

## V. Operations Report

### A. State Librarian and Management Team Reports

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#### Report from State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White

- I attended the annual Chief Officers of State Library Agencies' (COSLA) meeting in Wilmington, Delaware, October 19-22, 2025. We heard updates about the status of grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and what innovative projects state library agencies are implementing.
- I have been attending monthly America 250 meetings led by the Idaho State Historical Society. The ICfL is helping get the word out to the library community about ways they might get involved in the statewide celebrations. We also incorporated the theme into the 2026 Idaho Family Reading Week and collaborated on a new Let's Talk About It 250 reading and discussion theme, currently taking place in three Idaho public libraries with support from the ICfL and the Idaho Humanities Council.

#### Report from Deputy State Librarian Dylan Baker

- I am honored to have been selected as your 21<sup>st</sup> state librarian. I look forward to officially assuming my new role on December 22, 2025. I have been working closely with Stephanie to ensure a smooth transition for our staff, customers, and partners.
- We held our annual all-staff training and development day on December 2, 2025. Our theme this year was written communication, including workshops on plain language, accessible documents, and generative AI. At lunch, we celebrated Stephanie's retirement with a short presentation. We also conducted a collaborative workload analysis within teams using materials developed by Jamie Smith. This successful and productive day required planning, time, and effort from several staff.
- I have begun planning a needs-assessment project with Jamie S., Talela, William, and Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter. We have met twice and will continue meeting regularly as we launch a multifaceted effort in early 2026. Data gathered from this project will be used to inform and guide strategic planning and decisions in 2026 and beyond.

#### Report from Financial Manager Jamie Smith

- Federal Budget Monitoring: The federal government reopened on November 12, 2025, with funding through January 30, 2026. We received our LSTA25 draw on November 24, 2025, and were able to avoid using LSIF to cover payroll for our federally funded staff. We will continue to monitor the situation and make necessary plans to ensure payroll is covered. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS, our LSTA grantor) is operating on the concurrent resolution through January 30 and waiting for a FY2026 budget. If the final federal budget is in place by the end of January, they are confident the LSTA26 awards will be made by March 22, 2026. This will give us the information we need for FY2026 year-end spending and FY2027 planning.
- FY2027 Budget Request: We are as ready as we can be for the Legislative session to begin.
- Grant Management System Implementation: The fiscal team is working diligently on the "payment integration" phase of implementing the grant management system, Euna (formerly known as AmpliFund). We are currently in user acceptance testing and are gathering feedback from grantees to see how the transition is going from their perspective. We haven't experienced the savings in staff time we were expecting, which may be due to

the front loading of a system implementation. Time will tell.

**Report from E-Services Program Supervisor William Lamb**

- I'm pleased to announce that the ICfL website investigation by the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights is officially closed. We received confirmation from that department on November 18 after a year of remediation. Huge thanks to all ICfL staff in their work to ensure that our website and documents stay accessible.
- The TBS transition to Utah has been well-received by patrons and staff. Since transitioning on September 15, 87 patrons and two institutions have registered for service.
- ICfL's Digital Skills Consultant Chelsea Summerlin has completed the third tech workshop in the tech workshop series, with plans to conduct four workshops overall. This is the second AI-specific training as part of that series. If there are continued requests for AI, she will repeat the training. AI will continue to be a significant part of our society, so it has been great to show the library community the pros and cons. More tech workshops will be coming based on requests after surveying the library community.
- Louis Braille's birthday, January 4, is celebrated worldwide as World Braille Day, a time for libraries to raise awareness, showcase accessible resources, and engage their communities in fun, educational activities. To support these efforts, we have distributed approximately 70 toolkits, which include the book "Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille" by Jen Bryant and various resources, all packaged in a reusable TBS tote bag. As part of this celebration, the Nampa Public Library, in conjunction with the Idaho Talking Book Service, will host a special storytime on January 5, 2026, at 10 a.m., featuring a reading of "Six Dots" and a hands-on craft activity where participants can use braille-embossed cards to spell their names.

**Report from Development Services Program Supervisor Talela Florko**

- I attended the American Library Association (ALA) CORE Forum conference in Denver, Colorado, where I toured five recently renovated libraries and sat in on two days of conference sessions.
- I visited the Hailey Public Library in early November with the financial manager, grants officer, and grants specialist to see their renovation projects completed with the Facilities Improvement Grant. We also made stops at the Camas County Library in Fairfield and the Bellevue Public Library.
- The ICfL hosted three summer learning workshops in November in Coeur d'Alene, McCall, and Jerome. The workshops were presented by YS Consultant Jennifer Redford, with YS Program Specialist Josie Bradford and Management Assistant Masha Velichko providing event support.
- The YS Team has been busy writing their reports for the annual LSTA State Program Report.