

ICFL News

The Idaho Commission for Libraries Newsletter



LSTA Competitive Grants Awarded

At their April 21st Board meeting, the Idaho Commission for Libraries Board of Commissioners awarded funds to four libraries that submitted grant applications during the 2008 LSTA Competitive Grant Program. The total amount awarded was \$137,356.

- Burley Public Library was awarded \$67,171 to join with the DeMary Public Library in creating a library consortium and a web accessible automated cataloging system of the libraries' materials.

- As the fiscal agent for the VALNet Library Consortium, the Lewiston City Library received a grant in the amount of \$12,024 to creation authority control files in the consortium's automated catalog.

- Nampa Public Library received \$36,480 to support Saturday programming addressing multi-generational audiences.

- The Parma School District received \$21,680 to provide the school library with additional resources to improve reading scores.

The Commission is now accepting Just In Time grant applications for eligible library programs or projects. The LSTA Grant Guide and application can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov> click on "For Librarians," then "Financing Library Projects and Services." Contact Sonja Hudson with questions.



Bugging Out. Gabriela Magnuson, Garden City Public Library (right), and Jo Ellen Ringer, Notus Public Library, get some hands-on summer reading ideas at the recent Idaho Library Association regional conference.

Librarians gear up for Summer Reading, turn in Read to Me mini-grant applications

Idaho librarians are gearing up for the 2008 Summer Reading Program, "Catch the Reading Bug @ Your Library." More libraries than ever, 87 in all, applied for at least one of the five Bright Futures Outreach programs offered through the Commission's Read to Me program.

Many Idaho library staff also worked hard during the past months on Read to Me mini-grant applications. The Idaho Commission for Libraries' budget will include \$335,500 in state funds to fund a significant Read

to Me project expansion, including 30 \$5,000 mini-grants that were due May 1. "We had a good response," Read to Me Co-Coordinator Peggy McClendon said.

The funding also allows the Commission to increase the number of children who will receive books as part of the First Book program. Applications to participate in that program are due May 30th and can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/firstbook>. For more information contact Peggy or Stephanie at ICFL.

Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission: The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

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- Stephanie Bailey-White, Projects Coordinator, Newsletter Editor
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Work on WebJunction Idaho continues

The WebJunction Launch Team for the Idaho Commission for Libraries is formulating content for the upcoming WebJunction Idaho community partner website to be launched in late summer 2008. Content will include access to online courses, communities of practice, and other library resources. Initial plans include blogs for the Read to Me program, technology, and 21st Century Schools where Idaho librarians can share their thoughts and best practices, ask questions and seek information, and build community.

Other aspects will include a new WebJunction logo and website layout as well as incorporating a new managed learning vendor, SkillSoft.

With the introduction of the new online course vendor, there will be a two-week down time in late July. If you are currently taking a WebJunction online course, please try to complete by mid-July. If you are planning on taking an online course through WebJunction, please do so only if you can finish by mid-July. New course registration will be frozen as of mid-June. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Hansen, Continuing Education Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries, 208-334-2150, ext. 116.

Stay tuned for future developments of WebJunction Idaho.

Association for Rural and Small Libraries to hold conference in September

The annual national conference of the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) will be held this fall in Sacramento on September 19-21, 2008. The conference focus is for libraries serving a population of 25,000 or fewer. Conference information and registration is available at www.webjunction.org/arsl. This link also takes you to the WebJunction Rural and Small Library community page, a portal to a plethora of resources.

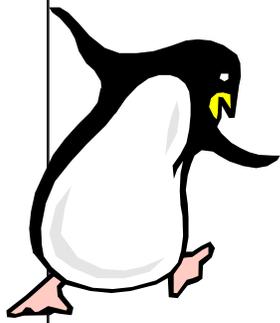
Continuing education grants for first time attendees are available to Idaho librarians or trustees. If you are interested in attending, contact Shirley Hansen, Continuing Education Consultant at Idaho Commission for Libraries.

School library survey in progress

The Idaho Commission for Libraries is now collecting annual statistics for the current 2007/2008 school year, the pilot year for an ongoing initiative. Data should be submitted by June 15, although submissions will be accepted over the summer. Among other things, the data will help assess the correlation between Idaho's school libraries and student achievement. Preliminary data will be available in October 2008.

Go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/school-library-stats> for more information on the online collection tool and how to get your school's username and password. The form is currently available, allowing you to see what information is being collected.

