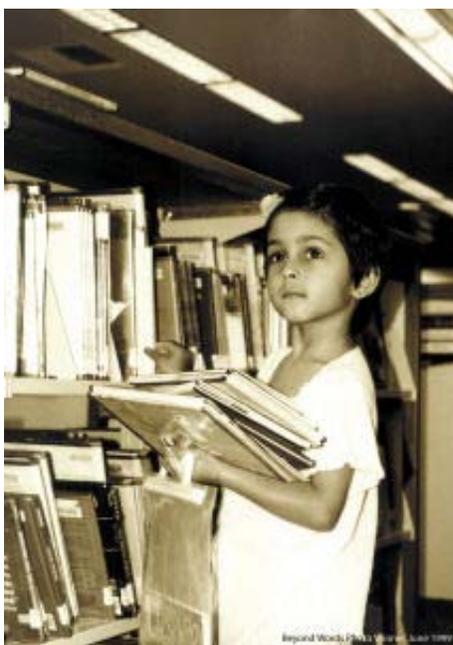




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Welcome

The Read to Me coordinators are reading all the First Book, mini-grant, and Jump Start reports that have been arriving in the mail the past few weeks. Our evaluator, Dr. Roger Stewart, is compiling all the parent surveys and information into one final report and we hope to share that with you toward the end of the summer or early fall. In the meantime, we thought we'd share a few of the comments from parents and librarians from the First Book reports that were due on June 1.

"I can hardly wait to get the new book each month. With losing my job, it's hard to budget for books and it's really helped our family read more."

“My granddaughter and her mom just moved in with me and she has enjoyed the new books so much. They are perfect for her age and she’s more interested in reading.”

One mother reported that her three-year-old son sleeps with his superhero alphabet book he received through First Books.

One three year old boy told his mom to guess what he wanted to be when he grew up. When she couldn’t guess he replied, “I wanna be a library guy and give free books to little kids.”

One parent, a single mom, has been in the library every week since attending the First Book workshop, and has begun bringing her daughter to storyhour.

This year we were able to fund all the First Book applications that were sent in on time. Congratulations to the following 21 libraries: Aberdeen District Library, American Falls District Library, Bellevue Public Library, Burley Public Library, Cambridge Community Library, Cascade Public Library, Clearwater Co. District – Weippe, East Bonner Co. District Library, Grace District Library, Idaho Falls Public Library, Jerome Public Library, Koelsch Elementary School (partnering with Boise Public), Kootenai Shoshone Area Library - Spirit Lake Branch, Latah Co. District – Moscow, Midvale Community Library, North Bingham Co. District Library, Patricia Romanko Public Library in Parma, Payette Public Library, Rigby Public Library, St. Maries Public Library, Salmon River Public Library in Riggins, and Washington Elementary School (partnering with Caldwell Public). These libraries will be able to provide free books each month to over 1,700 children. For more information about the Read to Me First Book program, please contact Staci, Stephanie or Peggy at the Idaho Commission for Libraries.



Meet Ray Lusk

Ray Lusk is the Events Coordinator at the **Madison Library District**. Ray started his library career by working in the school libraries as a 6th grader. “I cataloged for the South Fremont High School library as a high school student and started working at Madison Library District in 2005 as a junior in high school.” Ray went to college out of state for a year and a half and started back at the library last June.

The Madison Library District serves a population of about 30,000 residents in the Madison county area. The library building is located in Rexburg and the district includes the approximate geographic area of the Madison School District including BYU-Idaho students. According to the library’s website, the library has experienced tremendous growth in the past six years. “Circulation has increased 125 percent. Visitors to the library have increased 71 percent. In fiscal year 2007-08, 194,683 people visited the

library, up 16,473 from the previous year. They checked out 393,379 books and other materials. The staff answered 20,386 reference questions, and 21,583 folks used the computers.” The library board and staff are also in the middle of a \$3.92 million expansion and remodeling project, the results of a successful bond election in 2008.

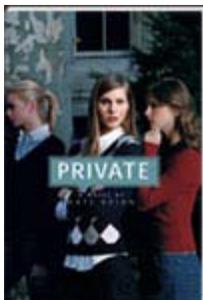
Ray gets to work with all age groups during the library’s various outreach programs. “My primary focus is on outreach. I like to work with teens and spend a lot of time developing ideas and programs to get teens involved. I do also help out with adult programming as well as reaching out to assist local organizations.”

