

[View this email in your browser](#)

**CONNECTIONS:** YOUR LINK TO THE  
State Library of Oregon



**Volume 32**, Issue 12 - December 2022

In this issue:

- [Crystal Grimes Named KLAS Users Group President](#)
- [Use ODOT TripCheck for Winter Travel](#)
- [Libraries Leading with Equity Training Coming in February 2023](#)
- [OrDoc of the Month: Yeti and Squatch](#)
- [Talking Book and Braille Library TRIVIA TIME!](#)

**AGENCY NEWS**

# Crystal Grimes Named KLAS Users Group President



*By Joel Henderson, Admin Specialist, Talking Book and Braille Library*

The Talking Book and Braille Library is excited to celebrate our very own Crystal Grimes and her recent appointment to KLAS Users Group President! Crystal's various roles throughout her years at the library have enabled her to amass a wealth of experience using KLAS, which makes her an excellent person to lead this group.

KLAS is the software used by many Talking Book and Braille libraries across the country to manage user information, catalog their collections, and track circulation. It was specifically designed for libraries that serve people with print impairments. The KLAS Users Group is made up of staff from KLAS libraries who provide feedback directly to the software's creator, Keystone, so that KLAS continues to seamlessly meet end-user needs.

Crystal joined the KLAS Users Group last year as a way to gain leadership experience and make connections with the staff from other Talking Book and Braille libraries. Now, as the group's president, she wants to encourage everyone who uses KLAS to speak up and voice their ideas for how the

software can be improved. “You don’t have to be a manager to have a voice,” Crystal says. “I believe that every person who works with KLAS has ideas of how to make it better.”

The value of an advisory team like the KLAS Users Group can ultimately be seen in whether or not the end-user experience is improved. Because Crystal talks with and advises library users every day, she knows what is working for them and where any pressure points are. For example, Keystone is in the process of updating the look, feel, and functionality of KLAS’s public-facing online catalog, something end users have been suggesting for years. Crystal’s customer service experience means she not only knows which improvements are a top priority but also how end users are hoping those improvements will be implemented.

Crystal began her time with the Talking Book and Braille Library as a circulation technician and is now a readers’ advisor. Both positions require using different modules of the KLAS software, giving Crystal a breadth of experience that enables her to see the bigger picture of how those modules are interconnected. This perspective means the voice she has on the KLAS Users Group is very knowledgeable and can be more thorough when sharing suggestions. And it means she knows how to communicate change notes from Keystone with coworkers in a way that demonstrates the value of those changes, improving buy-in and encouraging quick adoption of new features.

One of the more concrete tasks Crystal has is to help plan the next KLAS Users Conference, where she will solicit feedback from attendees in person. She also monitors the online forum for KLAS users to ensure that no ideas or concerns are missed. Her role as president will last one year, and then she will take on the role of past president for another year.

Please join us in celebrating this awesome opportunity for Crystal!

---

# Use ODOT TripCheck for Winter Travel

*By Natalie Brant, Reference Coordinator, Government Information and Library Services*



It's definitely winter in Oregon, with freezing temperatures at night and snow falling in the mountains. It's also time for holiday travel! This combination can result in frustration on the road when adverse weather conditions and heavy vehicle traffic combine.

Luckily, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) provides real-time road conditions to drivers via [TripCheck](#), Oregon's traveler information portal. Oregonians can dial 511 to retrieve TripCheck data over the phone, or follow [@TripCheckPDX](#) to see posts on traffic incidents, alerts, closures, and seasonal road and weather information for state highways.

TripCheck also uses crowdsourced data from "connected vehicles" or devices such as GPS navigation units and mobile phones to track traffic volume. The data is refreshed every five minutes so that traffic congestion information remains quite accurate for drivers. TripCheck supplements ODOT's authoritative data with data from [Waze](#), one of the largest crowdsourced traffic applications on the market. Adding [Waze](#) data helps provide real-time

conditions and enhances information in areas where ODOT doesn't have devices on the road.

