

About the State Library of Oregon

Introduction

Providing services for over 100 years, the State Library of Oregon is located in a beautiful building built in 1939 to serve the citizens of Oregon. The mission of the State Library is to provide leadership and resources to continue growing vibrant library services for Oregonians with print disabilities, the Legislature and state government, and all Oregonians through local libraries.

Since its founding, the State Library has been governed by an independent board. The present board consists of nine members from different areas throughout the state who are appointed by the governor to serve four-year terms. The operation of the library and the functions of the board are governed by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 357.

Mission

All Oregonians have the information essential to be engaged citizens, to strengthen our communities and to build a prosperous state.

The State Library provides leadership and resources to continue growing vibrant library services for Oregonians with print disabilities, the Legislature and state government, and all Oregonians through local libraries.

Core values

Open to opportunity

We try new things, take smart risks, and ask "what if" to innovate and problem solve.

Excellent customer service

We learn from and respond to our patrons and co-workers so we can better deliver services to meet needs.

Strong community

We compromise, cooperate, and connect to achieve mutual success.

Professionalism

We are honest, good stewards, keep our commitments, and are responsible for our actions.

Personal leadership

We take initiative, actively participate, and use open two-way communication to improve ourselves and our work environment.

History

1905: House Bill 6 establishing the Oregon Library Commission is introduced by Congressman Linthicum in the 23rd Legislative Assembly and is first read January 10. The Bill passes the House on January 21 and the Senate on February 3.

Cornelia Marvin becomes the Secretary of the Oregon Library Commission with a salary of \$1,200 a year.

1907: The Legislature passes a law requiring the state printer to give the State Librarian bound copies of state publications, to be distributed to selected Oregon libraries, marking the beginning of the Oregon Documents Depository Program.

1913: The Legislature passes a bill to create the Supreme Court Library (formerly known as the State Library) and renames the Oregon Library Commission the Oregon State Library.

1932: Oregon State Library (OSL) offers reading courses. Courses consist of reading suggestions on various topics, aimed at unemployed youth who are unable to attend college; in the first 18 months of service more than 1,470 students take part. It later grows to include workers in the federal Civilian Conservation Corps camps.

1933: The Legislature approves the construction of the State Library building.

1935: In November, a special session of the Legislature creates the State Capitol Reconstruction Commission to oversee the construction of the new State Capitol and State Library buildings.

1937: In March, the Legislature appropriates \$550,000 for the State Library project, with \$450,000 available from the WPA.

1942: “Ask Your State Librarian,” a weekly radio program, is broadcast over the state-owned radio station, KOAC in Corvallis.

1945: The Legislature makes budgetary provision for a State Archivist (at the recommendation of the Board of Trustees), which operates under the supervision of the State Librarian.

1946: David Duniway becomes Oregon’s first State Archivist.

1962: A Field Services Division is established to promote development of public library services and provide consultant services.

1965: Interstate Library Compact becomes law in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, which encourages and enables sharing of resources among these three states.

- 1967: OSL publishes *Master Book Catalog*, the first book catalog to be published by any state library in the nation. It contains a listing of all adult non-fiction acquired before November 1965 and was equivalent to a 1,200 drawer card catalog.
- 1969: Talking Book and Braille Services moves from Multnomah County Library to the Oregon State Library, Church Street annex in Salem.
- 1973: The Archives Division and archival services are transferred from the State Library to the Secretary of State's office.
- 1976: Marion and 13th Street annex of the State Library become the second home of Talking Books.
- 1981: OSL suffers a severe cutback in services due to a 10 percent budget cut by the Governor and an additional 10 percent cut by the Legislature. Assistance to out-of-state residents and telephone reference service to individuals is curtailed.
- 1985: Talking Books moves to the State Library building and patron information and book circulation become automated.
- 1987: Oregon Intellectual Clearinghouse is established to track formally challenged library materials in Oregon.
- 1991: The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) requests funds from the Legislature as part of the 1991-93 capitol construction program. Some of these funds are used to carry out needed improvements to the State Library building.
- The State Library changes its mission to move away from acting as a public library for the citizens of Oregon and towards becoming a special library that meets the information needs of state government employees.
- Talking Books receives a Governor's award for providing volunteer opportunities to disabled Oregonians.
- 1993: A Bill passes in the Legislature creating a State Library assessment of state agencies for library services. This assessment replaces General Fund money and Federal Library Services and Construction Act funds in the State Library budget.
- Another bill passes creating the Children's Services Improvement Grant Program (later renamed the Ready to Read Grant Program) to improve services to children in public libraries.
- 1998: In September, renovation of the State Library begins.
- 2000: The renovation is completed.



- 2005: The State Library celebrates its 100-year anniversary.
- 2006: The Library institutes the Oregon Documents Repository, which collects, preserves, and provides access to online publications of Oregon state government.
- 2007: In February, the State Library Board of Trustees creates the Government Research Services Advisory Council.
State Library is designated as the Regional Federal Depository Library.
The Oregon Documents Depository Program celebrates its centennial.
The State Library and the Oregon State Poetry Association form a partnership to develop the Oregon Poetry Collection at the State Library and the Poet Laureate's Reading Room.
- 2009: Irene Price Society is created for TBABS
In September, TBABS introduces the new talking book digital player and digital talking books.
- 2012: Libraries of Oregon website was launched.
The State Library moved to DAS HR Client Services
- 2013: Dedication of the Pioneer Room in the Talking Book and Braille Library Services Conference
- 2014: Reference Room was closed.
Creation of new mission, vision and values for the State Library
Poetry collection was moved to the University of Oregon
Change of division names to:
- Government Information and Library Services
 - Library Support and Development Services
 - Operations
 - Talking Book and Braille Library
- 2015: Answerland was moved to the State Library
State Library shares an ILS system with Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Services
Willamette Valley Genealogical Society moved to Salem Public Library.
Talking Book and Braille Library Donor Board was installed.

