

The Scoop

Fun, inspiring and innovative ideas
for library youth services

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- Summary Report deadline for **Idaho Family Reading Week** by **December 15**
- **2023: The Finale!** **December 29**, 12 p.m. MT/ 11:00 a.m. PT, **Zoom**

WELCOME

By Staci Shaw

As we wrap up the final weeks of 2023, I've been reflecting on all the ups and downs of this past year. The wins, the losses, the close calls. And everything that is "to be continued."

The Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) annual reports to the Institute of Museum and Library Services are due this month, and this process requires us to review program reports and event information in order to compile data and account for the funds we've spent during the fiscal year. This year, and every year, I am incredibly proud of the impact the Idaho library community has made on children, teens, and families through ICfL programs, grants, professional development, and library events! While it's very easy to perseverate on all the challenges and negativity our libraries are increasingly having to face, the comments from our reports and evaluations show that there have been so many positive outcomes from library services to highlight.

This is what we should ultimately focus on as we move forward into 2024.

We celebrate you and all you've accomplished in 2023 – from implementing a capital improvement project or opening a library branch, to improving or increasing the services you provide, or to merely maintaining your sanity on a daily basis. **You made a difference in the life of a child, teen, or family who needed you this year.**

The staff here at the ICfL are honored to have helped support your library's youth services goals for 2023, as well as your professional development goals as a library staff member. The upcoming year will undoubtedly bring new challenges, both on a local level and a statewide level, and we will work collaboratively to develop strategies and solutions that preserve the integrity of library service and continue to build the capacity of Idaho libraries to best serve their communities.

Estamos Unidos, in 2024, and beyond.

LIBRARY TO LIBRARY

Happy Retirement to Denise Burnett!

After an incredible 18 years with the **Ada Community Library**, youth services librarian **Denise Burnett** plans to hang up her storytime puppets and engage in some hard-earned rest and relaxation with friends and family. Denise has been a familiar face at many ICfL-sponsored events, such as Read to Me Rendezvous, youth services trainings, and Make It. "Denise is a role model in the Idaho library community," says ICfL Youth Services Consultant Staci Shaw. "Her enthusiasm, creativity, and love of learning makes her a truly great librarian, and I hope she continues to share her experience with the next generation."



(Below: Every Child Ready to Read Workshop, Ada Community – Star Branch, circa 2010. Above: Read to Me Rendezvous with Amanda Bizeau, circa 2012.)

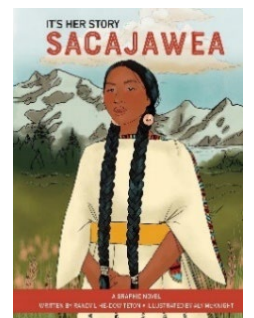


Denise also participated in many ICfL programs over the years. She was instrumental in launching Every Child Ready to Read @ your library® back in 2008, and she participated in My First Books, Jumpstart, Family Reading Week, Summer STEM, and more. "Denise is a Summer STEM superstar!" says ICfL Youth Services Consultant Jennifer Redford. "She always submitted the best quotes for us to use in our reports to our funders."

Denise has made a difference in the lives of thousands of children and families over the years through programming, outreach, and just being that friendly, safe person in the library. "She will be greatly missed as she has made a significant positive impact in the Star community and on ACL as a system," says co-worker Mary Allington. "We wish her all happiness as she begins this new chapter of her life!"

Sacajawea Author Visits Portneuf District Library

Randy'L Teton, author of the recently published *It's Her Story: Sacajawea* graphic novel (featured in the November 2 issue of *The Scoop*), went to Chubbuck in October to speak about the process of writing the book, the research she did, and the way she wanted the true story of Sacajawea presented to the world, especially the young audience the book was meant for. Teton is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Nation and lives in Fort Hall, Idaho.



“She is a gracious and dynamic speaker, and the book is wonderful!” said Youth Services Librarian **Amanda Bowden**. “She is available to book at other libraries and schools.” The illustrator for the graphic novel, Aly McKnight, is also a member of the Shoshone-Bannock tribe.



Next in Fashion!

