



Vol. 5 No. 15 – September 25, 2009

Published bi-weekly by [Read to Me](#), a service of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL)

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Welcome

In 2008, the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom received reports of more than 513 attempts to remove books deemed by some to be inappropriate or even dangerous. This number does not include the challenges that go unreported, which is estimated to be around 85 percent.

During this year's **Banned Books Week, September 26–October 3, 2009**, libraries and bookstores across the country will battle censorship and celebrate the freedom to read.

[ALA's Web site](#) provides suggestions and materials on how libraries can celebrate Banned Book Week. The association also provides materials for this year's celebration, featuring the slogan "Read, Speak, Know." Also available is an online bibliography entitled [Books Challenged and Banned in 2008–2009](#) and a [map](#) of book bans and challenges in the U.S. from 2007 to 2009. See the "[Book Look](#)" section below for a list of the 10 most frequently challenged books of 2008.





Meet Tammy Dahle

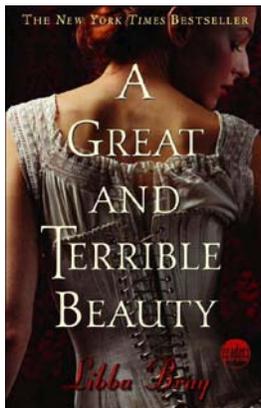
Tammy Dahle believes she has the best job in the whole world as Salmon Public Library's Children/Teen Librarian. "I can't believe I actually get paid to do this!" she said at last week's Navigating Youth Services workshop in eastern Idaho.

Tammy describes the library in Salmon as a typical small town library where everybody knows everybody. "It's like Cheers without the beer." She said the community is very supportive of youth and they get a lot of kids in the library – some to read, and many more to use their computer lab. In 1996 the Lemhi County Library District was formed. The Lemhi County Library District Board oversees and distributes the collected library tax levies and manages the newly constructed Leadore Community Library. The district board contracts with the Salmon Library Association to provide library services. The Salmon Library's yearly budget went from \$43,108 to over \$136,000, and operating hours went from twenty-nine to fifty-one hours a week after the district was approved.

Tammy has worked there for almost two years, but has been hanging out in libraries since she was in elementary school. She works with all the children in Salmon at library programs and with several outreach programs. She does regular storytimes at daycares and preschools along with a weekly storytime at the elementary school. She's also in charge of the summer reading program, family reading week, and she recently started a blog to review teen books at <http://mugofmoxie.blogspot.com>. She gets to meet and connect with all the library's patrons when she works at the circulation desk too.

She said she was attracted to library service for youth because she loves kids. "I love their honesty and unconditional love. They are open-minded and hilarious," she said. "Plus we have the same attention span!"

Tammy considers her biggest success to be their participation numbers in the summer reading program and the biggest challenge is getting teens into the library. Her favorite thing about her job is going to the preschools and doing the school visits. "Again, I love the kids!" she said.



Her favorite children's books are *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by A. Wolf, by Jon Scieszka and *The Paper Bag Princess*, by Robert N. Munsch and Michael Martchenko. "I love the twist on old classics."

As a child she read everything she could get her hands on. Some of her favorites were the *The Poky Little Puppy* and she loved Trixie Belden books and the Sweet Valley High series as a teen. Lately she'd been reading a lot of young adult books including *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins, *A Great and Terrible Beauty*, by Libba Bray and *The Graveyard Book*, by Neil Gaiman.

Her favorite flavor of ice-cream is Ben and Jerry's New York Super Fudge

Chunk (Pure HEAVEN! she says). When she's not working at the library, Tammy likes to spend time with her two kids, read (of course), scrapbook, and watch the Jazz or Steelers play.

Library to Library



Idaho librarians learn at September Navigating Youth Services workshops – four more scheduled in October

The Navigating Youth Services training at Jerome Public Library on September 15 provided a great forum for exchanging ideas and resources. Twenty public librarians, school librarians, directors,



and youth services staff attended the day-long training, which included presentations on after-school programs, funding sources, Family Reading Week ideas, and teen programs.

Participants also all shared a new favorite book for kids or teens, and we will post the titles on our website after all the fall trainings are completed. We will also be sharing some of the handouts from the presentations and ideas from

participants in this issue, as well as future issues, of *The Scoop*. If you missed this session, you may still register for the October 23 session in Caldwell. **Register now**, as spaces are filling up fast! (Photos- Left: Barbara Stobart, Hagerman PL, and Amy Mortensen, Twin Falls PL, proudly display the Family Reading Week craft. Above: Pat Hamilton, Gooding PL, and Erica Littlefield, Twin Falls PL, add ideas to the funding sources chart.)



