



**Letters to Libraries Online: News from the State Library of Oregon**

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## **State Library News**

### **State Library Operations**



**UPDATE:** Along with most state agency buildings, the State Library building remains closed to the public. The building closure has been extended through the end of **December**.

Although the State Library building is closed, we continue to provide a full range of services. Please **contact us** with any service requests or questions.

## Library Support and Development Services

### Join the State Library of Oregon's LSTA Advisory Council

The State Library of Oregon is looking for four new members in 2021 to serve a three-year term on our **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Council**. The Council advises staff and makes recommendations to the State Library Board on any issues concerning Oregon's federally-funded **LSTA program**. Incoming council members will also play a role in evaluating Oregon's current **LSTA Five-Year Plan** (PDF), and will also help shape Oregon's next LSTA Five-Year Plan for FFY2023-2027. This Advisory Council consists of 13 members representing library users and entities in Oregon, including public, school, academic, and special libraries. The upcoming vacancies are: Public Libraries Representative; Library Users Representative; School Libraries Representative; and Representative for Underserved & Under-Represented Persons.

Nominations will be accepted **using this form** through **October 9, 2020**. The State Library Board will appoint new Advisory Council members in November for terms beginning January 1, 2021. Please contact **Ross Fuqua** with any questions.

## LearningExpress Library will Continue as Statewide Online Resource



The State Library has been working with the Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee (SDLAC) on a request for proposal (RFP) to update the state's contract for an online resource for skills-building and test preparation.

After evaluating two proposals, EBSCO was chosen as the successful proposer and the SDLAC has recommended that the State Library pursue a new contract for **LearningExpress Library**.

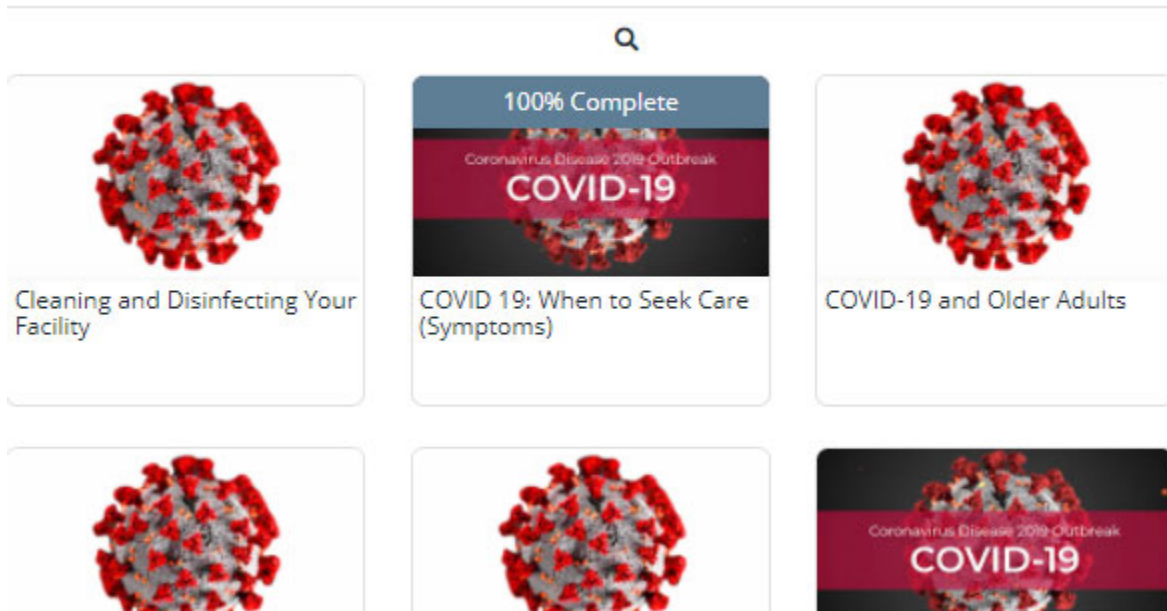
The committee has also recommended that in addition to the Job & Career Accelerator and Computer Skills Center add-on products that are in the current state subscription, PrepSTEP (Academic and High School) and Personal Success Skills Center also be added to the new contract. This contract is currently anticipated to be in place by November 1, 2020.

More information about these new add-in products will be forthcoming as the State Library moves forward with contract negotiations. For a brief overview, please see **EBSCO's product description page**.

More details about the procurement and evaluation process can be found in the committee's **procurement report**, and in the **SDLAC's 2020 annual report**.

Please contact **Arlene Weible**, Electronic Services Consultant at the State Library, if you have further questions about this procurement or the **Statewide Database Licensing Program**.

### **Niche Academy: New Tutorials for Staff Development**



The State Library is pleased to announce that the number of tutorials in the **Library Staff Training** hosted on Niche Academy has been expanded! In addition to the original topics areas such as Customer Service, Technology and Reference, tutorials in the following categories have been added: **COVID-19**, **EDI**, **Information Literacy**, and **Marketing & Communications**, among others. Be sure to check out the full suite of tutorials! (Note: many of these tutorials have been developed by other libraries, so feel free to let us know if anything doesn't seem applicable to Oregon library staff.)

Additionally, two popular webinars on the topic of dealing with **problem behaviors related to COVID-19** are now available for viewing. Please visit the **COVID-19** section of the **Continuing Education LibGuide**, where you can also find additional learning resources for EDI and Self-Care.

Question or concerns? Please contact Darci Hanning ([darci.hanning@state.or.us](mailto:darci.hanning@state.or.us))

**Government Information and Library Services**

# State Library Staff Implement Inclusive Cataloging Practices

We believe that respectful language choice in access points is one way to work towards anti-oppressive librarianship. A good action is choosing language that people use to describe themselves. Recently we have taken steps in our cataloging work to be more considerate about the subject headings used for two classes of people: undocumented immigrants and LGBTQ people. We looked beyond [Library of Congress Subject Headings](#) (LCSH) terms to see how we could improve access with inclusive terms.

We are using “Undocumented Immigrants” from the [ERIC Thesaurus of Descriptors](#) as an alternative term for “Illegal aliens” and related LCSH terms. One example is where previously the heading was “Illegal alien children -- Education -- Government policy -- Oregon,” that concept is now covered by “Immigrant children -- Education -- Government policy -- Oregon” and “Undocumented Immigrants” as paired headings. For further reading, we suggest the recent [Report of the SAC Working Group on Alternatives to LCSH “Illegal aliens”](#) [PDF].

We are also employing updated supplemental terms from the [Homosaurus](#) Vocabulary, which enhances discoverability of LGBTQ resources. These terms often include the acronym LGBTQ. A few examples of terms we have used are “LGBTQ people,” “Civil rights (LGBTQ),” and “Youth (LGBTQ).”

We hope that we can continue to improve access by finding and using respectful terms from controlled vocabularies that best represent the communities and individuals they describe. For more information, contact the Cataloging Services Librarian, Heather Pitts, at [heather.pitts@state.or.us](mailto:heather.pitts@state.or.us).

## Contacts

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## Mission

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

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