

The Scoop - vol. 4 no. 8, April 25, 2008



Published bi-weekly by [Read to Me](#), a service of the Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Welcome

Peggy and Stephanie have been working with many librarians on Read to Me mini-grant applications and are excited to see the different projects and services that Idaho public libraries will soon be offering. Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 1. Find more information and the application form at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/readtome>. Public libraries are also encouraged to [apply online for Fred Meyer books](#) by May 1.

Best of luck to everyone who has been dreaming about ways to reach more families with early literacy information and taking the time to complete the paperwork to make it happen! We plan on highlighting these exciting projects once they are underway in the fall.



Position Open at ICFL. The Idaho Commission for Libraries is seeking a Projects Coordinator to join our team. The Projects Coordinator will work with the early literacy initiative “Read to Me,” which provides information, training, technical assistance and resources for Idaho libraries and their community partners.

The ideal candidate will have projects planning and implementation experience, strong presentation and communication skills, grants experience, and knowledge of early literacy and library youth services/outreach. The ability to read, write, and speak Spanish is a plus. ICFL has a unique culture that embraces collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement. You will find that working for the Idaho Commission for Libraries is both a challenging and rewarding experience.

For more information and to apply, please visit:

http://dhr.idaho.gov/DHRApp/stateJobs/jobannouncement.aspx?announcement_no=02913052912 . The announcement closes May 12, 2008.



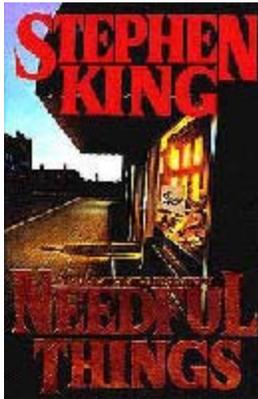
Meet Maria Schuman

Maria Schuman is the district librarian for the Cascade School District. She splits her time between the two libraries that serve about 150 students K – 12. In addition to coordinating the libraries, Maria also teaches Spanish, driver’s education, and works on several other projects for the district. She’s one busy person! We caught up with her during the recent “Teens and Technology” course offered by ICFL.

Maria found her calling of working in libraries as a young high school drop-out in Texas. “I was working in the Manpower program and they placed me in the children’s department at a public library as one of my first jobs. It was a great experience and I

knew that's what I wanted to do." Maria said she was inspired to get her GED and go on to college, majoring in Spanish with a minor in library science. When she moved to Cascade, she was able to get a position teaching Spanish and coordinating library services. She's been working in that position for almost 14 years now!

She said the biggest challenge of coordinating the school libraries is the tiny budget allocated to the libraries. "We have some really old materials and really need to modernize things." She lists a successful Accelerated Reading program for the elementary-age students as one of the successes. "Our circulation really increased and those books are being read," she said. She's also excited about the availability of computers in the libraries and has enjoyed taking the Teens and Technology course. "I liked being able to catch up on what's available and I like the challenge of learning new things."



Maria is a big Steven King fan and she's currently reading his book, ***Needful Things***. She says YA author Chris Crutcher, who grew up in Cascade, is her favorite author.

In the few hours of free time she has available when she's not working, Maria enjoys spending time with her four grandchildren who live in Cascade.

Library to Library



Llama Visits Council Storytime

Thanks to Krissi Hansen for sending us this information about a great program they had at their library. The **Council Valley Library** hosted a special guest, Don Giovanni, a very



friendly llama, for our weekly storytime recently. The llama actually came INTO the library for the kids to pet him and he gave them kisses on the tops of their heads. We read llama books (*Is Your Mama a Llama?*, *Llamas in Pajamas*, and *Llama, Llama, Mad at Mama*) and sang llama songs while the llama got saddled to take the kids for rides! We had a llama craft, coloring pages, and more information about llamas for the kids to take home. It was a big hit, increasing our storytime numbers 250%!



Hailey Public Library will celebrate El Día de los Niños with a special Story Time on Wednesday, April 30th at 10:30am! Story Time will begin with a fun movement activity in English and Spanish. Special guest Rebecca Hornbach, director of the new *La Alianza Multicultural Center* here in Hailey, will join us for a bilingual story time. We will be reading Eric Carle's, *From Head to Toe* in both languages. Next on the agenda, children and parents will learn to sing "Farmer in the Dell" in Spanish with local TV personality and friend of the library Wendy Young. Children will make puppets from the song for a fun craft activity. Rounding out our special Story Time celebrating El Dia de los Niños, will be a special safety presentation by Sergeant Brad Gelskey of the Blaine County Sheriff's Department. Everyone will receive informative packets to take home. Contact [LeAnn Gelsky](#) at the Hailey Public Library for more information.