Public and school library staff also exchanged ideas and learned more about a variety of youth services topics at the Navigating Youth Services workshop in Rigby on September 14. The group of 33 participants welcomed the opportunity to talk about what they have planned for Idaho Family Reading Week, share books, and learn from presenters Tammy Hawley-

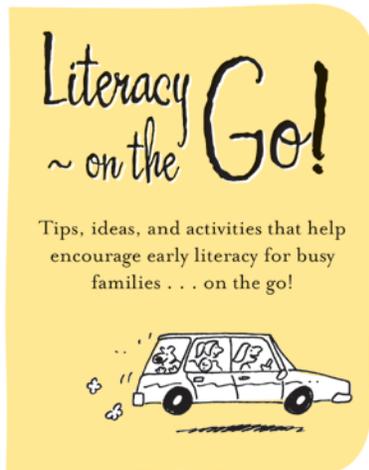
House and Ray Lusk. The photo above shows Boise Public's Tammy Hawley-House leading participants through an obstacle course similar to one she uses for her library's Music and Movement program. It was also a great way to burn off some of the calories consumed at our dessert bar!

Folks in **eastern Idaho** can register for the October 23 workshop at the Portnuef District Library in Chubbuck. We have room for 12 more people and encourage anyone who is interested to register soon at <http://youthservice2.eventbrite.com/>.

Librarians in **northern Idaho** have two opportunities to participate in Navigating Youth Services: In Lewiston on October 8th ([register here for Lewiston](#)) and in Coeur d'Alene on October 15th ([register here for Coeur d'Alene](#)). We have some great workshop sessions planned, but space is limited, so register today!



One of the school librarians who attended the Navigating Youth Services workshop in Rigby suggested putting a fudge-striped cookie or two and a marshmallow in a Ziploc bag to send home with kids who attend an "Idaho is Wild About Reading" event as a "S'more Kit." No mess. Not a lot of prep work needed if you get a few volunteers to do the bagging. And the kids loved them the last time she did that for a "Camp-Read-A-Lot" event. I didn't catch her name, but thought it was a great idea to pass along.



Literacy on the Go booklets encourage early literacy for busy families

The Read to Me program is pleased to announce new "Literacy on the Go" booklets are now available at no charge for any Idaho public or school library to distribute to parents and caregivers. These fun, portable booklets provide simple brain-building activities that will increase children's early literacy skills and are a fun way to pass the time.

Research done this past year with First Book and Every Child Ready to Read sites showed that some parents who participated in these programs were still reluctant to sing and play rhyming games with their young children. The booklet was created as another tool to promote these important activities for Idaho families. They can be ordered by printing out this [order form](#) and faxing it to 208-334-4016. Funding for the project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Jerome Public Library kicked off their First Book program last week when library director Laura Burnett visited two first grade classes at Horizon Elementary School to read a story and distribute books. She started by passing out markers so the children could write their names on the bookplate in the front of the book. The children were all ears as Laura read *Make Way for Ducklings*.

The Twin Falls *Times-News* was also on hand for the kick off and quoted Laura: "Literacy is critical to ensuring a promising future for our children. Our partnership with Horizon Elementary will help these children embrace the concept of reading when given the opportunity to own books. We are delighted to play a role in make this happen here in Jerome." Laura will visit other first grade classes--reaching a total of 170 children each month.



Young Adult Corner

Marian Librarian has invited her seven guests to celebrate the launching of her newest book, "Days of Our Libraries". However, one of the guests is not too happy with the way that s/he is portrayed. As they gather in the library, the night turns deadly: Marian is found dead.

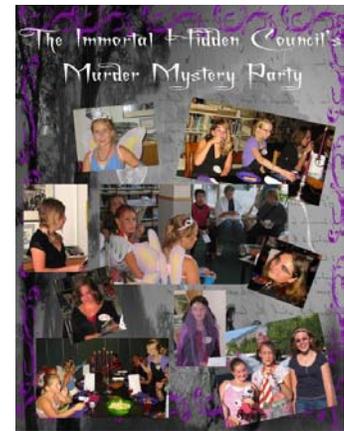
The investigators are called in to identify the culprit, the weapon, and the place of death. Can they solve the case and put the right person behind bars? (from handout contributed by Ray Lusk, Madison Library)