The TripCheck [website](#) also provides information on tire chain regulations, winter travel safety, links to similar travel tools from surrounding states, and more!

---

## **Libraries Leading with Equity Training Coming in February 2023!**

*By Christina Fuller-Gregory, EDI Consultant/Facilitator, on contract with the State Library*

In continued support of the equity, diversity, inclusion, and antiracism (EDIA) initiatives of the [Oregon Library Association \(OLA\) EDIA Committee](#) and their tremendous work in developing the [antiracism toolkit](#), the State Library of Oregon is offering Libraries Leading with Equity, a four-part EDI training opportunity facilitated by librarian and EDI practitioner Christina Fuller-Gregory. Using a cohort-based model, this training will provide participants with opportunities to learn, develop, and implement skills and best practices that will be critical to introducing lasting and successful EDI initiatives in their communities. This regional training is open to all library types, all library staff, library volunteers, and library advocates. Priority will be given to libraries and applicants in the cohort target areas of Clackamas County and the north Oregon Coast.

The upcoming training was inspired and informed both by the OLA antiracism toolkit and a grant-funded, cohort-model training presented by the [Libraries of](#)

[Eastern Oregon](#) which supports 53 public libraries and two tribal libraries in 15 counties.

Training participants can expect to engage in a learning process that centers and prioritizes an understanding of EDI concepts and, through personal supported study and exploration, provides opportunities for them to gain the confidence needed to promote equity work in their communities, partnering with existing groups and community members of color as authentic advocates and allies.

Sessions will start at the end of February and specific locations will be added to the [training information webpage](#) soon. Interested in learning more? Please contact Darci Hanning ([darci.hanning@slo.oregon.gov](mailto:darci.hanning@slo.oregon.gov)). Additional information on the training and application process will be made available via the State Library's website and social media platforms.

---

## OrDoc of the Month: Yeti and Squatch



*By Jey Wann, Oregon Documents Coordinator, Government Information and Library Services*

Winter is upon us. The hours of daylight are fewer and the temperatures are cooler.

But we're Oregonians, so we shouldn't let that stop us from enjoying things. If we need any inspiration to encourage us to enjoy Oregon's winter-time possibilities, Travel Oregon has provided us with a great source.

*Yeti & Squatch in the Winter Wonderland of Oregon* is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). From birding to skiing to stormwatching to browsing in bookstores, Yeti and Squatch show us that Oregon is full of possibilities for all weather and all seasons.

---

## Talking Book and Braille Library TRIVIA TIME!

We're back with another Talking Book and Braille Library Trivia Time! But before we get to this month's question, here is last month's answer:

*After becoming director of the National Library Service in 2012, which project did Karen Keninger make a top priority? **Creating a mobile app for their download-on-demand service BARD***

Thank you to everyone who submitted their answers, and feel free to keep participating each month. [Here is this month's question:](#)

*Q: How many Oregonians received accessible voting information thanks to the partnership between the League of Women Voters of Oregon and the Talking Book and Braille Library?*

- 900

- 500
- 200
- 700



**Hint:** you can find the answer in a [previous issue of \*Connections\*](#).

Click the button above to submit your answer to the trivia question. If you provide your name and contact information and answer the question correctly, **you may win a fun prize!**

Check back next month to see the answer, and we'll be back with more trivia in future *Connections* issues.

---

## CONTACTS

**Library Support & Development Services Manager**

[Buzzy Nielsen](#), 971-375-3486

**Talking Book & Braille Library Manager**



[Elke Bruton](#), 971-375-3509

**Government Information & Library Services Manager**

[Caren Agata](#), 971-375-3483

**Chief Operating Officer**

[Susan Westin](#), 503-378-5435

**State Librarian**

[Wendy Cornelisen](#), 503-378-4367

*Connections* is published monthly by the State Library of Oregon, and was formerly known as *Letters to Libraries Online*.

---

## Mission

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



[Click here if you wish to change how you receive this newsletter or unsubscribe.](#)

**Our mailing address is:**

State Library of Oregon, 250 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

*Copyright ©2022, All rights reserved.*