V. Operations Report
A. State Librarian and Management Team Reports – Information item

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Report from State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White

- Public Information Officer Donna Eggers organized a well-attended and productive open house and presentation on May 15, 2025. Staff from three Congressional offices and Senator Woodward attended the event and asked good questions. We were able to meet with Dirk Mendive from Representative Fulcher's office on May 28 as he wasn't available during the May 15 event. The content focused on how Idahoans benefit from federal funds through ICfL.
- Much time has been spent working on budgets and agency reorganization plans.
- I attended the annual National Digital Inclusion Conference May 20-22 in Phoenix. I had not been able to attend these conferences in past years as they are typically held during our legislative session. The topics were very relevant to our work providing digital skill development to Idahoans and how to pivot during uncertain times. I will be attending the Western Council of State Librarians meeting in Kansas City on June 17-18.

Report from Deputy State Librarian Dylan Baker

- On May 9, 2025, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) cancelled Idaho's $6.3 million State Digital Equity (DE) Capacity Grant award for implementing the Digital Access for All Idahoans (DAAI) plan. The administration determined that the State DE Capacity Grant and DE Competitive Grant programs were unconstitutional and terminated the awards to all states, territories, and competitive grant applicants. This was a disheartening development after three-and-a-half years of work to prepare for this historic investment of funds that would have helped close the digital divide throughout Idaho.
- Allison Maier has been hired as the ICfL's new Public Library Program Specialist. After starting as the ICfL's first Management Assistant in 2022 and then being promoted to a limited-service Digital Skills Project Coordinator in 2024, we are excited to have Allison in this new role. In this position, Allison will work with Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter to provide additional support for public library directors, trustees, and staff. This new position is not expected to provide direct consulting services to public libraries, but will support significant projects serving public libraries, including the Public Library Knowledge Database, the Idaho Library Directory, and the Idaho Library Statistics.

Report from Financial Manager Jamie Smith

- Fiscal Year 2025 is coming to a close and all the year-end activities are happening. The fiscal team is hard at work to ensure a smooth closing and staff are finalizing their spending for the year.
- Fiscal Year 2026 begins on July 1, 2025 and we completed the internal budgeting process. The IMLS notified us that we would receive the second half of the LSTA25 allotment for a total award of $1,746,437, an increase of $4,937 from LSTA24. We are regrouping after the termination of the DAAI grant funds on May 9, 2025.
- Fiscal Year 2027 budget planning has begun. We received the initial framework memo from the Division of Financial Management. The Budget Development Manual will be published

by July 15 at the latest and this is when the logistical part of the budget building really kicks off. The economic outlook is not looking very good, and we will have to include contingency plans for potential holdbacks in our request. All agencies have been instructed to submit maintenance-only budgets.

Report from E-Services Program Supervisor William Lamb

- The E-Services team has been hard at work finalizing internal budgets. With the current unknown budget situation, we will be reserving a lot of future promotional planning until later in the fiscal year to see how things come together. However, we will be able to move forward with a pilot project to help small and rural libraries with network equipment maintenance. In 2020, the ICfL awarded 49 libraries new network and Wi-Fi equipment. The maintenance agreement on that equipment is coming to an end and some of our smallest libraries will not be able to cover the non-discounted portion of E-Rate to maintain support. Our hope is that we can provide some dedicated assistance with new equipment that doesn't require annual licensing fees.
- Chelsea Summerlin, the ICfL's Digital Skills Consultant, worked with other agency staff to host a Techspectations workshop that aimed to support library staff's customer service skills when answering technology-related questions from patrons. This is the first in what is anticipated to be a multi-part workshop series over the next year.
- The eBranch upgrades for 94 websites is moving right along! So far five websites have been upgraded to ensure they meet ADA accessibility requirements. Huge kudos goes out to Library Technology Consultant Doug Baker, Graphic and Web Designer Haley Westbrook, and many others on the E-Services team for their hard work in getting these websites transitioned.
- Speaking of websites, the ICfL has completed the required audit of our agency website to ensure it meets ADA accessibility. We are scheduled to meet with the Office of Civil Rights in July to finalize our agreement and that should be the end of the investigation.

Report from Development Services Program Supervisor Talela Florko

- We are working with the Idaho Legislative Services Office Audit Division on a single audit of our Capital Projects Fund award from the US Department of the Treasury. For the single audit, they are looking at state FY24 activities.
- The Youth Services Team has been busy preparing for FY26 book programs by ordering and receiving books for My First Books, Jump Start Kindergarten, Library Outreach to Children, and Family Reading Week. These programs will begin distributing books in the fall of 2025. With the $17,500 donation we received from the Scottish Rite foundation, we also ordered and shipped out books to 127 libraries for their summer reading programs.
- Grant activity within the YS team included determining which applicants will receive School Library Access Grants. We plan to report the list of awardees at the next board meeting. The consultation period for the Kindergarten Readiness Grant opened in May and libraries have until September 6 to complete a consultation and application. Information regarding SB1196 will be conveyed to recipients for grants awarded or disbursed between July 1, 2025 and October 31, 2025. The bill indicates that "State-appropriated funds shall not be utilized to support diversity, equity, inclusion, or social justice ideology as part of any activities, clubs, events, or organizations." Each grant recipient will be required to submit a written report by October 31, 2025 to the ICfL related to grant funds spend of these activities. Grant awardees will be made aware of the requirement at the time of award notification.

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

- TBS staff have been prepping information on summer reading and flyers are being mailed to our patrons inviting them to participate. The National Library Service (NLS) host programs and provides reading lists based on this year's theme, 'Color Our World.' Idaho participants will be entered into a drawing for prize of TBS promotional materials.
- 'That All May Read' grants are still in progress and will continue through the summer. Final reports are due after the first part of September.
- The work of the Let's Talk About It (LTAI) America250 committee is on hold until after June 5 when the Idaho Humanities Council will decide how to disseminate any funds, they may receive to support the long-running partnership. It is their hope they will be able to continue to financially support the well-loved program.
- A nice time was had by all that attended the volunteer appreciation event in April. TBS Program Specialist Rachel Welker did a great job. Adult Services Consultant Deana Brown offered a presentation on Creative Aging and led a fun art activity with the group. The food, catered by the students at Life's Kitchen, was fantastic! Our volunteers are so appreciated.