

December 22, 2022

THE NEXUS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE IDAHO LIBRARY COMMUNITY

Internet for All Workshop Introduced Federal Planning Processes

Staff from the Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho Association of Counties, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) welcomed more than 200 in-person and virtual attendees to the Internet for All: Idaho Local Coordination Workshop, held November 15 - 16, 2022.

The event kicked off with keynotes from Governor Brad Little and Rep. John Vander Woude, Chair of the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board.

State Librarian
Stephanie Bailey-White



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<https://libraries.idaho.gov>

ICfL Idaho
Commission
for Libraries

Internet for All Workshop

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The gathering provided an opportunity to introduce federal planning processes that were recently launched, including the Digital Access for All Idahoans (DAAI) Plan that the ICfL, along with state and local partners, is leading. Panels on broadband infrastructure development, telehealth, digital access challenges and solutions, and workforce strategies were featured. The second day provided an opportunity for input on the five-year Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Plan and the DAAI Plan.

There was a good representation from the Idaho library community among the many attendees. Reiterated throughout the two days was the important role libraries play in facilitating access to internet resources and services. “Even if we had fiber connections to every Idahoan’s doorstep, there would still be a significant percentage of people who face barriers to accessing internet-based resources,” State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White said in her opening remarks. “This plan and the five years of implementation funds that follow presents a historic opportunity to provide meaningful programs and services to address these needs.”

Recordings and notes from the Internet for All workshop can be found at <https://libraries.idaho.gov/digital-access-for-all-idahoans/>. The DAAI team at the ICfL will be convening virtual Digital Access Coalition meetings in January or February for all those interested in this topic. Boise State University’s Idaho Policy Institute has also been contracted to conduct telephone surveys and focus groups throughout the state to gather input for the plan.



ICfL 2023 Legislative Budget Request

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) will request an enhancement, or increase, to its fiscal year (FY) 2024 state budget as part of the FY24 budget-setting legislative process. The ICfL's appearance before the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) is set for February 6, 2023, at 10:05 a.m. For more about JFAC, including the link to stream legislative sessions, visit <https://legislature.idaho.gov/lso/bpa/jfac/>.

State General Fund Enhancement Request

Kindergarten Readiness Grants -- \$40,000 enhancement request

This enhancement would increase the ICfL's appropriation for Kindergarten Readiness grants from the \$60,000 the agency currently receives to \$100,000, which would greatly help the ICfL meet public library requests and award more funding that supports the development of early literacy skills and better prepares parents and caregivers to transition their children to kindergarten. Children who are better prepared for kindergarten are more likely to become proficient readers by the third grade.

At the ICfL's JFAC hearing, requests will also be made for legislative support for the ICfL to spend **federal** funds on the following projects:

Library Facilities Project -- \$3,518,323

The ICfL is requesting \$3,518,323 in capital project funds, with \$3,350,000 for public library subgrants and \$168,323 in operating expenditures. The capital project funds will allow more libraries to address critical needs in their communities by providing much needed construction and digital infrastructure funds to create private and functional space. This type of funding is difficult for communities to secure. A minimum of 23 Idaho public libraries will directly enable work, education, and health monitoring by 2026 as a result of this project and will keep those services in place for a minimum of five years after the projects are completed.

Digital Access Planning Re-Appropriation -- \$250,000 (carryover funding)

The ICfL received approximately \$564,700 to work with state and local partners on a Digital Access for All Idahoans Plan. Staff anticipate spending at least \$345,000 of the award in FY23 and request up to \$250,000 be re-appropriated for the first few months of FY24.

Digital Access Implementation Grant -- \$1,750,000

This request is for spending authority to carry out projects that will be outlined in the Digital Access for All Idahoans Plan.

ESSER Re-Appropriation -- \$800,000 (carryover funding)

In FY23, the ICfL was provided spending authority for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funding of up to \$1,250,000, and staff anticipate spending \$450,000 of it in FY23. This request is for the re-appropriation of the remaining \$800,000 for FY24.

New Digital Skills Website

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) recently launched a new website, <https://idahodigitalskills.org/>, to support Idahoans looking to expand their digital skills through free online courses.

The many available courses include: creating a résumé, searching for a job online, training on Microsoft Word and Excel, using healthcare.gov, learning about cloud storage, the basics of video conferencing, being safe online, and intros to Skype and Facebook.

The site includes a variety of tools and resources, and there are courses available in both English and Spanish.



Public Library Directors' Summit 2022

In early November, 52 public library directors gathered for a two-day summit that was packed with sessions on risk management, human resources, crisis communication, requests for reconsideration, generational differences, and First Amendment audits (more on this topic on page 5). The directors also enjoyed the networking time they had with each other.

