

State Librarian's Report to the ILA Board

October 2005

SL Budget Request

The State Board of Education approved the State Library Board's 4 line item (above maintenance level) requests for state fiscal year 2007. In priority order they are:

\$333,700 for the resource sharing portion of LILL-U (the Idaho catalog, WorldCat, and unlimited ILL for all Idaho participant libraries)

\$150,000 for the Read to Me program

\$150,000 in one-time funds for equipment and furnishings in the training/conference center planned for the space being vacated by the Historical Society Library

\$50,000 for strengthening the professional development collection

LSTA

As the federal fiscal year 2006 begins, Congress has not yet passed a Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill, which would include funding for several library programs.

In June, the House Appropriations Committee approved \$165.5 million for grants to state libraries (LSTA funds), and just under \$20 million for the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program.

In July, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$165 million for LSTA and the same level as the House for the school libraries program.

Given the extremely tight budget environment

and the number of cuts proposed in the President's FY06 budget, these proposed funding levels look fairly good. However, after the recent national disasters, I have heard no estimates on when budgets might be passed or what the funding levels may ultimately be.

Idaho Legislation

Jan Wall, Northern Field Consultant, and John Watts, ILA lobbyist, attended the majority of the meetings of the Legislature's Interim Committee on Property Tax. Jan reported that each regional meeting with the public had its own distinct tenor. Citizens expressed opinions ranging from outrage over higher taxes and assessments to concern over loss of local services funded by property taxes.

The State Library Board received approval from the Governor's Office to proceed with legislation to amend the State Library statute, Idaho Code Title 33, Chapter 25. The primary purpose of the legislation is to better reflect our mission by changing the name of the agency and its governing body, and revising the makeup of the board as well as the definition of its powers and duties. The bill will be pre-filed for the 2006 Legislative Session.

Planning Processes

The 2020 Vision futures process is well underway. 43 people participated in the August Think Tank and developed 4 common themes for a vision of Idaho libraries in 2020. The group adjourned with two unanswered questions: "Are we being bold enough?" And "How committed to these concepts are we?" Six Regional Futures meetings are being held to get additional input on the vision themes. In November.

the Futures Steering Committee, several Think Tank participants, and our futurist consultant will meet again. They will consider the vision themes and the input from the regional meetings, and produce a shared vision with suggested actions for the Idaho library community. See <http://www.lili.org/futures/> for more information.

The Talking Book Advisory Committee met several times over the summer with State Library staff and a consultant to complete an information needs assessment of Idahoans with print impairments and of local library services available to that clientele. The consultant's report can be seen at <http://www.lili.org/tbs/>. The Advisory Committee is proceeding with the planning process and expects to have a final plan completed by January.

Recognizing that the current statute, Idaho Code 33-2505, is inadequate for ensuring easy access to Idaho public documents, we are "planning to plan" with another advisory committee and consultant. The intended outcome is a report with recommendations to improve access to these public documents for all Idahoans.

Continuing Library Education

The 16th annual Summer Institute in August consisted of 3 tracks: Building Strong Foundations, and Taming the Information Jungle (advanced LiLI-D searching), both for elementary school library staff; and Project Management. A total of 56 people attended this year.

Our first Camtasia production, Search the LiLI-U Catalog, is near completion. The "live action" PowerPoint CD will be sent to all middle and high school libraries, public libraries and their branches, and academic libraries this month.

A new e-course on interlibrary loan protocols is under development as part of the SABLE program

(Supplemental Alternative Basic Library Education). A flier describing LiLI services will be included in the packets for the Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA) upcoming annual meeting. Anne Abrams is planning to make a LiLI presentation to the four IASA division boards.

Read to Me Programs

The statewide Summer Reading publicity campaign appears to have been successful. To date 102 libraries have reported registering 35,650 children. This represents a 29 percent increase over 2004.

The Summer Reading Advocacy Steering Committee will meet again later this month to work on the second phase of the statewide campaign.

The Scoop, a bi-monthly email newsletter published by Read to Me for school and public library staff interested in improving services to children and young adults, has gained 275 subscribers since its inception last February.

LiLI Services

Preparations are underway for Phase 3 of LiLI Unlimited implementation. Eligible libraries have until November 11 to submit their Participation Agreement Forms. Training for new participants will take place in December, and their service will begin in January 2006.

A new LiLI-D display for kids will make its premier appearance at this conference. Be sure to look for it!

A Request for Information has been issued to gather responses from courier vendors so we can take the next steps in establishing courier service among all Idaho libraries.