Young Adult Corner

More great ideas from the Texas Teens Read Manual: Game-On! TTR.08

RPG Quest: Role-Playing Games by Kendra Perkins

http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/ttr/2008/manual/rpg_games.html

World of Warcraft, one of the most popular role-playing games, was featured as a sporting event for the first time on Sunday, July 28, 2007 when CBS televised an hour-long special on the Louisville *World Series of Video Games* competition. Viewers watched as two teams of three players seated at laptops engaged in virtual combat and cast healing spells. On that day, role-playing games won their place along-side traditional sports!

RPG Quest may be presented as a single program, or it may be repeated weekly or monthly. The simplest way for libraries to host *RPG Quest* programs is to invite teens or a role-playing group in your community to bring all of the equipment needed to play, and lead a game such as *Dungeons & Dragons*. Then all the library needs to provide is a meeting room and refreshments, and a hosting librarian!

To help you understand role-playing games and plan your event, this program includes five formats for role-playing games that teens may play at your library *RPG Quest*.

- Paper and pencil games (also called tabletop games)
- Board games with miniatures (game pieces designed to represent the characters)
- Live action role-playing games
- Collectible card games
- Online role-playing games

Libraries may offer a single game at the *RPG Quest* program, such as *Dungeons & Dragons*, or a variety so that teens can choose a game, join a group, and play. If teens play a variety of games, one group might play a card game such as *Magic: The Gathering* while another group plays *Dungeons & Dragons* or another paper-and-pencil game. Another group may play a board game with miniatures. Live-action role-play could occupy another group if the meeting room is sufficiently large and safety guidelines are discussed. If technology allows, some teens could play free or subscription-based electronic games. Players may rotate to a different game after each break.

Some games are available in multiple formats. For example, *Dungeons & Dragons* is the best-known and best-selling role-playing game. It is available as a board game, an arcade game, a video game, and a text-based and a graphic-intensive online game. It was originally published as a small box set of three booklets in 1974. As it grew in popularity, card games, board games, and magazines were published, an animated television series and a film series were released, and online multi-user text-based games and then graphic-based games were developed with the advent of the Internet. Other games have progressed similarly. *World of Warcraft* and *EverQuest*, two very popular games that are primarily known for their massively multiplayer online role-playing game versions, also have tabletop versions.

If you have never hosted a role-playing program at your library, you may wish to read "Dungeons and Dragons: Adventures in the Library" by Nicole Price (VOYA, February 2005) which is online at <http://pdfs.voya.com/VO/YA2/VOYA200502DungeonsDragons.pdf>. This article describes a successful *Dungeons & Dragons* program at the Foothill Library in Glendale, Arizona. It mentions controversy that has arisen regarding *Dungeons & Dragons*.

(Thanks to Christine McNew, Youth Services Consultant at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for sharing with us! Only Texas libraries may use the artwork included in the manual which was created for "Game On! TTR.08" by Rod Espinosa, a graphic novelist with Antarctic Press. Please read about Mr. Espinosa at www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/ttr/2008/manual/the_artist.html. Librarians outside Texas must obtain permission from Mr. Espinoza.)

Book Look

National Children's Book Week - May 12-18, 2008
<http://bookweekonline.com/index1.html>

Children's Book Week is sponsored by the Children's Book Council, Inc. a nonprofit trade association of publishers and packagers of trade books and related materials for children and young adults. Since 1919, Children's Book Week has been celebrated nationally in schools, libraries, bookstores, clubs, private homes-any place where there

are children and books. In 2007, the decision was made to move Book Week from November to May. Visit the website for links to the Children's Choice Book Awards, ideas for celebrating Children's Book Week, how to host a Book Week party, how to stage a "Battle of the Books," booklists, and much more.

