State Librarian Ann Joslin

online @ your library® update

The Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) project, "online @ your library," is in its second year. In 55 of Idaho's least connected public libraries, Internet connectivity is up from an average of 1.5 Mbps to an average of 11 Mbps, with 530 new computers installed to date. Most of the libraries eligible for the connectivity upgrades received Wi-Fi equipment to enable people who bring their own computers to the library to access the Internet. Libraries report that they are now able to do online training that wasn't possible before the expanded broadband and their users are thrilled with the faster connections.

Expanding resources statewide

The "online @ your library" project creates new partnerships with other state agencies to bring online resources to Idaho residents, particularly the un- and under-employed, and students of all ages. Building on the statewide electronic reference tools at the Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) program, Idahoans can now access e-government, employment, education, and job-skills resources through libraries' public computing centers and through the Commission's portal at lili.org. New BTOP-funded online resources introduced to Idahoans through "online @ your library" include:

- Scout Video Collections, with short videos/animations for every school subject and full-length Idaho Public Television programs about Idaho.
- Maximize Your Job Search, an online workshop and workbook developed by the Idaho Department of Labor with tips for networking, the hidden job market, using social media, and more—in both English and Spanish.
- LearningExpress Library (LEL), an online learning center with study guides and practice tests for GED, SAT, ACT, GRE, CLEP and more; job-skill tutorials; career certification preparation; and computer skills training.

{ Global information, innovative services and community

"online @ your library" Promotion
The increased public access computing and statewide online resources are being promoted on the Web, through radio and television spots in both English and Spanish, in newspapers, on billboards, and at outreach events. Public awareness materials include posters, flyers, fold-up cards, table tents, bandanas, thumb drives and bookmarks. Bumper stickers are coming soon.

Credible Connections
Throughout the project, partners and libraries have been connecting at the local level, beginning with the statewide project launch in November 2010 and continuing with spring 2011 workshops that provided hands-on access to the new online resources for libraries and their community partners.

We are currently wrapping up 25 statewide **"Credible Connections" workshops** in which libraries and community leaders network and explore resources that can be leveraged to address local economic development, as well as college and career readiness for Idaho students. Along with library staff, representatives from USDA Rural Development, Labor, Adult Basic Education, local economic development groups, city officials, school officials, and Small Business Development Centers participated. Conversations have been enlightening, connections meaningful, and next steps enthusiastically planned.

Digital Literacy Coaches
As another result of the partnership with the Idaho Dept. of Labor, in summer 2011 many BTOP-connectivity libraries were able to offer additional help for their computer users in **the form of digital literacy coaches hired through Labor's Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**-funded Idaho Youth Corps. This program is expanding in summer 2012 to include all interested public libraries. 100% of the wages for public libraries' IYC Digital Literacy Coach(es) will be paid for with Idaho Dept. of Labor WIA funds and Idaho Commission for Libraries BTOP funds! Public libraries should contact Gens Johnson before April 1 to allow enough time for a possible match with an eligible youth in the community. Interested youth should contact their local Labor office.

VolunteerMatch
ICfL recently signed a one-year contract with VolunteerMatch and began plans for a statewide initiative to increase the use of volunteers in Idaho's public libraries. The initiative begins with a pilot project of up to 30 libraries that will receive training in developing volunteer programs and using the VolunteerMatch database to recruit volunteers to help meet their needs. Libraries that are BTOP connectivity libraries and/or participated in the Transforming Life After 50 Fellowship have been invited to participate in the pilot. In addition, all publically funded libraries can access the database and use its webinars and other training components to increase their knowledge of how to best identify and use the skills of talented volunteers in their communities. VolunteerMatch also works as a coordinating point for volunteers to connect with other community organizations.
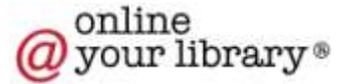
BTOP Advisory Task Force
ICfL is very grateful to the BTOP Advisory Task Force, which is operating in partnership with **Commission staff to develop recommendations with "next steps" to help public libraries improve** and sustain their public access computing services. The Task Force is charged with identifying broadband opportunities and obstacles for Idaho libraries, identifying best practices and trends in public access computing, identifying tools and resources to support libraries as advocates in their communities for public access computing, and creating ideas for the Commission and for libraries to encourage broadband adoption in their local communities.