When asked what attracted him to library service for children / youth, Ray said that he struggled during his teen years and one thing that got him through was reading. “I was a fixture in libraries and was never without a stack of books. I hope that through what I do I can be that lifeline to someone else. Libraries are important to me and I feel that they have something for everyone and that teens that are struggling need a place to turn to. The library can be that place.”

Ray said that he is never without a project. “Currently we are working on getting the summer reading program ready to roll. We are developing a new teen program from scratch and are working on getting weekly teen activities lined up with guest presenters and projects that will hopefully get teens excited. I am also planning events that will draw teens to become involved in The Big Read, which the Madison Library District has been involved with for the last two years.” He is also serving on a YALSA Committee this year and helping plan the eastern Idaho youth services workshop that will be held in September or October.

When asked about his biggest success and biggest challenge, Ray said he thinks the biggest challenge that he has faced has been “the fact that I was the first male that started working at the Madison Library District along with the fact that I don’t have a library degree and I’m only 20 years old. The stereotyping that comes along with all of this sometimes makes my job harder than it should be. But never fear! Ray will prevail! As far as successes I have pulled off some events as first time events and have had very large successes,” he said.

“My favorite thing about my job is helping someone else find that one thing that makes his or her day. It may be planning a party that gets them involved and excited or finding that next book to read that they have been looking for.”



As a child, Ray’s favorite titles were the *Tacky the Penguin* books. “I felt that I could relate to Tacky because I, like him, didn’t quite fit in.” While he liked to read almost anything, he gravitated toward books about horses or other farm-related animals. “I read every horse series that I could lay my hands on,” he said. Lately he has read quite a few YA titles. “The *Private: A Novel* series (by Kate Brian, www.privatenovels.com) is one of my current favorites. Another is the *Nanny Diaries*, by Emma McLaughlin. Also I have been on a retold fairy

tale kick. Way fun!”

Ray is the second person we’ve profiled in the Scoop who isn’t a big ice-cream fan. “I generally don’t eat ice cream because it is cold and I am always cold and I don’t like being cold.... But if I had to choose, probably chocolate,” he said.

When he’s not working at the library, Ray is still spending a lot of time thinking about the library. “I spend a lot of time reading, being involved in the music field, and thinking about the library and my next project or idea. I never leave the library. And I love it.”



Library to Library

Benewah libraries rock (and roll too)!

The Benewah County Library District just hosted the "Rock & Roll Library Tour" to promote the summer reading program for the four libraries in the county. District Director Margaret Benson said that since all of the public have limited space for such an undertaking, they came up with the idea to hold the concerts at the schools during school assembly.

“You can never count on the weather for an outdoor concert and this gave the band a captive audience. The schools were pleased because their shrinking budgets didn't allow much in the nature of assemblies,” Margaret said.

“The group was a nationally know band, *The High Strung*, out of Detroit. The first performance was to 600 kids. The next concert was in a small country K thru 8th grade school with about 150 in attendance. The last school was St. Maries Elementary school with 500 screaming and dancing kids. The band loved it, but more importantly the kids and teachers had a super time. Everyone ended up dancing, clapping their hands or stomping their feet. The band plugged the summer reading program throughout the concert. Then they wrote a song with the help of the audience and put it to music. Next some of the kids were given tambourines, sleigh bells and other instruments and they sang and played the song together.” The photo above shows backup vocalist Chad Stocker as he asks for lyrics from the crowd at the UpRiver Elementary School in Fernwood (photo courtesy *St. Maries Gazette Record*. The photo was taken by Ralph Bartholdt.)

Summer Reading kazoos and registration forms were distributed to the teachers or program-aged kids, whichever was most efficient. Margaret also said the library district got a lot of good press in the local paper. “The band had played their ‘library tour’ in libraries in 48 states, but this was the first time they played at a school assembly and they loved it,” she said.

Great idea! For more ideas on how libraries without a lot of room can host big programs, read "A Closer Look" below.



May Library Elections: Two out of Three Go Our Way

Burley's two-year operating override levy passed in May with 193 yes votes and 113 no votes. The operating override pays for their children's librarian and a contracted computer technician among other library services. The amount of the levy is \$210,000 per year and will continue the services the voters passed in 2007. Library Director Julie Woodford said the library trustees, Friends of the Library, and other library supporters went on the TV and radio airwaves and placed ads in local newspapers. There was also a concentrated door-to-door campaign. "We're excited to have the opportunity to serve our community with additional library services," she said.

