.gov/lili-u-participating-libraries.

Training to use CatExpress for copy-cataloging and WorldCat Resource Sharing for interlibrary loan will be offered in July, August, and September.

"We are committed to supporting new participants and our charter members of LiLI Unlimited. Watch for a variety of training and support activities over the next year," Persichini said.

Books bound for kids thanks to a grant from the Fred Meyer Foundation. Garden City Library staff members Melody Eisler and Becky Proctor load the bookmobile with free books for children who often can't get to the library during the summer.

Fred Meyer Foundation supports Idaho Summer Reading Program

Thanks to a $15,000 grant from the Fred Meyer Foundation, over 6,500 books were provided to Idaho libraries to support summer reading.

East Bonner County Library District Youth Services Librarian Suzanne Davis was one of the 113 Idaho libraries to receive books. "We were so excited to receive them. Our goal this summer is to distribute 1,200 books to underserved children in our community. We have handed out books to every child at the two poorest elementary schools in our library district as well as the local Head Start Program. In the next few weeks, we have book giveaways scheduled at various daycares, the Summer Food Program at two different elementary schools, and several area parks," Davis said.

"These are children, who though they live in our district, live a half hour drive from town and the library. Many of them live in the mountains in homes without electricity or running water," she said.
Idaho to participate in Spanish Language Outreach Program

Funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will make it possible for Idahoans to participate in a program designed to enable library staff to reach Spanish speakers. The Spanish Language Outreach Program will be conducted in 17 states during late 2007 and 2008. The program was successfully implemented in 27 other states. The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) is receiving approximately $17,100 in grant funds to conduct a maximum of nine workshops in late winter and early spring of 2008. Dates and sites for the full day workshops will be determined in late October.

Given the number of available workshops, the preliminary design calls for them to be offered in areas of the state with a greater density of Spanish speakers. In addition, three of the workshops will be located in larger general population areas for those libraries not doing specific programming for their Spanish speakers.

The program’s purpose is to equip local library staff with knowledge and resources to serve Spanish speakers in their communities. A second outcome of the training will be to increase the target audience’s access to technology. The program’s workshops will include:

- Marketing to the Spanish speaking community and the importance of word-of-mouth marketing and the ethnic media
- Planning an outreach activity
- Using Web Junction as an online resource for implementing outreach

The ultimate goal is for participating libraries to increase their programming for Spanish speakers, develop the attitude, knowledge, and skills of local library staff toward outreach to Spanish speaking residents, and increase the number of Spanish speakers involved in public access computing at their local public libraries.

Other goals are the development of collaborative relationships with other organizations serving the Spanish speaking community and increasing awareness of library services.

Suggestions for possible workshop sites are welcome. Please submit any suggestions and direct any other questions you may have about this opportunity to Charles Bolles, Continuing Education Consultant at (800) 358-3271, e-mail: charles.bolles@libraries.idaho.gov.
New professional books ready to check out

Word of Mouth Marketing: How Smart Companies Get People Talking, by Andy Sernovitz (2006). Learn how to make word of mouth work for you and your organization. Learn what works and what doesn’t. (ICFL 658.8 Sernovi)

Gadgets, Games, and Gizmos for Learning: Tools and Techniques for Transferring Know-How from Boomers to Gamers, by Karl M. Kapp (2007). This book provides practical solutions to the impending boomer/gamer knowledge and skills transfer gap. (ICFL 658.312 Kapp)

Information Trapping: Real-Time Research on the Web, by Tara Calishain (2007). The author, an Internet search-engine expert, provides tools for searching the Web more efficiently. She demonstrates how to use RSS feeds, page monitoring tools, and other software to set up information streams of many different data types. (ICFL 025.04 Calisha)

Libros Esenciales: Building, Marketing, and Programming a Core Collection of Spanish Language Children’s Materials, by Tim Wadham (2007). Covers the hows and whys of building collections and programs for bilingual and Spanish-speaking communities including the evaluation of resources and where to find books and materials. (ICFL 025.5 Wadham 2007)

Managing Facilities for Results: Optimizing Space for Services, by Cheryl Bryan, PLA (2007). This new hands-on workbook ties to the PLA “For Results” model of planning. (ICFL 022.3 Bryan)

Blogging for Dummies, by Brad Hill (2006). Find out the basics and beyond of blogs and blogging. It’s filled with useful hints and lots of great graphic help. (ICFL 006.7 Hill)

The Idaho Commission for Libraries has added free access to selected Gale ebooks titles through the Professional Development Service (PDS). Beginning this month, full-text reference books covering library science, management, and education topics in ebook format will be available. These ebooks purchased from Gale will have unlimited access and be available 24/7.

