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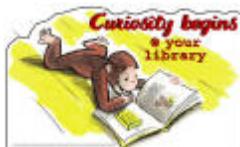
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## Welcome

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We hope to see many of you this month at the **Opening Doors for Families @ Your Library** workshops. Deadlines for the Boise and Coeur d'Alene workshops have passed, but you can still sign up for the Sept. 19th workshop in Pocatello until Friday, Sept. 15th at [www.lili.org/read/readtome/opening-doors-flyer.htm](http://www.lili.org/read/readtome/opening-doors-flyer.htm). Workshop attendees will receive a free hardback book and a Curious George cut out (pictured above) to use during Family Reading Week.

Speaking of **Family Reading Week (November 12-18)**, next week public and school libraries should be receiving their 2006 Family Reading Week **packet**. The packet will be mailed to public library directors, so make sure your director gets the packet to you. The school packets are being mailed directly to the school library. The theme this year is "Curiosity Begins @ Your Library."

A limited supply of **free Curious George support materials** are available from the Commission for libraries and schools who host a Family Reading Night in November. See the online form at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/curious-george>. You have until October 16th to order materials and they will be shipped after that date. Our goal is to have 100 Family Reading Nights in November. Contact [Peggy](#) or [Stephanie](#) for more information.



Don't forget, if you attended the July "**Digital Natives**" conference, we're asking **you** to take 15 minutes and send us an [e-mail](#) with your thoughts about the conference and what you're doing (or not) as a follow-up. We hope we'll be able to pull an article or two together for upcoming issues of *The Scoop*!

## Meet Jillian Subach

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**Jillian Subach** feels privileged to have a sidekick named Jojo who not only assists with library programs in the **Meridian Library District** but also serves as a library advocate wherever he goes. A big hit with both children and adults, Jojo has been known to wear various outfits, but can most often be found in his underwear. For his August birthday, well-wishers hope to be able to gift him with a backpack or wallet so he will have a better place than his underwear to keep his library card and other important items. Jojo, the orangutan puppet, receives lots of fan mail all year long.

In the relatively short time since Jillian began working as **Head of the Youth Services** in the District both her commitment and what she terms her "nutty" enthusiasm are well documented. She's always honored to say she's a librarian. Although she's been in the library field about eight years, she's only been in her present position two and a half years. Meridian's population is now estimated at 66,000 and growing rapidly. And, an expanding population means more youth to

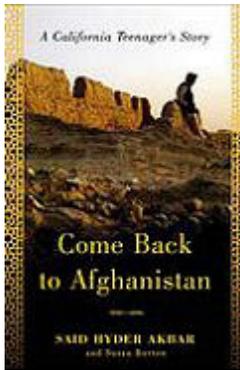
target with exciting library programs. According to Jillian, “We have at least 2,000 kids participating in summer reading and that continues to grow each year.”

Two of Jillian’s favorite things about her job are seeing children and using Jojo to make them laugh and, on a more serious note, doing whatever she can to help Idaho public libraries become a more vital part of their communities.

As a child Jillian read everything she could get her hands on especially Nancy Drew and Trixie Belden books and historical fiction focusing on the English monarchy. “And, of course,” she says, “the books you had to sneak from your parents.” Since she was 18, Jillian has enjoyed working with children and giving piano lessons. While working on her degree in classical piano, she discovered teaching was a logical progression. She realized during library school that youth services in public libraries was the place she wanted to start.

To make things even more exciting, Jillian works with all age groups from babies to teenagers. The youth services she and the department she manages provide run the gamut from preschool story times through daycare outreach to teen programs. Oh, and don’t forget collection development, working at the children’s reference desk, and working with the community in other ways. Currently, she is working on a special sleepover event modeled on the very popular Lemony Snicket adventures. The imaginative title for this part of the summer reading program is: “An Unfortunate Night @ the Library: a Lemony Snicket Sleepover.” In addition, Meridian is planning a summer carnival. Just so no one will need to look for something to do during the August/September program break, there will be maintenance on the children’s collection and migration to a new automated library system. For Jillian this year will wind down with an internal library makeover that will, of course, include physical changes for the children’s department.

When asked to relate her biggest success and biggest challenge, Jillian replies, “I feel successful every day if I can help a child or an adult find a book, enjoy a program, or feel good about using the library. I find it challenging to work in the community gathering support for public libraries.”