New professional books from ICFL



The Idaho Commission for Libraries Professional Development Service (PDS) provides access to numerous titles in the field of library and

information sciences. Free shipping to and from your library is provided!

See <http://libraries.idaho.gov/pds> for more information. The following are a few of the recent additions.

Culture + Technology: A Primer, by Jennifer Daryl and J. Macgregor Wise (2005). A discussion about technology and its place in our lives. [ICFL 025.04 Slack]

Library and Information Center Management, by Robert D. Stueart and Barbara B. Moran (2007, 7th edition). The latest edition of this management classic has a new look and updated content. [ICFL 025.1 Stueart]

Retail Success! Increase Sales, Maximize Profits, and Wow Your Customers in the most competitive Marketplace in History! by George Whalin (2001). This book is filled with practical tools for one-the-job retail success. [ICFL 658.8 Whalin]

Glut: Mastering Information through the Ages, by Alex Wright (2007). The author takes his readers on a journey through the history of the information age and how information systems emerge. [ICFL 020 Wright]

Unleashing Web 2.0: From Concepts to Creativity, by Gottfried Vossen and Stephan Hagemann (2007). This is a comprehensive and reliable resource that guides you into the emerging and unstructured landscape that is Web 2.0. [ICFL 025.04 Vossen]

The Evaluation and Measurement of Library Services, by Joseph R. Matthews (2007). The author “outlines and argues for a broader and more robust adoption of evaluation techniques in order to help library managers combine traditional internal measurements (circulation, reference transactions, etc.) with more customer-centric metrics (how well was I served, how satisfied am I with my branch, etc) to form a truer picture of the value of the library to its stakeholders and patrons.” [ICFL 025.1 Matthew]

School Library Management, edited by Judi Repman and Gail K. Dickinson (2007, 6th edition). This updated edition is a comprehensive guide for school libraries. All the topics have been updated from collection development and testing to wireless networks and other new technologies. [ICFL 027.8 School]

Using Pop Cultures to Teach Information Literacy, by Linda D. Behen (2006). This book begins with the premise the library instruction should be fun and suggests ways to reach kids through the media they love. [ICFL 025.56 Behen]

Learn About Information, (First North American Edition) by Mary Gosling, et al (2007). “This study guide provides a comprehensive yet simple introduction to the information industry, the nature and uses of information, and information literacy.” [ICFL 020 Gosling]

Listening to the Volcano: Conversations that Open our Minds to New Possibilities, by David Hutchens (2005). “Listening to the volcano offers an engaging introduction to conversation as a disciplined workplace practice for sparking generative thinking, improving decision-making, and creating effective action.” [ICFL 658.4 Hutchen]

Fans, Bloggers, and Gamers: Exploring Participatory Culture, by Henry Jenkins (2006). This book “takes readers from Jenkins’s early work defending fan culture against those who would marginalize or stigmatize it, through to his more recent writing, combating moral panic and defending Goths and gamers...” [ICFL 025.04 Jenkins]

Helping Homeschoolers in the Library, by Adrienne Furness (2008). This guidebook “seeks to bridge the gap between librarians and homeschoolers by answering these two questions: how are homeschoolers and how can librarians help them practically? [ICFL 027.6 Furness]

Lost Among the Stacks or . . .

The Extraordinary True Story of Madness, Desperation, and Intrigue, as Two Librarians Struggle Against All Odds to Find the Best Nonfiction Books That Are Actually Readable (Yes, Readable)*

by Jennifer Hills & Beth Twitchell

[Editor's Note: Jennifer Hills & Beth Twitchell presented a great session on Reader's Advisory and Nonfiction at two of the ILA Regional Conferences last year and we asked them to write up some of the information from those sessions. Jennifer and Beth are reference librarians at the Twin Falls Public Library.]

[*Author's Note: We've found that any nonfiction book worth its salt has a short, almost meaningless title, but a long hyperbolic subtitle. We're just continuing the trend.]

If the library were a Jane Austen novel, Fiction would be Lizzie: a beauty with wit and charm who rarely sits out a dance. Unfortunately, Nonfiction is often Charlotte Lucas, destined to wait until all other eligible maidens have been passed over (and then accepting the hand of the first man who proposes). No wonder Nonfiction has an image crisis.

