

# THE ENVOY Newsletter

Vol. 10, No. 1  
Winter 2018

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR IDAHO LIBRARY TRUSTEES BY THE IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES

## 2018 Public Library Directors'

Summit

More than 50 public library directors from around the state participated in this year's Public Library Directors' Summit. The group came together to explore such topics as: libraries as community educators; school readiness; communicating with decision makers; framing the future; and the library message.



## Engaging Legislators

The Idaho Library Association's (ILA) Legislative Advisor, John Watts, moderated a panel discussion among four key legislators at ILA's annual conference in October, 2017. At this year's Public Library Directors' Summit, Watts discussed effective ways of communicating with decision makers and answered questions from participants.

### Key Messages:

**Aggressively contact your legislators and get them into your library to see the great things you do.**

(To find out who your legislator is, visit: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/whosmylegislator/>.)

**Consistently educate and inform your legislators about the library issues.**

Legislators are extremely busy and are inundated with information about a wide variety of issues and topics -- so, consistent, clear, and timely communication with lawmakers is critical. Don't think that sending them one newsletter or press release will be enough to keep the library story on the minds of the people who vote on the legislation and funding that impact your library.

If you need support regarding legislative engagement or other issues, please contact your ICfL Area Field Consultant. To find out who your consultant is, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/ConsultingAreaMapDec2017.pdf>.

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## ICfL INFO

### Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL)

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1820 E. 17th St., Suite 130  
Idaho Falls, ID 83404  
208-525-7211  
Eastern Field Office

<http://libraries.idaho.gov>

## MISSION

The Idaho Commission for Libraries  
assists libraries to build the capacity to  
better serve their communities.

## ICfL COMMISSIONERS

Dave Mecham, Janet Franklin, John Held,  
Mark Alldredge, and Pat Raffee.

## ICfL CONTACTS

### Administrators

Ann Joslin, State Librarian  
Dian Scott, Office Services Supervisor  
Roger Dubois, Administrative Service Manager  
Shirley Biladeau, Program Supervisor  
Stephanie Bailey-White, Deputy State Librarian

### Consultants

Colleen Schowalter, Volunteer Coordinator  
Dylan Baker, Broadband Consultant  
Emily Sitz, Northern Idaho Library Consultant  
Gina Persichini, Continuing Education  
Consultant  
Jeannie Standal, School Library Consultant  
Kevin Tomlinson, Southwest/South Central  
Idaho Library Consultant  
Kristina Taylor, Youth Services Project Coord.  
Patrick Bodily, Eastern Idaho Library Consultant  
Staci Shaw, Youth Services Consultant  
Sue Walker, Talking Book Service Librarian /  
Consultant  
Tammy Hawley-House, Youth Services  
Consultant

### Web, Information, & Records Specialists

Ben Bibikov, Web Designer  
Donna Eggers, Public Information Specialist  
Edgar Correa, Web Developer  
Jenner Horton, Technical Records Specialist

### Grants & Contracts

Jamie Mott, Grants/Contracts Officer

### Cataloging

Danna Angevine, State Publications, Cataloging,  
and Aquisitions Librarian

## Internet Funding

E-rate is the federal mechanism to help schools and libraries obtain high-speed internet access at affordable rates. E-rate funding is administered as a discount from the service provider. It ranges from 50 to 90 percent of the cost of the services.

The portion of the costs not discounted (covered) under E-rate can then be eligible for reimbursement under the State of Idaho's Education Opportunity Resource (EOR) Act. Through EOR, a public library can be reimbursed for the non-E-rate portion of its internet services.

E-rate and EOR present the opportunity for a library to increase its bandwidth and have a higher quality connection -- without being limited by budget.

Whether you are new to E-rate or have forgotten where to start, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) Broadband Consultant, Dylan Baker, can help. Contact Dylan at 208-639-4167 or via email at: [dylan.baker@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:dylan.baker@libraries.idaho.gov).

E-rate **Form 470** is due in late winter.

E-rate **Form 471** is due in spring.

Once the library has E-rate's funding commitment, **Form 486** must be filed, which is generally done in July or August.

For the **EOR** reimbursement, the library must complete a form twice a year.