Sherrilynn Bair, Snake River School Community Library Director, said their school district bond election was last week and it passed with flying colors. Over 80 percent of voters approved increased funding. Part of the funds will go to remodel and expand the school-community library. Sherrilynn feels like the participation from their library programs, especially storytimes, summer reading programs, and their Every Child Ready to Read program helped convince the board, and voters, that they needed more room. They had over 170 families participate in their Every Child Ready to Read workshops this past school year. "We were thrilled with the outcome. Now it's a little bit of a waiting game while the legal matters of accepting bids and etc. are taken care of," Sherrilynn said.

Unfortunately a districting effort in the Notus/Greenleaf other parts of northern Canyon County did not fare as well. Voters rejected the creation of a North Canyon County Library District 118-408. The proposed district would have increased property taxes on a \$120,000 home by about \$36 a year.

Supporters of the district said the city-funded Notus Public Library faced closure if voters failed to establish the new district. The new district would have enabled extended library hours in Notus, supporters said. District supporters also wanted to eventually have library facilities in Greenleaf and Farmway Village. In the wake of the vote, Jen Vollmer, co-chair of the North Canyon County Library District Committee, said she hopes to gather public input and examine alternative proposals to provide library service. "It was a pretty big no, but there were quite a few who voted yes," Vollmer said in an interview with the Press Tribune. She said she plans to examine possibilities such as a scaled-back proposal with lessened tax impact, or tailoring the district's boundaries to exclude people who don't wish to participate.

Want to share your library's events? E-mail text and photos to [Peggy](#), [Stephanie](#) or [Staci](#) and we'll include them in an upcoming issue! (Remember to get [photo release forms](#) signed for youth under 18.)



Staff from Star Light Up Parade

Star Mule Days was last weekend, and the Star Branch of the Ada Community Library participated in the parade, as they have each year. Joy Lear, Manager of the Star and Hidden Springs Branch Libraries, said they have a great time decorating their book carts and greeting the community.



Young Adult Corner

Librarians Invite Teens to Bring Out Their Sock's Inner Goth

Heather Stout, Youth Services Director at Lewiston Public Library, started a teen summer reading program last year. We asked her what the most popular program was and she said hands down it was teens making Gocks. Huh? What is a gock you say? It is a Goth Sock Puppet and libraries across the country say it's a fun and easy program and ties in well with the

“Express Yourself” summer reading theme this year. Post Falls Public Library sponsored a gock program awhile ago and invited teens “bring out your sock's inner Goth!!” They also encouraged them to “put your Goth Puppet into a music video for a rockin' good time!!” Great ideas!

Check out these websites for tips and instructions on how to do a program. We also enjoyed seeing all the libraries that have posted pictures of teens' Gocks on their Flickr and library websites. (The photo above was posted on the [Santa Clara County Library Blog](#) and we found the one on the left on the Post Falls Library's website.)

This “e-how” website has step-by-step instructions for how to create a Gock. www.ehow.com/how_4510419_make-goth-sock-puppet.html

Find lots more library sites and ideas by searching on Gocks or Goth Sock Puppets. Here are some photos from the [Mountain Island Branch Library](#).



Teenreads Contest is Open

Teenreads.com is sponsoring its Third Annual Beach Bag of Books Contest. Five lucky winners will each receive a beach bag that includes 12 books and everything they need for a great day at the pool or beach. From May 22nd through June 25th, teens age 13 and older can enter to win a "Teenreads.com Beach Bag of Books." Five winners each will receive a beach bag that includes 12 books --- THE ALCHEMYST: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel, Book 3 by Michael Scott; THE FOREST OF HANDS AND TEETH by Carrie Ryan; GHOST HUNTRESS, BOOK 1: THE AWAKENING by Marley Gibson; L.A. CANDY by Lauren Conrad; NORTH OF BEAUTIFUL by Justina Chen Headley; PARTIES & POTIONS by Sarah Mlynowski; THE REAL REAL by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus; SLEPT AWAY by Julie Kraut; SUITE SCARLETT by Maureen Johnson; SWIM THE FLY by Don Calame; VACATIONS FROM HELL by Libba Bray, Cassandra Clare, Claudia Gray, Maureen Johnson and Sarah Mlynowski; and WINGS by Aprilynne Pike, along with other fun summer stuff.

Encourage your teen summer readers to enter the contest or just check out the site for a good example of a fun Web 2.0 summer reading idea.



Express Yourself with Duct Tape

To tape or not to tape- that is the question.