Patrons usually see nonfiction in one of two ways: either they need a good, factual book for a report, or they are looking for a reference text to help them solve a problem. It doesn't help that we librarians sometimes forget to recommend nonfiction during Readers' Advisory interviews. The Dewey Decimal System isn't the easiest for patrons to understand, and the fact that patrons are often looking for bookstore labels also contributes to our neglect of this

collection.

But, there are some great nonfiction books out there; books that are tense, sweet, inspiring, and/or exciting. The question is, "How do we find, collect, and promote great, readable nonfiction?" Here's our suggestion: we need to approach nonfiction in the same way we do fiction. Readers of fiction want stories that flow, with a narrative they can relate to, and in a variety of genres. These same considerations—appeal, narrative, and genre—can be applied to nonfiction as well. Let us demonstrate:

First are the appeal factors. Joyce Saricks, a noted RA expert, identifies four elements that appeal to fiction readers: pacing, characterization, frame, and storyline. Pacing, of course, relates to how fast or slow the story moves. Anyone who's read Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm* knows that it is as fast-paced as any fictional thriller. Readers who want a more leisurely-paced work could be introduced to works such as Frances Mayes's *Under the Tuscan Sun*.

Characters are just as important in nonfiction, too, because readers love to relate to the heroes and hate the villains. The women in Azar Nafisi's *Reading Lolita in Tehran* may be part of a foreign culture, but their dreams and aspirations are ideas we can all understand. Nonfiction can also make cold-blooded killers seem even more so, such as in Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City*, because the characters are real and their actions are not (usually) imagined.

Saricks defines the frame of the

story as its setting, tone, and atmosphere. In nonfiction, memoir readers looking for a light-hearted, contemporary read may be drawn to Nora Ephron's *I Feel Bad About My Neck*, while David McCullough's *John Adams* will appeal to those looking for a more serious, historical text. The final appeal factor is storyline, which refers to the treatment of the story. It could be more event-oriented, such as A.J. Jacobs's *The Know-It-All*, or it could be more character-oriented like *Gorillas in the Mist* by Dian Fossey.

The second consideration is narrative, which can be looked at in terms of a continuum. On one end is a college textbook: something that offers a large quantity of factual information, but very little narrative appeal. On the opposite end would be a book that provides almost no factual information, but whose narrative quality is higher, such as a contemporary romance novel. The perfect readable nonfiction title is one that retains the high narrative value, but also gives readers substance in terms of factual information.

The third consideration is genre. Unfortunately, we have such a wealth of information about this topic, we don't have the space to do it justice at the end of this article, and so we'll simply say "To Be Continued." Which leaves us with a cliffhanger: Will the Charlotte Lucas of the library world ever find a true love? Stay tuned for the further adventures of *Lost Among the Stacks*. — j.h. & b.t.

Patrons judge libraries by their covers

Before you step into the library, or one of the branches, for a board meeting take a minute to reflect on the message the building presents to the public. Are the grounds inviting? Is there a bench or two for those waiting for a ride or looking for a relaxing spot to read before venturing home?

As you move into the library, is it visually appealing or visually polluting? Are posters haphazardly taped on walls, doors, or pillars? Are all the community announcements organized on a bulletin board or scattered about? Is local artwork presented with information on those artists? Are the circulation and information stations professional in appearance for important person to person interaction?

Does the library show irony by filling the entry with donated and weeded books piled up for sale and then offering a world of information for free? The few dollars generated from those sales creates a poor image of who we are as librarians and what libraries are about. The "clearance sale" method may work in a retail store clearing out leftovers with a dollar value still attached, but libraries have other goals.

Many libraries cannot purchase new shelving to replace the institutional gun metal grey or washed out tan shelving that has served for decades. One inexpensive way to enrich the appearance is to find a few sheets of pine or oak plywood and a

volunteer or two who will fit them to the width of the shelves, sand and stain them, and bolt them to the unit end for an attractive, low cost update. Then you have a location for artwork, signage, or simple clean space. Do those miscellaneous racks and shelves for paperbacks, videos and books on tape fit the space, or are they just a forgotten carryover from another time?

A big investment is required when you look at the carpet, wall paint, and furniture, but a coordinated investment with a contemporary look can show professionalism, and show the community that the library is vital, lively, and a welcoming community facility - all important to encourage future support.

I am not focusing on any particular library, but rather suggesting everyone look at how businesses, retail stores, and government offices present themselves to you as a consumer and how you react.

