



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



**State Library
of Oregon**

250 Winter St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

503-378-4243

www.oregon.gov/library

February 6, 2023

To: Oregon State Legislature
From: State Library Board
RE: Report on ORS 357.026 (9)

State Library Board Report to the Oregon State Legislature Report on ORS 357.026 (9)

Executive Summary

HB 3523 was passed in the 2015 Legislative Session, changing the appointment process for the State Librarian and revising the composition and duties of the State Library Board. In addition, the bill called for specific activities to improve interagency coordination. This report meets the biennial report requirement for the State Library Board as outlined in HB 3523 and codified in ORS 357.026 (9).

Achieve the statutory mission and programmatic outcomes of the State Library

Statutorily, the State Library of Oregon is charged with providing a wide range of services to several diverse groups, including state employees and the legislature; Oregonians with print disabilities; those providing services at public, academic, school, special, and tribal libraries; and to Oregonians.

- **Provide library services to support state government needs and operations**

The State Library's Government Information and Library Services Division promotes informed decision-making and government transparency by providing professional, high-quality, unbiased information services to support state government and permanent public access to government publications. Library services provided to state employees including research assistance, professional development, and training to use library resources. The State Library provides dozens of [online library resources](#) specifically for state employees to support their research needs. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the total number of research assistance transactions was 8,433.

The division collects and preserves state and federal agency publications and other Oregon-related materials. These materials are then made discoverable through the library's [online catalog](#), [Oregon Digital Collections website](#), and interlibrary loan services. These materials are key to the library services provided to state employees. State Library staff also offer reference assistance to Oregonians to utilize these materials, both virtually and in person.

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.

- **Provide Library Services for Oregonians with print disabilities.**

The State Library's Talking Book and Braille Library serves Oregonians with print disabilities by providing Braille materials, audiobooks, descriptive videos, and magazines through the mail and via digital download. This is a free service to eligible Oregonians, reaching more than 5,000 active users and circulating an average of approximately 30,000 items every month. The Talking Book and Braille Library is Oregon's regional library for the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) network. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the 4,936 Oregonians registered for the service checked out an average of 107 items per year. In 2020, the Talking Book and Braille Library implemented Duplication on Demand, which increased title availability, eliminated wait time for popular titles, and increased the number of titles a patron can have at one time. This system allows creation of customized digital cartridges containing titles requested by patrons from the entire NLS collection of more than 90,000 titles. This change greatly enhanced customer service and streamlined operations. In the past, patrons had received books with one title per cartridge. This new system allows the flexibility of up to 20 books per cartridge, reducing wait times and improving customer service, while streamlining staff processes.

- **Support and promote the establishment and development of local library services**

The State Library's Library Support and Development Services Division provides consultation services, professional development, statewide library services, and grants to 1,600 public, academic, school, special, and tribal libraries across the state. The division administers state-funded Ready to Read grants to public libraries in Oregon to support summer reading and early literacy programs. The division also administers federal [Library Services and Technology Act](#) (LSTA) grant funding received through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to fund competitive grants and statewide library services including the [Answerland online reference service](#), the [Oregon School Library Information System \(OSLIS\)](#), and the [Statewide Database Licensing Program](#). Oregon's LSTA allotment for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 is \$2,438,090.

In addition to the combined [\\$657,391 awarded in LSTA competitive grants](#), the State Library provided additional support opportunities to local libraries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during the FY21 and FY22 time frame:

ARPA Grants

The American Rescue Plan Act included \$200 million in additional funding for IMLS, of which \$178 million was allocated to State Libraries and territories based on population. The State Library of Oregon was granted \$2,924,165 in ARPA funds, and later was granted an extension for expending the funds through March 2023. IMLS provided the following direction on how this ARPA funding was to be used:

- First, to support digital inclusion efforts to enable libraries, museums, and tribes to reach residents such as through internet hotspots, accessible Wi-Fi, and digital content and related resources, particularly in support of education, health, and workforce development needs.
- Second, to provide rapid emergency relief to libraries, museums, and tribes, allowing them to safely respond to the pandemic and implement public health protocols.

The State Library invited proposals from eligible institutions that addressed one or more of the following focal areas:

- Connectivity
- Digital Equity and Inclusion
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism
- Workforce Development
- Needs Arising from the Pandemic

ARPA funded grants were awarded to libraries, museums, schools, community colleges and other nonprofit organizations. Projects were varied and include bookmobiles, an embedded social worker, and wi-fi hotspots for checkout. No matching funds were required for this grant, and priority was given to projects that target communities that have been historically or are currently being underserved. Additional details are available on the State Library's [ARPA web page](#).