One hallmark of the new Children's Book Week is the inauguration of a national child-selected book awards program: the [Children's Choice Book Awards](#). Since the 1970s, the CBC and the International Reading Association have run a program called Children's Choices. Ten thousand children in five teams across the country spend months reading and evaluating 500-700 books submitted by publishers. Approximately 99 books each year make the final favorites list in each of three grade categories: kindergarten to second grade, third to fourth grade, and fifth to sixth grade. This year, we're opening up the voting to kids everywhere! The top five vote earners in each age group, along with five finalists for favorite author and five for favorite illustrator, are vying to be selected as kids' favorites of the year.

Display the books in your library and encourage kids to read and vote online, or you may download a [printable finalists list here](#). If you use the paper ballot, tally the votes and enter them as a group into our [online form here](#). Paper ballots will not be accepted. The 2008 nominees are:

K-2 Book of the Year

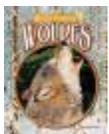


Dino-Dinners. Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom. Holiday House.
Five Little Monkeys Go Shopping. Eileen Christelow. Clarion Books.
Frankie Stein. Lola M. Schaefer. Illustrated by Kevan Atteberry. Marshall Cavendish.

Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark. Ken Geist. Illustrated by Julia Gorton. Cartwheel.

Tucker's Spooky Halloween. Leslie McGuirk. Candlewick Press.

3-4 Book of the Year



Babymouse: Camp Babymouse. Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm. Random House.
Big Cats. Elaine Landau. Enslow Publishers.
Monday with a Mad Genius. Mary Pope Osborne. Illustrated by Sal Murdocca.

Random House.

The Richest Poor Kid. Carl Sommer. Illustrated by Jorge Martinez. Advance Publishing.
Wolves. Duncan Searl. Bearport Publishing.

5-6 Book of the Year



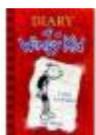
Beowulf: Monster Slayer. Paul D. Storrie. Illustrated by Ron Randall. Lerner Publishing.
Encyclopedia Horrifica. Joshua Gee. Scholastic Paperbacks.

Ghosts. Stephen Krensky. Lerner Publishing.

The Short and Incredibly Happy Life of Riley. Amy Lissiat and Colin Thompson. Kane/Miller.

When the Shadbush Blooms. Carla Messinger with Susan Katz. Illustrated by David Kanietakeron Fadden. Tricycle Press.

Author of the Year



Jeff Kinney for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Abrams.

JK Rowling for *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Scholastic.

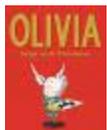
Rick Riordan for *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Titan's Curse*.

Disney Book Group.

Anthony Horowitz for *Snakehead* (Alex Rider Adventure). Philomel/Penguin.

Erin Hunter for *Warriors, Power of Three: The Sight*. HarperCollins.

Illustrator of the Year



Robin Preiss Glasser for *Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy*. Written by Jane O'Connor. HarperCollins.

Mo Willems for *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*. Written by Mo Willems. Hyperion.

Ian Falconer for *Olivia Helps with Christmas*. Written by Ian Falconer. Simon & Schuster.

Brian Selznick for *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Written by Brian Selznick. Scholastic.

Jan Brett for *The Three Snow Bears*. Written by Jan Brett. Putnam/Penguin



Upcoming Events

Deadline for Read to Me mini-grant approaching!

If you are interested in participating in any of the upcoming Read to Me programs, here are some deadlines to keep in mind:

- Read to Me mini-grants are due **May 1**. Find more information and the application form at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/readtome>. [publically-funded public libraries]
- [Apply online for Fred Meyer books](#) by **May 1**. [public libraries]
- First Book applications are due on **May 30**. Find more information and the application form at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/node/386>. [public or school libraries]



Summer Reading News

It's in the Mail!

ICFL staff have been busy mailing summer reading materials to libraries participating in the Bright Futures Outreach Opportunities. Here's what has been mailed so far:

- All public libraries: "Catch the Reading Bug" posters and rubber stamp
- School Visits: plush bugs and canvas tote bags
- Read for Your Library: \$300 sets of hardback books for libraries and their school partners and summer reading flags

Still to come for libraries who applied:

- Underserved Children: paperback books and stand up poster (a few have been mailed)
- Steering Committee: \$100 set of hardback books and buttons
- Website: bug jars and vinyl banner
- Fred Meyer books (we have not heard about the grant yet, but public libraries can [sign up online](#) until May 1)

Brand Those Bugs



Tammy Hawley-House, children's librarian at Boise Public Library and past president of the Idaho Library Association, sent this suggestion for branding the plush bugs that libraries are using for School Visits: I have an idea regarding the stuffed bugs that are being given to kids at class visits promoting SR. If we could encourage librarians to include a little tag with the Read to Me logo on it (and of course their library), it might really help us get Read to Me out to the parents. This would be a great project for teen helpers or other volunteers.