As one of the Ghostbusters said "no matter what happens let's look professional." We all need an occasional fresh look at ourselves.

Taken from Trustees' Corner: A compendium of articles on the art of trusteeship, by Jerry Krois, Wyoming State Library, will.state.wy.us/slpub/TrusteesCorner.pdf

Funding available to send Idaho library staff to ALSC Institute in Salt Lake

The 2008 ALSC National Institute will be held September 18-20, 2008 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This is a great opportunity for Idaho library staff to attend a national conference without traveling across the country to get there. The Institute is an intensive learning opportunity with a youth services focus and is designed for public and school library staff, children's literature experts, education and library school faculty members, and other interested adults. The Commission for Libraries is providing First Time Conference Attendance grants of up to \$900 for anyone employed in a publicly-funded school or public library. Grant application forms can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/ce-grants> — click Application for First-Time Attendance at a Library Conference 2007. They are due by July 15, 2008. There is a special registration form for Idahoans that allows us to qualify for a special group discount. Please contact Stephanie, Peggy or Shirley Hansen at the Commission (1-800-458-3271) if you have any questions about the grant form or the new registration form.

The Institute will feature three exciting tracks that will repeat on Thursday afternoon and Friday so that attendees may take advantage of two of the three tracks. See www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscevents/institute/index.cfm for more information about the Institute. Authors Laura Vaccaro Seeger, Sharon Creech, William Joyce and Christopher Paul Curtis are also on the agenda.

Teacher-librarians learn more about taking students into the 21st Century



by Anne
Abrams

In March, the Idaho Commission for Libraries invited middle and high school teacher-librarians and their VIPs to attend a three-day graduate credit in-service. More than 40 teacher-librarians throughout the state attended, and each brought along a lead-teacher, principal, or other important person from their school community.

The in-service was designed to not only address what skills students will need after graduating, but also how to incorporate the teaching of those skills in lesson plans. The opening session featured a presentation from the Partnership for the 21st Century (P21), a unique partnership between business, education and policymakers supported by the U.S. Department of Education.

David Schroeder and Ben Mondloch wove a central theme to their discussion of how to incorporate critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, and communication and collaboration skills into every assignment and activity.

On day two, Big6 Co-Creator Bob Berkowitz focused on realistic approaches to integrating information literacy skills instruction throughout the curriculum—an inherent role for teacher-librarians to assume in their schools. As part of the session, participants redesigned lessons implementing Big6 components. One Meridian high school teacher librarian discovered a way to make a boring “bird report” into a thought provoking activity that takes no longer for the students to complete or for the teachers to teach or grade.

Superintendent Tom Luna lent his support to teacher-libraries, stopping by over lunch and talking about his commitment to equip every student with 21st century skills.

The third day, for teacher-librarians only, took attendees through advanced LiLI database training, again focusing on the Big6 model of problem solving. Idaho Commission for Library’s Electronic Resources Librarian Charlotte Fowles spent the day covering the finer points of eLibrary Curriculum, eBooks, and others, allowing for plenty of hands-on exploration.

Libraries encouraged to participate in First Book program

The Read to Me First Book program is now accepting applications from both public and school libraries who want to participate in the program.



First Book is a national nonprofit organization with a single mission—to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. The program provides a book a month for a year to each participating child as well as workshops for families. In addition to the 12 books each child receives, a Read to Me program goal is to provide library cards and contact with librarians for at-risk children. The Idaho Commission for Libraries has participated in the program since 1997, contributing 58,960 books to approximately 4,914 children.

Eight Idaho public libraries were selected to participate in the 2007-2008 First Book program. By utilizing state funds along with the existing LSTA funding, school libraries will be eligible to participate for the first time.

The 2008-2009 applications are due May 30, 2008. An orientation for participating libraries will be held in Boise on August 1, 2008. Applications and more information can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/firstbook>. Read to Me Coordinators Stephanie Bailey-White and Peggy McClendon are also available to answer questions about the First Book program.

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To join LIBIDAHO, a free online discussion forum about libraries in Idaho send a message to sympa@ala.org with the message “subscribe libidaho” in the body. Learn timely news, hear about free book offers, and share questions!