COVID-19 Support

In addition to grant funding, the Library Support and Development Services division provided COVID-19 information and resources to local libraries including:

- [COVID-19 Resource Guide](#)
 - [Statewide COVID-19 Advice for Library Sector](#)
 - Consulted OHA to provide [library materials handling advice](#)
 - Regular check-ins for local library staff and [Topic Talks webinars](#)
-
- **Promote and support library services for children and youth**

The Ready to Read grant program is supported by state General Fund dollars. It is available to all legally established public libraries to provide early literacy and summer reading programs to local communities. While library programs such as story time and summer reading have been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, by 2021, most libraries were able to adapt their programs safely, often by focusing on outdoor programming. With a public eager to go back to their libraries, involvement in Ready to Read grant-funded activities increased significantly, although still not to pre-pandemic levels. Ready to Read grants were distributed to 135 public libraries across the state, with 326,058 children participating.

- **Leverage federal, state, and local funding for the benefit of state and local libraries**

Federal LSTA funds received from IMLS require both a maintenance of effort (MOE) and a non-federal match on the part of states. LSTA funds are used to benefit local libraries through grants and statewide services. The Ready to Read General Fund grant funds distributed to public libraries every year contribute significantly to the required MOE and match and support libraries in providing early literacy and summer reading programming. In addition, General Funds allocated to the Talking Book and Braille Library contribute to MOE.

- **Promote the electronic delivery of library and information resources and services**

Using federal LSTA dollars, the State Library provides 24 electronic databases to all Oregonians through their local libraries and through the [Libraries of Oregon](#) website, via the Statewide

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.

Database Licensing Program. [Answerland](#), a 24/7 virtual reference service, is also available to all Oregonians and includes service in Spanish as of 2020.

- **Maintain free access for the public to State Library materials**

The State Library re-opened to the public in May 2022, having been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. The State Library building is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with staffing available to assist the public with the collection and questions from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. each weekday. The State Library continues to provide assistance to the public by phone and email. State Library [digital collections](#) are freely available to the public 24/7.

Implement initiatives and improvements to interagency coordination

- The Reference Coordinating Council, composed of the State Librarian, the State Archivist, and the State of Oregon Law Librarian, meets regularly to discuss programs and services, explore areas for collaboration, and reduce duplication of effort.
- The State Librarian designee serves on the Oregon Heritage Commission to share relevant State Library updates and bring back items of interest to the agency and the local library community.
- The State Library and Oregon Heritage Commission partnered with the Washington State Library to develop and grow the [Northwest Digital Heritage Network](#) (NWDH). Now a part of the Digital Public Library of America, NWDH provides a robust system for access and long-term management of local digital collections, which includes a wealth of digitized historical material.
- The Oregon Heritage Commission, State Archives, and State Library have met regularly since the devastating 2020 wildfire season to discuss impacts on local libraries, museums, and historical organizations, to share resources, and to discuss any necessary response efforts. Fortunately, the damage to collecting organizations was not extensive, but this situation prompted the three agencies to agree to begin work on a disaster response and recovery plan at the state level for heritage interests. These efforts continue.
- HB 3523 changed the composition of the State Library Board. The Executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, or their designee, now have permanent positions on the State Library Board. In addition, the board also includes two rotating positions for state agency staff, which are currently filled by staff from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Oregon Health Authority.
- The Government Services Advisory Council consists of up to nine members who are employees of state agencies. Members are appointed by the State Library Board. The Council provides insight, consultation, and advice on strategies for better serving the information and research needs of Oregon state government agencies.
- A representative from the Commission for the Blind and from the Oregon Textbook and Media Center serves on the Talking Book and Braille Library Advisory Council.

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.

Implement initiatives and improvements to the electronic delivery of government publications and services

In 2022, the State Library continued to make great strides in digitizing valuable state documents and publications. By statute, the State Library is charged with collecting state agency publications and has been doing so since the early 20th century. In 2009, the library created an [online repository for digital agency publications](#). The State Library is systematically digitizing older items from the Oregon Documents Collection, prioritizing unique or rare items. Digitizing efforts make these publications available worldwide and protect fragile items from damage through physical use.

- From July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022, 35,392 Oregon documents were added to the Oregon Documents collection, with 34,405 of those added to Digital Collections and 987 to the print collection.
- As of June 30, 2022, there are 151,233 Oregon state government publications in Digital Collections and 1,180 videos in Digital Collections.
- Due to the increased need for outreach to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, state agencies significantly increased the number of publications they published, and the number of languages those publications were written in. Because of this increased volume and complexity of cataloging works in other languages, the workload of State Library staff was significantly impacted. The State Library added 21,158 COVID-19 related agency publications in 48 languages to the Oregon Documents collection in FY21 and FY22.

Implement initiatives and improvements to State Library reference services to state agencies

- Work continued with the State Library's highly successful embedded librarian program, in which each state agency is assigned a librarian to provide specialized assistance and resources to support state agency staff in their work. Through the embedded librarian program, these librarian liaisons become familiar with the work of their assigned agencies and conduct presentations and training on resources tailored to the specific needs of the state agency, as well as providing research support on specific agency initiatives and programs.
- Between July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022, embedded librarians conducted 58 presentations or participated in events with their embedded agencies engaging with a total of 878 state employees. Agencies with active embedded librarian programs include:
 - Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Human Services (Vocational Rehabilitation, Lean Academy Self-Sufficiency), Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office, Department of Transportation, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Youth Authority, Oregon Health Authority (Office of Equity & Inclusion, State Hospital), Employment Department, Department of Administrative Services, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industries, Department of Corrections, Commission for the Blind, Department of Energy, Department of Revenue, PERS, Oregon Real Estate Agency, Health Related Licensing Boards, and Oregon Patient Safety Commission.