Hosting a Teen Mystery Party at Your Library

Mystery parties are widely-popular programs that are getting more young people into the library. There are several resources available to help you plan and execute a successful party:

Mystery Party Kits:

Party resources may be purchased as ready-made kits. By doing a simple internet search for "mystery parties, teens" or "murder mystery parties, libraries" you can find a plethora of party kits with a wide-range of prices. Jeanie Johnston from the Hailey Public Library bought one such kit for their End-of-Summer-Reading Celebration. "The Immortal Hidden Council Murder Mystery Party" was a big hit! (Photo, right). The kit was purchased for \$40, and contained the props needed for the game. With the additional costs of posters, invitations and character books, the total cost for the party was \$75.



Jeanie sent invitations to the summer reading participants, and allowed them to invite their friends. Registered teens received a Player Guide prior to the night of the party. The guide provided information regarding how to play the game, background information about the participant's character, and tips for playing the game.

On the night of the party the teens showed up dressed as their characters in the script and were given the clues, which were hidden in books around the library. At the end of the night prizes were given to those who solved the mystery, as well as for best costumes.

Email Jeanie: jjohnston@mail.haileypubliclibrary.org

No-Cost Resource Sharing:

Several libraries around Idaho have been hosting Mystery Parties for their teens, and we asked a few of them if they would be willing to share their resources.

From Erica Littlefield, Youth Services Department Head, Twin Falls Public Library...

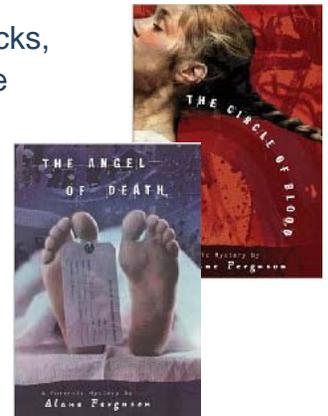
To start out, Erica divided everyone up into 5 groups. (3-4 teens in a group work the best, but she had up to 7 in some of them, and it still worked just fine.) Each team had their own set of clues. At the beginning of the night, she gave each group a packet with a brochure ([MysteryNightBrochure.doc](#)) with all the basic information about the crime and the suspects. It

also had their first clue in it. The clues were all hidden in books and various places in the library. When they got to their next clue, they found a piece of information (one of the numbered points from the [NarrowDownClues.doc](#)) that would help them solve the crime and a clue to lead them to their next book or hiding place. Erica suggested that if you want to make some extra special clues (word searches, cryptograms, etc.), go to <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>.

“The program was a huge success!” Erica shared. “Everyone had a blast, running around and trying to solve the mystery first. I advertised the program with tons of posters in the library, posters and information in the schools, appearances on the radio, and announcements on our blog. I asked local businesses (Hastings, Starbucks, Barnes and Noble, Pizza Hut, Sonic, McDonalds, Subway, etc.) to donate coupons or products to give away as prizes, so everyone got to take home something.”

Twin Falls Public Library’s Scripts, Clues and Brochure can be downloaded at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/read-to-me-resources> under the Library to Library section.

Email Erica: elittlefield@lib.tfid.org



From Ray Lusk, Events Coordinator, Madison Library District...

Ray recently presented at the Rigby Fall Training, where he shared many resources for Teen Programs, including how to host Mystery Parties. “While somewhat time consuming, mysteries allow teens to learn how to use the library for research and to learn how the library works,” he told participants. Purposes may include:

- Orienting patrons with the facility
- Educating patrons about collections
- Giving patrons experience with using the online resources
- Reviewing skills for those previously acquainted with the library resources

“The great thing about library mystery parties is that the teens LOVE them and love attending, but they are learning about the library and how to use it at the same time.”

You can find Ray’s presentation slides, as well as scripts, promotion ideas, and details about his “Murder in the Stacks,” program at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/read-to-me-resources>.

Email Ray: ray.lusk@madisonlib.org

On-line Resources:

Here are some links to more Mystery Party scripts, as well as tips and suggestions from libraries around the country:

From Sharon Lamberson, Hannibal Public Library, Missouri...

Introduction: “In recent years we have heard much about murder mystery nights. I have never been to one and have read only one script, which left me totally confused. In the pages which follow I have tried to give you total instructions for conducting a “Coroner’s Inquest at the Library.” The actual inquest will take 30-45 minutes...You can do this! Everything you need is in this packet except the props and they are simple and adaptable. **Read more...**

From the Plano Public Library System in Texas...