Library news from around the state

The Writers Competition at the **Coeur d'Alene Public Library** will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. The competition is for unpublished fiction and nonfiction prose of 2,000 words or less. Entries are judged by professional writers and editors working in North Idaho and Eastern Washington. Cash prizes donated by the Coeur d'Alene Kiwanis Club will be awarded in each category and age group \$100 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for third at a ceremony hosted by the Friends of the Coeur d'Alene Public Library in May. (Coeur d'Alene Press)

Communities across the U.S. have discovered that choosing a book to read as a city brings together friends and strangers to discuss good literature and provocative ideas. Idaho Statesman writer Dan Popkey introduced the concept to Boise in late 2000, modeled after Seattle's citywide reading initiative. Boise began its program in 2001 with the book *Housekeeping*, by Marilynne Robinson. In subsequent years, children's titles were added to the program, so that the whole family could participate. Books are chosen by a committee that includes representatives from local libraries, plus educators, writers and readers of all ages. The committee chooses a book based on literary merit and relevance to local readers. Treasure Valley adults and older teens have responded positively to the area's "Big Read" choice of Willa Cather's *My Antonia*. The Cabin, A Literary Center for Idaho received funding under a grant for The Big Read, a national initiative from the National Endowment of the Arts. Programs will continue through May in an effort to spread enthusiasm for the book and the wider delights of reading. Kids and teens are invited to read one of three books and to participate in book discussions, gaming nights, "dog" storytimes, and other events at local public libraries. This year's award-winning titles were: *No More Dead Dogs*, by Gordon Korman (young adult readers); *View From Saturday*, by E.L. Konigsburg (middle readers); *Martha Speaks*, by Susan Meddaugh (young readers). **Idaho Falls Public Library** has also been a participant in a "Read the Same Book" project for several years. The library hoped to give away 1,500 copies of Ray Bradbury's classic *Fahrenheit 451*, but the book has failed to ignite local readers the way *My Antonia* did in 2007. (Idaho Statesman/Post Register)

Longtime Library Director Wilma Butigan will be retiring from the **Hagerman Public Library** at the end of May. The library board and community will be hosting a reception in her honor on Saturday, May 31st from noon to 4 p.m.

Hailey Public Library was among several libraries that celebrated El Día de los Niños with special storytimes and special events on April 30. In Hailey, special guest Rebecca Hornbach, director of the new *La Alianza Multicultural Center*, helped present a bilingual story time and children and parents learned to sing "Farmer in the Dell" in Spanish with local TV personality and friend of the library Wendy Young.

Protecting Library Collections Workshops offered

The Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service (WESTPAS) in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries will be presenting workshops focusing on disaster preparedness activities. The workshop will consist of two one-day sessions, six weeks apart. Workshop outcomes will focus on completing a disaster plan, training staff, setting pre and post-disaster action priorities, using practical decision making skills during an emergency and learning salvage procedures for books, documents, and non-print media.

Administrators and staff responsible for emergency preparedness, response and decision-making, in all types of libraries and archives are encouraged to attend. By registering for the workshop, the library commits to supporting the attendee(s) achievement of the workshop's disaster preparedness goals. Upon completion, the library will be invited to join an informal network of trained personnel to provide mutual aid in the event of emergencies.

Workshop dates are: Portneuf Library District, Chubbuck, Idaho—July 9 and August 20; Garden City Public Library, July 11 and August 22. A workshop will be presented in Spokane for North Idaho libraries, for which dates and location have yet to be announced.

The workshop is free and online registration is required. Contact Shirley Hansen, Continuing Education Consultant at ICFL for more information and the registration link.

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ICFL Volunteers racked up over 8,100 hours of service in 2007

The Commission for Libraries recently celebrated the contributions of over 80 active volunteers.

In 2007, volunteers provided 8,145 hours of time to help build the capacity of libraries statewide and provide quality service to Idahoans who utilize the Talking Book Service. They recorded 46 books, repaired over 5,000 cassettes, and inspected and rewound approximately 225,000 talking books. They also assembled thousands of bulk mail items, helped with Read to Me programs, summer reading, workshop material assembly and anything else we asked them to do.

Volunteer Coordinator Sheila Winther presented two 15-year certificates and 12 five-year certificates to volunteers and added two more volunteer names to a 1,000 hour plaque. Thank you volunteers!



Celebrating service to others. (left to right) Maryan Stephens and Norma Ericson get their "15 Years" certificate from ICFL Volunteer Coordinator and ringmaster Sheila Winther during the volunteer carnival April 29th.