

Idaho

STATE LIBRARY

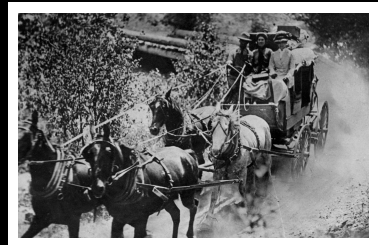
Traveling library formed by Columbian Club of Boise in 1899.

Brought culture and education to 51 settlements in the Idaho territory.



Idaho State Library established by Legislature -- April 1, 1901 -- to organize new libraries and improve existing ones.

Annual budget -- \$3,000.



The women of the Columbian Club worked hard to get the first annual budget approved to make sure that traveling libraries provided reading materials to the many communities and new towns that were springing up across the state.

This system of disseminating literature is one of the best things ever established in Idaho.

-- "Idaho Statesman," March 7, 1903



1st State Librarian
Eva Dockery,
1901-1903



3rd State Librarian
Margaret Stevenson
Roberts, 1905-1907

She served 4 terms!

IDAHO POPULATION

1890 -- 88,500
(statehood)
1910 -- 326,000
1930 -- 445,000
1950 -- 588,637

By 1910, nearly every school district had a school library.

Under Margaret Stevenson Roberts' third term as state librarian, 1919-1933, 118 library stations were using the traveling library.

State Librarian Lalla Bedford, 1933-1939, catalogued more than 14,000 books and began use of the Dewey Decimal System and the card catalog at the Idaho State Library.



Idaho State Library, 1930s

In 1939, the budget was cut 33% and staff reduced. In the 1940s, the Idaho State Library was in a holding pattern. Budget cut to \$14,000. Few books were purchased.

In the 1950s, the Idaho State Library moved to the basement of the Idaho State Historical Society's Museum in Boise. Now under the governance of the State Library Board of Trustees. The Board provided \$35,000 budget to build library collection, buy films/projectors, and purchase the first library bookmobile. In 1957, first federal funds received.



State Librarian Helen Miller, 1962-1980, worked on +100 projects to build/remodel public library buildings in Idaho.

In 1973, the State Library was designated by the Legislature as the site for the regional library for blind and physically handicapped services.

On July 1, 2006, the Idaho State Library became the

Idaho
COMMISSION
FOR LIBRARIES