

# State Libraries in the Pacific Northwest

ANN JOSLIN

## Introduction

State libraries, in the Pacific Northwest and other parts of the country, have undergone changes in budget, programs and mission in recent years. The changes at the Idaho State Library (ISL) are an illustration of this. Holdbacks and budget cuts have driven many recent changes. Approximately 20% was cut from the original FY02 appropriation to FY03 after the governor's holdback. In FY02 \$61,800 reverted to general fund after the holdback and in FY03 \$67,200 reverted to the general fund after the holdback.

These holdbacks led to changes in programs and services, beginning in FY02. There were cuts to the Government Information Center program. These included eliminating state employees as a primary customer group and discontinuing the State Library's status as partial federal documents depository.

The video booking service was discontinued and the collection development policy was changed to focus on three areas: library science, organizational management, and state documents (statute). ISL will provide full service in those three subject areas. Full service includes circulation, ILL, database searches, and reference to any library user. The collection was weeded to reflect this new collection development policy. Books, audio tapes, videos were weeded. Journals were canceled. The 65,000 volume monograph collection was reduced to 7,000; 350 serial titles are down to 165. In the Talking Book Library (TBL), ISL will maintain status as Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The library will discontinue circulation of audio books to the general public, however, and will only circulate them to TBL patrons. In library development, ISL will maintain library development services and programs, maximize receipt of LSTA funds and will expand as resources (funding, personnel) allow.

An agency-wide strategic planning process is going on at the same time. A draft plan given to the ISL Board in December 2002 demonstrated the need to revise the mission statement.

### **ISL Mission Statement, 1986-2002:**

The Idaho State Library provides, promotes, and delivers library services to the people of Idaho.

### **ISL Mission Statement, 2002-**

The Idaho State Library assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

ISL has taken a number of steps to address the current budget situation or any future budget crisis. First, the change in mission represents a change from a library to a library development agency. Two resource-intensive services (the government information center and the video collection) have been discontinued. The general collection has been redefined to support library development. There are several recommendations from the Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee ([www.idaho2020taskforce.us/default.htm](http://www.idaho2020taskforce.us/default.htm)) that will affect ISL if they are implemented.

Decision-making and implementation planning were done in several ways. For the holdbacks, agencies given a percentage and each agency could decide what and where to cut. The ISL management team made recommendations to the ISL Board. For the decrease in appropriations for FY03 and FY04, the legislature made the decision to zero out capital and remove all one-time funding. To implement these decisions, the ISL management team invited staff to help review all services, considering:

- statutory mandates
- services unique to ISL

## Library Intranets as Knowledge Management Tools: Box of Tricks or Box of Junk? - cont.

Jones, Alyn. "Corporate Intranets: The Last Tool of Survival for the Corporate Library?" Honors thesis, June 1998, [jimmy.qmuc.ac.uk/usr/im94jone/](http://jimmy.qmuc.ac.uk/usr/im94jone/) (Accessed August 28, 2003).

Murray, Kathleen, Peggy Burt, and Gwenda Raupp. "Building an Intranet: a Collaborative Effort." In *Electronic Information and Publications: Looking to the Electronic Future, Let's not Forget the Archival Past*. Proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) and the 17<sup>th</sup> Polar Libraries Colloquy (PLC), Reykjavik, Iceland, 1998, pp 115-20.

Santosus, Megan and Jon Surmacz. "The ABCs of Knowledge Management." May 23, 2001, [www.cio.com/summaries/enterprise/knowledge/](http://www.cio.com/summaries/enterprise/knowledge/) (Accessed August 26, 2003).

\* This paper was given as the first part of the panel presentation "Librarian in a Box: Using Intranets for Knowledge Management." Other presenters on the panel were Brian Rossmann of MSU-Bozeman (MT) and Cathy Claybaugh of North Junior High, Boise, ID. ■

## State Libraries in the Pacific Northwest - cont.

- The best estimate of the direction of the future of library services, i.e., impact of the Internet, electronic resources, etc.
- Assessment of our service patterns to current customers
- Assessment of our ability to sustain the service at a high level
- Attempt to develop more consistent approach to all of our services

The management team and supervisors established a transitional staffing period, They recognized that many jobs would change and some work had gone away. They made temporary assignments across work unit lines and have made several organizational changes as a result.

The role and image of the State Library changed in a number of ways. Within state government it is recognized as one of the most-cut agencies. Within the library community, the concept of the State Library not being a "library" is a concern to some, but there is support for the new mission.

The State Library's budget situation will not have a disastrous effect on the states' libraries. Funding for LILI-D

remains, both in ISL budget and in public schools. A few libraries are now getting ILL requests from state employees who used to come to ISL. Boise has two partial federal depositories, and the University of Idaho is a full depository. The clientele of services that were cut were primarily individuals, not libraries.

What does the future (two to three years) look like? What looks good, what looks worse, what additional changes are expected? There could still be a holdback in the current fiscal year, and there may be an attempt to end sales tax increase early. LSTA funding looks good, but we may not be able to fulfill matching funds if Idaho's allocation increases substantially. We have more staff resources to support "building capacity of libraries." Our new mission is helping to focus our work. We are working on what TBL and State Documents will look like in terms of "building capacity of libraries." The responsibility for state documents may change. The place of ISL in state government may change.

What lessons were learned? For many, the anticipation (of cuts, of removing the collection, etc.) was worse than the implementation. Laboring over some decisions made it more difficult. The fiscal situation forced some hard decisions. ■

## Multicultural Stories: Preserving Oral and Written Treasures - cont.

Beeler, Selby B. *Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World*. Illustrated by G. Brian Karas. 1998. 32p. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-89108-6. Pre K-2.

Two universals among children are teeth and the certainty of losing them. How do cultures around the world acknowledge this rite of passage? Beeler has researched this question and presents what she learned to readers.

Bercaw, Edna Coe. *Halmoni's Day*. Illustrated by Robert Hunt. 2000. 32p. Dial. ISBN 0-8037-2444-6. All ages.

Jennifer's grandmother, Halmoni, visits her. She arrives from Korea right before Grandparents' Day at her American school. Jennifer's concern over Halmoni's language barrier becomes a heartfelt lesson for the whole classroom of guests.

Bruchac, Joseph. *Many Nations: An Alphabet of Native America*. Illustrated By Robert F. Goetzl. 1997. 32p. ISBN 0-816-74389-4. Pre K-8.

Through rich illustrations readers will get a wonderful look at Native American culture and people across North America.

Bunting, Eve. *Jin Woo*. Illustrated by Chris Soentpiet. 2001. 32p. Clarion. ISBN -395-93872-4. Gr. K & up.

This is a very touching book about cross cultural adoption and unconditional love. Young David's family is getting a new baby. He's not sure if he likes the idea of someone else sharing his parents. They go to the airport to meet Jin Woo, who

cont.