## Net Neutrality

The Federal Communications Commission continues its efforts to roll back network neutrality protections that were instituted in 2015. Net neutrality is the principle that internet service providers must enable access to all content and applications, regardless of the source and without favoring or blocking specific services or websites. **With net neutrality**, service providers would NOT be allowed to create an internet "fast lane" for companies and consumers who pay premiums and a "slow lane" for those who do not. Proponents of net neutrality fear that without its protection, broadband providers would sell the internet in bundles -- similar to how cable television is sold -- forcing consumers to pay premium prices for their favorite apps.

The American Library Association is at the forefront of the fight to maintain net neutrality. For more information and resources, visit: [http://www.idaholibraries.org/net\\_neutrality](http://www.idaholibraries.org/net_neutrality). An article on the subject is: <https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2018/02/the-fccs-net-neutrality-rules-will-officially-expire-in-late-april/>.

## New Patrons Are “Saying Yes” to TBS

The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) returns the joy of reading to more than 3,200 Idahoans who are unable to read standard print due to a physical disability. In an effort to reach additional people in the Gem State who could benefit from the well-regarded service, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) conducted a promotional campaign in 2017, which garnered rapid results. The TBS program achieved a 60 percent increase in new applicants in December, 2017 over the number of new patrons in December, 2016.

The TBS is a free library service containing more than 96,000 titles. The audio books and magazines are recorded on specialized cartridges, which are mailed to and from patrons at no cost to them. The titles are sent “free matter for the blind” via the United States Postal Service. Titles may also be downloaded from an online database.

For resources to help you attract potential TBS patrons to the service, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/talking-book-service>. If you have any questions about the Idaho Talking Book Service, please contact the ICfL’s TBS Consultant Sue Walker at 208-639-4148 or via email at: [sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov).

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## Truldaho

### *an Email Discussion List*

Truldaho is a listserv that is of greatest value to those serving as trustees of Idaho’s public libraries.

To subscribe to Truldaho:

1. Go to <http://lists.ala.org/sypa/info/truidaho>.
2. Select “subscribe” in the sidebar.
3. Enter your email address, then click “submit.”
4. Check your email inbox for an authentication request. Click on the URL provided in the email.
5. Follow any other instructions, if provided.

For more information, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/kevintomlinson/new-listserv-trustees-truidaho>.

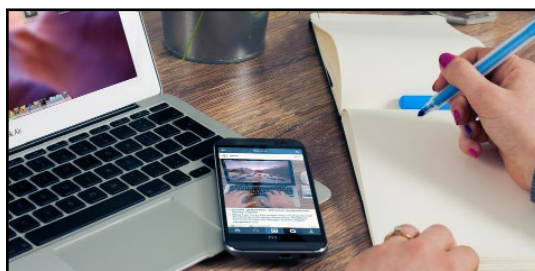
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## Great Learning Opportunities Are a Click Away

### *with Skillsoft*

Skillsoft gives Idaho library staff **FREE** access to more than 500 online courses that cover a wide range of topics, such as customer service, leadership, technology, and a variety of computer software programs. For more information, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/skillsoft>.



# Kuna Started the Conversation & Helps

## Make the Connections

Kuna Library District Co-Directors Tam Svedin and Jana Cutforth have made great strides in positioning the library as a community connector. They have brought the leaders of numerous organizations and entities together for community conversations that are currently focused on economic development. The group has identified the primary challenges to economic growth in the area, such as transportation and affordable housing. Plus, they have determined the additional community members who need to be part of the conversation and provide input into the solutions.

Tam and Jana have also strengthened the relationship between their library and the school district, which is working to implement the “Community School Model” in Kuna. This model provides social services along with academics because students who do not have to worry about their most basic needs, like dental care, will achieve greater success in the classroom -- and beyond.

If you would like more information about conducting outreach or forming partnerships in your community, please contact Idaho Commission for Libraries Program Supervisor, Shirley Biladeau, at 208-639-4149 or via email at: [shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov).

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## Giving Kids a Jump Start

Your library can help youngsters in your community get a jump on kindergarten by letting parents/caregivers know about the Jump Start program and/or by participating in kindergarten registration with your local school(s).

When parents register their child for kindergarten, they receive information on early literacy, reading readiness, summer reading, and more, along with a book entitled *The Night Before Kindergarten*.

It is never too early to start reading with, or to, a child. Plus, re-reading the same material to youngsters is important, as children need repetition for information to become stored in their long-term memories. The Jump Start program can also foster a child's love of reading.

In Idaho, the Jump Start program is sponsored by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program and supported by the Institute for Museum and Library Services and libraries across Idaho. For more information and resources, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/jump-start>.