Some simple how-to steps:

Using a 2" x 3" SR tag that could be printed on regular paper or card stock or an Avery-like label, run the paper or label through a printer with something like "Summer Reading @ [\(name of the library\)](#); website and/or phone number and the Read-to-me logo. Then punch a hole in both the tag on the bug and the SR printed tag and attach with a ribbon. Or the ribbon could be threaded through the bug tag loop before being tied. One could also print the SR tag on Avery-like labels and adhere them to the bug label (by printing on just one half of the label it could be folded over to adhere to the bug label).

CSLP Meets in Little Rock

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) consortium is meeting this week in Little Rock. ICFL library consultant Jan Wall and Kootenai Shoshone Area Libraries

outreach coordinator Karen Yother are representing Idaho. CSLP will be making recommendations on the incentives for the 2009 summer reading theme and selecting the final theme name. We'll have a report for you in the next Scoop.

Daring Dreamers Offer Tips



The Daring Dreamers summer reading steering committee members have been making presentations at regional ILA conferences this spring to share tips about summer reading.

Region 3 - Southwest Idaho Library Association (SWILA) - Caldwell, April 9th

Ada Community Library's children's librarian Amanda Pittman had some tips for surviving summer reading that focused on the entire library staff having a positive experience:

Before Summer Reading begins:

- Have an orientation for all staff before summer reading begins. Explain how the program works and talk about staff stressors.
- Encourage staff to voice their concerns. They may be more comfortable writing it down than expressing it in a group.
- Have fun and get staff excited. One idea would be to have a craft project -- make something to wear during summer reading. *(In photo to the right, workshop participants Gabriela Magnuson, Garden City Public Library and Jo Ellen Ringer, Notus Public Library make a hat for summer reading.)*
- Serve snacks.



During Summer Reading:

- Get staff involved by encouraging everyone to wear summer reading t-shirts, hats, pins, etc.
- Share statistics about summer reading attendance and circulation.
- Encourage staff to talk up summer reading outside the library.

- Have a mid-way there party or mini-celebration for staff in the middle of Summer Reading.
- Set a goal for the entire library to reach, i.e. if the library signs up a certain number of summer reading participants, the director of the library will: pay for a pizza party, dye his hair, wear a bear costume, etc.

After Summer Reading:

- Have a party for the whole staff to celebrate and acknowledge their accomplishments.
- Thank everyone.
- Survey the staff for ideas to improve summer reading.

Region 2 - Northern Idaho ILA Conference - Clarkston, WA - April 18th

[Left to right: Loraine Hogaboam, Sue Lundgren, Claudia Jones and Heather Stout show librarians how to add excitement to Summer Reading during a presentation at the Northern Idaho Regional Idaho Library Association Conference.]



Heather Stout, Daring Dreamer and children's librarian at **Lewiston Public Library**, shared these tips for a successful summer program:

Emphasize fun!

Make sure your library's rules are not restrictive. Reading goals can be left up to the child, with Mom's and Dad's input. Let them chose either minutes or books read and

how many they will do per week.

Do you really need all that registration information? Lewiston Public Library has streamlined their registration form getting only the participant's name, school, and last grade completed.

Make the library inviting. Heather found great big kites at Wal-Mart with a buggy theme for less than \$10 each. Or order your own ant hill (\$15.99) or butterfly garden (\$24.99) at <http://www.insectlore.com/> and other online stores too.

Have a drop-in craft table. Not all families can make scheduled programs, but kids want to be part of the Summer Reading fun. Keep a table decked out with an easy craft activity for families to drop by to make or "take and go." Keep lots of examples on hand and choose crafts that are self-explanatory. Restock and make sure your volunteers and staff know how to assemble them in case they need to lend a hand.

Tweens make great Summer Reading volunteers because they are too young for summer jobs. Let your middle school counselors know you are in the market and have young adults help with craft activities. Lewiston Public uses the list of tween volunteers when looking for part-time positions to be filled-a great incentive for those soon-to-be 16 year olds.