["Death Match of the Stars: Teen Mystery Night XI," and many more...](#)

From Michael Kirby, Gould Library, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota...

"How to Host a Murder Mystery at your Library"

www.carleton.edu/campus/library/reference/workshops/MurderMystery.html

From Renée Sengele and Marisa Finkey, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Library

"Murder Mystery Tips"

www.uwosh.edu/library/outreach/murdermystery/hints_n_tips.pdf

"There's the scarlet thread of murder running through the colorless skein of life, and our duty is to unravel it, and isolate it, and expose every inch of it." –Sherlock Holmes, *A Study in Scarlet*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Book Look



Books Challenged or Banned, 2008-2009

September 26–October 3, 2009 is "Banned Book Week," sponsored by the [American Library Association](#). Out of 513 challenges in 2008, the 10 most challenged are listed below. A complete list can be found on the ALA website, "[Books Challenged or Banned, 2008-2009](#)," by Robert P. Doyle.

The 10 most challenged titles in 2008:



And Tango Makes Three, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
Reasons: anti-ethnic, anti-family, homosexuality, religious viewpoint, and unsuited to age group



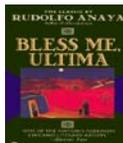
His Dark Materials trilogy, by Philip Pullman
Reasons: political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, and violence



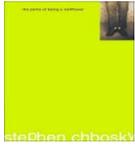
TTYL; TTFN; L8R, G8R (series), by Lauren Myracle
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group



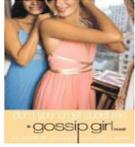
Scary Stories (series), by Alvin Schwartz
Reasons: occult/satanism, religious viewpoint, and violence



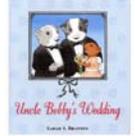
Bless Me, Ultima, by Rudolfo Anaya
Reasons: occult/satanism, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, and violence



The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky
Reasons: drugs, homosexuality, nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit, suicide, and unsuited to age group



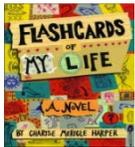
Gossip Girl (series), by Cecily von Ziegesar
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group



Uncle Bobby's Wedding, by Sarah S. Brannen
Reasons: homosexuality and unsuited to age group



The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group



Flashcards of My Life, by Charise Mericle Harper
Reasons: sexually explicit and unsuited to age group

What is your favorite banned book? Share your comments or stories regarding banned or challenged books at <http://icfl.idaho.gov/>



Upcoming Events



Teen and School Librarians!

Submit your program plans for **Teen Read Week** and you may win a Flip Video camera! Even better, every school or public library that submits an entry will receive a supply of key-chain ID wallets, suitable for swinging off a lanyard and keeping a library card close at hand.

Here's what you need to do:

1. Get some ideas (find the ones we put together for [school](#) & [public](#) libraries)
2. **Enter by September 30** (it is very short [entry](#) form)
3. Vote (and yes, you can vote for your own) and encourage others to vote for your program, too! Voting starts October 1.

Up to 30 Flip Video cameras will be awarded. Find out more: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/trw09>.



Between now and Thanksgiving, several adaptations of children's books are hitting theaters:

"Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" » Judi and Ron Barnett's 1982 picture book about an imaginary land of Chewandswallow, where food rains down on the population -- being turned into a computer-animated comedy. (Sept. 18)

"Where the Wild Things Are" » Maurice Sendak's 1963 classic picture story of Max, a naughty boy who magically travels to a land of wild things, adapted into live action by director Spike Jonze ("Being John Malkovich"). (Oct. 16)

"A Christmas Carol" » The oft-filmed Charles Dickens tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, this time computer-animated by Robert Zemeckis ("The Polar Express," "Beowulf") with Jim Carrey donning a motion-capture suit to portray Scrooge and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. (Nov. 6)

"Fantastic Mr. Fox" » Roald Dahl's 1970 chapter book about a resourceful fox outsmarting three nearby farmers, adapted in stop-motion animation by director Wes Anderson ("The Royal Tenenbaums"), with a voice cast led by George Clooney and Meryl Streep as Mr. and Mrs. Fox. (Nov. 13)

Others:

Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, Walter Kirn's *Up in the Air*, Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*, Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* sequel *New Moon* and Darren Shan's *Cirque du Freak* series.



Idaho Family Reading Week, November 15-21

CDs with activities and ideas for this year's theme, "Idaho is Wild About Reading," have been mailed to every public library and elementary school in Idaho. If you have not received a copy, which looks like the picture to the right, check with your library director or school secretary. **Register online** to win free books! So far 55 Idaho libraries have signed up.



