

May 8, 2013
Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Council
Oregon State Library
250 Winter St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear LSTA Advisory Council,

In March of this year, Oregon State Librarian MaryKay Dahlgreen announced that she would convene a task force on the future of statewide cooperative reference services for Oregon libraries. As the Chair of the newly appointed Oregon State Library 2013 Task Force on Statewide Collaborative Reference Service I would like to notify the LSTA Advisory Council that the Task Force plans to make a formal recommendation on the future of statewide collaborative reference services to the Council at their September meeting.

The Task Force, composed of academic, K-12, and public librarians from around the state, was provided the following charge from the State Librarian.

Charge - Collaborative reference task force 2013

April 1, 2013

Background

The Oregon State Library has a statutory responsibility to provide for statewide cooperative reference services as outlined in ORS 357.206 and 357.005 (2)(d). This has been reflected in the former Oregon Reference LINK program (1994-2003) and now in L-net/Answerland (2003-2014). Details of the current cooperative reference services are outlined in OAR 543 Div 60.

L-net/Answerland has been successful. The service receives over 35,000 questions by live chat, email and text messaging annually, and over 200 people working in 45 Oregon public, academic and special libraries contribute to the service regularly.

After 10 years of L-net/Answerland, it is time to reassess how that statutory responsibility is best met.

L-net is currently funded through June 2014 and will continue to be hosted at Multnomah County Library through June 2014.

Objectives

The task force should consider and answer the following questions:

What are the needs of Oregonians in regards to reference and information services?

Which needs are most important to be addressed on a statewide level?

How can Oregon libraries, working together, best meet the most important needs, using available resources?

The Task Force met on May 1, 2013 and members agreed on a recommendation to the LSTA Council that the current funding level of \$294,000 for L-net be earmarked for future collaborative reference services to Oregonians. We don't know yet what form a new collaborative reference program will take, but we are excited and proud to be part of the planning process to envision the future of these services.

Sincerely,



Jenny Berg

Chair, Task Force on Statewide Collaborative Reference Service, 2013
Library Director
McMinnville Public Library
225 NW Adams St.
McMinnville, OR 97128
jenny.berg@ci.mcminnville.or.us

2013 Task Force on Statewide Collaborative Reference Service Members

Jenny Berg, Director, McMinnville Public Library
Bonnie Brzozowski, Reference Librarian, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
Sue Burkholder, Trustee, Oregon State Library
Cathy Camper, Evolving Homework Grant Coordinator- Librarian, Multnomah County Library
Darci Hanning, Technology Development Consultant, Oregon State Library
Valery King, Government Information Librarian, Oregon State University Valley Library
Stuart Levy, Teacher-Librarian, Inza R. Wood Middle School, West-Linn/Wilsonville School District
Jen Maurer, School Library Consultant, Oregon State Library
Emily Miller-Francisco, e-Resource Systems & Web Coordinator, Southern Oregon University Hannon Library
Laura Orr, Law Librarian, Washington County Law Library
Perri Parise, SLIM-Oregon Program Advisor, Emporia State University
Donna Reed, Portland Community College Library
Marie Baldo, Director, Hermiston Public Library
Also present at meetings:
MaryKay Dahlgreen, Oregon State Library
Caleb Tucker-Raymond, Multnomah County Library, as consultant