

# THE Nexus

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State Librarian Ann Joslin

## ICfL FY2017 Budget Enhancement Request for STEM Support

As 2016 approaches, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is preparing for another year of helping libraries build the capacity to better serve their clientele. Recently, ICfL’s Board of Library Commissioners submitted budget enhancement requests (requests for new funding) to the State of Idaho Division of Financial Management (DFM) for the next fiscal year, July 2016–June 2017. The requests include \$183,700 in funding to substantially increase our support for the implementation of hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming in Idaho libraries.

We began incorporating STEM content in our programming for libraries in 2008, and are now in year three of rolling out “Make It at the Library,” which is largely STEM-based. As with other successful Commission programs, our staff did the research, development, piloting, and evaluation of the Make It initiative, and provided extensive training so local participating library staff can customize and implement Maker activities for their own communities. The initiative is in 28 public libraries across the state; all have trained staff and tools including electronics, robotics, and 3D printers to support entrepreneurs in their local communities.

Our Make It initiative has been highly successful, attracting new audiences to public libraries. Participating librarians report that entire families are coming to create together and local residents are volunteering to share their specific expertise with their community.

With this growing success, we cannot meet the current or projected demand. Idaho’s public libraries are well-placed to provide STEM programming at the local level for preschoolers, students during their out-of-school time, and adults in need of new skills. However, most are unable to design, provision, and sustain such programs on their own.

This new ongoing funding, if approved, will enable the Commission to:

- coordinate and oversee implementation of STEM programming and staff training in more Idaho libraries and sustain the program in the future;

continued on page 2

### Inside this issue:

New ICfL Commissioner	2
Library News From Around the State	3-4
LiLI.org Update	4
Annual Library Statistical Report Due	4
LiLI Databases FY2015 Annual Report	5
Updated Library Laws Manual is Online	5
2015 What a Deal Idaho Tax Credit Fact Sheet Available	6
ICfL Volunteer Coordinator Wins 2015 Excellence Award	6
Trustee Workshop in SW Idaho: January 9	6
ILA Annual Awards	7
School Library Access Mini-Grants Deadline: 2-25-2016	8
March 4, 2016 is Idaho Day	8
LearnStorm Math Challenge Opens January 29, 2016	8

### Idaho Commission for Libraries

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<http://libraries.idaho.gov>

#### Mission:

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

#### Commissioners:

Mark Alldredge, John Held,  
Dave Mecham, Pat Raffee,  
and Sara Staub

#### State Librarian

Ann Joslin

#### Commission Contacts:

- Ben Bibikov, web designer
- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Dian Scott, office services supervisor
- Edgar Correa, web developer
- Gina Persichini, technology and access services consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho library consultant
- Jeannie Standal, school library consultant
- Kevin Tomlinson, southwest/south central Idaho field consultant
- Kristina Taylor, grants/contracts officer
- Marjorie Hooper, associate state librarian
- Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor
- Patrick Bodily, eastern Idaho library consultant
- Roger Dubois, administrative services manager
- Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Tamra Hawley-House, reading programs/teen activities coordinator
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

- promote hands-on STEM activities for all ages through best practices in libraries;
- align library-based out-of-school learning opportunities with Idaho's education and workforce development initiatives;
- support quality out-of-school STEM learning opportunities to help ensure every Idaho student is college and career ready; and
- participate in state and national STEM networks and collaborate with other agencies and organizations in STEM program development.

#### The funding will help cover:

- operating expenses;
- a support staff position to help with training and meeting arrangements, production of support materials, procurement, inventory control, and compilation of evaluation data; and
- a project coordinator to lead the STEM team, evaluate emerging technologies to incorporate, identify providers and trainers, identify specific underserved audiences and their support groups, evaluate the program, and communicate/collaborate with Idaho agencies and organizations focused on K-career education and workforce development.

The enhancement requests were submitted to DFM in September. In January 2016, the Governor will give the State of the State and Budget Message, and make recommendations regarding state agency budgets. Following that, ICfL's Budget Hearing in front of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) will be scheduled. JFAC will consider both the Governor's recommendations and our requests, and make the final decision on our budget.

## Commissioner from SW Idaho Appointed to ICfL Board

Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is pleased to announce that Mark Alldredge, a Boise certified public accountant, has been appointed by the Governor's Office to the Board of Library Commissioners for a five-year term ending June 30, 2019.