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## Snapshot Day -- Coming Soon

During National Library Week in April, libraries select one day that best represents their activities to document all of the happenings. Called Snapshot Day, the event is designed to capture the impact libraries have on their communities during a typical day.

So, choose **YOUR** Snapshot Day, April 8 - 14, and then have fun taking photos, gathering stories and stats, and showing off the great things that happen in your library. For resources, more information, and the link to the post-event results survey, please visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/communication> and click on the Snapshot Day link under the “Events” section.

We hope you will take the time to hold a Snapshot Day and **report the results**. By showcasing all that Idaho libraries do, we can get the message out about the value libraries bring to their communities.



## Let's Talk About It (LTAI)

### **Application Deadline -- May 18**

Since 1985, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) and the Idaho Humanities Council, with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, have provided the Let's Talk About It program to public libraries throughout Idaho.

Let's Talk About It (LTAI) brings adult reading discussion groups together with humanities scholars to discuss fine literature and explore such topics as American values, history, culture, aging, the classics, and much more. The program scholars' presentation of the material, along with the group members' interaction with the scholars, sets the LTAI discussions apart from traditional book clubs.

To apply for the 2018-2019 Let's Talk About It program year, submit your library's application, along with letters of support, to the ICfL by May 18, 2018. To access the LTAI application or for more information, visit: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/lets-talk-about-it>.

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## **Get Involved Collaborative Grant**

How does FREE labor sound? Maybe like there is an Easter bunny? Well no disrespect to spring's favorite bucktoothed bringer of chocolate, but the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) can help you get free labor -- in the form of volunteers.

Volunteers can be a valuable addition to your workforce, and they won't impact the bottom line. If your library can use skilled volunteers to help with programs and services, the Get Involved Collaborative grant may be for you.

The grant provides free access to premier VolunteerMatch accounts, access to training, and help to develop a customized volunteer program that truly supports your library's mission and goals. The type of support a volunteer can give your library is limited only by your imagination.

For more information, please contact ICfL Consultant Sue Walker at 208-639-4148 or via email at: [sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov).

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## **ICfL's Continuing Education Grants**

Did you know that the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) offers continuing education grants to help library staff with conference attendance, group training events, leadership development programs, and library science courses?

For more information, including to find out if your event qualifies for a grant, please contact ICfL Continuing Education Consultant Gina Persichini at 208-334-2150 or via email at: [gina.persichini@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:gina.persichini@libraries.idaho.gov).

The grants are funded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are required to submit their application at least 50 days prior to the start of the event, but earlier is always better, as funds will likely be obligated before the end of the State fiscal year (June 30).





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Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## Cost-Effective Support for Rural & Small Libraries

The Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) provides resources and support designed specifically to meet the unique needs and challenges faced by those who work in small and/or rural libraries. ARSL's extremely cost-effective membership rates are available on a sliding rate scale, which starts at \$15. For more on membership, please visit: <https://arsl.info/membership/>.

Some of the membership benefits of ARSL are: professional networking opportunities with librarians who work in a library similar to yours; a targeted listserv where you can go for answers, ideas, and support; and ARSL's annual conference, where you can meet and engage with your peers in person and attend conference sessions that contain information that is relevant to you and your small and/or rural library.

This year, ARSL's annual conference will be held September 13 - 15, 2018, in Springfield, Illinois. Registration will open in early April. For ARSL members, the "early bird" registration fee will be \$275, which includes meals. The conference hotel rate is expected to be \$102 per night.

The ARSL conference is also a qualifying event for a first-time conference grant from the ICfL. For more information, contact the ICfL's Grants /Contracts Officer Jamie Mott at 208-334-2150 or via email at: [jamie.mott@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:jamie.mott@libraries.idaho.gov). If Jamie is unavailable, contact Roger Dubois at 208-334-2150 or via email at: [roger.dubois@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:roger.dubois@libraries.idaho.gov). For more information on ARSL, please visit: <https://arsl.info/>.

### Changes to Contact Info

If you have a new trustee and/or the contact information for a trustee or director has changed, please contact **John Shinn** at the ICfL with that information.

John's email is: [john.shinn@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:john.shinn@libraries.idaho.gov). The phone number is 208-334-2150 / 800-458-3271.



**Idaho Commission for Libraries** 325 W. State St. ■ Boise, ID 83702-6072 ■ <http://libraries.idaho.gov>.  
The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their communities.