Down the Road
ICfL continues to build on partnerships with other agencies and organizations and provide opportunities for public libraries to do the same with their local partners. We continue statewide promotion of expanded public access technology and online resources available through Idaho **public libraries. We also recognize the importance of digital literacy training as part of the "online @ your library" experience. Building library users' Internet and computer skills, helping them use** the online resources that are available, and educating them in the safe and ethical use of the technology will be a major focus moving forward. Look for more resources and partners to enhance **the capacity of local libraries as digital "go-to" leaders in their communities.**

See more about the "online @ your library" project at http://libraries.idaho.gov/online.

ICfL Funding
The Idaho Commission for Libraries' Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 appropriations bill was created February 28, 2012 and included:
- $100,000 increase in state funding for the Read to Me mini-grants
- An additional $17,600 for the contract inflation for Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) Unlimited

As of the writing of this article, the bill passed in the House and is making its way through the Senate. It is expected to pass in mid-March. House Bill No. 642 can be viewed at www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2012/H0642.pdf.

Library News from Around the State
Lewisville Public Library recently welcomed new director Meredith McElprang.

Retirements
Ada Community Library, Boise: Terri Wear, Victory Branch Manager/Associate Director retired in February 2012 after serving 30 years in Idaho libraries, including Marshall Public Library in Pocatello and Boise Public Library.

Eagle Public Library: Director Ron Baker retired in February after serving the library and community **for nine years. Under his direction, the first Strategic Library Plan was generated, the children's and** reference services were expanded, and the collection more than doubled.

Madison District Library, Rexburg: Director Judy Dewey retired in December 2011 after serving over the years in the library community. Dewey was very active on the Idaho Library Association (ILA) Library Law Task Force. Valerie Vail is serving as the interim director.

University of Idaho Library: Barbara C. Greever retired from the faculty of the University of Idaho Library on January 31, 2012, after serving 24 years in Cataloging, most of them as Principal Catalog Librarian. She was also active in the Idaho Library Association, serving as President 2004/05.

Community Reads

Ada Community Library and Boise Public Library, along with The Cabin, The Idaho Statesman, Boise State University's The Story Initiative, and the Idaho Humanities Council teamed up for Read Me Treasure Valley, the community-wide read of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. Read Me Treasure Valley is a one-book program for adults and older teens that runs from February 1 to March 15, 2012. Read Me Treasure Valley replaces The Big Read, which started in 2001 as What If Everybody Read the Same Book and spent the past six years as part of the National Endowment for the Art's Big Read project.

Coeur d'Alene Public Library, Community Library Network, West Bonner Library District, and East Bonner County Library District and other non-library venues are partnering on North Idaho Reads – a cooperative reading and discussion project by regional libraries. The project, previously called Our Region Reads, selects a book each year for the regional community to share and discuss during a series of programs. This year's title is the classic *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Programs will be scheduled from September 30 to November 11. The libraries have also been approved to receive a grant of $1,882 from the Idaho Humanities Council in support of a film festival as part of the group's programs. Humanities grants are funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the "We the People Initiative."

Libri Foundation Grants

American Falls District Library, Armoral Tuttle Public Library in New Plymouth, Salmon River Public Library in Riggins, and the Priest Lake Public Library were awarded January 2012 Books for Children grants from the Libri Foundation. The next application deadline is May 15, 2012. For more information, see www.librifoundation.org/.

LSTA 5-Year Evaluation

A huge thank you from the Idaho Commission for Libraries to all of you who helped with the evaluation of the use of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds as specified in the Commission's LSTA Long-Range Plan, 2008-2012.