<http://ducktapeclub.com/>

www.ducttapefashion.com/

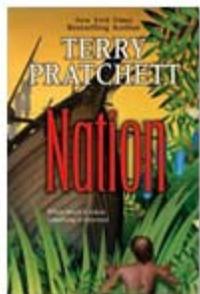
www.ducttapecreations.com/

Non-fiction: *Stick It!: 99 Diy duct tape Projects* by Bonaddio, T. L.

Fiction: *Love (and other uses for duct tape)*, by Carrie Jones.

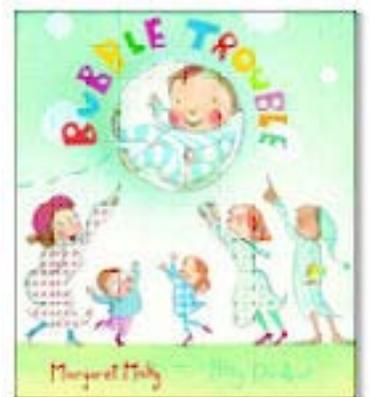
Do you have something fun planned for teens this summer? Share it with The Scoop and we'll send you a free book!

Book Look



2009 Boston Globe–Horn Book Awards announced

A best-selling British novelist, an innovative American biographer, and New Zealand's most prodigious storyteller took the top prizes when the 2009 Boston Globe–Horn Book Awards were announced on June 2, 2009.



Presented annually since 1967, the Boston Globe–Horn Book Awards reward excellence in children's and young adult literature and are given in three categories: Fiction and Poetry, Nonfiction, and Picture Book. The 2009 winners are:

Fiction and Poetry *Nation* by Terry Pratchett (HarperCollins)

Nonfiction *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary* by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade/Random House)

Picture Book *Bubble Trouble* by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Polly Dunbar (Clarion)

All three of the winning authors are widely renowned. Mr. Pratchett, perhaps best known for his raucous comic fantasies for children and adults, displays a philosophical bent with *Nation*, a young adult novel about two nineteenth-century children who create a new society from the ground up. Candace Fleming's dual biography of the President and Mrs. Lincoln employs the intricate scrapbook format that distinguished her earlier *Ben Franklin's Almanac* and *Our Eleanor*. Margaret Mahy, winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award and a two-time recipient of Boston Globe–Horn Book Award honor book citations, has written scores of novels, easy readers, and picture books. *Bubble Trouble*, a tongue-twisting tale about an airborne baby, marks the New Zealander's second collaboration with English illustrator Polly Dunbar.

The judges selected two honor books in each category:

Fiction and Poetry *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume II: The Kingdom on the Waves* by M. T. Anderson (Candlewick)
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (HarperCollins)

Nonfiction *The Way We Work* by David Macaulay with Richard Walker, illustrated by David Macaulay (Lorraine/Houghton)
Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone (Candlewick)

Picture Book *Old Bear* by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow/HarperCollins)
Higher! Higher! by Leslie Patricelli (Candlewick)



David Macaulay, co-creator of this year's *The Way We Work* and winner of a 1989 Boston Globe–Horn Book Award for its companion volume, *The Way Things Work*, is one of three honor book recipients in 2009 who have been previously recognized. M. T. Anderson won the fiction prize in 2007 for the first part of his historical saga, *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume I: The Pox Party*.

Kevin Henkes was a 1994 honor book recipient for his picture book *Owen*. Neil Gaiman, although a newcomer to this accolade, is certainly familiar with major awards. *The Graveyard Book* won the 2009 Newbery Medal.

All children's and young adult books published in the United States between June 2008 and May 2009 were eligible for the award. The winning authors and illustrators may be citizens of any country. The acceptance speeches of the award winners will be published in the January/February 2010 issue of *The Horn Book Magazine*.



Upcoming Events

The month of **July** seems to have a theme, as it is: **National Baked Bean Month**, **National Hot Dog Month**, **National Ice Cream Month**, **National Picnic Month** and **National Recreation and Park Month**. So be sure to get out and have some fun in your favorite park, and don't forget the picnic!

July 4 – **Independence Day** - Independence Day honors the birthday of the United States of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It's a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts and fireworks, and a reason to fly the American flag. Check out www.usa.gov/Topics/Independence_Day.shtml for Independence Day information and ideas.