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.

- In addition to the embedded librarian presentations, during this same period, librarians held 98 general classes for state employees with a total of 763 participants.
- Approximately 34% of reference interactions with state employees have been initiated by our embedding efforts, however 46% of reference librarian time is spent answering them. Questions are lengthier and require more effort as state agencies increasingly turn to the State Library as their information partner to supplement their own research efforts.
- The Government Information and Library Services Advisory Council, comprised of state agency staff, meets quarterly to provide the division with advice and feedback.

Report the number of public, nonprofit, and private partnerships entered into by the State Library

The State Library currently has 36 partnerships with agencies and organizations:

- Oregon Library Association and its divisions
- American Library Association and its divisions
- Oregon Department of Education
- State of Oregon Law Library
- Oregon State Archives
- Fujian (China) Provincial Library
- Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
- Federal Superintendent of Documents
- Oregon Heritage Commission
- Oregon Historical Society
- Oregon Textbook and Media Center
- Oregon Commission for the Blind
- American Council of the Blind of Oregon
- National Federation of the Blind of Oregon
- National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS)
- Utah State Library
- League of Women Voters
- Oregon Secretary of State
- Washington State Library
- Oregon Career Information System
- iREAD Summer Reading Program
- Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service (CCRLS)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- Oregon State University Libraries
- University of Oregon Libraries
- Digital Public Library of America
- Urban Libraries Council
- Link Oregon
- Oregon Broadband Office
- OregonASK
- Portland State University
- Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)
- Western Council of State Libraries (Westco)
- Department of Forestry

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.

- Oregon Parks and Recreation
- Statewide Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Conference

In addition, the State Library partners with many local public, academic, school, special, and tribal libraries through LSTA grant programs and other engagement opportunities and activities.

Reduce duplication in state agency services and costs related to the mission of the State Library

Subscriptions: Rules relating to subscriptions for reference related databases, as mandated by ORS 357.115 and outlined in OAR 543-020-0080, were adopted in June 2016 and a process was created for agencies to submit requests for approval from the State Librarian.

- The State Library works with liaisons from each agency to proactively share information about the subscription approval process and current resources that the State Library has available. In addition, the State Library surveys agencies annually to gather information about current subscriptions, analyze for duplication, and provide information to agencies on the availability of resources through the State Library.
- Both the 2021 and the 2022 annual review process were impacted by COVID-19, with fewer agencies responding to the survey. When reaching out to agency liaisons, it was discovered that many staff changes have occurred in the last year, including assignment changes, staff unfamiliar with this requirement, and movement between agencies or away from state service entirely.
- Highlights from the FY21 and FY22 time frame include the following:
 - The total number of subscriptions reported by state agencies for July 2020 through June 2022 was 847. This is an increase of 265 subscriptions from last biennium (n=582).
 - Most subscriptions (47.70%) were for newspapers, with the next highest percentages being journals (14.64%).
 - There were 247 duplicate subscriptions between state agencies and the State Library. Most duplicate subscriptions (92.40%) were for newspapers.
- Newspaper publishers do not provide a full-color, browsing experiences to the multi-user, enterprise-level license that libraries purchase. The State Library-provided newspaper content is optimized for article sharing, often image free, and arrives in the afternoon. Therefore, newspaper duplicate subscriptions cannot be reduced.
- Non-newspaper duplicate subscriptions between state agencies and the State Library may be reduced depending on the agencies' information needs.
 - Over 60% of non-newspaper duplicate subscriptions were in a different format than the State Library's subscriptions. State agencies subscribed to print formats versus the State Library's electronic access in databases.

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.

- During the subscription review process, library staff share information with state agency liaisons regarding which subscriptions are also available from the State Library. In some cases, state agencies cancel their agency subscriptions in favor of using the database versions provided by the State Library.
- Some duplicate subscriptions of books that are in the State Library's O'Reilly database were found and embedded librarians are reaching out to the affiliated agencies to share information about eBooks available from this State Library-provided resource.

Certification of state agency libraries: HB 3523 mandates that the State Library of Oregon certify “any state agency library or library service that is maintained separate from the State Library or that is proposed to be maintained separate from the State Library.”

- The only agency library requiring certification is the Oregon Department of Transportation library. The ODOT library partners with the State Library regarding resource sharing. This library is professionally staffed, collects metrics, and is willing to share those metrics. This library conforms to the legislation.
- The Oregon OSHA Resource Center and the Prison Law Library are focused on serving the members of their stakeholder communities. Because they are not focused on serving other Oregon state agencies or their employees, they do not require certification from the State Library. Their agency employees, however, do utilize State Library resources to support their work.
- The Oregon Department of Forestry maintains only an unstaffed resource room where materials (monographs, galley proof publications, and US Government publications) are housed. This resource room is not considered a library and does not need to be certified by the State Library.