LSTA funds are Federal funds awarded to the Commission from the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS). The Commission provides programs and services, as well as grant opportunities to eligible Idaho libraries with these funds. IMLS requires a 5-year LSTA evaluation of these programs and services. From mid-December 2011 through February 2012, an independent evaluation was conducted by Nancy Bolt & Associates (NB&A) and included interviews, an online survey, and focus groups with library staff from around the state. While all of the comments remain anonymous, NB&A consultants commented frequently about the wonderful people in Idaho's library community.

"Tom Sawyer" shows off his earnings to Rick Ardinger, Executive Director of the Idaho Humanities Council, at the Read Me Treasure Valley kickoff

INSTITUTE of **Museum** and **Library** SERVICES

We value your comments and the time you took to share your experiences with LSTA statewide projects or the competitive grant process. Your contributions to the evaluation process will help with future planning and setting of priorities. The evaluation will be submitted to IMLS by March 31, 2012 and posted to our website.

Nominations Sought for LSTA Advisory Council

The Idaho Board of Library Commissioners is seeking nominations for three seats on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Council. These positions include the School Library seat and two Public Library seats, one for Northern Idaho and one for Eastern Idaho.

An incumbent is seeking reappointment for the Northern Idaho Public Library seat. When this position became vacant a couple of years ago, Katie Crill, the director at West Bonner District Library was appointed to complete the remainder of the term. Currently, she is seeking a full term appointment for this seat.

The Eastern Idaho Public Library seat would be an appointment for one year due to an early resignation vacancy. Public library staff members and trustees are eligible for this position, which runs through June of 2013.

The School Library seat is available to a school library staff member working in any of Idaho's school library/media centers. This five year term would expire June 30, 2017.

The LSTA Advisory Council is appointed by the Board of Library Commissioners in accordance with the Library Services and Technology Act, P.L. 104-208. The Council broadly represents the library community and library users, and serves to advise the Board on the development of the state plan for the Library Services and Technology Act, the annual LSTA program, and evaluation of LSTA grant applications and projects. The Board of Library Commissioners may also seek Council advice on other matters related to library services.

Council members, both individually and as a group, are expected to advocate for the improvement of library services in Idaho. Individual members may also be asked to represent the Council's interest on other Commission-appointed advisory groups. More information about the Council is available at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/advisory-council. Or contact Sonja Hudson (sonja.hudson@libraries.idaho.gov) or Marj Hooper (marj.hooper@libraries.idaho.gov) or at 208-334-2150.

The LSTA Advisory Council meets once a year in Boise for two days; additional input is solicited as needed via conference call or email. Members are reimbursed for travel expenses.

Individuals interested in applying should send a letter to Ann Joslin, State Librarian, (ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov)describing his or her interest in and experience with libraries. When sending an email notice of interest, please also include a mailing address and phone number where you may be reached. Letters may also be sent to: 325 W. State St., Boise, ID, 83702.

Council members are appointed for terms of five state fiscal years (July-June). Appointments are scheduled to be made at the June 1, 2012 Board of Commissioners meeting. All letters must be received at the Idaho Commission for Libraries by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 7, 2012.

Upcoming ILA Conferences

Don't forget to register for your region's Idaho Library Association (ILA) Spring Conference.
Some wonderful presentations are scheduled for this spring's upcoming events. And, you can
join in on College and Career Ready discussions at any of the conferences.

Conference	Location	Date	Theme / URL
Region 2: Northern Idaho	University Inn Best Western Moscow, ID	Friday, March 30 **1:00 –5:00 p.m.**	*Libraries Anchor Communities: Conversations Leading to Action* http://ilar2.wordpress.com/
Region 3: Southwest Idaho Library Association	ArtsWest School Eagle, ID	Saturday, April 14	*Collaborations & All That Jazz* www.idaholibraries.org/ node/509
Region 4: Magic Valley	College of Southern Idaho Twin Falls, ID	Thursday, April 5	*Grow Your Knowledge*
Regions 5 & 6: Southeast and Eastern Idaho Library Association	Snake River Community Library Blackfoot, ID	Friday, May 4	*iLibrarian: Working in the Cloud* http://emp.byui.edu/twitchelll/

The 2012 ILA Annual Conference, *Everywhere You Want to Be,* will be held in Pocatello, at the
Clarion Inn, October 3-5.

