

THE Nexus



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State Librarian Ann Joslin

Open Meeting Law Changes

SB1142, effective July 1, 2009, affects boards of all city and district libraries and amends provisions of open public meeting laws relating to agendas, minutes, executive sessions, and violations:

- **Agendas**—An agenda notice must be posted at least 48 hours prior to meeting. If the agenda is amended more than 48 hours before the meeting and the agenda is already posted, post the amended agenda and no vote is needed to accept the amendment. If amended less than 48 hours before the meeting, post the amended agenda and vote during the meeting to accept the amendment. If amended at the beginning of the meeting, make a motion stating the reason for amendment and state the good faith reason why the item was not included. Then, vote to accept the amendment.
- **Meeting minutes**—Minutes pertaining to an executive session must include a reference to the specific statutory subsection that authorizes the executive session and must also identify the purpose and topic of the executive session.

- **Executive sessions**—An executive session excluding members of the public may be held, but only for the purposes described in section 67-2345 of the open meeting law. The motion to go into executive session must identify the specific subsections that authorize the executive session. There must be a roll call vote on the motion and the vote must be recorded in the minutes. An executive session requires a two-thirds vote. It is a violation to change the topic within the executive session.

- **Violations to the law**—The civil penalty for violating the open meeting law was set to a maximum of \$500, with the penalty for the first infraction set at \$50. The open meeting law describes how a violation may be cured.

The *Idaho Open Meeting Law Manual* is available at www2.state.id.us/ag/manuals/index.htm and changes are posted on the ICFL website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/library-laws>. A training video is available on the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) website at www.icrmp.org.

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission:

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

Commissioners:

Pete Black, John Held,
Bruce Noble, Sara Staub
and Larry Weeks

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

Commission Contacts:

- Anne Abrams, advocacy and marketing consultant
- Betty Hoffman, support services supervisor
- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Erin McCusker, southwestern Idaho library consultant
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- Gina Persichini, networking consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho library consultant
- Marjorie Hooper, associate state librarian
- Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor
- Peggy McClendon, reading programs coordinator
- Richard Wilson, associate state librarian
- Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant
- Sonja Hudson, grants/contracts officer
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

Career Information System (CIS) Update

A one-year subscription to the Idaho Department of Labor's Career Information System (CIS)—a comprehensive, computerized information system for career exploration and planning—will be offered free to public libraries in Idaho from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010. In addition, the Department of Labor will train participating library personnel on CIS and IdahoWorks, Labor's primary Internet workforce development site.

The Department of Labor has teamed up with the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) to help Idaho libraries take advantage of these workforce resources. Libraries will be able to access a preview of CIS to determine if the database meets their patrons' needs. Libraries can request a password and login information to preview CIS from ICFL continuing education consultant Shirley Biladeau. Below is the timeline for the project:

- By August 15, 2009: Libraries interested in continued CIS access request training and sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU).
- By August 15, 2009: Libraries register via Eventbrite for CIS/IdahoWorks training.
- September 2009: Library staff members attend free training held throughout the state.
- August 31, 2010: The CIS free subscription ends. IdahoWorks is still available for free.

The purpose of this project is to bring career development, employment, and unemployment benefits resources to Idaho citizens via public libraries by providing access to CIS and training for both the CIS and IdahoWorks databases.

The role of library staff is to become familiar with CIS and IdahoWorks, provide guidance for patrons using these databases, and promote CIS and IdahoWorks so patrons know they are available.

CIS is a system for career development that helps people to:

- explore career opportunities
- find educational programs related to those opportunities
- make successful career decisions and educational plans
- find work

Visit www.idahocis.org to learn more about the Career Information System database.

IdahoWorks is an online workforce service where:

- job seekers can create resumes and profiles and find jobs
- unemployment benefits users can file claims, check benefit eligibility, and review payment summary
- employers can list jobs, manage Job Listings, review candidate lists, and screen resumes

Visit <http://labor.idaho.gov/iw/> to see what IdahoWorks offers to job seekers, unemployment benefits users, and employers.

For more information on Career Information System at Idaho libraries go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/career-information-system-idaho-works/> or contact Shirley Biladeau at: 208-639-4149 or shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov.



