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Title: Scout Video Collections

Category: Cross-boundary collaboration and partnerships

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Executive Summary

In 2010 Idaho Public Television (IdahoPTV) joined with the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) in their efforts to bring additional broadband connectivity and online resources to the underserved rural areas throughout Idaho. To fill a gap in high-quality online video resources that support K-12 students and teachers, IdahoPTV and ICfL teamed up on this aspect of ICfL's Round 2 Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application by:

- working with PBS LearningMedia to use their video collection designed for K-12 classroom use (award-winning resources from NOVA, FRONTLINE, and AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and other national productions), and offering this online resource through the Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) statewide portal at lili.org (Scout, Classroom Edition).
- customizing this service with IdahoPTV's award-winning fourth-grade history series; the science program for elementary students, D4K (Dialogue for Kids); and several specials including the Emmy award-winning program about Idaho's Teacher in Space, astronaut Barbara Morgan.
- creating new web-accessible collections of video resources about Idaho (Adventure, History, People & Culture, Places, Natural Resource Issues, Science, and Wild Things) that include full programs from award-winning series locally produced (Scout, Idaho Collection).
- providing webinar training to library staff to enable them to navigate the program and assist patrons in its use, coordinating public information and outreach, producing and airing interstitials promoting Scout and other LiLI resources for K-14 students, providing associated public information materials to libraries, and participating in data collection activities to measure usage and success of the service.

The above activities have been accomplished; the public information and interstitials are ongoing. Scout is designed for sustainability. There are no license or user fees going forward for ICfL or for IdahoPTV. PBS LearningMedia adds resources and maintains the Scout, Classroom Edition resources and links. IdahoPTV will add appropriate full-length programs to the Scout, Idaho Collection as new programs are produced.

These web-accessible resources are available to all Idaho students, teachers, and independent learners at scout.lili.org and through the lili.org portal. Students can access Scout at school, at home and at their public library outside of school hours – and eventually (we anticipate) via an icon on their individual computing devices. Scout resources also support Idaho's recently adopted Common Core Standards (<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/>).

Section 3: Description of the business problem and solution

Both ICfL and IdahoPTV are charged with providing access to educational resources to Idaho residents. IdahoPTV provides access through broadcast television services, web-accessible programming and resources, and local video production. ICfL provides access through the online lili.org portal, program development work and grant management which supports Idaho libraries in their local operations and services.

In 2010 IdahoPTV joined with ICfL in its efforts to bring additional broadband connectivity and online resources to the underserved rural areas throughout Idaho. ICfL's Round 2 BTOP project, "online @ your library," included expanding public access computing and Internet connectivity in poorly connected public libraries as well as expanding online resources available for use in Idaho libraries, homes and businesses. Web-accessible resources were needed that particularly supported K-12 students, the unemployed, and the under-employed.

A gap in the lili.org collection was identified: there were no high quality online video resources to support K-12 students and teachers. There were no Internet-accessible video resources designed specifically for informal K-12 education at the library. There was a need for Idaho-specific Internet-accessible video for classroom and informal K-12 education. IdahoPTV and ICfL teamed up to address this as well as the need for public information targeting teachers and students on where to find these newly accessible online video resources for the classroom and for learning and exploration outside the classroom.

IdahoPTV and ICfL made innovative use of existing technology and resources by using PBS' video server systems available at no cost to PBS-member systems to bundle existing video productions into a new online product: Scout, Video Collections.

The PBS LearningMedia content management and video server system is designed for K-12 classroom use and contains thousands of short videos including award-winning resources from NOVA, FRONTLINE, and AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and other national productions. The service is designed for teachers to use for adding video to lesson plans and assigning video to students for class work or homework. The 10,000-plus resources are tagged by grade level, fine-grained subject, and Common Core Standards. IdahoPTV customized this service with short video segments from their award-winning fourth-grade history series; the science program for elementary students, D4K (Dialogue for Kids); and several specials including the Emmy award winning program about Idaho's Teacher in Space, astronaut Barbara Morgan. This comprises the Scout, Classroom Edition.

The PBS COVE system serves out full programs in "collections" curated by the local PBS-affiliate. IdahoPTV created new collections of video resources about Idaho (Adventure, History, People & Culture, Places, Natural Resource Issues, Science, and Wild Things) that include full locally produced programs from award-winning

series. These comprise the Scout, Idaho Collection.

Scout, Classroom Edition and Scout, Idaho Collection were then coupled for use in Idaho libraries and homes as Scout, Video Collections through a landing page on ICfL's LiLI server, <http://scout.lili.org>. Both the IdahoPTV home page, <http://idahoptv.org> and ICfL's Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) service, <http://lili.org> point directly to Scout. [Lili.org](http://lili.org) is an easily found resource highlighted on public library websites.