July 24 – **Amelia Earhart Day** – Born July 24, 1897, in Atchison, Kansas, Amelia flew her first plane in 1921. Her name became a household word in 1932 when she was the 2nd person to fly solo across the Atlantic. In 1935, she was the first person to fly solo across the Pacific. Read more at www.ameliaearhart.com/

July Birthdays of Note:

July 5 – **John Schoenherr** (born in 1935). Schoenherr is very well known as a wildlife artist, children's book illustrator and scratchboard artist. Among the books he has illustrated are *The Wolfing* and *Rascal* by Sterling North, *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen and more. See www.bpib.com/illustra3/Schoenherr/Draft.html for more on Schoenherr.

July 11 – **Elwyn Brooks White** aka **E.B. White** (1899-1985). Leading American essayist and literary stylist of his time. White was known for his crisp, graceful, relaxed style. Author of *Stuart Little*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Trumpet of the Swan* and more. Go to www.kirjasto.sci.fi/ebwhite.htm for more.

July 13 – **Anna Grossnickel Hines** (born in 1946). A children's author and illustrator Anna was born in Ohio. Early in her life she determined that she would wish to be an illustrator of children's books, to which she later added the ambition of writing the text

for those same books. Some of her works include: *Taste the Raindrops*, *Daddy Makes the Best Spaghetti*, *Grandma Gets Grumpy* and more. Find out more about Anna at www.aghines.com/

July 18 – **Felicia Bond** (born in 1954). She knew when she was five that she wanted to be an artist when she observed a buttery beam of light coming in her bedroom window. She has illustrated numerous children's books and written many of her own, including *Tumble Bumble*, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* and more. Check out this [website](#) for more...

July 28 – **Beatrix Potter** (1866-1943). Was an English author, illustrator, mycologist and conservationist who was best known for her many best-selling children's books that featured animal characters, such as *Peter Rabbit*, *Mrs. Tiggy Winkle*, *Hunca Munca* and more. See www.literarytraveler.com/literary_articles/beatrix_potter.aspx for more.

July 31 – **Joanne "Jo" Rowling** who writes under the pen name **J.K. Rowling** (born in 1965). Aside from writing the Potter novels, Rowling is perhaps equally famous for her "rags to riches" life story, in which she progressed from living on welfare to multi-millionaire status within five years. For more on Rowling go to www.jkrowling.com/en



Summer Reading News



Web 2.0 Tools

We have been visiting websites to check out how Idaho libraries are delivering or enhancing summer reading services through their websites. Here is a resource to help with understanding the impact of Web 2.0. The Georgia State Library has a page on WebJunction that features Web 2.0 tools. Of particular interest is a chart that describes the tool and then links to several examples of each tool.

<http://ga.webjunction.org/maintainit-cookbooks/articles/content/37014562>



Libraries Get Creative with their Websites

We love sharing what Idaho libraries are doing on their websites:

- **Coeur d'Alene Public Library**

Coeur d'Alene Public put out a video promotion of their summer reading program. Communications coordinator David Townsend writes: "The video is part of a weekly video recording session we do for the city's cable access channel, CDATV Channel 19. the contractor the city uses for video services, Jeff

Crowe, provides me a copy of the video which I can then upload to a YouTube account I created for the library. I put the link on the library website, www.cdalibrary.org [scroll down to What's Happening at the Library, Friday, June 5], and to the city's newsblog, <http://cdacity.blogspot.com/> [scroll down under Monday, June 6], so we get three uses for one recording session.

We have used the city's cable channel to promote Summer Reading in previous years, but televisions going digital it is easier to make the material available for Internet use. We are continuing to look at ways to use video for promoting programs and in the future I hope we will be able to record and share programs from the library in various ways. Christopher Brannon, our IT person recently found a nice program for creating 360-degree photos of the library we can use for creating virtual tours, too. I'm looking forward to see where that goes.

- **McCall Public Library** <http://mccall.lili.org>

McCall Public provides an online registration for their summer reading program, and they have a slideshow to give kids a peek preview of the program. Summer readers may also download and print Reading Coupons to fill out for more chances in a summer reading drawing. And, middle-schoolers can sign up to help [create a mural](#) on the outside of the library.

- **Twin Falls Public Library**

Check out the Twin Falls Public Library's youth services blog at: <http://tfplyouthservices.blogspot.com/>.



Fred Meyer Funds "Books for Summer Readers"

We just heard last week that the Fred Meyer Foundation will provide \$15,000 for paperback books for summer readers. As soon as the check is received books will be ordered. [Libraries who applied](#) can expect your books to arrive by the first week of July. Questions? Contact [Peggy](#).