2016: The State Library Board was expanded from seven members to nine with designated positions (HB 3523).

The State Library Board of Trustees was renamed the State Library Board (HB 3523).

State Librarian moved from being appointed by the Board to appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

The 1937 elevator was renovated and updated with modern mechanism.

Last staff exchange with Horner Exchange program at the Fujian Provincial Library in Fujian, China.

Government Services purchased new Digital Asset Management System - Islandora by LYRASIS for the Oregon Documents Depository Program.

Oregon Documents Summit held at the State Library.

2017: Government Services opened the Government Room for public access.

Rebranded the State Library of Oregon.

Launched a new logo for the State Library of Oregon.

2018: Government Services Division and Operations Division moved temporarily into the Reference Room while renovations are completed.

Current organization

The State Library consists of the State Library Board, the State Librarian, Operations, Government Information and Library Services, Library Support and Development Services, and the Oregon Talking Book and Braille Library.

Library Board and Advisory Councils

The [State Library Board](#) consists of nine members from different areas throughout the state who are appointed by the governor to serve four-year terms. The board formulates general policies and adopts rules for State Library operation. The board proposes legislation, adopts long-range plans, reviews budgets, and designates libraries as depository libraries for state publications. The board also appoints the members of three different advisory councils.

State Librarian

The State Librarian is appointed by the governor and oversees subordinate divisions including Government Information and Library Services, Library Support and Development Services, and the Oregon Talking Book and Braille Library. As provided for by law, the State Librarian must be a graduate of an accredited (ALA) library school or possess the equivalent training and experience. The State Librarian selects personnel to carry out the functions and responsibilities of the State Library and assists local librarians and library boards in answering questions concerning library laws. The Office of the State Librarian is also required to deposit all money received by the State Library for services and materials rendered with the State Treasurer. The State Librarian also serves as secretary of the board.



Library divisions

[Operations](#), including the State Librarian, is responsible for providing leadership and direction to the State Library by setting policies, determining the agency's mission and strategic plans, and working effectively with constituency groups. Operations also provides the agency's administrative management functions such as accounting, board support, financial management, facilities management, volunteer management, information technology management, communications, and other administrative support services.

[Library Support and Development Service](#) provides leadership, grants, and other assistance to improve library service for all Oregonians. The division is responsible for administering state and federal library grant programs, collecting and reporting library statistics, and providing consulting to libraries on topics ranging from technology to youth services.

The [Oregon Talking Book and Braille Library](#) is the Oregon Regional Library for the Library of Congress National Library Service for the blind and physically handicapped. Oregonians who are unable to read standard print because of a visual or physical disability are eligible for free library services. Books and magazines are available in audio format and in Braille. Reading materials and equipment are mailed to the reader and back to the State Library, postage free. Audio-books and magazines can also be downloaded for playback on portable digital players provided by the library.

[Government Information and Library Service](#) provides quality information services to assist state employees in the efficient performance of their jobs and in more effective decision making for state government. Specialized collections include federal and state government publications and a comprehensive collection of materials about Oregon. The library also provides permanent public access to Oregon state government documents and distributes them to selected Oregon libraries around the state through the [Oregon Documents Depository Program](#).

Management

State Librarian: Jennifer Patterson

Jennifer Patterson was appointed State Librarian by Governor Kate Brown and began her tenure on May 13, 2019. Patterson has more than 20 years of library experience.

Patterson most recently served as associate dean of learning resources at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Washington. Patterson's prior experience includes leadership roles such as head of access services for the University of Washington Bothell, customer experience manager at the Pierce County Library System in Tacoma, Washington, and public services director at The Seattle Public Library. Patterson has a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of California Los Angeles and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver.

Government Information and Library Services Manager: Caren Agata

Caren Agata has been with the State Library since January 2017 as program manager for Government Information and Library Services. From March 2018 to May 2019, Agata also served as Interim State Librarian.

Agata received her bachelor's in Political Science and Urban Studies, from New York University and a master's in Library Science from Rockefeller College of State University of New York at Albany.

Throughout her career she has worked in a variety of academic libraries in cataloging, reference, serials, archives, and information literacy. She has served as instructor, department head and most recently as Library Director. Her career has spanned positions in New York State, Savannah, Georgia, and South Carolina. She is an active member of the Oregon Library Association and welcomes the warm support of librarians throughout the state and region.

Business/Operations Manager: Shawn Range

Shawn Range is the business manager at the State Library and has also manages the Operations division. He has been with the agency for more than 10 years. His duties include acting as the CFO, CIO, DPO, facilities manager, and safety manager. Before working at the State Library, Shawn worked in the CFO's Office at the Department of Administrative Services and as budget analyst for the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Range has a bachelor's degree in business finance from Oregon State University. He has more than 20 years' experience in management, including owning his own business. Range is active in the budget and management communities as the vice-chair of the Statewide Budget Directors Advisory Council, and treasurer of the Public Managers Association.

Talking Book and Braille Library/Library Support and Development Services Manager:

Susan Westin

Susan Westin has been with the agency for close to 20 years in a number of different roles. Before working at the State Library of Oregon, she worked at the North Dakota State Library. Westin has a Masters in Library Science from University of Denver and a Masters in Management from the University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Links

[Annual Performance Report 2019](#)

[Annual Performance Report FAQs](#)

[Strategic Plan 2017-2019](#)

[Affirmative Action Plan](#)



Photos

The State Library of Oregon







Interiors