ICfL and IdahoPTV provided webinar training to library staff to enable them to navigate the program and assist patrons in its use. The two agencies coordinated public information and outreach. IdahoPTV produced and aired interstitials promoting Scout and other LiLI resources for K-12 students. The agencies worked together to design and deliver posters, bookmarks and detailed user guides to all middle school and high schools in the state, using existing connections with the schools to reach teacher-librarians directly. Posters, bookmarks and user guides were also distributed to all public libraries in the state.



Scout, Video Collections at <http://scout.lili.org/>

Section 4: Significance to the improvements of the operation of government

The Scout collaboration helps ICfL and IdahoPTV in fulfilling their respective mandates to provide access to educational resources for Idaho residents. By using the BTOP grant funds to develop the service from existing and available components, ensuring that there no ongoing cost obligations to maintain the service, and then launching the service as part of the BTOP project, the agencies are able to operate within their budget constraints.

The Scout, Video Collections collaboration supports the public policy goals of state leaders. Scout provides an additional alternative video-learning resource to that contracted by the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) that is accessible statewide for homeschooling and self-directed informal learning, in-school and out. Scout provides an additional learning and teaching resource, adding value to the computing devices distributed to teachers and students as part of the state's Students Come First initiative (<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/studentscomefirst/>). The Scout, Classroom Edition supports Idaho's recently adopted Common Core Standards.

The model used to develop the Scout, Video Collections transfers to other agencies or units of government. This arrangement, tailored to the needs of students and teachers accessing educational materials from libraries and from home, could be used as it is by high schools, community colleges and universities to make use of the PBS LearningMedia resources appropriate for high school and adult learning – providing off-campus access for self-directed study and lesson planning. Specialized collections of IdahoPTV and PBS productions could be curated into specialized web-accessible full-program video collections, using the PBS-developed broadband videoplayer, COVE, back-end, to assist other state agencies in discharging their duties – enriching their web-based resources for residents, visitors, and voters; consumer health and news on medical research and policy for Department of Health & Welfare; or outdoor recreation and environmental news and policy for Commerce, Department of Environmental Quality, Parks & Recreation, and Fish & Game, for example.

The collaboration between the ICfL and IdahoPTV to create the Scout, Video Collections, could work in other states or cities as well. All PBS member stations have free use of the PBS Learning Media resource and free use of the PBS COVE player, with the ability to create customized "collections" that include local productions or a combination of local and national programming. Whether a PBS licensee provides statewide service (as is the case in Idaho) or serves a smaller area, they could easily work with the state library agency or a metropolitan library to tailor a similar set of video services for the library users in their service area.

Section 5: Benefits of the project (financial and non-financial)

These high-quality web-accessible video resources are available to all Idaho students, learners, teachers and others who wish to support student achievement. Students can access Scout at school, at home, and at their public library outside of school hours – and eventually (we anticipate) via an icon on their individual computing devices. Scout resources also support Idaho's recently adopted Common Core Standards.

The new Scout, Video Collections provides cost-effective service to Idaho residents. There are no licensing costs, no new server hardware, and no additional server-side bandwidth costs. Public information on the service was developed in-

house by IdahoPTV and ICfL and distributed using existing channels (IdahoPTV broadcast facilities and carriage agreements) and websites. The agencies made use of their extant relationships with K-12 schools and the teacher-librarians working in the schools, as well as ICfL's direct connection to public libraries.

This collaboration on Scout supports the public policy goals of state leaders. There is no ongoing obligation of state funds to maintain the service that was developed, put into operation and promoted using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. PBS LearningMedia adds resources and maintains the Scout, Classroom Edition resources and links. IdahoPTV will add appropriate full-length programs to the Scout, Idaho Collection as new programs are produced. There are no license or user fees going forward for ICfL or for IdahoPTV.

The SDE is moving toward public school students and teachers leveraging school-provided computers and Internet access for online learning resources. Scout provides video resources for students and teachers to access from home, using the broadband Wi-Fi or computers at public libraries, and at schools.

The Scout, Video Collections exemplifies best practices with its use of metadata associated with each video asset. In the Scout, Classroom Edition, each local addition to the PBS LearningMedia collection was tagged so as to be findable within the schema of that service. The Scout, Classroom Edition allows a user to search or browse by grade level(s), subject area (a wide choice of granularity), media type, language, teaching standard and more. As part of the project a machine-readable cataloging record was created for each of the video assets included in the Scout, Idaho Collection. This record was added to the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) WorldCat, a global catalog of library collections, giving visibility to IdahoPTV award-winning productions, making them findable in the internationally shared library catalog, and pointing to Scout.