

December 21, 2023

THE NEXUS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE IDAHO LIBRARY COMMUNITY

2023: The Finale Friday, Dec. 29 -- 12-1 p.m. MT

Help send 2023 out in style by joining the ICfL's annual virtual end-of-the-year celebration on Friday, December 29 from 12 to 1 p.m. MT.

Join ICfL staff and your colleagues from around the state to put an end to 2023. We will look back on last year's predictions, share hopes for the future, and vote for the 2023 "word of the year."

Get the Zoom link [here](#).



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<https://libraries.idaho.gov>

ICfL Idaho
Commission
for Libraries

2023 Public Library Survey -- Due 1/1/24

The 2023 Public Library Survey is due on January 1, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ICfL Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter at clay.ritter@libraries.idaho.gov.



Registration Open for Directors' Summit

Registration is open for the 2024 Public Library Directors' Summit, which will be held March 14-15, 2024, in Boise. The event will include learning, collaboration, and plenty of networking. To register, visit: <https://form.jotform.com/icfl/public-library-directors-summit>.

The agenda will focus on serious topics, but there will also be time for play and camaraderie . . . even pirate-themed puzzles and games to keep participants engaged.

If you have questions, contact ICfL CE Consultant Annie Gaines at annie.gaines@libraries.idaho.gov or ICfL Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter at clay.ritter@libraries.idaho.gov.

ICfL Grants Opening in January

The ICfL will open two grants in January. One is the That All May Read Mini-Grant to support capacity building to serve those who are unable to read standard-print books due to a visual impairment, blindness, or other perceptual or physical disability.

Also opening in January will be the School Library Access Mini-Grant, which helps school libraries increase students' access to books.

Check out the ICfL's [grant page](#) for dates and more info.

Some Snapshot Day Results

The ICfL brought back Snapshot Day in October after a COVID-initiated break for a couple of years. A very big THANK YOU to the staff at 27 public libraries (including some branches and a bookmobile) who participated in the event.

Snapshot Day is a designated day that libraries document the activities, events, usage, circulation, etc., in their library for one day – so we can capture the impact Idaho libraries have on their communities during a typical day.

Look for Snapshot Day again in October 2024. It is geared for public libraries, but all libraries may participate. You don't have to do anything special for your Snapshot Day -- just keep track of the great things you are already doing. (And ICfL Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter revamped the form that participants fill out to make it easier and shorter.)

Here are a few stats, pictures, and stories from the libraries that participated this year.

How Many People Visited the Library (on Snapshot Day)?

Blackfoot Public	644
Burley Public	142
North Bingham Co.	148
Payette Public	148
Portneuf Dist.	341
Salmon Public	205
South Bannock Dist.	166
Bookmobile	



Blackfoot Public Library

Bonneville Co. Library Dist.



Cascade Public Library

How Many Physical Items Were Circulated (on Snapshot Day)?

Boise Public	4,074
Bonneville Co.	431
Caldwell Public	762
DeMary Memorial	155
Meridian Lib. Dist.	3,580
Middleton Public	307



Homedale District Library

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Some Snapshot Day Results

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How Many Electronic Materials Were Circulated (on Snapshot Day)?

Cascade Public	396
Madison Lib. Dist.	1,611
Twin Falls Public	1,073

How Many People Accessed Your Public Computers (on Snapshot Day)?

Boise Public	201
Valley of the Tetons	54

How Many People Accessed Your Publicly Available Wi-Fi (on Snapshot Day)?

Homedale Dist. Lib.	50
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Madison Library District



Mt. Home Public Library

Portneuf District Library



Salmon Public Library



Stanley Community Library



Valley of the Tetons Library

Twin Falls Public Library



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Some Snapshot Day Results

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Some stories from Snapshot Day 2024.

Blackfoot Public Library -- We held a Candidate Forum for two local people running for City Council.

Boise Public Library -- We have a young woman experiencing homelessness frequenting the Hillcrest branch. She was sleeping outside while it was 34 degrees outside. The branch manager called our mental health coordinator, who rushed over to inform our library user about local resources that she can access.

Filer Public Library -- Tuesdays are a quiet day, but we are looking at adding a Tuesday program.

Homedale District Library -- We had teens come in to play Tic Tac Toe and play the board game "Happy Little Accidents."

Meridian Library District -- The unBound branch served a variety of patrons, including one who used the sound studio to record a radio show he hosts in Dallas, Texas. Plus, all six of the 3D printers were running with patron-submitted projects, including an awesome mask for a Halloween costume.

Midvale Community Library -- We offer office services that are hard to find in rural areas, and believe me, they get used. On this day, we had two individuals come in with some complicated faxing needs, along with the after-school kids taking turns on the computers to play games.

North Bingham County District Library -- This was a day when a very frustrated older couple came in needing to receive a financial statement so they could rent an apartment. They had tried to take care of it at home but could not. We were able to help them get the form and forward it onto the rental company.

Salmon Public Library -- It was a busy, snowy day in Lemhi County, but the weather didn't keep the patrons away. It was the first day of our fall book sale, which took in over \$900.

Twin Falls Public Library -- It was a typical day with lots of families, toddlers at toddler storytime, and a great group of teens at our teen cooking class.

Weiser Public Library -- We had the McDonalds Corporation (Weiser Branch) in today, and they held an in-service day for their employees. Most had never been to the library. We had a few stop and ask how to get a library card.

Reimagining an Old Assignment with New Tech at Boise's Borah High

Borah High School Library Assistant Laura Johnston utilized some training she received from the ICfL to collaborate with the school's AP Human Geo teacher to brainstorm ideas for updating a world religion assignment.

Johnston said, "She used to have the students make dioramas, but she has been increasingly underwhelmed by student buy-in and actual learning outcomes." Johnston and the teacher landed on a "world tour" using VR goggles so the students could actually "tour" world religion sites while also reading about each religion.

"Upon completion, they get a stamp in their 'passport' that we custom-made on our Glowforge with the religion's name and symbol," said Johnston. "Our acquisition of VR goggles and the laser cutter we used to make the stamps were both directly inspired and assisted by your (ICfL's) past programs. This just seemed like a great example of all these past experiences coming together to form an incredible experience for the students and resource for our teachers."



Gooding's Book Vending Machine



Gooding Public Library Director Cindy Bigler received an ESSER “summer strategies” grant. She utilized some of the funding to purchase a book vending machine, which was placed outside at a local grocery store.

Bigler said, “Self selection and books that are high interest are vital in keeping youth reading and learning throughout the summer. This includes providing books that can be used by all populations in our community, including minorities and differing age groups.”

The vending machine makes books easily available, which is particularly important during times when the library is not open.

The Community Library in Ketchum has fun holiday-themed events happening all month long in December.

Interactive Movie: ELF

Upon arrival you'll receive a fun package full of props and snacks to enjoy while watching a family-friendly film, *Elf*, produced by New Line Cinema. The movie is open to all ages and is rated PG. Children under the age of 9 must have an adult caregiver.
© New Line Cinema

Tuesday, December 19
3:00 - 4:30 p.m. • Lecture Hall
Registration required to reserve a Prop-and-Snack package.
[More/register here.](#)



Clay Ornaments



For Tweens & Teens: Clay Ornaments

Thursday, December 21
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Children's Library
Registration is required.