The Hailey Public Library hosted a Thrift Store Fashion Show last month, and teen patron Brooke V.'s page-turning outfit took center stage. Youth Services Librarian **Lee Dabney** shared that there were 10 entries for the fashion show and the kids did an amazing job. They kept track of their “purchases” (\$75 maximum) in a log book from Hailey’s three local thrift shops, which allowed the kids to basically borrow the items for the show. Contestants were allowed to buy items, but they still needed to be within the allotted budget. “Brooke came in WAY below the \$75 by creating her own dress and crown from the pages of a thrifted and upcycled book,” Lee said. “The sweater, belt, and necklace were also thrift store finds. The judges were three local “celebrities”: the director of neighboring **Bellevue Public Library**, a beloved middle school teacher, and a super hip chic from around town who is a thrift store aficionado. This event was really fun, and the kids were really into it. We had cider and popcorn during the awards ceremony.”



Has your library hosted a fun program that you’d like to showcase? [Fill out this form](#) to tell us all about it, and we’ll share it next month!

TWEENS & TEENS

Idaho Teen Reading Challenge Discussion

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the Idaho Teen Reading Challenge virtual check-in on Dec. 4. We had a great discussion about ways to promote the Challenge and keep kids engaged throughout the year. Check out the video recording of the discussion here: https://youtu.be/SWvuvFQs_68



Behavior Management Institute Team Applications Now Open



Behavior Management Institute is a 1, 2, or 3-day team training event to help educators create positive behavior in youth programs all year round. Back by popular demand, Dr. Katie Azevedo will lead the first two days. For day 3, our professional development staff will lead a special day geared towards the mental health needs of Idaho youth.

For this immersive team-approach to behavior management, teams can sign up for 1, 2, or 3 days. Cost: \$50 per person per day.

- February 12 - Tier 1 - Behavior Management 101
- February 13 - Tier 2 - Trauma Informed Practices
- February 14 - Tier 3 - Youth Mental Health

Learn more here: <https://idahooutofschool.org/bmi/>.

Student Mapping Competition

Idaho public, private, and home schools are invited to participate in a national competition that encourages students to use configurable Geographic Information System (GIS) web technologies to tell interesting stories or issues within Idaho.

The required software is all online and available free to schools; no downloads required. The competition is open to grades 4-12. Important dates:

- Dec. 31, 2023 – Deadline for schools to apply for participation.
- April 30, 2024 – Deadline for schools to submit their finalists.
- May 15, 2024 – Idaho state winners announced.
- May 30, 2024 – National winners announced.

[Learn More](#)

Building Resilience Against Manipulative Disinformation

Every day, young people online are exposed to disinformation, conspiracy theories, and supremacist thinking. How can we build youth resilience in order to withstand this torrent of manipulative disinformation? Start with supporting young people's mental health and well-being. In [this new article](#), Lydia Bates of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project provides recommendations for addressing vulnerabilities to disinformation in young people. Prevention is crucial. Bates writes, "Incremental lessons, honest conversations and community networking can support young people's resilience against efforts to undermine civic engagement and learning environments grounded in safety and belonging."

KINDERGARTEN READY CORNER

Early Learning LITT Discussion, Dec. 12

Join us for a review of early learning programs, storytimes, spaces, and services from 2023. What worked well? What flopped? What could be tweaked for improvements in 2024? What are some goals you would like to achieve in the new year?

This virtual conversation will **not** be recorded; however, we will compile any relevant resources and send them out on our Early Learning Listserv afterward. Make sure you are subscribed to that list!

This chat is part of a larger initiative called Libraries in Idaho Talking Trends (LITT), so if you can't make it this month, hopefully you can drop in another time. Also, if you have ideas for future early learning chats, send them our way!