Internet Filtering—Resources for Public Libraries

Beginning October 1, 2012, all public libraries receiving public money and governed by the
provisions of Chapter 26 or Chapter 27 of Title 33 of Idaho Code will need to comply with
Idaho Code 33-2741 regarding Internet Use Policies.

On the ICfL web page at http://libraries.idaho.gov/InternetUsePolicies, which is updated
frequently, you will find the following and more to help your library comply with Idaho Code
on October 1, 2012:

- Laws and Rules Regarding Internet Use in Public Libraries
- An Internet Use Compliance Checklist
- A sample Policy Template for Idaho Libraries
- A sample Policy Template for Idaho Libraries Receiving Federal Funding
- Internet use FAQs
- Links to policy and procedure resources and filtering best practices

Filtering tips are being sent out regularly on the LibIdaho library listserv. Please contact your
regional library consultant with questions.

State Law and Idaho Primary Election

State Law and Political Party Rules have changed and this will affect the Idaho Primary Election, May 15, 2012. In mid-April public libraries will receive a mailing from the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Office of the Secretary of State with a letter explaining the changes and a poster with information for their library users. Here are the changes:

- The Republican Primary Election is open to registered Republicans only.
- The Democratic Primary Election is open to registered Democrats, members of other parties, and unaffiliated voters.
- Unaffiliated voters—voters not registered with a party—may remain unaffiliated or select a party at their polling place on Election Day.
- All voters may vote the Non-Partisan Ballot, including candidates for Judicial offices and local bond, levy or other county measures.
- The office of President will not appear on the Primary ballots because party delegates to the national conventions were decided by party caucus.
- Some polls have changed due to redistricting. Voters should check their polling place before Election Day on idahovotes.gov.
- Party registration and ballot choice are public record.
- All ballots and Polls are accessible.
- Bring your ID.

For Official Voting Information and party registration forms voters can visit idahovotes.gov or contact their County Clerk.

Volunteer Webinar

Idaho Commission for Libraries hosted a February 28 webinar for the Southwest Idaho Directors of Volunteer Services on the changing face of volunteerism. The presenter was Jill Fixler, a long time Volunteer Coordinator and consultant. Fixler noted that Idaho ranks high in both the percentage of persons who volunteer (34%) and the average number of hours volunteered. She provided wonderful insights into how volunteers can be utilized and incorporated into your organization. Participant comments include the following:

- It gave me some great ideas how I can help my org embrace change in order to ensure we're using volunteers appropriately to help us meet our mission.
- The message that change has to start with me really hit home.
- Volunteer engagement vs. management; being a change agent.
- (I will) work on getting different areas of the dept. to open up to using volunteers.
- (I will) actively seek out staff for new volunteer needs and also, get more in depth information about existing skills the volunteers would like to share.

The archived webinar is an hour in length and can be viewed at: http://icfl.adobeconnect.com/p1tyws96rxc/.Check out the many resources on the JFFixler Group website at www.jffixler.com/.

Idaho at 150

March 4, 2013 is the official day of the Idaho Territorial Sesquicentennial. On that day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill creating the Idaho Territory. The sesquicentennial, *Idaho at 150,* will illuminate our state's future by helping people of all ages explore the territorial roots and history. The Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) is tapping interested agencies and organizations for ideas to celebrate this event economically with existing resources. ICfL will help promote the celebration on our website, through social networking, with our newsletters, and through upcoming events and programs. We will also point to Idaho historical information available through LiLI.org and other websites as well as books on Idaho history. Find out more about Get Territorial: Idaho at 150 here.

Protecting Cultural Collections: Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery

WESTPAS is once again offering their two-part workshop this spring. Participants will learn about the various aspects of disaster planning and will start a disaster plan by the end of the second session. When and Where:

> Part 1: Prevention & Preparedness – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
> > Twin Falls Public Library: April 17, 2012
> Part 2: Response & Recovery – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
> > Twin Falls Public Library: June 5, 2012

Sponsored by: Western States & Territories Preservation Assistance Service (WESTPAS)
Instructor: Kris Kern, Librarian, Portland State University, who has been presenting these workshops around the Pacific Northwest for over four years, has a wealth of information to share.