Check out titles like “Managing Learning in Virtual Settings” by going to http://libraries.idaho.gov/pds and clicking on Gale Virtual Reference Library. To use this new resource you will need to have an ICFL library card. If you do not have one, there is a link to the library card application form at the bottom of the login page (http://libraries.idaho.gov/node/1160).

Please send your feedback on these titles and others you would like to see purchased to Charlotte Fowles, at the Commission.

PDS Provides eBooks
What if disaster strikes?

What would you do if your library was flooded, destroyed by fire, or damaged by high winds or an earthquake? Unfortunately it does happen, usually without warning. For example, the Middleton High School Library was completely destroyed by fire earlier this year. Does your library have a disaster preparedness plan?

The Idaho Commission for Libraries has joined a coalition of western states and territories to deliver education and training workshops on disaster preparedness, and response and collection salvage. Representatives from all types of Idaho libraries and archives will have the opportunity to participate in two day-long workshops in disaster preparedness in the spring and summer of 2008. The dates and sites for the workshops have not been finalized, but it is expected that the first part of the workshop will be held in April and the second part will be held in June.

The products of the workshops will be a written disaster preparedness plan as well as hands-on experience with salvaging print materials. The separation in training dates will allow participants to inventory the current conditions of their library and complete preliminary steps in drafting the plan. In addition, participants will have to do some advanced preparation for the workshops. In order to be selected for participation, a letter of administrative support for drafting the plan and committing staff to the project will be required.

The workshops are funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, with contributions from two private companies, BELFOR (a disaster recovery service) and Archival Products (a preservation supplier).

Additional benefits of this training include knowing what steps should be taken ahead of time (including staff training) so appropriate action will be taken at the time of and shortly after the emergency occurs. It is also anticipated that workshop participants will begin to build networks of library and archives staff who can be available to provide aid for disaster response and materials preservation.

As plans for the workshops are finalized, WESTPAS, working with the Commission, will publicize dates and sites. WESTPAS will be doing registration online for these workshops. Please direct any initial questions you may have to Charles Bolles, Continuing Education Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries.

Grants Awarded

At their June 8th meeting, the Board of Library Commissioners awarded $48,925 to the Idaho Historical Society for their proposal supporting the creation of a consortium and the implementation of a small digitization project.

The consortium will include Boise Public Library, Albertson College of Idaho’s Smylie Archive, Idaho State University’s Eli M. Oboler Library, Brigham Young University of Idaho’s David O. McKay Library and the University of Idaho Library. These partners will meet to create governance documents for an organization and financial structure for the group. Group members will also receive training on the various elements of digital projects and work together to create a small project for hands on experience.

Kootenai Shoshone Area Libraries was awarded $83,385 in LSTA funds for an outreach program and $25,000 for a marketing program aimed at underserved families.

The Commission is also administering the final phases of two grant opportunities from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Together, the Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Grant (PAC HUG) and the Staying Connected Hardware Replacement Grant provided over $606,000 for the replacement of public access computers in Idaho’s Public Libraries. These funds purchased 410 public access computers that re-established the high level of public access computing created by the Foundation’s Partnership Program in the summer of 2001.

The Commission thanks Bill and Melinda Gates for their devotion to libraries in Idaho and across the nation.
The Care & Keeping of Friends Groups

Editor's Note: The following is reprinted in part from "The Care and Keeping of Friends Groups," Public Libraries v. 45 no. 4 (July/August 2006). The entire article can be found via the H.W. Wilson’s Library Literature and Information Science online database. Please see the article on this page for more information on how to access these full-text articles. This particular section of the article was written by Connie Towler and Karen Larabee, Co-Presidents of the Friends of the Greenfield (Mass.) Public Library. We thought it was a great example of how Friends and Trustees can work together to strengthen libraries.

As a group, we have identified outreach as a main priority. Some ways that we have reached out to our community are: distributing our quarterly newsletter to all Friends members; insuring that our events appeal to both regular patrons and non-patrons alike; designing and producing events to raise funds for the library, including a silent auction; conducting raffles for handmade quilts, seasonal baskets, and other items throughout the year; and running two annual book sales.

