



IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES

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STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT TO THE ILA BOARD

April 2007

Read-to-Me

- Commission staff and ILA representative Erin Hasler met with First Lady Lori Otter in January to request her support for libraries. She enthusiastically accepted the invitation to be our Summer Reading Ambassador and to visit libraries as her schedule permits.
- Mrs. Otter also addressed 70 librarians gathered for the 10th annual Read to Me meeting in February. She commended librarians who are working to help families help their children to develop a life-long love of reading, and described libraries as the foundation of the community. The First Lady strongly encouraged librarians to schedule a visit, especially during summer reading programs.

2007 Legislative Session

- JFAC was interested enough in the Commission's request to expand the Read-to-Me program to reach more at-risk families to ask for more information, but ultimately did not fund the request.
- I made presentations to the House and Senate Education Committees to brief them on recent Commission initiatives and emerging Library 2.0 roles.
- I also made presentations to the House and Senate State Affairs Committees to present the results of our Task Force study of and recommendations to improve access to state public documents.

Gates Foundation / ALA Connectivity Study

- A 3-member research team made a site visit to Idaho in March and held 26 interviews with librarians, state policy makers, and vendors. Their unofficial observations include:
 - Idaho public libraries have not been recognized as players in high speed telecommunications, economic development, or emergency planning and recovery;
 - Regardless of the connectivity they have, Idaho public libraries don't have enough to offer what their patrons want; and
 - Broadband deployment in Idaho has been inadequate.

- The research team will produce a report to the Gates Foundation with recommendations for “sustainable interventions” in the area of telecommunications.
- ALA will likely publish a description of best practices that lead to successful broadband deployment.

2020 Vision

- A 1 ½ day event, “Celebration & connection: Charting Your 2020 Vision,” was held in 4 locations in January and February.
- Workshops on podcasting and wikis, presented by BCR, were held in 4 more locations in March, concluding the series begun last fall as part of the Gates Foundation “Staying Connected” initiative.

Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) Services

- A variety of webinars and workshops on the new LiLI Databases were held in multiple locations during January and February.
- Mocktail Parties were held in 6 locations in March and April to present the new and expanded LiLI services to school librarians. These were the first element of a Commission campaign to increase school library participation in LiLI Unlimited.

Submitted April 19, 2007

Ann Joslin

State Librarian