Jillian finds it hard to pinpoint a single favorite children's author



or book. She loves Kate DiCamillo for her sweet and sensitive writing, Jon Scieszka and Jerry Spinelli for making her laugh, and Esme Raji Codell for her poignant, thoughtful, and funny writing. She even admits to having read DiCamillo's *The Tale of Despereaux* more than once. Naturally, Jillian still reads as often as she can. She says, "I just finished a delightful and fresh story - *The Slightly True Story of Cedar B. Hartley (Who Planned to Lead an Unusual Life)* by Martine Murray. I'm now reading *The Wizard, the Witch, and Two Girls from Jersey* by Lisa Papademetriou. My top pick for this summer is *Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story* by Said Hyder Akbar and Susan Burton."

As if she didn't already have enough to keep herself busy, when not helping to inspire Idaho's youth Jillian enjoys "snowboarding in the winter, rafting in the summer, knitting all the time, eating out, going dancing, socializing like mad, and traveling as much as possible."

Jillian is happy to give a last piece of advice, "Never be afraid to go a little bit crazy, take a risk and dream big!"

## Library to Library

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The **Council District Library** received a grant of \$200 from the Walter and Leona Dufresne Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation. The money will be used to purchase new nonfiction books for children. Many of the library's juvenile nonfiction books are old and in need of replacement, so the grant money was greatly appreciated. (Council Record)



**Valley of the Tetons District Library** recently purchased over \$3,000 worth of beginning-to-read books for children with funds received from grants from the Eastern Region Greatest Need Fund and King's Stores in the Idaho Community Foundation. (Teton Valley News)

## Young Adult Corner: Fun with Wikis

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*By Stephanie Bailey-White*

First a little background about wikis:

- A wiki is an easily editable web page – no knowledge of HTML is required
- Wikis can be as open to editing as one would like
- Wiki software is usually free or low cost
- Wikis are truly collaborative, allowing several people to create and edit content on one page

If you're not familiar with wikis, here's a great one to get started with: **Library Success, a Best Practice Wiki**: <http://www.libsuccess.org/>

“This wiki was created to be a one-stop-shop for great ideas and information for all types of librarians. All over the world, librarians are developing successful programs and doing innovative things that no one outside of their library knows about. There are lots of great blogs out there sharing information about the profession, but there is no one place where all of this information is collected and organized.

If you've done something at your library that you consider a success, please write about it in the wiki or provide a link to outside coverage. If you have materials that would be helpful to other librarians, add them to the wiki. And if you know of a librarian or a library that is doing something great, feel free to include information about it or links to it. Basically, if you know of anything that might be useful to other librarians (including useful websites), this is the place to put it. I hope this wiki will be a venue where people can share ideas with one another and where librarians can learn to replicate the successes of other libraries.”

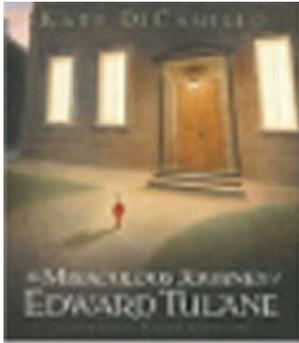
This wiki is not run by any commercial entity and does not represent any commercial interests. There's some great information about services to teens (under services to specific groups) and tons of other great resources. I hope to add information about *The Scoop* and I urge all of you to add information about the great things that are going on in your libraries. Have fun with wikis today!

## Book Look

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The **Boston Globe / Horn Book Awards** recently named books selected for this year's award for books published in the United States between June 2005 and May 2006. The winners are:

**Fiction and Poetry:**



*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Bagram Ibatouline (Candlewick, 2006)

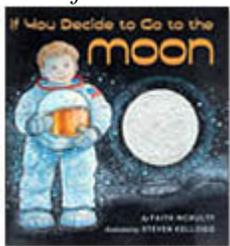
Award-winning author DiCamillo tells the touching story of a china rabbit named Edward Tulane. Loved by his owner, 10-year-old Abiline Tulane, Edward is smug and vain until accompanying Abiline and her family on an ocean voyage, he falls overboard. Edward is rescued and has many adventures as he learns about survival. He also learns that love comes in many guises and that redemption can be found even at the darkest hour. Beautiful sepia-toned illustrations complement this tender tale.



**Picture book:** *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt, 2005) Ehlert beautifully depicts one of her favorite themes--autumn leaves. She imagines the path the Leaf Man takes as he rides on the wind. Lovely collages illustrate the whimsical journey that will delight nature lovers of all ages. An added bonus, end papers provide a field guide to the leaf varieties.