December 12, 2023

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. MT / 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. PT

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

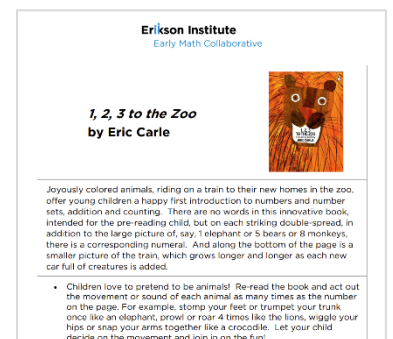
Meeting ID: 208 639 4178

Passcode: Read2Me

Books and At-Home Activity Cards: Counting

Here are some common counting books you may already have in your library. Activity cards that can be modeled in the library and sent home with parents/caregivers were developed by the **Erikson Institute** through its Early Learning Collaborative. These are great for passive programming, to include in early learning kits, or to display with a copy of the book.

[Learn More](#)



SCHOOL ZONE

Get Ready for School Library Statistics!

Data is valuable in so many ways, and data about Idaho's school libraries is even more valuable because we currently don't collect any. None. Starting in spring 2024, the ICfL will start collecting school library statistics, and we will compile them and publish the results.

We will need your help to make it happen. In April, you will receive an email with a link to a survey. It will ask just a few very easy, straight-forward questions. The survey will take just a few minutes to complete, but it will be a huge step toward representing all the important work school librarians do every day.

Check School Zone throughout the spring semester for more information about School Library Statistics!

Get Your IBOB Questions Before December 15

Still need your IBOB questions? Order them before December 15 for \$30, but after December 15, they will cost \$35. Find more information and the invoice form at idahobattleofthebooks.org.



[Learn More / Register](#)

What a Great IDEA!

Did you know that connecting to the IDEA by ICfL collection through your Sora or Libby app gives K-12 students free access to more than 20,000 titles curated specifically for them? Though a majority of Idaho schools are now connected, many school librarians and teachers still do not know about this service. Check out the collection at idea.overdrive.com and encourage your students to check out a book over the holiday break.

You can order promotional materials at [Marketing & Outreach: K-12 Schools – Print Ready – OverDrive Resource Center](#).

Low Hanging Fruit



Just in time for sending holiday greetings, December is National Write to a Friend Month. Check out December's Low Hanging Fruit for fun facts about letter writing and a classroom- or library-friendly activity or two.

[Continue Reading](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

2023: The Finale

A “finale” is a particularly dramatic or exciting ending. Let’s send 2023 out in style with our annual virtual end-of-the-year celebration. It has been another long year in library land, but there is some good news – 2023 is almost over! Let’s sunset this year together and send it off to its finale together. Join ICfL staff and your colleagues from around the state to put an end to 2023. We will look back on our predictions from last year, share our hopes for the future, and vote for the 2023 Word of the Year. This event is always a lot of fun and a great way to end the year.

Date: Friday, December 29

Time: 12 p.m. MT / 11 a.m. PT

Where: [Zoom](#)

This event is pretty casual and will NOT be recorded.

Do you have a nomination for the 2023 Word of the Year? Fill out this short form to submit your word, and we will vote for a winning word during the virtual event: <https://forms.office.com/g/ZR2r0YKcQp>.



CHECK IT OUT

Storytime Tip of the Month

Are your parents/caregivers chatting during your storytimes and distracting from your program? Here are a couple of tips:

- Create a poster or slide to display at the beginning of your program, stating that you need parents and caregivers to participate with their children, model the songs and rhymes, and have fun with the group.
- Allow “stay and play” after your program; before your program begins let parents/caregivers know they are welcome to stay in the area to chat with other parents afterward, and that you appreciate their participation with their children during storytime.



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Farm to School Grants

The [US Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program](#) is designed to increase the availability of local foods in schools and help connect students to the sources of their food

through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for school meals. Grants can launch new farm to school programs or expand existing efforts.

On an annual basis, USDA awards competitive Farm to School grants that support state, regional, and local organizations as they initiate, expand, and institutionalize efforts to increase access to food and to food education among America's youth.

Grantees include schools and districts, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers or groups of agricultural producers, **nonprofit entities, and state and local agencies (that includes public libraries!).**

Ifft Foundation Fund Grant for East Idaho, by Idaho Community Foundation

The Idaho Community Foundation (ICF), in partnership with the Sara and Nicholas Ifft Foundation, is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to Idaho nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions for projects that benefit residents in the southeastern Idaho counties of Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power. Funding may be used for public recreation and community beautification projects, projects that improve the local quality of life, and projects that enhance education, history, and the arts. **Deadline to apply is March 15, 2024.** Search for East Idaho grants/Ifft Foundation Fund on the ICF website to find the information.