An Idaho native born and raised in Caldwell, Alldredge earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Idaho. In addition to audit and accounting skills, he has experience in performance management, strategic planning, budgeting, and relationship building. Having benefitted from numerous library programs as a child, Alldredge recognizes the role that libraries play in lifelong growth and development and the challenges Idaho libraries face in reaching underserved audiences in a geographically vast and highly rural state.

Alldredge fills the Board position that represents southwest/south central Idaho. ICfL and the Board look forward to working with him.



ICfL Commissioner  
Mark Alldredge

The Board of Library Commissioners is the policymaking body for ICfL. [Idaho Code 33-2503](#) lists the Board's powers and duties.



## Library News From Around the State

Find out what is happening in Idaho libraries. Do you have news about your library that you'd like to share in an upcoming Nexus e-newsletter? Please let me know at [teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov).

**Boise Public Library** broke ground on a 16,000 square-foot new library branch slated to open next December in east Boise. The new facility's total budget is \$8.625 million—\$1 million of which was presented to the mayor during the groundbreaking by the Boise Public Library Foundation and Friends Group. Read more in the [Boise Weekly](#).



Boise Public Library Groundbreaking at Bown Crossing in East Boise

**Coeur d'Alene Public Library** will expand public library services by opening a public library branch in Lake City High School's school library. The idea is expected to become a reality within the next two months. The plan is to open Cd'A Library @ Lake City High School when school is dismissed for the day. See more at this Coeur d'Alene city [blog](#).

### Idaho Community Foundation Grants ([www.idcomfdn.org/](http://www.idcomfdn.org/))

- **Bruneau Valley District Library** – \$1,000 to fund eight speaker programs in 2016
- **City of Notus** – \$2,000 to expand the library collection
- **Community Library Association, Ketchum** – \$1,500 to provide free public access to computer-based language learning tutorials and \$500 to promote historical literacy in central Idaho
- **Garden City Public Library Foundation** – \$3,000 to ensure that the most underserved children and families of Garden City have year-round access to library books
- **Hailey Public Library** – \$2,000 to purchase a customized public services desk to serve library users
- **Lizard Butte District Library, Marsing** – \$1,000 to purchase family passes to the Discovery Center for check-out
- **Middleton Public Library** – \$1,000 to provide materials to support in-depth science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for Middleton public school students
- **Raft River Bookmobile, Cassia County** – \$4,000 to contract with the Box Elder County (Utah) Library District to provide bookmobile service for the communities of southeast Cassia County
- **Vallivue High School, Caldwell** – \$2,000 to purchase nonfiction books for the Vallivue High School Library that support students conducting research for class projects

### Libraries Creating Good News

- **Community Library Network** bookmobile made national news in October on the [NBC Today Show](#).
- **Idaho Falls** is "book rich." See why in this Post Register [editorial](#).
- **Librarians from around Idaho** learn to operate and troubleshoot 3D printers for STEAM programs. See [Spokesman Review](#).
- **Make It at the Library** project expands to schools. See Idaho Education News [blog](#).
- **Treasure Valley libraries** transform in the digital age. See the Idaho Statesman [article](#).

**Meadows Valley Public Library** received a Fosdick Grant of \$6,862.50 for interior painting, supply cabinets, and restroom maintenance. **Meadows Valley School Library** received a Fosdick Grant for books.

**Meridian Library District** had a ribbon cutting for [UnBound](#), a "technology lab and innovation facility for experimentation with emerging technologies" focused on supporting entrepreneurs and small business owners in the Meridian Community.



Ribbon Cutting at UnBound

### New Directors

**Clarkia District Library** welcomed new director Dawn Kruger.

**Hagerman Public Library** welcomed new director Geri Omohundro in September.



**Homedale Public Library**—Margaret Fujishin retired in August and Sharla Jensen is the new director.

**Mackay District Library**—Director Shirley Olsen retired in October and the library welcomed Tina Bethoulle as the new director.

**Prairie River Library District**—Director Claudia Jones retired in July and Lisa Curnutt is the new director.

**University of Idaho Library:** Annah Hackett, Resident Reference & Instruction Librarian, has been selected as an American Library Association (ALA) 2016 [Emerging Leader](#).

## LiLI.org Update by Gina Persichini, technology & access services consultant

We are very happy to share some improvements we made to LiLI.org.