SWIM: Learning Cohort for MLIS and Media Specialists

Idaho Commission for Libraries partnered with the South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana state libraries for the SWIM (South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana) Regional Collaborative Library Education Project. SWIM will provide education scholarships for at least six Idaho librarians and five school library media specialists to work in the region's rural communities. SWIM is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

SWIM vision:

Provide improved library services for residents in the region by graduating students with strong technology skills, new solutions to information challenges, and a commitment to a career in 21st century librarianship.

SWIM Grant Goals:

1. Increase the number of MLIS librarians in the four-state region.
2. Increase the number of certificated school librarians with media specialist endorsement in the four-state region.
3. Recruit Native Americans and Hispanics to the library profession.
4. Encourage professional development and collaboration among librarians.

Prerequisites:

- Bachelor's degree
- No previous graduate studies for MLIS

Awards to accepted candidates:

- Financial support (80% of tuition/fees)
- Travel stipends for required trainings, residencies, and conferences

Project timeline:

- Recruitment and application period:

Fall 2009 to Spring 2010

- Study program:
August 2010 to August 2012

Expectations for candidates:

- Have computer and Internet access
- Following graduation, secure a full-time professional library position for a minimum of two years in any academic, public, school, or special library located in a SWIM state.
- Become a member of the individual's state library association and attend the 2011 annual conference
- Stay involved and active with the individual's state library association

MLIS program description

Students must be accepted by University of North Texas (UNT) graduate school and enroll in the UNT Department of Library and Information Sciences blended learning program, a 36 credit-hour program that includes:

- online courses (two courses per semester for six academic semesters)
- two intensive in-person, four-day institutes (one in September 2010 and one in January 2011)
- an active learning cohort

School Library Media Endorsement description

The online endorsement programs available at the University of Montana or Montana State University are accepted in all four SWIM states and require the following:

- 27 credit-hours online
- Library Media Practicum (90 hours of fieldwork)
- 10 hours of seminar online

Interested in an ALA-accredited MLIS degree or a School Library Media Endorsement?

Contact Shirley Biladeau, ICFL continuing education consultant, at 208-639-4149 or shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov for more information about the SWIM project or to express interest.

Find out more at:
<http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/swim>.



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

Fred Meyer Fund for Books for Summer Readers:

ICFL received a \$15,000 grant from the Fred Meyer Fund for the "Books for Summer Readers" project.

One hundred eighteen Idaho public libraries applied by the May deadline to receive free paperback books to distribute to their summer readers. Approximately 6,200 children will receive books. The books will arrive at libraries in mid July.



ICFL is now accepting applications for LSTA Continuing Education (CE) Grants.

First Book Libraries

This year we were able to fund all of the Read to Me 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 Read to Me coordinators Staci Shaw, Stephanie Bailey-White, or Peggy McClendon at the Idaho Commission for Libraries or visit the website at

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/first-book>.

Read to Me First Book provides children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. The program provides a book a month for nine months for each participating child, and First Book families can participate in a free early literacy workshop. First Book parents also receive a monthly newsletter, "The Bookworm," which suggests tips and strategies to support early literacy skills at home. In addition to providing children with books, another Read to Me program goal is to encourage contact between at-risk families and librarians in order to promote local library services.

Comments from last year's First Book program indicate how much patrons value the opportunity to participate. A 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 said, "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."

LSTA Allocation Plan, Eligibility Checklist, and CE Grants

The FY 2010 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Allocation Plan and Eligibility Checklist are posted at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/library-services-technology>. In the past we have mailed these documents to libraries. However, to conserve on resources, this year our website will be the distribution point. The FY 2010 LSTA Grant Kit, which provides all the information needed to

apply for an LSTA grant in Idaho, will be ready for release soon and will also be posted to the ICFL website.

ICFL is now accepting applications for LSTA Continuing Education (CE) Grants. For details and applications, go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/doc/continuing-education-grant-application-instructions>.



School Library Impact Study Update

A hearty thank you to all who participated in the Idaho School Library Impact Study, which officially closed on June 1.

Over 1,150 Idaho school librarians, school administrators, and teachers contributed. Their confidential responses will help us:

- understand how the school library contributes to the academic achievement of students,
- assess the status and impact of school library programs
- facilitate discussions about their potential
- support more informed decision-making about their future

The survey will be correlated with data from Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT) to assess the effect of school library programs. The final report will be out by the end of the year.

