



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



State Library
of Oregon

Contact: Jennifer Patterson
State Librarian
503-378-4367

October 22, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Historic Oregon Index at State Library now available online

Salem, Ore – Researchers no longer have to physically search the Oregon Index in the card catalog alcove at the State Library of Oregon. The Oregon Index is now online as State Library staff recently completed making more than 700,000 cards in the index available in State Library of Oregon Digital Collections.

Oregon Index Online is a powerful heritage tool that points to information about the news, events, and Oregonians that shaped our great state. The index contains citations to articles published in Portland and Salem newspapers, magazines, book chapters, and more. Oregon Index Online will quickly become a vital resource for researching Oregon history and state government.

The State Library staff and volunteers began compiling the Oregon Index in the early 20th century and continued to the mid-1980s. The oldest entry is from 1877 but most are from 1915 to 1986. The index of one-sided 3x5 cards is housed in 657 drawers. Each drawer contains 1,000 to 1,250 cards.

The State Library of Oregon partnered with the Oregon Department of Revenue to use its high speed/high volume check scanner during down time to scan the cards. After the cards were scanned, the images were prepared and loaded into a viewer for searching and browsing. The project took a little more than five years to finish. You can find Oregon Index Online in the State Library's Digital Collections at https://digital.osl.state.or.us/islandora/object/osl:or_index

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.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



State Library
of Oregon

Some of the cards use archaic language that may have been considered appropriate when the citations were created, but could be jarring to library users today. The cards have been digitized and posted without altering the content. Researchers will find terminology as it was used in its time and can follow changes over time.

There will be an Oregon Index Digital Launch Celebration on November 19 at 2:00 pm on the second floor of the State Library of Oregon building. Library staff, board members, state employees, researchers, and the general public are invited. RSVPs are kindly requested at <https://tinyurl.com/oregonindexlaunch>

###

Photos



Digital Collections

[Home](#) >

[Advanced Search](#)

Oregon Index

The Oregon Index was compiled by State Library staff and volunteers starting in the early 20th century and continuing to the mid-1980s. It contains over 700,000 cards with citations to articles published in Portland and Salem newspapers, magazines, book chapters, and more. Topics cover events and issues important to Oregon history and state government.

In some cases, the cards use archaic language that may have been considered appropriate in the context of the time when the citations were created, but may be jarring to library users today. The cards have been digitized and posted without altering the content.

The resources that are indexed may be, but are not necessarily, found in the State Library collections. Try searching the State Library Catalog or WorldCat for book, magazine, or newspaper titles, or contact us for assistance.

The organization of the digitized cards reflects the physical drawers in the State Library building. Drawers 001 through 196 contain biographical cards, and drawers 200 through 660 contain subject cards. You can browse by drawer or search by using the "Search this Collection" box.

Search this Collection



[Oregon Index - Biography *IN PROGRESS*](#)



[Oregon Index - Subjects](#)

[Grid view](#) [List view](#)

State Library of Oregon | 250 Winter St NE Salem, OR 97301
503-378-8800 | library.help@state.or.us

A screenshot of the homepage of Oregon Index Online

Oregon Index - Subjects

The Oregon Index was compiled by State Library staff and volunteers starting in the early 20th century and continuing to the mid-1980s. It contains over 700,000 cards with citations to articles published in Portland and Salem newspapers, journals, book chapters, and more. Topics cover events and issues important to Oregon history and state government.

In some cases, the cards use archaic language that may have been considered appropriate in the context of the time when the citations were created, but may be jarring to library users today. The cards have been digitized and posted without altering the content.








The resources that are indexed may be, but are not necessarily, found in the State Library collections. Try searching the State Library Catalog or WorldCat for book, magazine, or newspaper titles, or contact us for assistance.

The organization of the digitized cards reflects the physical drawers in the State Library building. Drawers 200 through 660 contain subject cards. You can browse by drawer or search by using the "Search this Collection" box.

Search this Collection

[Search](#)

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) ... [next](#) [last](#)

 200 AA AMBULANCE	 201 ACTIONS	 202 AERIAL	 203 AGRICULTURE, DEPT
 204 AIR WEST	 205 ALBANY - HISTORY	 206 ALCOHOLISM	 207 ALUMINA
 208 AFL-CIO	 209 AMERICAN - M	 210 ANIMALS	 211 ANTIQUES
 212 ARCHERY	 213 ART GALLERIES	 214 ASHTON	 215 ASTORIA - L
 216 ATOMIC POWER PLANTS	 217 AURORA	 218 AUTOMOBILE DRIVERS - M	 219 AUTOMOBILES - H

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) ... [next](#) [last](#)

A screenshot of a subject page listing some of the drawers in the index.

Governors. Hatfield. 1961 - Governors. Hatfield. 1962

The screenshot shows a digital archive interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Summary' and 'Full Description'. Below the tabs is a search bar with the text 'Governors. Hatfield. 1961 - Governors. Hatfield. 1962...' and a 'Search inside' field. To the right of the search bar are icons for 'GO', a play button, an information icon, 'TEXT', a grid icon, and a share icon. The main content area displays two index cards side-by-side. The left card reads: 'Governors - Hatfield, Mark Odom WRIGHT, TOM Hatfield denies grab for power. Oregon Statesman. 25Jan61. p.1, sec.1, c.1.' The right card reads: 'Governors - Hatfield, Mark Odom Hatfield's intent. Oregon Statesman. 25Jan61. p.4, sec.1, c.2. (editorial).' Below the cards is a horizontal timeline with orange location pins. At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with icons for a square, a window, a grid, a magnifying glass, a search icon, and left/right arrows. Below the navigation bar, the text 'Subject(s):' is followed by a disclaimer: 'The content of these cards reflects the language and worldview of the individuals creating the index at the time. The language is neither endorsed nor altered by the State Library.'

An example of a digitized index card.



The Oregon Index is in the card catalog alcove on the second floor of the State Library



Some of the more than 600 drawers filled with index cards that were digitized.



One of the cards in the index.