**Database Buttons:** It's hard to believe the difference such a small image can make, but we have updated the database list to include the unique logo for each database. We feel this helps distinguish each database, helping users to identify the tools they use. You can see these on all the pages of LiLI.org, but for a quick look, check out the Alphabetical list of all database with their descriptions: <http://lili.org/dbs/alpha>.



**Addition of LearningExpress Learning Centers:** In addition to linking to LearningExpress Library (LEL), we now link to the individual learning centers within the LEL tool. LEL covers a lot of ground, and this allows for linking directly to a needed area of LearningExpress to improve the user experience. You can see how this works on the College & Career Ready Topic page at <http://lili.org/collegecareer> where we can link direct to the LEL Career Center and the LEL College Preparation Center. Similarly, it allows for linking directly to the Spanish Language resources in LearningExpress as you can see on our page with Recursos En Español at <http://lili.org/espanol>.

**Adjusting Content for some Users Groups and Topics:** We've made some minor adjustments with which databases and tools show up in various User Groupings and Topic pages. Examples are the addition of NoveList Plus K-8 in the Grades K-4 and Grades 5-8 User Groups. There are also additions of LearningExpress Library Learning Centers to various users groups.

**Social Media Links:** We've added quick links to LiLI's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Use those for quick access to follow LiLI!

**Explora Public Libraries:** Just a reminder that Explora for Public Libraries is our new place to do a very wide search of the databases. This is the most comparable to the "firehose search" that once graced LiLI.org. We linked every database that could be linked to Explora Public Libraries. It's in the Featured Resources on the main LiLI.org page for easy access.

If you have suggestions and ideas to improve the user's experience at LiLI.org. We are always happy to collect those. Just drop a line at [gina.persichini@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:gina.persichini@libraries.idaho.gov). We're always looking for opportunities to improve!

### Public Libraries: Annual Library Statistical Report is Due January 1!

**Due date** for report and signed Board Certification page: **January 1, 2016**

**Available at** <http://collect.btol.com> • Login ID and Password: same as in previous years

**Contact** for help or login info: Patrick Bodily, Field Consultant

Office – 208.525.7211 • Cell – 208.569.3759 • [patrick.bodily@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:patrick.bodily@libraries.idaho.gov)



## LiLI Databases FY2015 Annual Report

by Gina Persichini, technology & access services consultant

- 17% increase in use
- 38 cents per login
- 295 people trained

The Annual Report of the LiLI Database (LiLI-D) program for Fiscal Year 2015 was recently completed and can be found online at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/LiLID-AnnualReportFY2015.pdf>. Taking a detailed look at the use of the databases informs program staff and stakeholders about both successes the program has achieved and areas for continued improvement.

During the most recent fiscal year, we saw a 17% increase in the number of user sessions accessing the online tools funded by LiLI. With ICfL's contributions of \$708,108 in both State and grant funds supporting the database subscriptions and content acquisition, it equates to about 38 cents per LiLI-D login. ICfL staff set up and/or delivered training and presentations on the use of LiLI reaching 295 individuals. The [LiLI Tutorials](#) guide saw an additional 139 tutorials viewed during the year. Increases in individuals trained or informed about the availability of the databases have clearly led to increases in use of the tools.

While the FY2015 Annual Report shows a number of great successes in use of LiLI-D, it also calls attention to some other interesting points. For example, use of Ebsco databases and Novelist Plus by K12 schools was much lower than anticipated, particularly with the implementation of core curriculum standards. Of course, this suggests opportunities for more growth in the future. Research in putting together the annual report also brought to light signs that usage reports from vendors are not providing consistent data. Further, ICfL lacks meaningful data that expresses the value of the databases for those that use it.

Looking ahead, the library community can expect continued improvements in the LiLI Database program:

- **Branding** – Options to improve branding so users, staff, and community leaders know who is providing their content will be shared with library staff soon.
- **Assessment** – The LiLI Steering Committee will be discussing meaningful measurements and assessment opportunities.
- **Promotion** – ICfL staff will be working with vendors to identify easy tools to use for sharing the LiLI Databases with your users.
- **Reporting** – Staff will also be working with vendors to get more consistently accurate reports on user behavior and access within the databases.
- **Content** – Watch Gale Virtual Reference Library in the first half of 2016 for updates to content in support of student researchers and curriculum needs.

For more information about LiLI Database activity in Fiscal Year 2015, take a look at the annual report [online now](#).

