

VIII. New Business

C. ShareIdaho Update – Information item

Statewide cataloging and interlibrary loan services have been spearheaded by the Idaho Commission for Libraries in some form for over 15 years. Beginning in 2018, the cost structure for the program changed and officially became “ShareIdaho.” During these years, ICfL has contracted with OCLC, a global nonprofit library cooperative, to provide one annual contracted cost that covers all Idaho libraries (public, school, academic, and special/private). This annual price does not change based on library participation but does increase a small percentage each year based on decisions by the OCLC Board. The total program cost for statewide cataloging, metadata, and interlibrary loan services for fiscal year 2026 is \$904,095.94.

ICfL has paid 40% of the annual contract cost each year since July 2017 (FY2018) and the remaining 60% of the contract cost is split between participating libraries as follows:

- 30% academic
- 30% public, school, other

For fiscal years 2018 through 2020, each participating library had static pricing, meaning there were no annual increases to individual libraries. Unfortunately, this model meant that ICfL ended up paying more than 40% of that annual contract and has continued to pay more than 40% of the total contract price since then. The specific amounts ICfL has paid for the past five fiscal years, in addition to our 40% commitment, are as follows:

- 2021: \$59,605.40
- 2022: \$81,819.80
- 2023: \$38,217.91
- 2024: \$20,849.07
- 2025: \$29,989.64

Pricing adjustments to individual libraries have been made in the last few years in an effort to align costs to those original percentage splits.

ShareIdaho is ICfL’s second largest operating expense, second only to the LiLI database contracts (\$859,861 for FY25), at \$351,751 for fiscal year 2025. As noted above, ICfL covered an additional \$30,000 for ShareIdaho during this current fiscal year, bringing the total ICfL contribution to the program to \$381,740.

Our agency is heading into the fourth year of a five-year contract for cataloging and interlibrary loan services with OCLC. While libraries may join or leave the ShareIdaho program each year, the annual statewide contract price does not change. ICfL is ultimately responsible for these contractual costs and continues to pay over 40% of our share so that increases to individual libraries do not become unmanageable.

This year a large consortium of public libraries along with a handful of smaller libraries have indicated they do not intend to renew their participation in ShareIdaho for fiscal year 2026. The ICfL team has been negotiating with OCLC since February 2025 on fairer pricing, but as of April 14, 2025, OCLC is unwilling to change the terms of the existing agreement. Because of this, ICfL is still

looking at an additional cost of \$54,000 above the 40% share. This additional cost factors in the cost increases we are passing on to participating libraries. Due to the uncertainty of federal funding, this creates a significant financial burden on the agency.