National Gaming Day @ your library: Register your event!



It's that time of year again – time to begin preparing for ALA's second annual National Gaming Day! This year the event will take place on **Saturday, November 14, 2009**. There is a new blog for this event, which you can find at <http://ngd.ala.org>. New information will be posted as it becomes available, so you might want to subscribe to it via email or RSS, both of which are available from the site itself.

Why should you register? Free games are being donated again this year, but only for the first 1,000 libraries that sign up for each title. Academic and school libraries are eligible as well as public libraries. Go straight to <http://bit.ly/ngd2009> to

sign up. Registration will remain open until mid-October, but once the first 1,000 requests for the games have been met, there is no guarantee that more will be available.

When you register you will be listed on the national map of participating libraries posted on the [website for National Gaming Day](#). Look for more information on the site the last week of September. If you're planning to use any social media sites, the official tag for the event is `ngd2009`. By using this tag information can be easily aggregated.

If you have questions about NGD, please check the new site for info or email [Jenny Levine](#) at ALA. Publicity materials will be posted soon and updates will be provided via the blog.



Summer Reading News



Record for summer reading participation set by Idaho libraries

Idaho libraries have had a busy summer. They saw a 37% increase (over 2008) in summer reading participation, with over 63,000 children and teens registering for summer reading. We know that not all children who register complete summer reading, but the numbers show that more kids are getting the message that libraries offer a great summer resource.

Over 20,000 children were reached through outreach at day care centers, parks, schools and other locations in the community. Kudos to all the staff and volunteers who made this a great summer for Idaho children! **If you have not filled out the [online summer reading survey](#), you may do so until October 1st.**



2010 program manuals coming soon

In early October, the Commission will be mailing the 2010 summer reading manual – **Make a Splash–Read!** – to all public libraries. It's not too early to start planning for 2010. You will also receive and order form for support materials to order from CSLP. The first order deadline is December 1st if you want to receive your materials by March 1, 2010.



Changes in Bright Futures...

Before you order 2010 summer reading materials, check out the Bright Futures announcement that comes with the manual. You can read about the outreach opportunities that are available through the Commission. If you are new to summer reading, the Commission offers support materials to libraries who agree to do outreach during the summer. We have streamlined Bright Futures, which now offers three programs: School Visits, Underserved Children, and Read for Your Library.

You will still be able to apply for School Visits and Underserved Children online. Read for Your Library will have a stronger emphasis on public library/school collaboration and will require a one-page application that must be signed by the public librarian, the school principal, and school



librarian. Libraries may still work with up to three partner schools.



Stories from libraries

We love the stories that libraries send about their summer reading programs. Libraries who participate in Read for Your Library are asked to send information about their fall recognition events:

McCall Public Library: “Our recognition was held with the PTA on September 18th at 1 p.m. Students who participated were recognized with a large bulletin board display in the school library, and the grade level with the most participation got an ice cream sundae bar.” McCall’s goal was to increase the number of kids participating (not just registering). Registration increased by 45 percent and their completion increased by 34 percent. Congratulations!

Gooding Public Library: For the fall recognition, the library will make a large poster collage of photos of the summer programs and some of the crafts that were made. The library will also have a list for each grade and how many signed up from that grade level. The Gooding School hung the vinyl banner inside the front door across from the office on May 1st. The poster will be attached to the banner.

Spirit Lake Library: The school principal will hand out the summer reading certificates at the first assembly of the school year. The daycare children will receive their certificates at the daycare when the librarian makes her first visit in September.

Portneuf District Library, Chubbuck: “I sent the [three] principals a list of all students that participated and/or completed the 2009 summer reading program. The principals and I went to their classrooms and presented the children with a pencil and a certificate. I will also be going to each school for a recognition event.”

School Zone



Schools Replace Textbooks with Electronic Media

From articles by [Rachel Martin and Christine Brouwer, ABC News, Sept. 13, 2009](#) and by [Michael B. Farrell, Christian Science Monitor, June 14, 2009](#)

For generations, school meant books -- lots of books. But not anymore. Around the country, from high school to grad school, textbooks are getting harder to find. More and more schools are using their educational supply budgets to buy laptops, iPods and hand-held reading devices such as Kindles, instead of buying textbooks. There are many benefits:



- Laptops and iPods cost money, but so do textbooks; some can run a couple hundred dollars each. Because there is so much free educational material online, high-tech can sometimes mean low-cost.
- Traditional textbooks also go out of date, sometimes within a year or so, and replacing them can cost a school district hundreds of thousands of dollars. Also, many

states/districts buy textbooks on six-year cycles. That would mean that many books being used today would not include anything about the Iraq War or other current events. With new technology like e-books or handheld devices, updates can happen instantaneously.