Workshop results:

- Complete a disaster response and collection salvage plan by the end of Part 2
- Learn how to train staff to implement your plan effectively
- Set pre- and post-disaster action priorities for your collections
- Understand practical decision-making skills needed during an emergency
- Experience salvage procedures for a wide variety of material including books, documents, photos and objects

Assignments: The workshop days are scheduled three weeks apart. Participants will prepare short assignments prior to the first session. Between sessions, they will undertake additional assignments resulting in a completed disaster plan at the end of Part 2. Upon completion, the institution will be invited to join an informal network of WESTPAS trained personnel to provide mutual aid in the event of emergencies involving collections in the region.

Who should attend: Administrators and staff responsible for emergency preparedness, response and decision-making, in all types of cultural institutions such as library, museum, city hall or other archival entity. By registering for the workshop, the institution commits to supporting the attendee(s) to achieve the workshop's disaster preparedness goals. When possible, please send two attendees so they can work together on the disaster preparedness activities.

Cost: No charge to the institution. Funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Co-sponsored by the Idaho Commission for Libraries.

Registration: Pre-registration required. Register online at: WESTPAS workshop or http://host7.evanced.info/pls/lib/eventsignup.asp?ID=450.

For registration assistance contact: Alexandra Gingerich at gingerich@plsinfo.org .
For general & content information contact: Shirley Biladeau at Shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov .
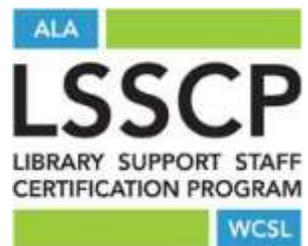
Financial Assistance Available for LSSCP

The Idaho Commission for Libraries is again offering financial assistance to library support staff **applying for the American Library Association's (ALA) Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC)** Program. The LSSC Program offers library employees the opportunity to increase their skills in areas such as technology, communication, and the foundations of librarianship. To attain certification, support staff must achieve six of ten competency sets either through development of an online portfolio or taking approved courses.

The Commission will offer up to 10 Registration Assistance Awards this spring. The Awards are for $175, one-half of the LSSC registration/application fee. Successful award recipients will pay the remainder of the registration fee with their own funds or funds obtained from other sources. Support staff members from all types of libraries are invited to apply. Any library support staff is eligible to apply for candidacy in LSSC who has:
- a minimum of a high school degree or its equivalency and
- worked or volunteered in any type of library for a minimum of 1 year (1820 hours) within the last 5 years.

The application deadline is May 15, 2012. Award recipients will be announced in early June. An application form and more information about the Registration Assistance Awards are available from the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at http://libraries.idaho.gov/lssc. Please contact Shirley Biladeau at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov with questions. The LSSC Program is funded by a grant to ALA from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and managed by the ALA-Allied Professional Association. Additional information on LSSC is available on the LSSC website: www.ala-apa.org/lssc.

Read to Me News

15th Anniversary
The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) Read to Me program celebrates its 15th Anniversary this year. Read to Me Coordinators hosted a party and presentation for VIPs (Very Important Partners) on January 12 to share information about the history of the program and where **RTM is headed during the next few years. The "story" shared during the event can be viewed** at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/15th-anniversary-read-to-me.

State Librarian Ann Joslin welcomes partners and friends to the Read to Me presentation

Read to Me Spring Meeting

The March 5-6 Read to Me Spring (RTM) Meeting saw a record number of participants, approximately 86 library staff representing over 55 libraries from across the state. This was the largest RTM Spring Meeting since its inception in 1997. It was packed with useful information and resources for libraries of all shapes and sizes and evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. Inspiring presenters challenged the group to explore new ways to foster literacy and incorporate math into storytimes. Participants played with blocks and sang songs—and the RTM Coordinators even put on their robes, slippers, and bunny ears to tell everyone a bedtime story. They hope to see even more participants next year!