### Updated Library Laws Manual is Online

The 2015 edition of the Library Laws Manual is now [online](#). It can also be accessed from the Trustees page (Idaho Library Laws) and the Publications tab. Important changes include new Title 74 (“Transparent and Ethical Government”) and the extension of the expanded income tax credit for charitable deductions.

Copies of the printed edition for directors and trustees were sent to public libraries in November.



## 2015 What a Deal Idaho Tax Credit Fact Sheet Available



The “What a Deal” Idaho Tax Credit fact sheet for 2015, designed to help you promote donations to your public library or library district, is available [here](#).

The credit is limited to the smallest of one-half of the amount contributed, 50% of the individual’s income tax, or \$500 (\$1,000 on a joint return). Please copy the fact sheet freely and use it to encourage members of your community to donate to your library.

See more information at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/public-library-contribution-tax-credit>. If you have questions, please check with your accountant or the Idaho State Tax Commission for complete information.

**To receive a deduction for 2015, individuals or corporations must donate to the library by December 31, 2015.**

## ICfL Volunteer Coordinator Wins 2015 Excellence in Volunteer Management Award



**Pam Bradshaw, Program Supervisor and Sheila Winther, Volunteer Coordinator**

Idaho Commission for Libraries volunteer coordinator, Sheila Winther, has been awarded the Southwest Idaho Directors of Volunteer Services (SWIDOVs) 2015 “Excellence in Volunteer Management” Award! This award recognizes volunteer administrators for their outstanding contributions to the profession and for their promotion of quality volunteer experiences in Idaho. Pam Bradshaw, Program Supervisor at the Commission, said, “Commission volunteer infrastructure was created in 1989 under Sheila Winther’s leadership, and as of September 2015 the volunteer program has accumulated a total of 136,809 hours—a testament to her stewardship.”

Volunteers enhance the Commission’s many programs and services, helping get books into the hands of underserved children, send literacy materials to libraries, and produce and deliver audiobooks for Idaho Talking Book Service users. Winther successfully manages 80–120 volunteers who donate thousands of hours each year. She treats volunteers with respect and matches them with tasks that draw on their skills and talents. She also shares her expertise with libraries and other organizations throughout Idaho and the nation through workshops and serving on various task forces and committees.

Commission staff and volunteers congratulate Sheila Winther on receiving this award and thank her for her outstanding service.

For more information about the Southwest Idaho Directors of Volunteer Services Directors of Volunteers Excellence D.O.V.E. Awards, visit [www.swidovs.org/d-o-v-e-award](http://www.swidovs.org/d-o-v-e-award).

### Trustee Workshop in Southwest Idaho: January 9

The Idaho Library Association Division for Trustees and Friends, in conjunction with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, is sponsoring a free workshop for library trustees in southwest Idaho:

**When:** Saturday, January 9, 2016 , 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

**Where:** Idaho Commission for Libraries, 325 West State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702

**Topics:** “Staying Out of Trouble,” Presented by Jim McNall, Risk Management Specialist, Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) and “Bragging About My Library,” Led by Idaho Commission for Libraries staff

Please RSVP and direct questions to: [ilatrusteechair@gmail.com](mailto:ilatrusteechair@gmail.com).



## ILA Annual Awards

(portions of the following info are from the Idaho Library Association (ILA) Conference [Program](#) and [blog](#))

Congratulations to all of the following 2015 ILA award winners who do so much for the Idaho library community:

**Special Services to Libraries: Dr. Roger Stewart**, Boise State University, College of Education—This award is given to someone who has offered exceptional support to Idaho Libraries. Dr. Stewart made several valuable contributions to early literacy, including working with the “Read to Me” program and testifying before the Idaho Legislature on behalf of libraries. See more [here](#).

**School Librarian of the Year: Cora Caldwell**, Gooding School District—Cora Caldwell has exhibited creativity, dedication, and professionalism to the students and the staff she serves through the implementation of programs designed to improve student learning. See more [here](#).

**Librarian of the Year: Dr. Lynn Baird**, Dean of the University of Idaho Libraries—Throughout her career, Dr. Baird has shown exemplary leadership and passionate advocacy as she has improved library service in her community, her university, and in Idaho as a whole. See more [here](#).

**Public Library of the Year: Garden City Public Library**—Garden City Public Library has shown originality in the development of its teen programs, dedication to working with community partners, commitment to improving staff job satisfaction, and enthusiasm in providing a great library to its community.