Read an interview with the author at [www.harcourtbooks.com/leafman/](http://www.harcourtbooks.com/leafman/).

**Nonfiction:** *If You Decide to Go to the Moon* by Faith McNulty, illustrated by



Steven Kellogg (Scholastic, 2005)

What would you take on a trip to the moon? Come along for a ride in this delightful picture book and find out. From tips on what to pack to facts about space, readers will be captivated by the wonders of space. Steven Kellogg's artwork provides a nice contrast between the brightly-colored Earth and the more monochromatic moonscapes.



## Upcoming Events

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### Upcoming Training Events

October 4-6, 2006: **Idaho Library Association Annual Conference in Moscow.** See <http://www.idaholibraries.org/conferences/index.htm> for more information.

**The Best Young Adult Books of the Decade and How to Use Them in Your Program** (Grades 6 - 12) is the name of a workshop sponsored by the Bureau of Education and Research. The workshop is \$185 per person and will be held in Boise on October 30 and in Spokane on October 31. The flyer reads, "Designed for Secondary Teachers and Both School and Public Librarians. An exciting overview of the best young adult books published in the past ten years. A dynamic, energetic and fast-paced presentation by one of the foremost authorities in the field of teens and books. Hands-on, practical ideas and ways to use books, booktalks and reading aloud as means of reaching and motivating ALL students, regardless of ability or interest. An extensive resource handbook filled with booklists by title, author, subject, and interest level of titles for use in your programs. Seminar Presented by Walter M. Mayes, Nationally Recognized Young Adult Literature Expert, Library Media Specialist and Co-Author of Best-Selling "Valerie & Walter's Best Books for Children: A Lively, Opinionated Guide". For more information or to register, go to <http://www.ber.org/> .

October and November: **E-Branch in a Box workshops around the state.** E-branch in a Box is a new initiative from the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) to assist Idaho libraries in having a web presence, which is defined as

having a vital website that is an extension of the library providing information about or access to library services. See <http://help.lili.org/node/91> for more information.

### **October Events:**

October is **National Book Month**. The National Book Foundation seeks to raise the cultural appreciation of great writing in America. To find out more, check [www.nationalbook.org/nbm.html](http://www.nationalbook.org/nbm.html)

October 6-8, 2006. **National Storytelling Festival**. The International Storytelling Center inspires and empowers people around the world to capture and tell their stories, listen to the stories of others, and use storytelling to produce positive change. Read more about this festival at [www.storytellingcenter.com/festival/festival.htm](http://www.storytellingcenter.com/festival/festival.htm)

October 15-21, 2006: **Teen Read Week**. The theme for Teen Read Week 2006 is Get Active @ your library®, which encourages teens to use the resources at their library to lead an active life. See <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2006/trw06.htm> for more information.

October 16, 2006: Deadline for ordering **Idaho Family Reading Week** materials from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. See <http://libraries.idaho.gov/curious-george>.

October 16, 2006: **Dictionary Day**. This birthday of Noah Webster, often called the father of the American dictionary, is a celebration of an essential educational tool. Find lesson plans and activities about the life of Noah Webster, online dictionary tools, and building dictionary skills at: [www.education-world.com/a\\_lesson/lesson027.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson027.shtml)

Some additional fun things that are celebrated in the month of October are: Children's Magazine Month, Health Literacy Month, National Cookie Month, National Go on a Field Trip Month, National Pajama Month, National Reading Group Month, National Popcorn Poppin' Month. It seems if you combine some of these and celebrate them together you might have a great Field Trip in your Pajama's while munchin' on some Popcorn and Cookies with your Reading Group to celebrate National Book Month!

### **Author Birthdays**

October 4 - **Don Brown** (born in 1949). Author of *Uncommon Traveler: Mary Kingsley in Africa*, *Across a Dark and Wild Sea*, *Alice Ramsey's Grand Adventure* and more. [www.booksbybrown.com](http://www.booksbybrown.com)

October 8 - **Frank Herbert** (1920-1986). Science fiction author whose works include *The Dragon in the Sea* and *Dune Messiah*. <http://www.dunenovels.com/bios/frank.html>

October 8 - **Robert Lawrence Stine** (born in 1943). Known as R. L. Stine and Jovial Bob Stine, this novelist and writer for teens was born in Columbus, Ohio. He is the author of dozens of popular horror fiction novellas, including the books in the Goosebumps, Rotten School, Mostly Ghostly, The Nightmare Room and Fear Street series. He is often called the Stephen King for kids. For more go to [www.scholastic.com/goosebumps](http://www.scholastic.com/goosebumps)