We have established contacts with our mayor, councilors, at-large councilors, and heads-of-town committees. Anyone interested has been given a tour of the library. We keep in touch with our local officials on a regular basis to assure that they know what our library has to offer.

Fund-raising is also important to us. We have sold bouquets of flowers on Groundhog Day, to cheer folks up during the doldrums of winter, and held celebrity events. We invite authors to our Pioneer Valley Author’s Series, and we host an annual Poet’s Seat Poetry Contest, both of which have earned us Massachusetts Friends of Libraries Awards. We find that it helps to offer a variety of new events each year.

Every April, we conduct an annual fund drive. During the past few years, we have enhanced our mailing list, and, correspondingly, the fund-drive income has steadily increased. We now have a new tracking database in place that we are looking forward to using as we approach our next drive.

Visibility is tremendously important. Our group has a Public Relations Committee that is made up of a representative from the Friends and another from the trustees. The responsibility of this duo is to keep the library’s name in the news. This includes a weekly newspaper column called “Library Notebook” that features what is new and fun at the library.

As we record this work in progress, it strikes us that it may sound as if it has been easy. It has been anything but. We have left out all of the squabbles, raised voices, temper tantrums, and disappointed looks. But we’re at a very good place now. We know there is a lot of hard work ahead, but we also know that we can do it, whatever it takes.

Database provides wealth of library resources

The Idaho Commission for Libraries is providing free access to Wilson’s Library Literature and Information Science database through its Professional Development Service (PDS).

This full-text database provides access to over 155 full-text magazines and journals. The topics range from acquisitions and collection development to incorporating technology into your libraries and virtual reference. Whether you work in a school, public, academic, or special library, there is something in this database for you. Check it out at: http://libraries.idaho.gov/pds and click on the Library Literature and Information Science link.

To use this new resource you will need to have an ICFL library card. If you do not have one, there is a link to the library card application form at the bottom of the login page (http://libraries.idaho.gov/node/1160).
Read to Me takes center stage, thanks to Soda Springs Public Library

Jennifer Balls, youth services librarian at Soda Springs Public Library, put her loyalty to Read to Me on the line when Idaho’s Governor and First Lady visited their town. Although the first couple was at Soda Springs for Capitol for a Day, Summer Reading took center stage.

Jennifer invited Mrs. Otter to participate in her Summer Reading program and then helped the Governor hand out books to 300 children during the Summer Free Lunch Program. “I was a little overwhelmed with the Governor and First Lady visiting our little town and even littler library,” Jennifer said. But, she said, “it was a lot of fun.”

The First Lady was great and very good at performing and reading on the fly, according to Jennifer. “She adapted to the age groups and did a wonderful job. She was a wonderful combination of a sophisticated woman and a fun down to earth teacher.”

The library is used to seeing 150 children show up for their Summer Reading events. At the beginning of the program, Jennifer introduced Mrs. Otter to the entire group. Then they performed a skit together ending with the First Lady receiving a Library Detective badge. After that, the children went to one of three simultaneous mini-programs designated by pre-assigned numbers. The kids rotated between programs every 12 to 15 minutes.

Mrs. Otter read for one of the mini-programs while the other two focused on digging for dinosaur eggs (along with excavating chocolate chips from cookies) and making dinosaur fossils in honor of the day’s theme, Dig It Up! Mysteries From the Past.

When the program was over, Jennifer and Library Director Cindy Erickson escorted Mrs. Otter to the free lunch program where they met up with the Governor to hand out free books provided by Read to Me. “I hope the Governor saw the faces of the children as he gave them their free book and I hope he realizes the importance of the Read to Me program,” she said. Certainly the media was interested, with four television stations and two newspaper crews on hand to cover the day.

Mrs. Otter is interested in visiting libraries throughout the state, either as Idaho Summer Reading Ambassador or as a special guest. To request a visit, go to http://firstlady.idaho.gov/, and click on “Scheduling Request” on the lower right of the screen. For help in developing an itinerary and press release for her visit, contact Idaho Commission for Libraries staff member Anne Abrams at anne.abrams@libraries.idaho.gov, 800-458-3271 or 639-4143.

Let’s Talk About It Brings Open Minds, Open Books to Libraries

This fall, scores of adult readers across the state will bring open minds and a passion for books to reading and discussion programs funded by Let’s Talk About It (LTAI). LTAI, which is celebrating its 23rd year in Idaho libraries, is made possible through a partnership between the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Idaho Humanities Council with generous funding from US Bankcorp.