**Friend of the Year: Nancy Rollins, Friends of the Garden City Library**—Nancy Rollins received the award in recognition of her volunteer spirit and innovation in helping the Friends increase book sales donations in support of the library, totaling almost \$20,000 this year.

**Paraprofessional of the Year: Vanessa Fisher, Garden City Library**—This new award is designed to recognize outstanding service to the library profession in a capacity other than as a traditional librarian. Vanessa Fisher was selected as the first recipient because she helped her library by performing different roles during a transitional period, as well as for her many years of valuable service.

**Idaho Library Association Scholarship: Justin Prescott**, Meridian Library District—Justin Prescott is currently working on his Master’s in Library Science through the University of North Texas.

**Gardner Hanks Scholarship: Josephine Bradford**, Boise Public Library—This scholarship was established in memory of Gardner Hanks, who served as Continuing Education Consultant for the Idaho State Library (1989-2002). Josephine is currently working on her Master’s in Library Science through San Jose State University.

**Trustee of the Year: Ed Hershberger**, McCall Public Library—Ed Hershberger received this award in recognition of his years of service as a fiscally responsible, passionate advocate of libraries and literacy.

**Legislator of the Year: Representative Julie Van Orden, Blackfoot**—Representative Van Orden has advocated for libraries—public, academic and school—in her role as Vice Chair of the House Education Committee and while serving on the Governor’s Task for on Education.

### 2014 IDAHO BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

- *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr, was selected to receive the Idaho Library Association Book of the Year Award for 2014.

- *Idaho’s Place: A New History of the Gem State*, edited by Adam M. Sowards, received honorable mention.



Read to Me team: Jeannie Standal, Julie Armstrong, Dr. Stewart, Staci Shaw, Stephanie Bailey-White, Erica Compton



## 2016-2017 School Library Access Mini-Grants Deadline: 2-25-2016



Applications are now open for the 2016-2017 School Library Access Mini-Grants!

Application deadline is February 25, 2016. Please help us spread the word to schools in your district/area who have not received grants yet! These elementary school library grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and are aimed at addressing access to print in the home for our earliest readers (pre-K through 1st grade). This grant includes required changes to your school library check-out policies if you don't already allow book check-out for these grade levels (to take home, not just to the students' classroom). Funds are to be spent on fiction and non-fiction books.

If your school has received a mini-grant in the past four years, there is a new \$5,000 grant opportunity for those interested in keeping their school libraries open over the summer or trying other outreach methods to provide access to books over the summer.

To find out more about these exciting grant opportunities, please visit the Read to Me program page by clicking here: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/school-access-mini-grants>. You can find both applications under the 2016-2017 Grant Application drop down tab.

Project Coordinator, Stephanie Bailey-White, and Grants Officer, Kristina Taylor, are available to field questions about this program at (208) 334-2150.

## March 4, 2016 is Idaho Day!



In 2014 the Legislature established an official Idaho Day, to be observed each year on March 4 with a proclamation from the governor, ceremonies, programs, and activities to honor Idaho's heritage. The theme for the second annual Idaho Day, March 4, 2016, is "Idaho Heroes: Past or Present."

Last year, libraries and schools displayed Idaho-themed books, held Idaho trivia quizzes, had Idaho Rendezvous, and even had potato bars for lunch. To see other 2015 activities click [here](#).

Idaho Day is supported by online resources and activity ideas from a number of state agencies, including the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) and Idaho Commission for Libraries. These organizations have partnered to create an online resource for Idahoans to discover, connect, and educate about all things Idaho. To discover more ways to commemorate Idaho Day, visit the web pages on the ISHS website at <http://history.idaho.gov/idahoday>. More information and ideas will be added to this site in the coming months.

## LearnStorm Math Challenge Opens January 29, 2016

LearnStorm is a free math challenge that celebrates student progress and hustle. Over nine weeks, students in grades 3-12 master math skills to earn rewards for themselves and their school. LearnStorm is powered by Khan Academy, a not-for-profit on a mission to provide a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere. LearnStorm is coming to the state of Idaho with help from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation. LearnStorm is designed to include all types of learners, help build confidence and perseverance, strengthen Common Core math skills, encourage a team-based spirit, and celebrate and reward learning. The challenge kicks off publicly on January 29, 2016. See more at [www.learnstorm2016.org/idaho/overview](http://www.learnstorm2016.org/idaho/overview).