[Learn More/Apply](#)

Kootenai Electric Cooperative Grant

Kootenai Electric Cooperative offers grants to Idaho nonprofit organizations and individuals to address critical needs in Kootenai, Bonner, and Benewah County. Focus areas include community service, education and youth, environment, and emergency energy assistance. Individuals and families with documented critical needs may request funds particularly related to health care and self-sufficiency. **Deadline to apply is January 19, 2024.**

[Learn More/Apply](#)

SUMMER READING NEWS

Save the Date: Regional Summer Learning Workshops

The ICfL is again hosting a series of six half-day Summer Learning Workshops around the state. During the workshops, participants will discuss summer learning topics, share ideas and resources, and have dedicated time to plan for next summer. We will open registration for these workshops in mid-December, and please save the date for the workshop nearest you:



- Feb. 16 (Fri.) – Boise (in the River Room at the ICfL)
- Feb. 20 (Tues.) – Twin Falls at the Harrett Center
- Feb. 21 (Wed.) – Idaho Falls, location TBD
- Feb. 27 (Mon.) – Payette at Payette Public Library
- Feb. 29 (Thurs.) – Lewiston at Lewiston City Library
- March 1 (Fri.) – Coeur d’Alene at Coeur d’Alene Public Library

Each workshop will run from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and there is no limit on how many library staff can register.

Got Any Cool Dinosaur Programs?

The Collaborative Summer Libraries Program (CSLP) needs your program ideas and resource suggestions for the 2026 Summer Manual. The theme for that year is Dinosauars, and the slogan is Unearth a Story. All submissions will be reviewed by the Manual Committees; however, due to limited space, the committee cannot print every idea submitted, and programs may be modified from their original submissions. Programming suggestions for the 2026 manual ("Dinosauars/Unearth a Story") will be accepted until September 27, 2024.

NOTE: If you submit original photos with your program idea, your idea will be prioritized for inclusion in the manual (with attribution to you and your library!).

[Click here to submit a program idea for 2026 \(all ages\).](#)

[Click here to submit a book or resource for 2026 \(all ages; in Spanish or English\).](#)

Order Your Summer Reading Posters by Dec. 8



Summer reading program manuals were shipped to public libraries the earlier this fall. Please look for yours and open it immediately for important information!

Note: ICfL shipping records show that every library that submitted its 2023 summer reading report was shipped a manual, and no manual packages were returned to the ICfL. If you can't find your manual package, please check around the library and with other staff.

Order your library's free summer reading posters from the ICfL by December 8: <https://form.jotform.com/icfl/CSLP-poster-requests-2024-idaho>.

FEATURED:

Art Is All Around Us – Idaho Family Reading Week (FRW) Highlights!

Not all the FRW summary reports are in yet (53 out of 100 have been submitted), but the ICfL is hearing (and seeing) some very positive responses to this year's art theme and the resources/activity ideas provided. Art activities seem to be loved by all ages, and libraries made some wonderful tie-ins to many types of literacy and art. It was a tough choice (you all did amazing work!), but here are a few library activity highlights, comments, and photos from this year:



Left: Parent-child bonding happening at Midvale District Library, whose library staff said: "Can we do this again?"

Below: Aberdeen District Library nearly overloaded with 96 participants listening to *Down to Earth Dad's* Patrick Mitchell and his family storytelling presentation.

Below: Idaho Family Reading Week "Dot" bulletin board display by Kuna Public Library and participants.





Left: Esteban the Magnificent, from *The Day the Crayons Came Home*, at Hillcrest Elementary School outreach visit for FRW in American Falls. Storytimes were alternately offered in English and Spanish – magnificent!

Bottom Left: Happy baby during "Give Thanks" art activity, in collaboration with local artist, at Notus Public Library.

Bottom Right: Process art activity station at Leadore School, part of Leadore Community Library's FRW events.