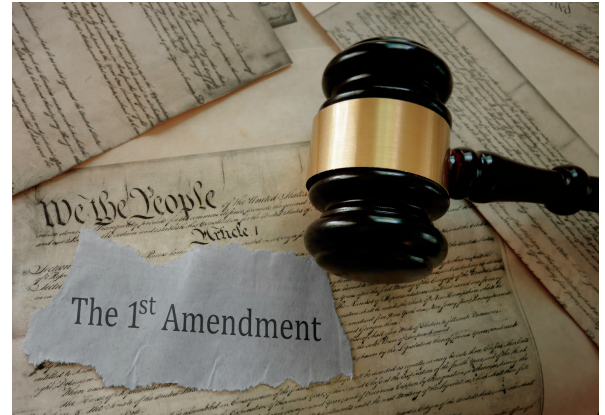
If you have a question or need support from the ICfL Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter, contact him via email at clay.ritter@libraries.idaho.gov or at 208-639-4177.



First Amendment Audit

A First Amendment audit is when a citizen enters the library and wishes to ensure that the library is honoring its obligations as a public space and government entity. Normally, they record all interactions they have while in the library, which includes those with staff, other patrons, and in any areas that are accessible to the public. Idaho is a one-party consent state which means it is legal to video record any conversation that you are personally taking part in.

Many policies and procedures could violate these protections and the protections the First Amendment provides in public spaces and how those public spaces are defined. To best avoid any issues with possible escalation or conflict arising from a First Amendment audit, please consult with your legal counsel about your library's policies to make sure they are clear when it comes to these considerations. Also, make sure your library staff are trained in ways to de-escalate these types of situations and that they are aware of the protections the Constitution and Idaho Statute provide to all people.



If you have questions about First Amendment audits, please contact ICfL Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter via email at clay.ritter@libraries.idaho.gov.

Annual Survey Deadline is January 1



The deadline to complete the FY22 Public Library Annual Survey is January 1. Before the calendar switches to 2023, enter your amazing stats here:

<https://collectconnect.baker-taylor.com/>.

If you need log on information, have questions, or wonder what changes are in store for this year's survey, contact ICfL Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter at clay.ritter@libraries.idaho.gov.

Bonneville County Library District Debuted Ammon's First-Ever Library

Ammon's first-ever library debuted on October 1, 2022, the day after the contract between the Bonneville County Library District (BCLD) and the Idaho Falls Public Library expired.

Since 1981, the BCLD contracted with the city of Idaho Falls for library services. The BCLD board opted not to renew the contract, in part, because county residents would have assumed responsibility for 42% of the Idaho Falls Public Library's annual budget, rather than the 31% they were contributing.

After voting in May to end the contract, board members and volunteers leased two spaces, donated thousands of hours of volunteering time, and collected more than 30,000 books.

The Bonneville County Library District opened the Westside and Ammon branches and now includes the entire county, except for Ririe and the city limits of Idaho Falls. The Swan Valley and Iona branches are also part of the district.

Library Director Michelle Tolman said, "We want to be specific to the needs of the people in our areas, and we can do that better when we are in their communities."



Ammon Branch



Westside Branch



Homedale Library District PASSED

The measure to form the Homedale Public Library was passed by voters in both Owyhee and Canyon Counties in November's election.

Congratulations to library staff and board members, along with everyone who supported making the library district a reality.

Madison Library District Turns 100

The staff, volunteers, friends, and board members of the Madison Library District recently celebrated the library's 100th anniversary with patrons and members of the Rexburg community.

012.2022

MLD

Madison Library District, I92I-
Centennial Celebration, The: Celebrating the
longevity of our Library. / Collector's Ed.
Rexburg, Idaho. Madison Library Community Room.
Dec 16, 2022, 6-8 p.m.

1. Short Program and Refreshments
2. Self-Guided Tour of Library
3. Voting for Photography Contest
4. Sealing of Time Capsule

Madison Library District	
Author	Centennial Celebration, The
Title	
BORROWER'S NAME	DATE DUE
73 N Center St, Rexburg, ID 83440	12.16.2022
RSVP requested for yourself and one guest	11.15.2022
We respectfully request no children under 18 at the Celebration	
Business Formal Wear Requested	
RSVP to Abby: abby.r@madisonlib.org (208)356-3461 ext. 812	
DEMCO 22-290	

Communications Corner

Are you looking for a quick and easy way to design a flyer or other marketing piece? If so, check out [Canva](#), a web-based, graphic design platform. There are free and paid versions of Canva. Here are some [introductory](#) training slides and some that go a little [deeper](#) into Canva's features.

If you want to connect with other Idaho library marketers, join the ICfL's [marketing](#), LITT (Libraries in Idaho Talking Trends) group.

Video Marketing

A recent article from [Hubspot](#) touted video as the leading form of marketing across industries. "And, with Gen-Z and millennials embracing video more than ever for product discovery, this format becomes more of a low-hanging fruit each year."

(Hint: Canva has TONS of templates to effortlessly create video content.)

Communications Help

If you need help with a communications task, such as drafting a press release or creating a flyer, feel free to contact ICfL Public Information Officer Donna Eggers at donna.eggers@libraries.idaho.gov.

And PLEASE send Donna photos and/or info about all of the GREAT things going on in your library.

however you celebrate the season, we hope it's
happy

