

# Library Director's Report

## September 2011

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During the month of August, library staff has completed or prepared to launch several key library strategic initiatives including the community-wide survey, the Main Library facility condition analysis, the selection and purchase of an e-payment system, and the purchase of a “discovery layer” for the online catalog. Library staff from every division has worked very hard this month to bring these initiatives forward. I'm very proud of the staff's ability to implement key initiatives.

### Community Survey Progress

Joanne Hinkel and I have reviewed several drafts of the survey and listened to recordings from the August 23 pretest of the questionnaire. We've given final approval to the instrument and the survey is scheduled to begin on September 7. Results should be available in October and a report available in November. The survey was made possible by a grant from the Idaho Commission for Libraries, funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

### Warehouse Move Complete

The Friends of the Library, Inc. and library staff have completed the move to the warehouse across the street from the Library's River Street delivery entrance. The lease agreement has been finalized and will go to the City Council for approval within the month. Thanks to the Friends, Denise McNeley, and Brandon Frasier for making this move quick and easy.

### Strategic Planning Process

Trustees will see the draft strategic goals and action steps for Fiscal Year 2012 in this month's board packet and will be asked to approve the goals and action steps during the October meeting. The goals will serve the Library for the next four-year period and align with two of the City's focus areas: “Foster a community where arts and culture thrive,” and “Run the business.” We've tried to scale down the initiatives given the economic constraints, but at the same time move the Library towards realizing our vision of creating a “world class” library for Boise. The planning process began in March, with feedback solicited from all library staff members.

### Technology Innovations

Enterprise, a discovery layer for the online catalog, will be installed on the Library's ILS (Integrated Library System) on September 13. The discovery layer will enhance customer interaction with the catalog and allow for customer created tagging, friendlier search interface, and connections with social networking media. We plan to go public with the product in October after staff becomes more familiar with it.

Also in October, an e-payment system will be launched enabling library customers to pay fines and fees online and at all library self-checkout stations via credit card or debit card. The product has been purchased and IT is working on implementation.

### National Library Card Signup Month

September is National Library Card Signup Month and the Library will be promoting library cards throughout the month. On August 30, Mayor Bieter, Ada County Free Library District Director Mary DeWalt, and I will participate in a kickoff event at Whitney Elementary School. We will read a story, discuss the importance of library cards, and talk about the "First Book" program to Whitney kindergarteners. Mayor Bieter will sign a proclamation declaring September to be Library Card Sign-up Month in Boise. The event is scheduled in the school library at 2:00 p.m.

### *ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT:*

#### "New" Meeting Space at the Main Library

With the move of public computers from the Gates Lab to the second floor, space has been freed to create a small meeting room on the Main Library's first floor. Lightweight rolling tables have been placed in the room and customers can change from a conference room to a classroom setup with relative ease. The room also features a fixed LCD projector. The room is available for use by the public without payment of a fee starting this month.

#### Writing Camp

The Library! at Cole & Ustick hosted a week-long writing camp for kids ages 8-15 with a wrap-up Publishing Workshop. The registrations for both events filled quickly, as did the waiting lists. Each session had 28 attendees full of enthusiasm and interest in writing.

#### Shelving Changes at the Main Library

Changes are underway on the Main Library's first floor that should serve to improve customers' browsing experience. New shelving is being installed in the teen area that will create more room for materials to be displayed while also opening up a small amount of additional floor space to make browsing more comfortable. Shelves that will be used to display materials from all over the Main Library are also being installed near the front door. These shelves should provide customers with more browsing options, even if their visit doesn't have them venturing up to the second or third floors.