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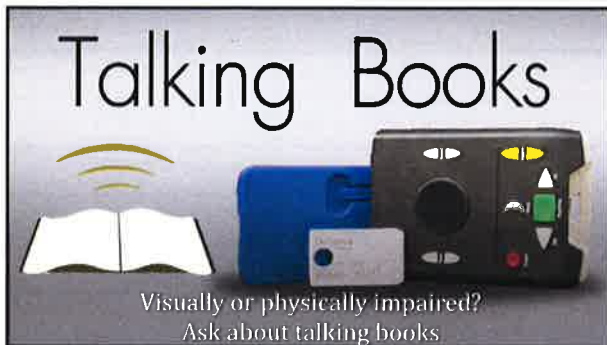
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### TAPPING INTO THE POWER OF LIBRARIES

**6,000 HOURS** Awake time we all have annually, including youth.

**1,000 HOURS** The average U.S. student attends school annually with 100% attendance.

**5,000 HOURS** Available to impact, educate and enhance the learning of students beyond the status quo.

**LIBRARY LEARNING**

**80%** POINTS OF OPPORTUNITY

**20%** POSSIBLE CLASSROOM LEARNING

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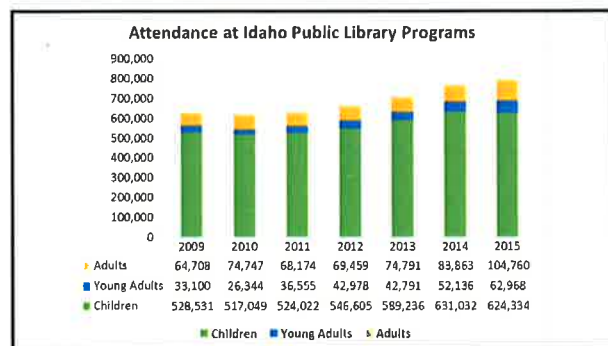
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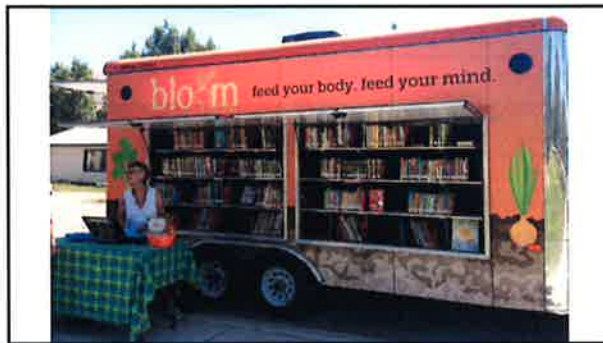
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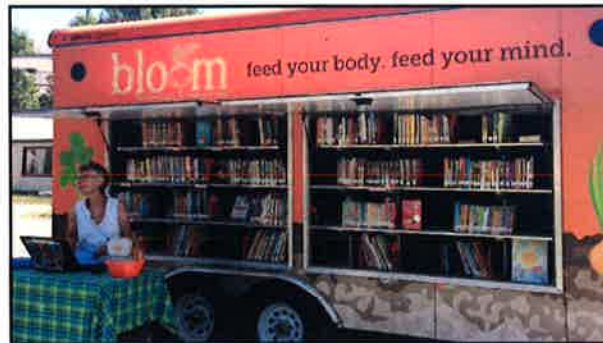
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### How Cool is This?

- Community Library In Ketchum, Hunger Coalition, and the Wood River Sustainability Center Partnership
- Healthy free brown bag lunches & great books
- Over 1,000 new books available
- Twice weekly visits in low-income areas
- Fun activities
- 200 "Bloom" library cards issued

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Other library partnerships occurred all over Idaho. Over 17,000 books were provided in summer 2016 for outreach partnerships.

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Broadband in public libraries

Broadband in public libraries is a critical resource.

Public libraries need more broadband.

Idaho's public libraries are significant consumers of broadband for internet connectivity and should be included in statewide planning for broadband.

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Thank You

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# IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES








## HOUSE & SENATE EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS


3.8.2017


### INTRODUCTION

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chairman. I'm Ann Joslin, State Librarian and director of the Idaho Commission for Libraries. I'd like to introduce our new Deputy State Librarian, Stephanie Bailey-White. Stephanie has been with the agency for 25 years, starting in the role of Public Information Office in 1991 and then helping launch the successful Read to Me Early Literacy Program in 1997. Stephanie has been serving on the Governor's Task Force for Literacy, along with Rep. Van Orden and many others and we thought she would be a good spokesperson to provide some background on the role Idaho libraries play in our education system.

Thank you. It's great to be here today.