RTM Coordinator Staci Shaw tells a bedtime story

Registration Deadlines

March 21, 2012 is the deadline to apply for Bright Futures Outreach Opportunities and enhance your Summer Reading program.

April 6, 2012 is the deadline to apply for el día de los niños/el día de los libros. (See below.)

May 10, 2012 is the deadline to apply for the 2012-2013 My First Books program, formerly titled "Read to Me First Book.

At anytime you can apply for Idaho Child Care Reads and the Jump Start Kindergarten programs.

RTM Coordinators Stephanie Bailey-White and Erica Compton

Día Registration Open

Registration for "el día de los niños/el día de los libros" (Children's Day/Book Day) is open until April 6, 2012. This opportunity is open to the first 25 publicly funded libraries that submit an application and agree to complete the following requirements:

- Host at least one culturally relevant event specifically celebrating Día
- Partner with at least one other business or group in your community to host your event. (Eligible partners could include schools, businesses, organizations, or local government agencies.)
- Submit final report to ICFL including:
    * Short summary of events/program hosted, including information on partner(s)
    * Pictures of events/programs (Remember to get photo releases if necessary for your library)
    * Data on number of people participating in Día event (adults and children)
    * Data on the number of new library cards issued (if applicable)

Eligible libraries will receive:

- **Five hardcover bilingual/culturally relevant children's books**
- Paperback (English, Spanish and bilingual) books to hand out during events **– you tell us how many you need**
- **One 2'x5' vinyl Día banner (if you have not received in the past)**
- Día posters to share with partners

Registered libraries that complete all of the requirements will also be entered into special drawings for additional books and resources.

Check out the new national Día website and "Resource Guide: Everything You Need to Do Dia", and register your event with the national site at http://dia.ala.org/content/registration-now-open!

Teen Read Week 2011 Highlights
by Sue Walker

Teen Read Week (TRW) 2011 is over, but the posters live on! Thirty-six public libraries and 29 school libraries either participated in the Picture It With Posters project or held a Teen Read Week event. Participating libraries received ALA READ posters, ALA's READ software which allows them to create posters and other outreach materials, wrist flash drives, and a flash drive full of information on developing successful teen programming. In total, almost 4,800 Idaho teens joined in; an increase of more than 50% from TRW 2010.

Libraries provided fun activities that focused on reading and integrated the 2011 TRW theme "Picture IT @ Your Library." Here are some of the comments from participating libraries:

- We had a teen craft called "Create a Snapshot of Your Life" where they created collages reflecting their interests (or just pretty pictures). We used magazine cut-outs, letter art, and some scrapbooking materials.
- We held a "how many words can you read" contest that lasted the month of month of October. To date, our junior high population has read over 30,000,000 words and still have a week to go. We also had a "books to movies" display that brought a lot of students in and a World War II display.
- We watched a movie based on a book - I Am Number Four, & we had a video scavenger hunt with flip video cameras.
- We used teen read week this year as an opportunity to introduce our new " YA Traveling Collection". Our high school Librarian worked with us to create flyers for the teachers to let them know the collection is there. She created a new bulletin board to display the "Read" posters the students created. We estimate an average of 75 students per day checking out the posters and browsing the new collection.
- We had a fantastic Teen Read where we focused on a teen photography contest. We just built our new library and needed art to decorate the Teen room. The Garden Valley Youth Advisory Board came up with the idea to have a teen photo contest in conjunction with a teen read to encourage teens that might not come into the library to start to engage with the library. We now have the top 8 photos hanging in our library and the other photos are on the library computers as screen savers. We also took photos of local youth to make teen read posters for the teen room.
- We took pictures of all the teachers in the High School and students in Library Science and plastered the school with BHS READS posters! We created a montage of book trailers we had created last year, and showed on the wall of the library.
- We had a poetry slam, the 2nd annual for TRW. In cooperation with the school, we get grades 7 through 12 to write poems with a theme, this year the theme was picture it (or images). The poems were judged and winning poems were read by their authors at a special event at the Roxy Theatre.

View all the poster submissions and get some creative ideas for using the ALA READ poster software for other projects.