

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT April 2011

### House Bill 205: Internet Filtering in Public Libraries

The Senate Education Committee voted to amend the original language of House Bill 205 to give public libraries more flexibility by providing unfiltered access for adults, eliminating the "bona fide" research determination for turning a filter on/off for minors, and providing an October 2012 implementation date. While the Bill will require some changes to Boise Public Library's Internet access policy and procedures, the amended Bill is far less restrictive and problematic than the original Bill. City IT senior project coordinator Brad Smith and I testified at the March 24 Senate Education Committee hearing as did other library directors and citizens from around the state. The Idaho Library Association did a marvelous job keeping the Idaho library community informed and coordinating testimony and legislative contacts. Thank you, Library Board of Trustees, for contacting legislators and expressing library concerns regarding this Bill. The compromise is a workable solution for Boise Public Library.

### Eighth Street Warehouse Lease/Relocation

The Boise City Council approved a lease for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Warehouse to Rocky Mountain Development (Biomark) on March 22. I am working with John Brunelle from the Mayor's Office to secure warehouse space for the Friends of the Library operation and Denise McNeley has secured parking for staff and volunteers in two nearby parking lots. However, we are still 10-15 parking spaces short. Parking spaces are in short supply and high demand in the area, and we will need to convert the parking lot directly behind the Boise Public on 8<sup>th</sup> Street into staff and volunteer parking. I will brief the Trustees on plans and progress during the April board meeting.

### Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget Build Process

The components for the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 budget build process have all been submitted on deadline by library administration. The Board of Trustees will need to approve the Maintenance & Operation budget piece at the April board meeting. Next steps include Executive Management Team review during April and Council review of major budget considerations during the April City Council strategic planning meeting. The Library's Management Team and Leadership Circle have worked very hard to present a balanced budget while continuing to focus on library strategic initiatives. City Council budget workshops are scheduled for late June.

### LYNX! Consortium Directors Meeting

The directors met on March 18 and adopted the recommended Open Access payments for Fiscal Year 2012 using the new funding formula adopted last summer. Boise's payments to Eagle and Garden City will remain the same as last fiscal year. Other items included exploring the possibility of purchasing eBooks as a consortium with pricing discounts, continued discussion of a library outsourcing position paper, circulation policy and procedure issues, and consortium strategic planning, scheduled to take place this June.

### Miscellaneous Items

- I authorized an additional \$50,000 in expenditures to add to the eBook collection and an additional \$15,000 for adult fiction expenditures. Funds come from the Library's rebudgeted amounts from Fiscal Year 2010, per the Library's spending plan. The eBook collection continues to be very popular among users.
- The Friends of the Library book sale is scheduled for April 1-3. This is the largest and most profitable of the Friends sales each year. Last year, the Friends earned over \$44,000 for library programs and projects at the spring sale.
- Get Loud at the Library, the Library's annual National Library Week event will be held on April 13, 5-8 p.m. at all Boise Public locations. This year's theme is Science Explosion and we will also offer attendees an opportunity to write thank-you notes to individuals serving in our Idaho military overseas. Music, snacks, and fun with science and technology will be featured during the evening.

### *ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT:*

#### Landscaping at Main Library

Administration staff has been working with Boise Parks and Recreation over the last few weeks to "refresh" the landscaping at the Main Library. We removed most of the existing plants and planted new ornamental grasses, blanket flowers, boxwoods, and other landscaping materials. Parks and Recreation also spread some new mulch and installed a few concrete pavers in the 8th Street median. This is a nice improvement and will look great once things start to bloom and mature throughout the summer.

#### More Upgrades Coming to the Library

Recarpeting of the Youth Services area in the Main Library and a small section of staff areas at the Library! at Collister will begin in late April. The next project at the Main Library will include some HVAC work to address deficiencies and standard replacements of HVAC wall units. Once bids are received on the HVAC project, then we can progress on to the next project which will include signage replacement at the Collister and Hillcrest library branches. That will conclude major repairs in this fiscal year.

#### Jim Gill Performance

Through a grant from Idaho Commission for Libraries, Youth Services staff was able to bring children's singer/performer Jim Gill to town for a workshop for librarians and childcare workers and a free performance at the Egyptian Theater. More than 900 kids and adults sang, danced, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the performance.

#### Young Writers Contest

Staff at the Library! at Cole & Ustick was excited to congratulate Sam Gironda and Oleg Kudashkin. These two young writers placed 2nd and 3rd (consecutively) in the Idaho Magazine 2011 Fiction Contest (youth category), and are now published authors. Both boys attended the 2010 writing program at the Cole & Ustick branch where they worked diligently on developing their winning stories.