- Online coursework can literally lighten students' load. It is not uncommon for K-12 students to carry half their weight in textbooks.

David Rose, a lecturer at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, said schools simply can't afford to rely on traditional textbooks because the social costs are too high. "If we continue to prepare kids for their past, that's very expensive... Their future is largely going to be in new media. And textbooks are no longer preparing them for that future."

What do you think? Check out ICFL's School Library website, and share your opinions!



Interested in School Library Media Certification? Here's what you need to know for certification in Idaho:

Certification Requirements:

Teacher Licensure Needed: Yes

Master's Degree Needed: No

Praxis II Library Media Content Test Needed: Candidates need a score of 620 or above

Other Testing Needed: Idaho Technology Competency Assessment and Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Course (K-8 certification)

Description: Twenty (20) semester credit hours in the field of Education Media or Library Science including: A minimum of fifteen (15) semester credit hours of course work distributed among each of the following: Material Selection/Collection Development; Literature for Youth; Organization/Administration of Educational Material; Library Automation/Information Technology; Research Methods. The remaining five (5) semester credit hours may come from related course work.

Evaluation Process for Licensure:

All applicants are held accountable for current State Board of Education-approved standards. There will not be a phase-in period for these applicants. Criteria for eligibility for a licensure includes:

- Out-of-state applicants applying for initial Idaho certification will be issued a three (3)-year non-renewable Idaho interim certificate, thus allowing time to meet Idaho standards required for a standard Idaho certificate.

Reciprocity: Yes, but one must meet the state's requirements for licensure. See the [SDE website](#) for a list of states.

Idaho Department of Education:
http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_certification/





Free Continuing Education Credits: See [“CE News You Can Use.”](#)



School Librarians—Don't Miss a Thing!

A message from Anne Abrams, ICFL Advocacy Consultant:

Don't miss out on exciting opportunities coming your way from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. We are planning a series of events to help your parents and administrators understand and advocate the value of your school library services (starring you!).

Send your current contact information to us today! Include your email address, school address, and phone number to Betty Hoffman, betty.hoffman@libraries.idaho.gov.



Booklist's Quick Tips for Schools & Libraries

Booklist has updated and expanded its newsletter, formerly called Quick Tips. The free monthly e-newsletter will draw from Booklist's feature articles and book reviews. Check out the current issue at <http://link.ixs1.net/s/ve?eli=a429588&si=s323119422&cfc=3html>.

Know the Numbers

New Census Estimates Show Recession's Impact on Idaho

From a September 22 news release from the Idaho Department of Labor

The 2006, 2007 and 2008 estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau (American Community Survey) showed significant increases in the number of families where both parents are working or looking for work, the number of family households that include other relatives, and the number of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren. Here are some interesting numbers:

- Between 2006 and 2008 the number of working parents whose spouses were also working or looking for work increased 23,000 to more than 256,000, or 65 percent of all parents with children under 18.
- Over the same two years, the number of relatives – aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandchildren nieces, nephews – being put up by families rose 11,000 to more than 64,000.
- The number of grandparents responsible for raising grandchildren under age 18 was up over 60 percent between 2007 and 2008 to nearly 13,600.
- Seventy of every 1,000 Idaho women age 15 to 50 gave birth, the second highest rate in the nation behind Utah.
- Only 24 percent of the population over 24 had a college degree, lower than all but 12 other states, and just 7.4 percent had master's degrees or doctorates, 41st among the states.

Now more than ever families can benefit from the free early literacy and outreach programs sponsored by their local libraries!

Read the complete press release on the [Idaho Department of Labor's website](#).

A Closer Look at Funding Youth Services Programs

“I have tried raising money by asking for it, and by not asking for it. I always got more by asking for it.” --Millard Fuller, founder, Habitat for Humanity.

The following information was presented at the Navigating Youth Services workshop in Jerome. The Power Point presentation can be viewed at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/read-to-me-resources>.

As library budgets shrink, librarians are increasingly turning to outside sources to fund or supplement youth services programs. Whether you are seeking funding for existing programs or trying to create new programs, most funding sources will request documentation of success and/or evidence that your program is meeting the needs of the community. In either case your first step is to conduct a needs assessment. (See [“A Closer Look at Writing a Needs Assessment,”](#) featured last year in The Scoop.)



