

VII. Operations Report

A. State Librarian and Management Team Reports – Information item

Report from State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White

- Several ICfL staff presented at the Idaho Library Association Annual Conference, which was held in the Treasure Valley October 9 to 11. Youth Services Consultant Staci Shaw and I provided information about improving literacy for all Idaho students using resources like the Idaho Talking Book Service and the Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance (IDEA).
- I have been assisting with onboarding Sasha Rojas Zaragoza, a second-year AmeriCorp placed at the ICfL to work on digital navigation programs. The ICfL hosted all of this year's AmeriCorps cohort on October 8 as part of their 2024 orientation and planning process. The ICfL is contributing matching funds and resources toward this collaborative effort that the University of Idaho Digital Economy Program is leading statewide.
- I presented at an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) convening, an Idaho Workforce Development meeting, and a well-attended Alturas Institute event.
- I am heading to Huntsville, Alabama, the week of October 21 to attend the annual Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) meeting. In addition to presentations from the IMLS and Library of Congress, the agenda features information on AI, improving communication strategies, and leadership effectiveness.

Report from Deputy State Librarian Dylan Baker

- In August, 10 public library directors and assistant directors participating in the ICfL's second Director 101 cohort attended an in-person training and graduation ceremony in Boise. The all-day training included topics such as change management, strategic thinking, and emergency preparedness. The 11-member cohort has been meeting monthly since January and will continue through December. Applications for a 2025 Director 101 cohort will open in November.
- I attended the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Joint Cohort Summit in Portland, Oregon, in September with Digital Inclusion Consultant Chelsea Summerlin. I participated on a panel of Digital Equity Focus Areas: Small and Rural Communities, highlighting the ICfL's work as part of the Digital Access for All Idahoans Plan. In addition to networking with counterparts in other states and NTIA staff, Chelsea and I had quality one-on-one time with our new Digital Equity Federal Program Officer Ras Smith, who will be our primary point of contact at NTIA going forward.
- Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter and I represented the ICfL at the grand opening of the Meridian Library District's Pinnacle Branch at the end of September. The event was well attended by city officials, local libraries, and the nearby community.

Report from Financial Manager Jamie Smith

- I've been working through the FY26 budget process with our new Division of Financial Management (DFM) analyst and our new Legislative Services Office (LSO) liaison and simultaneously conducting a quarterly review of our FY25 spending.
- The fiscal team has been hard at work closing the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) 2023 grant, which expired on September 30, and gearing up for the Digital Access for All Idahoans (DAAI) funds to come in. We're refining our internal processes, updating resource documents, and training together to ensure we're ready for the influx of activity.

- Our new Grants Officer, Jamie Thill, is doing an excellent job learning her role. Talela Florko has been a wonderful mentor and trainer. Jamie and Talela both are working closely with the AmpliFund implementation team to ensure our grant management system is ready to go when the DAAI funds come in.
- Our Technical Records Specialist, Karen LaMotte, is planning to retire at the end of October after 28 years of service!

Report from E-Services Program Supervisor William Lamb

- I recently attended the Schools Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB) conference in Washington D.C. There were a lot of good sessions and discussion around the E-Rate program and funding issues. The SHLB coalition is the top broadband coalition in the country and is working on putting together materials to help schools and libraries advocate for the E-Rate program. More information is coming in the future as we learn more.
- At the same conference, I had good conversations about broadband on Tribal lands and how a nonprofit organization, Internet 2, can offer support through an IMLS grant. Additional conversations revolved around content filtering and how the ICfL may be able to support libraries more directly. Library Technology Consultant Doug Baker and I will be chatting more about this in the future to see what the possibilities are in Idaho.
- E-Resources Consultant Marina Rose launched a new monthly newsletter resource to provide participants with direct access to E-Resource trainings, stats, and other news important to the library community. This is the third month of our newsletter service, and it has been well received.

Report from Development Services Program Supervisor Talela Florko

- Several Youth Services team members attended conferences and trainings in September. I attended the State of Idaho Division of Human Resources Supervisory Academy and the Boise State University Women in Leadership Conference. Three staff attended the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) conference in Denver. Another staff member attended the Idaho Out-of-School Network's Power Up Summit and served as an emcee for one of the conference days. Our school library consultant attended a Valnet library consortium meeting in Lewiston to represent the ICfL and present information about our services.
- The Welcoming Libraries Grant application will be open October 9 to November 8.
- The team hosted three School Library Access Grant trainings in Boise, Pocatello, and Coeur d'Alene.
- The Captial Projects Fund quarterly report is due October 31. It has been interesting to see the progress of our subrecipients that received the Facilities Improvement Grant!
- We sent out the first shipments for the My First Books program. Through this program, libraries receive books to give to participating families from October through May.

Report from Talking Book Service (TBS) Program Supervisor LeAnn Gelskey

- **Talking Book Service:** The TBS team has completed the patron satisfaction survey and finalized the results. We didn't have as many responses as last year but still gleaned useful information. A summary of the feedback is included in Board Document 25-16. It is my hope that we can perform a phone survey in 2026. They are expensive, but it has been a long time since the last phone survey was conducted.

- **Let's Talk About It (LTAI):** LTAI 2024-25 programs have begun! Five libraries were added this year for a total of 20 libraries. There are still a few unfilled scholar sessions, but we are working to fill them. They are in north Idaho in the winter, making travel treacherous. I'm confident one of the scholars in that area will be able to assist. So far, the response from the libraries regarding the new theme has been positive. A finalized report will be given in the spring.
- **That All May Read:** The final reports are still trickling in. I will have more information at the next board meeting. I've begun reading through all the responses, and there are some great stories I'm eager to share.
- **National Library Service (NLS) Conference:** At the last minute, I was unable to attend the conference in person as originally planned due to my husband's health. However, I was able to attend virtually. The main topic this year was the implementation of a new parental acknowledgement form that is now required for all patrons under the age of 18. Parents are required to acknowledge that their child has received property that belongs to the government and that the collection is open to all without any restrictions. We will need to update our applications but will use an addendum for the short term.