Loulane Lambert's Lists for Life

If you haven't yet checked out this blog novel by Barbara Larmon Failing, make yourself a summer drink, put your feet up, and open a good book -- on your computer. It's cute, funny and sure to appeal to your tweens and teens, especially the girls. <http://loulanelambertslistsforlife.blogspot.com/>

Know the Numbers

Hispanic Population Grew Three Times Faster in 2008 than Idaho Overall

Idaho's Hispanic population has continued to increase at three times the rate of non-Hispanics, according to the latest U.S. Census figures. Overall, 10.2 percent of Idahoans are Hispanic, but the census found that in nine of Idaho's 44 counties, all in southern Idaho, the figure was greater than 20 percent. The population of tiny Clark County is 40.4 percent Hispanic; Minidoka County, 30.2 percent; and Jerome County, 27.3 percent.

Meanwhile, Idaho's median age increased by a month to 34 years and five months, while the median age for Hispanic residents dropped more than three months to 23 years and eight months. "The trend toward youth in the rapidly growing Hispanic population suggests the economic and political influence of the state's largest minority could grow substantially as Hispanic families become more and more established," reported Bob Fick of the Idaho Department of Labor, who analyzed the population figures. [Source for this article was [Betsy Russel's Eye on Boise Blog](#). The Department of Labor's [news release on the subject can be found here](#).]

A Closer Look at How Cramped Libraries Handle Big Programs

Most libraries in the state are short on space, but still manage to sponsor big summer reading programs, Family Reading Week events, and other activities that promote their libraries and engage their patrons. Nearly everyone is looking for ideas to stretch their space or partner to host programs in other locations. Here are a few ideas from your colleagues.

If you offer your program off-site, find a way to get them into the library after the program. Robin Mayfield, Director of the Cascade Public Library, said their library is much too small for the approximately 130 kids who come to summer reading every year so they hold it in the park. "There is a covered area there with picnic tables and lots of space," Robin said. Many libraries take advantage of parks for their summer programs, but Robin's big idea is to get them to visit the library after the park program before they head home for the day. "In order to get the kids to come back to the library and check out books after the program is over we offer incentives, usually in the form of a drawing ticket for a great prize," she said.

Shift things around. Several libraries offer winter programs in shifts, especially if they have a big draw like a costumed character, puppet show, or guest. Grace District Library Director Linda Rasmussen said their big Family Reading Week program was done in 20 minute shifts because they had over 100 people in attendance. "We did it as an Open House and sent a group down for a story, prizes, and refreshments. As they finished, we sent the next group down. Those who came in after a group started just visited and checked books until the next rotation. It probably wasn't the very best, but it was all we could do in this small library!" Linda said.

Nampa Public Library offers their presentation-style programs twice, back to back, so there is one program at about 3 p.m. and another at 4 p.m. “Most presenters that charge will give a discount to do two of the same presentations in a row,” staff member Dawn Kindberg said.

If you can't shift people, look at shifting your furniture. Deary is a small branch library in Latah County. “We have a set of JE shelves that are on wheels, so we can swing it back and open the room up. It really makes a big difference!” offered one of their staff members. The Snake River School Community Library in the Blackfoot area had over 170 families attend their Every Child Ready to Read workshops during the past school year and ended up rearranging seating and moving shelves permanently to make room for the crowds. They were also able to make the case for the need for a bigger building and will start that project soon. The Menan branch of the Jefferson County Library District also decided that space for programs was worth the hassle of moving bookshelves to the perimeter of the room and used new storyhour rugs to carve out some room for those programs.

Tips for tours. Nampa Public often gets 40 or more kids at one time for a tour. “Since we don't have room to ‘tour’ that size of group through the stacks (20 is about max) we often meet in a larger area first, talk about highlights then have the kids self-tour with the help of a scavenger hunt. Anytime the scavenger hunt includes prizes or adding stickers, it's a plus. A scavenger hunt using PACs/Horizon doesn't usually work because we have limited computers. Another option is to split the tour group into two or three groups and have three staff members take 1/3 (or 1/2) of the group around. One smaller group may start with a storytime, while another part of group gets the “tour” etc.,” Dawn said.

Practical partnerships: When we have meetings that are expected to be too big for the library the Ashley Inn in Cascade has always been gracious enough to let the library have their meetings there. “The setting is charming and the price is right, free!,” Robin said.

Sharon Kimber, Director of the DeMary Memorial Library, has worked with their civic center to host big summer reading programs. “It's part of city hall and is one-half of a block west of us. It worked great, even when we didn't have as many children show up as we were expecting. Those that did come really enjoyed the space,” Sharon said.