October 19 – **Ed Emberley** (born in 1931). Over the past 40 years, Emberley has written and illustrated over 48 books and has illustrated many more books written by his wife, Barbara, or by other authors. Besides his various drawing books, Emberley is probably best known for his bold yet detailed illustrative work on the 1968 Caldecott Medal winner *Drummer Hoff* (written by Barbara) and for the clever *Go Away, Big Green Monster!*. For more go to <http://www.edemberley.com/pages/main.aspx>

October 24 – Barbara Robinson (born in 1927). Robinson has written many books including *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Kids all over the United States say that *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is one of their favorite books. For more go to <http://www.carr.org/authco/robins.htm>

October 31 – **Holly Hobbie** (born in 1944). Hobbie is the author of the popular Toot and Puddle children's books and creator of the character bearing her name. In the early 1970s, Hobbie sold distinctive artwork of a cat-loving, rag dress-wearing little girl in a giant bonnet to American Greetings. This series of illustrations became immensely popular and her originally nameless character became known as 'Holly Hobbie.' For more go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holly\\_Hobbie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holly_Hobbie)



## Summer Reading News

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### Record Breaking Summer

Over 70 libraries have sent in their summer reading report and statistics and we are close to breaking the record for participation set last year at 36,620 children. With about half of the 140 libraries and branches reporting, libraries have reported a total of 34,000 kids registered for summer reading in 2006.

The **2006 Summer Reading online reporting form** is still available. If you have not sent in your 2006 report, please go to: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/2006summer-librarians> and complete it today! A PDF version of the report can also be

downloaded if you prefer to fax or mail your report. The information you send is critical to helping the Idaho Commission for Libraries plan for continued support of summer reading programs.



## **The CSLP (Collaborative Summer Library Program) Calls for 2008 Program Ideas**

"Catch the Reading Bug" - Call for Ideas. Time to dig into your files for past "buggy" programs or think of fun new ideas for 2008. Here are the chapter titles and the directions we're going for each chapter. All ideas are welcome and we'll use them if we can. In addition to programming ideas, we're always looking for suggestions for

- Setting the scene and decorating the library (mosquito nets, pith helmets?)
- Promoting the program (VW bug in Memorial Day Parade?)
- School visit skits and ideas
- Ideas for the adult programs/family literacy chapter most welcome!

Ideas are due December 15th. Send them to Patti Sinclair at [trishsinclair@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trishsinclair@sbcglobal.net) or mail to Patti Sinclair, 306 Virginia Terrace Madison, WI 53726. Thanks!"

### **Chapters 1 & 2 Planning and Promoting**

**Chapter 3 Backyard Safari-** Put on your straw pith helmet and grab your collecting jar or net. Possible programs/topics to cover:

- Mosquitoes
- Bug collecting
- Bugs as pets
- Safari--as in looking for bugs
- Bug identification: "What's That Bug?"
- Ponds: polliwogs, frogs, toads, and water bugs
- Fly fishing
- Underground: worms, composting
- Dig It!
- Keep a backyard Nature Journal: tracking bugs.

**Ch 4 A Bug's Life-** Science-y chapter. Make life-cycles, etc. fun Possible programs/topics to cover:

- Metamorphosis
- Insect and pond ecology
- Beneficial bugs
- Attracting bugs
- Bug identification

- State insects
- Insect camouflage,
- Life cycles of butterflies
- Ladybugs

**Ch 5 Ants in My Pants** and other creepy crawly critters. Possible programs/topics to cover: Ants, spiders, picnic in the park, spider and other insect folklore (Ananse, Arachne, scarab beetles), Spider Man, other crawling bugs.

**Ch 6 What's That Fluttering?** Possible programs/topics to cover: Flying bugs. dragonflies, house flies, butterflies, fireflies, ladybugs, etc.

**Ch 7 The Good, The Bad and the (B)ugly** Possible programs/topics to cover: gross bugs, edible bugs, scary bugs, killer bugs, bugs under the microscope, giant bugs, stink bugs, cockroaches. Also possibly what entomologists do. Also viruses as bugs?. Crime stopping bugs? Insect (Horror) Film Festival with bug-tasting before hand.? Or YA Crime fighting insects tie in with some of the insect detective books or chapter in Donna M. Jackson's The Bug Scientists. Bugs and Crime—Ace Lacewing, Bug Detective and others.