School Zone

School Librarians Rock!

Several Stan Steiner, Children's Literature Professor at Boise State University and a long-time friend of the Idaho library community presented the keynote address at the Region II Idaho Library Association Conference last week. We'll be reprinting parts of Stan's keynote in upcoming issues. Today, we're sharing some of the humor he started with:

"As mentioned, librarians have held a place near and dear to me since I was a young child. From the day I first set foot into the bookmobile and met Mrs. Jacobsen with the horn-rimmed black glasses, which by the way made a brief comeback recently among the retro crowd, all the way to my librarian friends today. My having been around librarians that long brought many great moments and sometimes moments of wonder as the great ones decide to retire. Just two weeks ago a well loved school librarian in southwest Idaho retired and the staff threw a wonderful party for her. They had decorated the room with festive colors and at each table were a host of cartoons about libraries or librarians. Most were hilarious and as you might suspect with many around censorship issues, but what really caught my attention were the 13 library facts that the staff had put together for her. I thought you might enjoy hearing them since they are connected to my message today.

Fact # 1. A missing encyclopedia will remain missing until the replacement you ordered is placed on the shelf.

Fact # 2. Books will remain in the upright position on shelves until you go to place another book beside them.

Fact # 3. You can be sure the student with the most overdue books reads the least.

Fact #4. When a teacher recommends a library book to a student, you can be certain that the teacher has checked out the only copy and has lent it to a friend visiting Peru for 6 weeks.

Fact #5. If you change libraries frequently it allows you to place the blame on your predecessor for anything that is wrong.

Fact #6. If a teacher discusses a unit with you well in advance and you put all the materials together, it is a certainty that she will be absent on the days scheduled, the substitute cannot administer the unit and when the teacher returns she cannot do the unit because she has to make up for lost time.

Fact #7. The one time of the month that you take 5 minutes to read People Magazine is when your superintendent walks in.

Fact #8. If it's a good book, it's out of stock. If it's an excellent book, it's out of print.

Fact #9. No matter how many books you have on a subject the student always thinks they are all too big.

Fact #10. The rare times the school board comes to visit your school and library there is no one in the library.

Fact #11. No matter how long you keep an article or piece of information you will never need it until you throw it away.

Fact #12. If you lost one issue of a magazine there will be 30 students who will require that issue.

Fact #13. No matter how many spam filters you have on your computers some student will find a site marketing underwear, viagra or implants."

Stay tuned for more of Stan's wit and wisdom in upcoming issues.

Know the Numbers

Summer Reading Gap

"Research consistently shows that struggling readers lose ground over the summer. ... A 2007 study by Karl Alexander, Doris Entwisle, and Linda Steffel Olson, published in *American Sociological Review*, reveals that the achievement gap between high-socioeconomic and low-socioeconomic students at 9th grade traces back to the loss in reading proficiency that occurs over the summer months throughout the elementary school grades. Indeed, summer learning loss across five years of elementary school accounted for more than half the difference in the achievement gap between students

from high-socioeconomic and low socioeconomic families." (from "Closing the summer reading gap: You can make a difference!" by Linda B. Gambrell, *Reading Today*, April/May 2008)



A Closer Look at the Upcoming ALSC Institute

Funding available to help you attend ALSC Institute

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.**

Here are some tips on getting funding through ICFL:

- Grant funding can cover registration fees, lodging, and travel costs up to \$900. Some meals are included in the ALSC Institute registration fee, but other meals can not be reimbursed with grant funds. You need to submit receipts.
- The funding will be reimbursed to the school or public library, not individuals.
- Be sure to include the Certification Regarding Debarment and Civil Rights Certification forms found at the bottom of the <http://libraries.idaho.gov/ce-grants>
- School library staff, in particular, should list their home phone and e-mail in case we need to get in touch with you over the summer.
- The Institute starts at 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 18th. We called to get this information from ALSC since it's not listed on their web site, but might be helpful for people who are making travel arrangements.

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:

- Technology and children's services
- Programming in the new millennium

- Inspiring lifelong reading with the best of the best in children's books and a special focus on 'tweens and reading

Attendees will also attend their choice of one of three Saturday morning workshops.