“The best solution that Hagerman has is our working partnership with the Fossil Beds,” Library Director Barbara Stobart said. “We use their auditorium to do our reading program during the school year. Also, our summer reading program will once again be done in conjunction with Summer School during the month of June. Because Summer School is open to anyone this year, we hope that we will have a great turnout. I will go to the school and will probably use the gym for our program.”

Cathy Ensley, Youth Services Manager & Web Manager, Latah County Library District provided some details about how their partnership with the Moscow Arts Commission

(MAC) has evolved over the past two years. Between the two groups, they are able to present fun free family entertainment in East City Park at 6 p.m. during all Thursdays in June and July. “I still put on about 32 programs in the library, but they are not of the same scope as these big programs. We book professional entertainers, for a total of about \$2,000 for the Friends of Moscow Library and \$2,000 for the Moscow Arts Commission. Part of that budget includes 5000 bookmark flyers. I also print up 1,800 flyers with summer reading teaser information that goes out to all elementary students in May, and then about 1,500 program flyers that are included in registration packets and are generally available at the library,” Cathy said.

“It’s a win-win situation. The MAC was looking to find an audience for the Moscow City Band, and we came with a large, built-in audience. Families can come to the park at 6 p.m., pack a picnic or buy refreshments (sold by the hockey moms), watch the professional entertainment and then stay afterwards to listen to music by the Moscow Band. Attendance for the big programs ranged from about 250-600 people last year. I expect it will be even bigger this year, as word-of-mouth has spread. Hundreds of program flyers have already been picked up by patrons who come into the library specifically seeking that information. Plus, it’s all on our website,” she added.

Boise Public is partnering with community theater groups to host big puppet programs there, another win-win idea for both groups.

Pack them in the parking lot. No park nearby? That’s the case for Nampa Public, who decided to shut down their limited space parking lot for their Carnival. “It makes parking a bit tricky for the day, but provides lots of room for activities. We could also do this for a ‘Raffi concert’ too if we could get enough power!!! We block the parking lot with cones the night before and then set-up the morning of the event, borrow awnings, etc.,” Dawn said.

Try drop in programs and open house-type programs. Nampa Public’s Thursday Family Programs have gotten so large that they have moved away from “presentation style” programs and incorporated a more “open house” feel. “For many of these summer family programs we open the doors from 3 – 5 p.m. instead of having the program from 3 – 4 p.m. and welcome customers to come anytime in that two hour span to participate. So someone coming at 4:15 p.m. still can see all the booths, watch mini-table presentations and participate in the activities. When crowding is an issue, so is “heat” and we have purchased two large air-moving fans to help circulate...but still that is always an issue as our old air-conditioners...or building layout does not keep packed areas cool. Fans help though,” Dawn said.

We’ve seen more libraries offer drop in craft activities where instructions, an example of the finished product, and materials are made available in “stations.” Sometimes teen volunteers help if families need assistance. This helps with crowding and allows families who can’t always attend a program at a certain time of the weekday participate in the fun.

Cathy Bourner, an employee of the Idaho Department of Commerce and a big library fan, said she has fond memories of attending summer reading programs as a child “on the lawn of the Carnegie Library in the shade of those wonderful trees.” She thinks more families would have similar memories if people took advantage of great outdoor venues for library programs and concerts. “In my humble opinion, anything a library does that reaches kids, no matter the number, is a big deal.” Well said and best of luck finding creative ideas to get more people excited about library programs in your community.

Tips & Tools



Early Literacy Flipcharts

Our friend and fellow early literacy promoter Saroj Ghoting reads *The Scoop* and sent this to us. “I forget if I told you about this addition to my website: www.earlylit.net/storytimes/flipcharts.htm. I have put up documents for various rhymes/songs with graphics. These can be made into flipcharts by enlarging them at Kinko-type place or using a banner program.” If you haven’t been on this website in awhile, it is a fabulous resource and we encourage you to check it out.

(The following two resources are reprinted with permission from the New Mexico State Library’s *YS Newsletter*, May 2009)



Gaming program pack available

The Colorado State Library offers a Gaming Program Pack online! The useful website includes info on the why’s and how’s of offering gaming programs in libraries. It includes sample budgets, loads of tips for gaming for all ages, lots of additional resources, and a summary of some research on the positives of gaming. Go to www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/download/pdf/GamingProgramPack_CALConference.pdf.