**Ch 8 Adult programs/Family Literacy Chapter** Possible ideas: create a butterfly garden, go on a field trip (insect hunting), catch the reading bug.



## School Zone

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**"To become life-long readers, students must have . . .**

- Access to current, quality, high-interest, and extensive collections of books and other print materials in their school libraries, classrooms, and public libraries;
- Contact with adults who read regularly and widely and who serve as positive reading role models;
- Certified library media specialists and classroom teachers who demonstrate their enthusiasm for reading by reading aloud and book talking;
- Time during the school day dedicated to reading for pleasure, information, and exploration..."

Source: "The Value of Independent Reading in the School Library Media Program," a Position Statement of the American Association of School Librarians. Revised July 1999.



## **AASL Announces New Reading Grant**

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is pleased to announce the newest addition to its grants and awards program - the **AASL Innovative Reading Grant**. Sponsored by Coughlan Publishing, the \$2,500 grant will support the planning and implementation of a unique and innovative program for students that motivates and encourages reading, especially with struggling readers.

"Reading fluency is fundamental to overall student success and achievement," said AASL President Cyndi Phillip. "AASL is proud to offer this new funding opportunity to school library media specialists who teach these essential life skills to their students."

The grant is designed to fund literacy projects for grades K-9 that promote the importance of reading and facilitate literacy development by supporting current reading research, practice, and policy. The selection committee will look for initiatives based on original ideas and methodology, which showcase innovative ways to motivate and involve students in reading. Projects need to demonstrate potential to positively impact student learning and growth of reading skills. Program proposals submitted must include a timeline, a budget and a statement of purpose, and should have potential for replication.

Applications and detailed information will be available on the AASL Web site <http://www.ala.org/aasl/awards> on September 1, 2006. Deadline for submission is February 1, 2007.

The Innovative Reading Grant is sponsored by Coughlan Publishing, whose companies include Capstone Press, Compass Point Books, Picture Window Books, Stone Arch Books and Red Brick Learning.

The American Association of School Librarians, [www.aasl.org](http://www.aasl.org), promotes the improvement and extension of library media services in elementary and secondary schools as a means of strengthening the total education program. Its mission is to advocate excellence, facilitate change and develop leaders in the school library media field.

## **Know the Numbers**

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Did you know that you can find current data about Idaho libraries online on the Idaho Commission for Libraries' web site? The most recent version of the **Idaho Library Statistics** (for October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005) is available now at:

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/public-library-stats>. Here is information that may be of interest to Youth Services staff:

- A mini-directory of all public libraries, mailing address, director's names, telephone and email addresses is available.
- The number of libraries that have bookmobiles (answer: 7)
- The statewide circulation rate for juvenile materials (answer: 3,775,188)
- The number of children's programs a given library has annually



## A Closer Look at Emerging Trends in Youth Services

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by Stephanie Bailey-White

**Trend #5: The expectation that the library serve as the community's source for electronic as well as print information has expanded the library's traditional role. People want a variety of print and non-print materials and they want them now!**

**People are rediscovering reading but are less patient about waiting for library material.** People all over the country are rediscovering the pleasures of reading. Reading and family literacy is emphasized in the schools as educators understand more about the connection between reading and educational success. Busy adults are finding that reading can be an enjoyable, stress-relieving pastime and a way to share experiences with others in their communities. People are less willing to wait to read popular books, especially when visiting libraries. They want to come to the library with a reasonable expectation that there is a good supply of recently published material available for them to borrow. (Source: [Mount Laurel Public Library's long range plan](#))

What can libraries do? **Make it easy for customers to find something to read, view or listen to.** A good source for ideas is Richmond Public Library, BC, [www.yourlibrary.ca/Good\\_to\\_Great.pdf](http://www.yourlibrary.ca/Good_to_Great.pdf).

**People want strong relevant print collections in a variety of formats, from board books to graphic novels.** They also want libraries to make electronic resources available. The potential of digital/Internet delivery systems, which allow listeners to download audio files onto their computers or a specific audio player device, is also causing a stir.

**There's been an expansion of the library's traditional function as a passive information provider to a more active educational role.**

Traditionally, public libraries have seen themselves as supplementing the work of schools in a fairly passive way, usually through the provision of books and information. By adapting our traditional services as new needs, opportunities, or resources presented themselves, children's librarians are taking a leadership role in some aspects of early childhood education and technology training.