- Blogging the best books-- hands-on
- Programming for English language learners: outreach, programming, and best practices for serving young children and their families
- Nuts and bolts of author visits

Authors Laura Vaccaro Seeger, Sharon Creech, William Joyce and Christopher Paul Curtis are also on the agenda!

See www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscevents/institute/index.cfm for more information about the Institute. Contact Stephanie, Peggy or Shirley Hansen at the Commission (1-800-458-3271) if you have any questions about the grant form or anything else related to attending. We hope to see you there!

Tips & Tools

New Books!



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.

Automation Primer for School Library Media Centers and Small Libraries, by Barbara Schultz-Jones, Linworth, 2006. This book includes information on the various stages of automation conversions and a project planning process guide to assist librarians in a variety of library settings to plan and implement their automation projects. [ICFL 027.8 SCHULTZ]

Guided Research in Middle School: Mystery in the Media Center, by LaDawna Harrington, Linworth, 2007. Engage middle school students in guided research with drama and imagination. This books uses high-interest mysteries and roll-playing to develop students' problem-solving skills and equips them with strategies to structure their own search process. [ICFL 027.8 HARRING]

Get Connected: Tech Programs for Teens, by RoseMary Honnold, Neal-Schuman, 2007. One of the best ways to foster information literacy is by offering programs that appeal to teens' interest in technology. This book included educational and recreational programs that will attract teens to the library. [ICFL 027.62 HONNOLD]

Mentoring Across Generations: Partnership for Positive Youth Development, by Andrea S. Taylor and Jeanette Bressler, Kluwer Academic, 2000. The multifaceted and multigenerational intervention described in this volume uses older adult volunteers as mentors for young people. By acting as advocates, challengers, nurturers, role models, and friends, polder mentors help children develop the awareness, self-confidence, and skills they need to overcome overwhelming obstacles. [ICFL 362 TAYLOR]

The Teen-Centered Book Club: Readers into Leaders, by Bonnie Kunzel and Constance Hardesty, Libraries Unlimited, 2006. With innovative, pragmatic ideas that will attract and retain teen readers, this guide offers a fresh new approach and provides everything you need to run a successful teen-centered book club. [ICFL 027.62 KUNZEL]

Using Pop Culture to Teach Information Literacy: Methods to Engage a New Generation, by Linda D. Behen, Libraries Unlimited, 2006. This engaging book starts with the premise that library instruction should be fun, and suggests ways to reach kids through the media they love. [ICFL 025.56 BEHEN]



Thinkfinity <http://www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx?ShowIndex=Yes>

Sponsored by The Verizon Foundation, this comprehensive website provides free, quality online educational resources that strengthens problem solving, creativity, and critical thinking skills for success in the 21st century. It contains lesson plans, educational games, and other activities. The site has sections for students, educators, parents, and afterschool resources. The site's search engine has the ability to search for resources tailored to individual state standards.

News Beyond Idaho

National Library Week News

We thought we'd close this issue of *The Scoop* with an excerpt from a public service announcement for National Library Week. Honorary chairperson Julie Andrews says that libraries have been for her places of peace, quiet and joy. "Libraries can bring the world to you in ways you have never dreamed of," says Andrews. "You can find anything you want at a library. You can research a project, you can get help with your homework, and you can get on the Internet. You can find out about all the joys of this wonderful world at your local library."

Americans continue to check out more than 2 billion items each year from their public libraries, and more and more people make use of libraries' education and social resources. The average user takes out seven-plus books a year, but patrons also go to their libraries to borrow DVDs, learn new computer skills, conduct job searches and participate in the activities of local and community organizations. The average bill to the

taxpayer for this remarkable range of public services is \$31 per year, about the cost of one hardcover book.

Other trends include:

- Libraries in smaller communities (fewer than 100,000 residents) are serving a larger portion of non-English speakers than big-city libraries.
- Studies in 19 states have shown that a strong school library media program helps students learn more and score higher on standardized tests than peers in schools without such programs.
- Computer and online games have become part of the mix at many public libraries, and some use gaming to attract new patrons.
- Growing patron enthusiasm for the computer and Internet services have stretched public libraries' existing Internet bandwidth, computer availability and building infrastructure to capacity. Budgets have not kept up with demand.
- Teens are one of the public library's most enthusiastic users of services.



Talk Back: *We welcome your feedback on anything in The Scoop. Just e-mail Peggy or Stephanie and we'll print your comments in The Scoop.*

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