BookSmack – New Review Source

Library Journal's newest e-newsletter, *BookSmack*, serves up high-impact reviews of street lit, genre fiction, graphic novels, audio, and DVDs, along with edgy RA, in-depth prepub info, and industry buzz direct from our seasoned editors. The content definitely goes beyond youth services, but there are good articles and reviews of children’s and YA material. Receive a new issue via email every other week. Go to www.libraryjournal.com/eNewsletter/CA6642094/4683.html to view the most recent issue and to subscribe.

CE News You Can Use

Kids Stuff Handout – Government Information in 21st Century. This list of website and web resources focuses on government:

www.webjunction.org/190/articles/content/7103979. It is for grades K-12 so there's something for everyone. Broken into topic areas, there is a wealth of information.

Another FREE tool is Photo Story 3: www.techlearning.com/article/6738 To quote the Tech & Learning website: "Not only is Photo Story 3 free, but it is also a fun and fabulous way for even the technology newbie to throw together a viewable video in a very short amount of time." The article also includes information about the importance of copyright and how to include that in the lesson.

Great summertime reading!



News Beyond Idaho

Handmade Mondays

The scenario might be somewhat familiar: Our children's department (at the Allen County Indiana Public Library in Fort Wayne) had a number of children who came daily after school and didn't have anyone to pick them up until late in the evening. Once their Internet time was used up, it was a relatively quick jump to becoming bored and restless.

Children's Librarian Jen McKinney had been reading about the Waldorf educational philosophy, and was fascinated that knitting was incorporated into the curriculum from a very young age because it subtly encourages math skills, manual dexterity, and spatial recognition, among other benefits. We thought that teaching children to knit would offer something positive to occupy their time as well as a beneficial life skill. Jen described the idea to the manager at our local knitting shop, Cass Street Yarn Depot, who donated a large amount of yarn and wooden knitting needles to the cause. Our ACPL volunteer services coordinator found a number of women who loved to knit and felt comfortable sharing their skills with children an hour a week for six weeks. Thus, "Handmade Mondays" was born.

When we gathered in the evening, we read a story about knitting, yarn, or wool. There was a sharing time when anyone could show work they owned or had made themselves. Children learned about the caps our volunteers made for cancer patients and blankets made for premature infants, as well as numerous gifts. When they didn't showcase their own work, kids enthusiastically brought blankets and items they'd been given as handmade gifts. For the remainder of the evening we split into small groups around the department and knitted.

Children left their work at the library. There was concern that once needles went home, they'd be lost and we might not have enough supplies to continue to replenish the program. Also, if any child wished to practice knitting while at the library between

programs, their work was readily available. Once knitting caught on, we got a handful of extra needles we could checkout by hand at our children's desk. We heard stories of kids using common materials from home such as pencils and string to continue knitting at home. We also worked on a new skill each week, partly to perk interest and also to give those who would become frustrated a break, We made pompoms, tassels, twisted cord, and did finger knitting, These simple program fillers were especially helpful for the youngest children in attendance.

Word of mouth, in-house signage, and our usual library poster and newsletter promotions garnered about twenty little knitters initially, ranging in age from four to thirteen. Both boys and girls attended Handmade Mondays regularly. We successfully reached families who brought their children especially for the program, and were pleasantly surprised how many of our regular after school patrons went on to become avid knitting devotees.

We had hoped to let kids make a practice spare, and then move on to making squares that could be joined to make baby blankets for Project Linus (www.projectlinus.org) if children wished to participate. As it turned out, few of the squares would've been even enough for such a project, but it just didn't matter. We had not anticipated the major impact that bringing children and adults – in many cases seniors – together would have on the group. It was also interesting that, in such a comfortable atmosphere, some children shared personal problems while they were knitting. It was a truly wonderful experience for all involved.

Our volunteers were finished once the six weeks were over, with the promise that we'd gather again after winter weather had faded. We were stunned to discover that children wanted Handmade Mondays to continue as a knitting circle between sessions. Children's Librarian Karol Caparaso, an experienced knitter, assumed responsibility for the program. Under her guidance, the children have learned about a wide variety of knitting – related topics such as how sheep are sheared and knitting with the settlers, including the drop spindle, the niddy, and the spinning wheel. Children have shown Karol finished articles and continue to knit at home and at the library. While Handmade Mondays is currently on hiatus, the kids aren't letting us forget about it and we know we will offer this successful program in the future.

This article was reprinted from the September 2006 issue of ALSC Connect, the newsletter of the Association for Library Services to Children.



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

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