Here are some resources to help you identify some funding sources:

- A list of possible funding sources, compiled by Read to Me coordinators for Idaho libraries: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/read-to-me-resources>.
- [WebJunction](#). The following link contains funding ideas, grant writing tips and planning documents: [Funding, Grants and All That Jazz](#) (by Stephanie Gerding, 2006)
- [Grant Wrangler](#): Keep up to date on current grant opportunities.
- [Funding Brainstorm](#): Compiled by participants at the Navigating Youth Services workshop in Jerome, September 15, 2009

Here are some specific grant opportunities that are coming up in 2009-2010:

- Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) Grants: Administered by ICFL, the new guidelines and application can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/library-services-technology>
- The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program: Administered by the Idaho State Department of Education, the program is designed to provide academic enrichment opportunities, art, music, recreation, sports, drug and violence prevention and youth development activities to youth during non-school hours. Please see the timeline at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cclc

Writing grants can be very time-consuming and somewhat confusing, even for the seasoned grant-writer. Here are some general guidelines:

- 1) Always type a grant application, no matter who is sponsoring the grant.
- 2) Recruit someone not involved with the grant to read your final application and provide critical feedback. Choose someone with successful grant-writing experience (director, trustee, city council member, business person, outreach partners, etc.)
- 3) Read grant instructions carefully before beginning to fill out the application. It is a good idea to read through them several times! Make sure you have all the required signatures before submitting a grant.
- 4) Scan the grant application questions. Make a list of resources you will need in order to write the grant (demographic information, price quotes, payroll guidelines, test scores, research findings, statistics, etc.).
- 5) Watch for two-part questions. Be sure to answer both parts. For example, *“Describe the need for your project. How did you assess this need?”*
- 6) Most grant applications include the criteria on which grant proposals will be scored. Some include rubrics with specific items and point assignments. The criteria should guide how you write your response. If you are unclear about the criteria, contact the grant sponsor for clarification.
- 7) Use the wording from the application questions in your responses. For example, the question asks, *“How will you reach families who do not currently use the library?”* Your response should begin with, *“We will reach families who do not currently use the library by....”*
- 8) Find out if grant sponsors are offering to read application drafts and provide feedback to applicants. Take advantage of this!
- 9) Talk to your library staff about your project proposal before applying for a grant. Listen to their feedback and make sure everyone supports, and/or is aware of, your plan.
- 10) Do some research.
 - a. Find current studies with statistical findings that support your proposal.
 - b. Find out if others have implemented projects/programs similar to the one you have in mind. *How were the projects/programs funded? What need did the project/program meet? What were the projected outcomes? Were the outcomes achieved? How were outcomes measured?* You can build upon or adapt those components for your own proposal. If these projects/programs were successful, you might cite them in your application.



See more grant writing tips and advice on the Read to Me Resource page: [Grantwriting Tips](#)

Tips & Tools



\$100 From Fetch with Ruff Ruffman, [PBS Kids](#)

If you've ever wanted to launch a science program at your library and provide professional development to the staff who run it, this is your chance! Veridian inSight is conducting an evaluation of a new FETCH resource for WGBH (Boston's PBS station) and recruiting **afterschool sites nationwide** (including public libraries) and **staff of all levels of experience**

to participate. Your program could earn \$100 for their participation.

Eligible participants must be willing to spend time on the FETCH Web site and to lead two science activities in October and November 2009 with a group of **kids in grades 2 through 4**. You will need access to a computer that has both high-speed internet and FLASH. The **\$100 stipend** will more than cover any materials you'll need to acquire for the activities.

To apply for this opportunity, go to www.surveygizmo.com/s/164198/fetch-recruitment-screener and complete a brief form by September 30, 2009. You'll be notified by Veridian inSight within three weeks if you've been accepted for the evaluation.



Idaho Children Encouraged to Enter Writing Program

Letters About Literature, a national reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, invites young readers in grades 4 – 12 to enter this year's LAL letter writing competition. Young readers simply write a personal letter to an author explaining how that author's work somehow changed the readers' view of their world.