Specific FRW activity examples:

"Patrick Mitchell from *Down to Earth Dad* contacted us about doing a Family Storytelling Event. He has received a grant from Idaho AEYC to do this at libraries around Idaho. It was wonderful to have him be able to come for our FRW event. This was the best attendance we have had in the 18 years I have been here . . . At the end of the evening, as he was leaving, Patrick said "Aberdeen is my new favorite town." – Aberdeen District Library

"I incorporated the International Dot Day celebration activity idea by having an Augmented Reality Station. I used the Quiver app to do this. They have a template and program just for Dot Day. Everyone was amazed and thoroughly enjoy this." – Salmon Public Library

"We held a special storytime event in partnership with the Boise Philharmonic. Flutist Allison Emerick played a musical introduction to the participants, and then created a "soundtrack" to the book *Elephants Cannot Dance* by Mo Willems. Librarian Erin Kennedy spoke about how important music is to early literacy, and how singing helps kids learn to recognize and enunciate parts of words . . . The kids absolutely loved having a musical soundtrack to the storytime books." – Boise Public Library, Collister Branch

Overall FRW appreciation comments:

"I loved the message of *The Dot* especially for children. I loved that it encouraged their confidence in creating art and sharing their thoughts and ideas!" – Meridian District Library, Silverstone Branch

"All ages had a great time and learned something new . . . We feel that the greatest success is bringing the community together [for] in-person learning and having fun, trying new things, and new perspectives . . . One of our favorite things from FRW this year was that a family who is really struggling and has not been to one of our events before came. It was so fun to watch the kids as they went from hesitant to fully participating and being excited about participating and getting a prize. Their confidence definitely got a boost and that is what it is all about." – Leadore Community Library

"Family Reading Week is always a favorite program. The resources provided certainly helped me make my program well rounded and complete. A lot of our families in this community have limited funds so receiving a book, bookmark, and a sketch book to keep is so thrilling to them . . . My [First Book] outreach preschools were also thrilled to add their copy of *The Dot* to their classroom libraries." – Community Library Network, Rathdrum Branch

Follow-up from ICfL staff:

A few folks commented on their summary reports and said that it would be helpful if the FRW theme was known earlier. Don't forget, the theme for Idaho Family Reading Week is announced in the spring each year! (This year, it was announced in the March 2 issue and details were provided in the September 7 issue of *The Scoop*). This helps libraries start planning early, even before you have registered your library events and requested materials from the ICfL. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the 2024 FRW theme announcement in either the February or March issues of *The Scoop*.

Idaho Family Reading Week summary reports are due by December 15! You can find the summary report forms at the link below – look for specific report forms for both public and school libraries:

[More Info](#)

CE NEWS YOU CAN USE

~ from Annie Gaines, ICfL CE Consultant

Did you know the ICfL will pay for you to take online continuing education courses or webinars through [InfoPeople](#), [Library Juice](#), and [Amigos](#)? It's true! If there's an online course or webinar from these providers you'd like to take, you can apply for access by completing the corresponding Course Access

Request Form accessible from [this page](#). To qualify, participants must complete the follow-up survey and apply to access the course at least 15 days in advance.

Below are a few upcoming online courses that you might be able to squeeze into your very busy schedule!

Children’s Literature through an Equity Lens and Framework, January 1 – February 11, 2024

In this six-week course, students will have the opportunity to consider what an equity lens and framework mean in relation to children’s literature. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to explore some of the following themes and concepts: the power of stories, intersectionality, issues of representation, current issues in the children’s literature industry, how our identities, positionalities and context impact our work, and how books can become springboards for inquiries and activities. Through this exploration, students will also learn how to select and curate a book collection through an equity lens. The interactive course readings, discussion boards posts, videos, quote analysis, book talks, and assignments will help students build a virtual learning community as well as reaffirm their belief in the power and role children’s literature can play in creating a more equitable and inclusive community and world.

- [Details & course overview](#)
- [Course access request form \(Library Juice Academy\)](#)

Creating Inclusive Storytime Programs, January 1-28, 2024

In this class, students will learn how to create both high-energy and low-energy storytimes to meet the sensory, social-emotional, physical, and cognitive needs of children who have special needs. Class content will include strategies for reaching out to families who may struggle with attending traditional storytime programs, as well as best practices for promoting Sensory Storytimes in a socially and culturally sensitive way.