All data provided in response to the 2009 surveys will remain confidential.

For more information, contact ICFL consultant Frank Nelson at frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov or our research contractors, RSL Research Group, at RSLinfo@rslresearch.com.

Congratulations to the winners of iPod Nanos or Playaway books:

- Sherrilynn Bair
Snake River School District
- Deanne Dye
Firth School District #59
- Maggi Fornter
Twin Falls School District
- Royce A. Johnson
Coeur d'Alene School District #271
- Rob Lamb
Meridian Joint District #2
- Cynthia Samson
Moscow School District #281

A special thanks to Follett Library Resources for donating the Playaways.

Changes to LiLI Portal are on the way

We heard you, and we are in the process of updating the LiLI Portal to make it easier to access the LiLI databases and use the LiLI Unlimited statewide catalog. Our vendors are also working to make searching easier.

This spring, respondents to a user survey indicated they would prefer to find databases by subject or user group. They also want categories with subsets (subject and user groups) and express links to

popular databases and sources. We are working with a focus group to test the new design elements. The tentative target "Go Live" date for the updated portal is August 17, 2009.

Changes are happening in a separate online location so LiLI users will not be inconvenienced by construction. Go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/lili-portal-update> to follow the progress and let us know what you think.



Online office hours at ICFL

Several ICFL consultants are trying something new by offering online office hours sessions via web conferencing tools. The intent is to offer additional ways to be available to the library community.

So far, the sessions have provided the opportunity to work through topics such as open meeting law changes, project management, summer reading,

automation, and upcoming projects. Online office hours also offer the flexibility for librarians to take a break during the session if they need to help a patron or take care of other urgent matters.

Watch for more news about online office hours. ICFL consultants will be announcing their hours via LibIdaho and other media.





Anne Abrams is the advocacy and marketing consultant for the Idaho Commission for Libraries.

Web use and the stay-at-home mom Field Notes by Anne Abrams

What continues to amaze me is how connected Idaho librarians are. The results from an online survey on the LiLI Portal website showed that out of the 45 librarian responses:

- 62 percent used Facebook
- 36 percent used YouTube
- 29 percent used del.icio.us
- 25 percent used Flickr
- 22 percent used Twitter
- 14 percent used MySpace

These librarians are Internet savvy.

These statistics show that Idaho librarians are in a good position, because it seems the public is just now catching up. At least that's the impression I got when I helped facilitate a focus group of moms. Though we didn't ask for ages, they looked like digital natives to me, young enough to have grown up using the Internet. They had children ranging in age from 8 months to 17 years and all attend youth services programs at their local library.

Here's what we found out from these moms about online use, along with suggestions on how to leverage library services to meet their needs:

1. These mothers are aware of social networks, but few use them. One mom used Facebook and another used Yahoo groups for a health concern. They expressed reluctance at their children using such sites.

Library Leverage: They feel comfortable sending their tweens to library programming alone as a "first step" into the public arena. Build on your reputation to include social networking safety programs and invite families to join the library's Facebook

and MySpace friends list. Be sure and push your programming information out to these sites.

2. Children use the websites for entertainment, especially those that tie into PBS programs. Tweens and teens like sites that provide online social interaction, some competition, and create simulated communities.

Library Leverage: Capitalize on this by offering a selection of sites for kids, both educational and recreational, from your website.

3. Moms worry that their children aren't spending enough time developing social skills because they spend so much time on the Internet. They thought an online book club would be great for their children under 13.

Library Leverage: Build programs for tweens and teens that include onsite meet-ups with online interaction. The mothers recommended the programming be grouped by the age ranges 9 to 11, 12 to 15, and 16 to 18.

4. One mom worries about her child accessing the Internet at the library because it was unfiltered, while other moms in the group disagreed, saying kids can find their way around any filter.

Library Leverage: It's not just unfiltered website moms have to worry about, but chatting, shopping, and evaluating web information as well. Programs covering Internet safety for families seem a natural fit. You might also consider linking to sites that help families understand Internet safety, like this one produced by Northwest Learning Grid:
www.nwlg.org/digitalliteracy.