LAL awards both state and national prizes on three competition levels: Level 1 for children in grades 4 – 6; Level 2 for children in grades 7 – 8; and Level 3 for children in grades 9 – 12. Six national winners will each receive cash awards and will nominate a school or community library to receive a \$10,000 LAL Reading Promotion grant. Twelve national honor winners will likewise receive cash awards and also nominate a school or community library to receive a \$1,000 LAL Reading Promotion grant.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing, including blackline masters and assessment checklists at the LAL website: www.lettersaboutliterature.org. **Deadline: Submissions must be postmarked by December 12, 2009.** State winners will be notified in March 2010 and national winners by mid-April, 2010.

Last year, 55,000 young readers across the country entered but of that number **LESS THAN 150 OF THOSE LETTERS CAME FROM CHILDREN IN IDAHO!** They are hoping to see those numbers increase this year. For more information, please visit www.lettersaboutliterature.org.



Nominations Open for Governor's Brightest Star Awards

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and first lady Lori Otter are gearing up to honor Idaho's outstanding volunteers. Nominations are being sought for the Governor's Brightest Star Awards program recognizing active civic engagement by individuals, students, organizations, schools, small businesses and corporations. The awards program is administered by Serve Idaho, a division of the Idaho Department of Labor.

"Volunteers are everyday heroes and are truly Idaho's Brightest Stars, representing all corners of the state," Serve Idaho Director Kelly Houston Staskey said. "These individuals understand that volunteering is not a luxury. Rather, it is a necessity and a privilege that helps create strong communities throughout Idaho."



To nominate outstanding volunteers in the six categories, forms are available online at the Serve Idaho Web site at www.serveidaho.org. **The deadline is Oct.**

5, 2009. Panels of Idaho citizens will review the nominations, and the governor and Mrs. Otter will select a grand prizewinner in each category.

The Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, which oversees Serve Idaho, will host the Governor's Brightest Star Awards ceremony Nov. 10, 2009, at Boise State University. The governor and Mrs. Otter will recognize all the honorees and announce the grand prize winners in each category.

For more information on how to become involved or how to nominate an unsung hero, go to www.serveidaho.org or call Kelly Houston Staskey at (208) 332-3578 or (800) 588-3334 within Idaho.

CE News You Can Use

WebJunction Idaho offers a wide range of online, self-directed classes in all areas of librarianship: from Microsoft Word to Library Services. You will have access to the material for 1 year. ICFL has 200 course units that need to be used before the end of 2009 or they will be lost. Help us out and go to <http://id.webjunction.org> and

1. create an personal account if you have not already (it's free!)
2. affiliate with Idaho (I will approve as soon as I see your request)
3. Go to ID Courses tab and peruse the over 500 courses available.
4. Select the course you wish to access and check it out!

All the courses in the catalog should say \$0 -- if you have any issues or don't see \$, send Shirley an email shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov and she will troubleshoot.

If you are a certificated teacher-librarian, these courses can be used as in-service hours to renew your teaching certificate. Here is a sampling of WebJunction courses:

[Accompanying the Young Reader: Helping the Reader choose Appropriate Books \(LibraryU\)](#)

[Creating Collaborative Lessons for the Elementary School LE@D\)](#)

[Creating Compelling Programming in Your School Library \(LE@D\)](#)

[Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults \(LE@D\)](#)

[Planning Story Times for Children \(LibraryU\)](#)

[Reaching Reluctant Readers \(LE@D\)](#)

[Trends in Children's Literature \(LE@D\)](#)

News Beyond Idaho



Target Helps Ailing School Libraries Across the Country with Extreme "Eco-Friendly" Makeovers and Donations

In support of the United We Serve nationwide service initiative, Target and The Heart of America Foundation kicked-off the [Target Volunteers School Library Makeover program](#) on September 10, unveiling one of sixteen extreme school library transformations in New York

City. The additional unveilings will happen across the country throughout September and October.

Building on last year's program of eight school makeovers, Target awarded 16 schools with a complete library transformation, which included over 2,000 new books, advanced technology, new furnishings, shelving, paint, carpeting, and light construction. In addition, Target incorporated eco-friendly designs and construction practices into each library makeover, including the use of green certified furniture and the use of recycled materials in all locations. Also, Target will gift every student from the sixteen schools with seven brand new books to add to their personal at-home reading collection. In all, more than 750,000 new books have been distributed since the program's inception.



Before



After

**William M. Boyd
Elementary**
Atlanta, Georgia

The schools are chosen using criteria that includes the percentage of low-income children and overall need for library improvement. Winning schools must commit to employing a full time librarian, demonstrate that there is a program in place to promote the library's resources, and have a plan in place for using those new resources in the curriculum.



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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