- [Details & course overview](#)
- [Course access request form \(Library Juice Academy\)](#)

Early Literacy Teaching Practices in BIPOC Communities, January 1-28, 2024

This course focuses on the literacy needs of the BIPOC communities. Students will read literature on past and present literacy and programming practices in library and classroom settings. The goal of this course is to empower instructors when leading their own storytimes or class sessions for BIPOC communities.

- [Details & course overview](#)
- [Course access request form \(Library Juice Academy\)](#)



DIVERSITY IN ACTION

Upcoming Partner Trainings with Financial Support from ICfL

Are you or your library seeking some inspiring and informative professional development opportunities this winter? For the right price? ICfL's Continuing Education program is here to provide you with some options . . . check out these upcoming online trainings offered by Library Juice and Amigos Library Services in the next three months:

Creating Inclusive Storytime Programs – “In this class, students will learn how to create both high-energy and low-energy storytimes to meet the sensory, social-emotional, physical, and cognitive needs of children who have special needs.” January 1 – January 28, 2024.

[Learn More](#)

Children's Literature through an Equity Lens and Framework – “In this six week course, students will have the opportunity to consider what an equity lens and framework means in relation to children's literature.” January 1 – February 11, 2024.

[Learn More](#)

Library Resources and Services for Patrons on the Autism Spectrum – “This course will provide librarians with a better understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), effective means of communicating with individuals with ASD, strategies for designing inviting and accessible library environments and programming, and suggestions for building relationships with community partners to better serve the needs of patrons with ASD.” February 5 – March 3, 2024.

[Learn More](#)

Serving the Neurodiverse Library User – “By developing a better understanding of neurodiversity, library staff can create more inclusive library environments through interactions, spaces, services, and programs that welcome and respect neurodiverse patrons.” March 26-27, 2024.

[Learn More](#)

You can find these and other upcoming library professional development opportunities linked on ICfL's [Partner Training Opportunities page](#).

Interested in taking one of these courses? Complete the ICfL's Course Access Request Form for the specific training partner, also found on the Partner Training Opportunities page, **15 days in advance** of the course's start date, and the ICfL will register you for the course and pay for your seat. Questions for ICfL staff? Contact [Annie Gaines](#), Continuing Education Consultant, for more information.

BOOK LOOK

SLJ Best Books of 2023

The School Library Journal (SLJ) Best Books process begins even as they finalize the prior year’s list, and after months of reading, reviewing, discussion, and deliberation, each SLJ committee selects 15 – 25 titles per category.

Best Books 2023 from School Library Journal (slj.com): Article, November 20, 2023, by Shelley M. Diaz

See a [downloadable list](#) of all categories and titles.

Here are a few highlights:

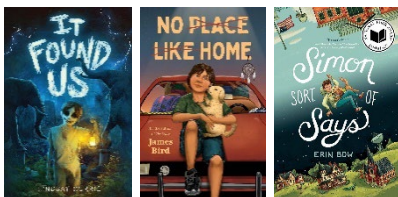
Picture Books:



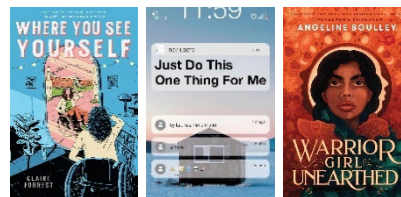
Transitional Books:



Middle Grade:



Young Adult:



Nonfiction – Elementary:



Nonfiction – Middle to High School:



Graphic Novels:



Poetry:



Talk Back: *We welcome your feedback on anything in The Scoop. Just email [Staci](#), [Kristina](#), [Jeannie](#) or [Jennifer](#), and we'll print your comments in The Scoop. You can also fill out [this form](#) to submit comments or stories from your library.*

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Contact Information

The Scoop is a service of the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me Program. To contribute or provide suggestions, contact [Staci](#), [Kristina](#), [Jeannie](#) or [Jennifer](#) at 208-334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271.



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