(Source: Children & Libraries: Getting It Right, by Virginia A. Walter, p. 92)

## Tips & Tools

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### Tips and tools for Library Card Sign Up Month

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. There are some great tools and information at <http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/otherinit/card/librarycard.htm>.

Two libraries are sharing their plans to reach more patrons. Douglas County Library (DCL), Castle Rock, CO, is partnering with its school district to target high school students. This month, 13,000 students in 12 schools will receive a pocket folder with a new, limited-edition library card that can be activated at any branch. Also included is information about what libraries offer – research tools, resources and free online homework help. The number of new cards issued through the Make the Grade project will be tracked through October. Schools where ten percent or more of the population register for a new library card will receive a \$100 check from DCL to use for library materials. The money comes from DCL's outreach budget. In 2005, the project focused on elementary schools, and approximately 3,000 students activated their new cards.

St. Louis Public Library (16 branches) and St. Louis County Library (20 branches) will join forces with retailers and authors to target elementary and high school students. From August 15 through September 30, visitors to any of eight local Schnucks markets will be able to pick up library card information; on September 30, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., all Schnucks customers can sign up for a library card and receive a free goody bag. Additionally, the Cooperating School Districts consortium will hold videoconferences with area elementary and high school students featuring author/historian Charles Flood and author/artist/entrepreneur Mary Engelbreit stressing the importance of reading and libraries. (Source: Library Hotline)



### Resources for library staff hosting parent or caregiver workshops

Now is a great time to sign up for the **Idaho Child Care Reads** program. Library staff can apply to participate in this program any time. See <http://libraries.idaho.gov/child-care-reads> for the application and more information.

This year the Commission is also offering free books for libraries who sponsor workshops for parents. See <http://libraries.idaho.gov/workshop-resources> for the brief application and more information. Please submit this form at least three weeks before your workshop so the materials arrive in time.



### **New Books at the Idaho Commission for Libraries:**

***Build Your Own Information Literate School***, by Carol Koechlin and Sandi Zwaan. Hi Willow Research, 2003. [027.8 KOECHLI 2003]  
A different approach to integrating information literacy and content instruction. This guide is filled with skills, projects, and lessons which can be incorporated into the curriculum.

***Get Them Thinking: Use Media Literacy to Prepare Students for State Assessments***, by Sue Lockwood Summers. Linworth Publ., 2005. [371.3 SUMMER 2005]  
Ideas for improving standardized test scores by connecting media literacy and critical thinking. Revitalize lessons and motivate students through the media.

*These books are part of the Professional Development Service offered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL). Materials can be checked out either by direct loan or through interlibrary loan at your library. Go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/professional-development-collection> or call ICFL at (208) 334-2150 or (800) 458-3271 for more information.*



### **2-1-1 Careline**

The Governor's **Executive Office for Families and Children (EOFC)** is focusing on 2-1-1 Careline, the statewide referral network to connect services with Idaho's families and children in need. Eligible programs must be offered to the community, not just their membership, and be offered for free, at low cost, on a sliding fee scale or through scholarships. The EOFC's goal is to increase the number of programs on the Idaho CareLine by 20 percent or 677 new programs.

To check to see if your library is registered (most libraries are) go to [www.idahocareline.org](http://www.idahocareline.org). It is also easy to update your information. Just follow the directions on the website or phone 1-800-926-2588.

## **News Beyond Idaho**

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Kent Oliver Chair of ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee sent this message out recently:

"In recent years, the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom has seen a steady increase in reported book challenges in our libraries. That is, until this year. This year, for some unexplained reason, there have been fewer challenges reported to the office. Our sense, based upon news reports, is that challenges continue to occur at a high level, yet they are not being reported. Due to budget cutbacks, the OIF no longer subscribes to a clipping service that can provide this valuable information. It is extremely important to our defense of Intellectual Freedom that the Association is able to track these challenges. It is especially important as we approach Banned Books Week (September 23-30). The data we gain through reported challenges help us prepare this program and understand the issues facing our members.

Please spread the word in your state and region that the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom would like to receive reports of all materials challenged in our libraries. Reports--all kept confidential--can be made to [ebyrne@ala.org](mailto:ebyrne@ala.org) or [dstone@ala.org](mailto:dstone@ala.org), or online at [www.ala.org/ala/oif/challengesupport/reporting/challengedatabaseform.html](http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/challengesupport/reporting/challengedatabaseform.html).

Further information concerning challenges may be viewed on the OIF Web site at <http://www.ala.org/oif/challengesupport>. Thank you for your help!"



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

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