Library News From Around the State

E-Rate funding

The following libraries were funded in Waves 2, 3, and 10 of the 2009-2010 E-Rate funding: Bear Lake County Library District, Burley Public Library, Clarkia District Library, Clearwater County Free Library District, Grace District Library, Hailey Public Library, Jerome Public Library, Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries, Larsen-Sant Public Library, Latah County Library District, Lewiston City Library, Mackay District Library, Midvale Community Library, South Bannock Library District, and West Bonner Library District.

Thirty-two libraries were funded in E-Rate funding Waves 1–3 and 10 for a total of \$137,839.23. No libraries were funded in Waves 4–9.

To learn more about E-Rate visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/e-rate/>.

Burley Public Library

On May 26, Burley citizens approved a two-year operating override levy. The \$210,000 annual increase for the next two years will begin in February 2010 and will continue funding the library services and programs that were voted for with the 2007 levy increase.

Snake River School Community Library

Snake River School District voters approved a \$17 million bond, with 80% of voters in favor of the proposal. A two-thirds supermajority vote was needed to approve the bond. The project includes improvements to the Snake River School Community Library—adding approximately 2,000 sq. ft., restrooms, a community learning lab, and additional parking.

Boise Public Library (BPL)

BPL celebrated the Grand Opening of the Library! at Cole and Ustick on Tuesday, June 30, 2009. In the first half-hour 1,250 adults and children filed through the new doors. The building incorporates sustainable features such as maximized daylighting, efficient use of energy, and the use of recycled and local materials. The library has two AV-equipped meeting rooms, 46 public computers with Internet access, and spaces for children's programs and reading. Friends of the Library contributed \$150,000 toward the collection of over 40,000 books and other materials.

Idaho Community Foundation grant recipients

West Bonner Library District received \$2,500 to resurface and regrade the existing parking lot at the Blanchard Branch Library.

Boundary County School District 101 received \$1,100 to purchase nonfiction U.S., Northwest, and Idaho history books for the Bonners Ferry High School Library Media Center.

Stimulus Package funded projects

Nampa School District is coordinating with Nampa Public Library to keep school libraries open this summer. Students can check out books, and additional literacy programming will take place throughout the summer.

Libraries in **Coeur d'Alene, Grace, Grangeville, Jerome, Lewiston, Moscow, Mountain Home, Pocatello, Rathdrum, Sandpoint, Weippe, and Weiser** are employing youths through the Idaho Department of Labor's 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program.

Library! at Cole & Ustick Grand Opening



Boise Mayor David Bieter and Friends of Boise Public Library Board Member Marge Ewing cut the ribbon



LiLi Unlimited Enrollment

This year, six new libraries enrolled as participants of the LiLi Unlimited program, bringing the total of participating libraries to 220.

Participating libraries:

- have access to cataloging and interlibrary loan tools from OCLC at a cost much lower than "retail" value.
- have the ability to participate in resource-sharing activities and so can access materials for their customers if they aren't available locally.
- have a full role as a participant in the resource sharing community of libraries nation- and world-wide.

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Trustee corner: Continuing Education Opportunities

Online Learning: Is it a fit for you? Join us Thursday, August 13, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (MDT) in the Wimba Conference Room for this free conference.

Explore your role as a self-directed learner in a learning organization as ICFL offers the 2nd in a series of Libraries = Learning Organizations online conferences.

Whether you want to learn or want someone else to learn, this web conference is designed to help you get the most out of your efforts and investment. Join online learning expert Pat Wagner to discover:

- the importance of self-directed learning
- the role online learning plays in professional development
- everyone's role in making online learning a success

You will also come away with tools to assess your learning style and evaluate what mix of learning tools work best for you. This conference will be valuable for library staff as well.

For more information, contact Shirley Biladeau at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov or call 208.639.4149. Register at www.eventbrite.com/event/376156093.

Working with Boards of Directors and Committees

Find resources for trustee recruiting and leadership development, managing volunteers, working effectively with library directors, youth/adult partnerships, event planning, fundraising, and more on the Energize Boards of Directors webpage at www.energizeinc.com/art/subj/boards.html.

Multicultural Communication Workshop

Washington State Library has invited the Idaho library community to attend their free WSL Multicultural Communication Workshop at the downtown Spokane Public Library: August 13, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To register, go to www.secstate.wa.gov/library/libraries/training/ and follow the Multicultural Communication link under WSL Training.



Find other upcoming free and reduced cost continuing education events on the ICFL Continuing Education webpage at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/continuing-education>.