If reading for pleasure is on the decline, as some research (National Endowment for the Arts, 2004) suggests, why do readers clamor for programs? Beyond the obvious love of books and reading, LTAI participants’ motivation is as varied as they are. Some come to socialize—have a “night out” or beat cabin fever in the winter, some want to discover new authors, while others like the challenge of reading a book more analytically. And hearing a guest speaker talk about the book and author are icing on the cake.

Fifteen libraries will host programs through May 2008. Most will be using the four new themes:

Across Cultures and Continents
· Hailey Public Library
· Idaho Falls Public Library (fall 07)
· Jerome Public Library
· Stanley District Library (fall 07)

Living in the Modern Rural West
· Oneida Co. District Library, Malad (fall 07)

Continued on page 7
The Weippe Public Library now has high speed Internet available through their public access computers and they recently completed their installation of a wireless network. In addition to the high speed connection the library has received another grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for upgrading their public access computers. Through this grant, the library has installed four new workstations in the Technology Center. Patrons should be able to do all their computer/internet work now with out interference from slow connections. Available to the public are eight workstations, DVD players/burners and laser printers in color. “I am excited to finally have high speed internet available to patrons and encourage everyone to come to the library and try out the new computers and high speed,” Library Director Terri Summerfield said. (Clearwater Tribune)

Saturday, June 9, was the perfect day for a motorcycle ride from Boise to beautiful Redfish Lake. This day marked the fourth annual Ride2Read motorcycle rally for literacy, according to Stanley Community Public Library District Director Jane Somerville. Somerville said that Jerome Eberharter, CEO of Whitecloud Coffee, is the brainchild behind the rally. "Jerome was deeply affected by an experience at his company. A man came to his business and asked for an application. Jerome handed him the application but the man did not want to fill it out just then. The man’s wife returned the application and Jerome later discovered the man was unable to read. The experience prompted Eberharter to do something. He decided he could at least raise money to boost the efforts of those who work on the frontlines of adult and childhood literacy by combining his love of motorcycling and reading. Thus the Ride2Read rally was born," Somerville said. The ride this year will benefit the public library in Stanley as well as Willow Creek Elementary Library, First Book, The Garden City Bookmobile, and other small Idaho libraries. "We are so grateful to Jerome and his helpers for all the work they do to promote literacy and for the generous donations to our library, both in the past and this year. Patrons will see many new books with the sticker inside letting them know that book has been donated by the Ride2Read motorcycle rally for literacy. Groups in other states have contacted him and will be holding rallies in their states to support literacy, Somerville said. (Challis Messenger)

Linda Bequette, Youth Services Director at the Garden Valley District Library, developed some “Vacation Packs” for families who are traveling this summer. “They are backpacks filled with games, riddles, puzzles, tongue twisters, writing pads, etc., plus a book on CD or tape. This will enable them to participate in Summer Reading while out of town, making them eligible to participate in weekly drawings while they are away. Hopefully it will also promote reading and help stave off boredom during long plane or car trips,” Bequette said.

The Treasure Valley Library Consortium presented the Snake River Stampede rodeo with a plaque of appreciation for sponsorship of the summer reading program in the Treasure Valley. Last year, for the third year in a row, the rodeo gave out 10,000 vouchers to children who completed the program. (Idaho Press Tribune)
Governor, First Lady take part in Summer Reading Program

It’s not every day libraries get visiting dignitaries, but Soda Springs Public Library hosted Governor Otter and Mrs. Otter in June when they were in town for Capitol for a Day.

Children’s Librarian Jennifer Balls introduced the Governor and First Lady to about 300 children during the Summer Free Lunch Program. The library takes advantage of the free lunches to reach underserved children as part of Read to Me’s Summer Reading Outreach program.

“The children were super excited to meet the Governor and his wife,” Jennifer said. The first couple was inundated with requests for autographs which they graciously gave to one and all. Although they were scheduled for a luncheon at noon, they stayed until every child received a book.

Making the Case for Summer Reading! Soda Springs Public Library Director Cindy Erickson and Children’s Librarian Jennifer Balls pose with Mrs. Otter, Governor Otter, Tammy Geddes and Senate Pro Tem Robert Geddes during a recent Summer Reading event.