



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

Volume 30, Issue 05 - May 2020

State Library News

Looking for COVID-19 Information?

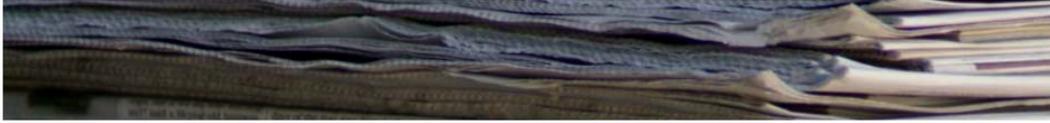
COVID-19: Information for Oregon Libraries
<https://libguides.osl.state.or.us/coronavirus>



State Library
of Oregon

eClips

Highlighting Oregon State Government in the News.



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You can keep on top of COVID-19 news by [subscribing](#) to our [eClips](#) news alerting product and following our [blog](#).

We've covered **eClips** back in our January LTLO edition. However, we'd like to let you know that we categorize and tag each & every news story we include.

So, this makes it easy to keep up with pandemic news.

Following this [link](#) will sort the news stories returning only those we've tagged as: [Coronavirus/COVID-19](#).

You can both save yourself some time and keep informed on this vitally important topic.

Library Support and Development Services

CARES Act funding for Oregon Libraries

Through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress in late March, [\\$50 million has been directed to the Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#) to help support museums and libraries throughout the US and its territories.

Of that amount, \$30 million of the total is being channeled to state library administrative agencies through Grants to States (LSTA) programs like ours, to help address **digital**

inclusion needs as well as **COVID-19 recovery** efforts.

Distribution of that \$30M is based on population, and the [State Library of Oregon has been awarded \\$381,108](#), to be expended by September 30, 2021.

Over the next several weeks, the State Library of Oregon is exploring potential strategic partnerships and will provide mechanisms to gather input from the library community. Questions? Please contact Ross Fuqua, Data & Federal Programs Consultant, at ross.fuqua@state.or.us.

Announcing COVID-19 Response mini-grants for libraries!

We're pleased to announce the State Library Board has redirected approximately \$100,000 of Oregon's FFY2019 LSTA allotment from other LSTA projects and programs to be used for COVID-19 response mini-grants. Any legally established public, academic, school, or tribal library in Oregon, as well as special libraries with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in Oregon may apply, and each library may choose which amount best suits their needs from the following: \$500, \$1,500 or \$3,000.

Applications will open on **Monday, May 4, 2020**, first to the following group of eligible entities:

- Federally recognized tribes, K-12 schools, and special libraries
- Legally established public libraries with permanent staffing levels up to 5 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (as reported in the 2018-19 Oregon Public Library Statistical Report)
- Academic libraries at institutions with student FTE enrollment of 1,000 or fewer (based on [Fall 2018 enrollment data](#) from the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission)

Applications will open for all other libraries on May 13, pending the level of interest we receive from the initial group, and will remain open until all funds have been awarded. The State Library of Oregon has set a goal that **at least 40% of total funds awarded will go towards efforts supporting children, K-12 students, and youth services**. Grants will otherwise be awarded on a rolling basis, limited to one grant per library/library system, school, or tribe.

For more information and instructions on how to apply, please visit [our COVID-19 Response Grants page](#).

Answerland en español



Answerland, our statewide virtual reference service, now offers support for Spanish speaking patrons! Patrons can go to [answerland.org](https://www.answerland.org) and chat with a Spanish speaking librarian. This service is currently supported by **15 bilingual library staff at 9 Oregon libraries** who are staffing the Spanish-language question queue, and also helped translate web & promotional content.

All Oregon libraries are welcome – and encouraged! – to link to Answerland. Details on how to do so, including graphics and sample language, are at [Connect Your Library](#).

We also encourage libraries to spread the word to their local communities. See [Promote Answerland](#) for sample social media posts and promotional text.

Questions? Contact Tamara Ottum, Answerland Coordinator (tamara.ottum@state.or.us).

**Government Information and Library
Services**

Take a "Virtual Vacation" with Oregon Documents

Most of us are currently cut off from many of our usual activities. But state agency resources can allow us, and our families, to take a virtual vacation.

Travel Oregon has published two new coloring and activity books. The [Welcome to Oregon Coloring Book](#) provides coloring pages from the popular [advertising campaign](#). [The Oregon Trail: a historical adventure through the western frontier](#) has information and activities about the 2,000-mile trek to Oregon.

Travel Oregon also has a number of videos, covering everything from hamburgers to ukuleles to waterfalls. [Take a look!](#)

If you missed whale watching this year, you can still spot the whales [on this page](#) from Oregon State Parks and Recreation.

If you'd prefer real-time resources, web cams can take you there in the moment:

The Hatfield Marine Science Center's [OctoCam](#). (Feeding time is 1:00 on Mondays, Thursday, and Saturdays)

Osprey are nesting near the University of Oregon School of Law & on the Willamette River in Independence. Keep track of their progress with the webcam at the [UofO](#) and [Independence](#).

P.S. Did you know that the law students [named 2018's fledgelings](#), Ruth Bader Ginsbird & Sandra Day O'Sprey?

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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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