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-  We are a state agency that was established in 1901 when books were carried by stagecoach and on horseback to mining communities and towns that were springing up around our state. Our mission is to help Idaho libraries build the capacity to better serve their communities.
  -  We do that by providing professional development and consulting services, managing statewide systems for resource sharing and online resources, and developing and implementing statewide programs that meet local needs.
  -  We also serve over 3200 Idahoans who are unable to read standard print through the Talking Book Service. In partnership with the National Library Service, we deliver over 175,000 custom audio books, magazines, and digital players to eligible users. In addition, users are now downloading about 35,000 recorded books and magazines online.
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-  Counting branch facilities in all city and district libraries, there are 147 public libraries statewide. Because our libraries are embedded in communities and campuses across the state, they are natural partners for the development and delivery of solutions to pressing issues, including helping ensure more students are ready for post-secondary training, strengthening the talent pipeline, and rural sustainability.
  -  The Commission and the Idaho library community  are playing an important role in working toward the goal of at least 60% of Idahoans between the ages of 25 and 34 having a post-secondary degree or certification by 2020.
  -  I'd like to share a short video of some of the library programs that are supporting this goal:  
(Share video clip)


 Idaho libraries spark curiosity, connections, and creativity. While some in the Idaho library community think our school library colleagues are fortunate because they have a captive audience of students who often visit their school libraries on a regular basis – the charge for public library staff is to captivate their audience.


 This graphic represents the number of waking hours we all have every year – 6,000. The average student attends school 1,000 hours each year, leaving 5,000 hours for us, especially in the summer, to captivate their attention and work to engage them in positive learning experiences.

I'm happy to report that library staff have run with that challenge and are doing some amazing work engaging youth of all ages and their families on a regular basis by providing a variety of programs that are both educational and fun.


More Idahoans are attending public library programs than ever. In FY 2015, there were more than 8.6 million visits to public libraries in Idaho. Idaho libraries had the fifth highest circulation of children's materials along with the 5<sup>th</sup> highest per capita attendance at children's programs ranging from storytimes to afterschool programs. Attendance at young adult programs isn't far behind, with a ranking of 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation, per capita – an increase of 42 percent over the past five years.

 That jump in attendance coincides nicely with the Make It at the Library programs, introduced by the Commission five years ago.

 This month, Our Make It @ the Library initiative is training 45 new library teams to be part of the cohort of public, school and academic libraries who have Maker Spaces and programs in their libraries.

 We've provided state-of-the-art robotics kits, electronic textiles, and 3-D printers, along with extensive staff training in coding, basic circuitry, and design thinking.

This year, we've been able to partner with the STEM Action Center to reach more library staff with training and tools to create successful makerspaces to encourage experimentation and creativity.

 Participating libraries report that whole families are coming to the library to create and experiment together. By providing easy and free access to these resources, makerspaces can inspire more people – of any age - to become entrepreneurs and to pursue careers in design, manufacturing, and related STEM fields.

One librarian described a woman with no background in electronics who is developing a mechanism that will automatically open and close the shutters on her greenhouse based on temperature. Every week she and her 9 year old son work with a library volunteer to learn from the ground up as she designs and troubleshoots her device. Community members love coming to the library, not just to get books, but to also learn new skills.

✓ Idaho libraries have been able to leverage their work on the local level and tap into several national opportunities that are pretty exciting. ✓ The Driggs branch of the Valley of the Tetons District Library was selected as one of three national sites to partner with NASA to help develop activities and resources focusing on the August total solar eclipse.

✓ Salmon Public Library is working with Google and the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh to develop a local biomimicry initiative, in cooperation with the school district and Forest Service.

✓ And Glens Ferry Public Library was recently selected as one of 15 small and rural libraries nationwide to re-imagine and re-configure their library space to enable more active learning, exploration, and collaboration.

✓ Idaho libraries are also working hard to reach students who may struggle with reading during the summer months and may not be coming into their libraries for books and programs. Last summer was the first time that the number of youth reached at summer nutrition programs, parks, and other locations outside the library surpassed the number of children who were coming into the library for summer reading programs. This “follow the food” model ✓ has been amazing to watch and continues to grow. We were excited to see the Community Library in Ketchum ✓ work with the Hunger Coalition, and the Wood River Sustainability Center Partnership to deliver healthy free brown bag lunches, great books, and fun learning activities in this very cool Bloom Bus twice each week to low-income areas.

It reminds me quite a bit of our history of delivering books by stagecoach to those people who needed them the most and weren’t always able to get to their closest library

✓ We’ve also supported efforts to pair library programs and books with the Idaho Foodbank’s Picnic in the Park and programs similar to it in communities across the state – ✓ reaching over 55,000 children last year – a 53% increase compared to 2013.

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Finally, we want to say a word about broadband in public libraries. ✓

Our sincere thanks to last year’s Interim Broadband Committee for putting forth new legislation to provide state funding to help support Internet access in public libraries as well as in schools. Libraries and schools first apply for the FCC’s E-rate program where our public libraries average a 76% discount in E-rate, meaning that, on average, the remaining 24% of their broadband bill had to be paid from the library’s local funds – which seriously limited the amount of bandwidth many could purchase.

The state average of library bandwidth increased from 40 MB last year, to 70 this year. Clearly, the state reimbursement is helping more public libraries provide more bandwidth to their communities.

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## IN CLOSING

📄 This is an exciting time to be a part of the Idaho library community. If you haven't had the chance to visit the public, school and academic libraries in your district, I encourage you to make the time to see how they are sparking curiosity, connections and creativity. Or stop by the Idaho Commission for Libraries – we're just three blocks west of here in the same building with the Secretary of State. We welcome the chance to show you the recording studios where Idaho books are recorded for our Talking Book Services patrons and what goes on behind the scenes to ensure more children and teens get books into their hands in the summer and throughout the year.

- We would love to answer questions you might have.