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CONNECTIONS: YOUR LINK TO THE
State Library of Oregon



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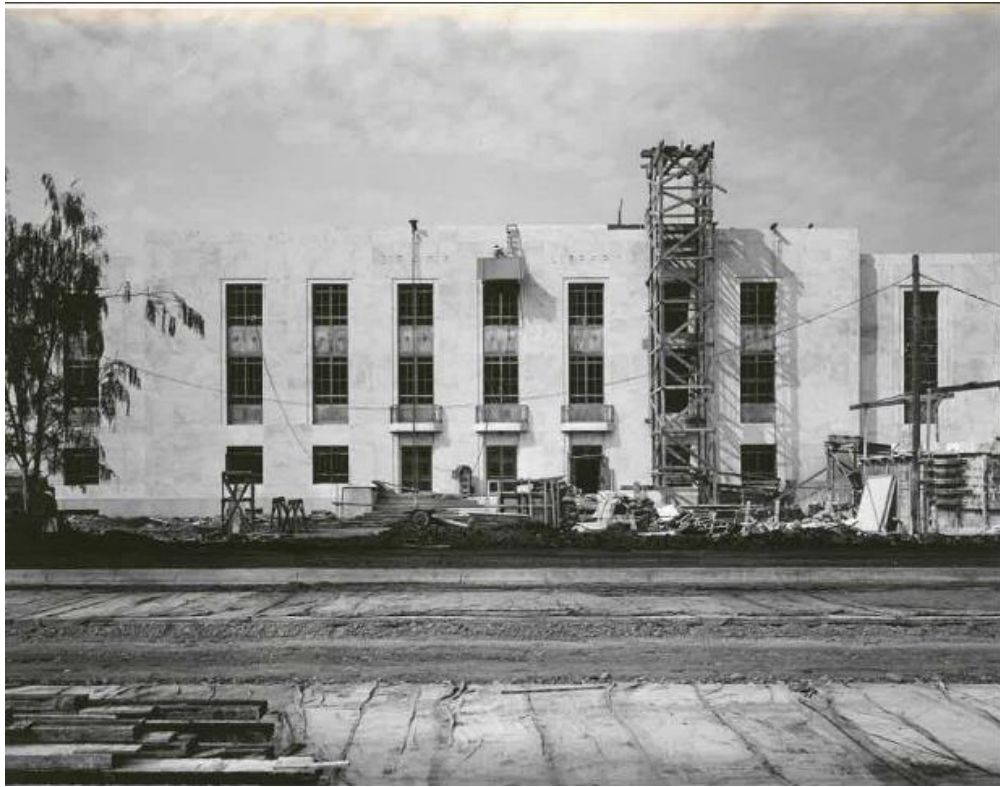
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AGENCY NEWS

State Library Building Listed in National Register of Historic Places

By Sadie Verville, Communications Analyst for the State Library



The State Library of Oregon is pleased to announce its recent listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is the first entry accepted under the *Oregon New Deal Resources from the Public Works Administration (PWA) or Works Progress Administration (WPA), 1933-1943, Multiple Property Document*. It is also the first property on the Capitol Mall listed in the National Register besides the Capitol building itself.



The building has a rich history dating back to 1938. The land had formerly been used for houses, one of which was the Cooke-Patton House, built by Edwin N. Cooke, Oregon's first state treasurer. The house was demolished, and construction on the State Library building began in 1938. Once construction was completed in

1939, it was dedicated as a PWA project and became the first building to be built on what is now the Capitol Mall, after the Capitol itself. The final cost

totaled \$825,000, including \$450,000 from the WPA. Before this, the library had shared quarters with the Supreme Court.



Harriet C. Long was the state librarian at the time of construction and played a significant role in the project. She had spent 25 years searching and advocating for funding for a separate State Library building, all while expanding library services to rural communities, connecting local writers, and developing a consciousness in “Northwest Literature.” She was one among many female state librarians, a testament to the role played by women in providing library materials to communities throughout the state.

The building was considered one of the most important architectural designs done by Whitehouse & Church in the New Deal era and is considered a prime example of Modernist architecture in Oregon. Carvings done by talented sculptor Gabriel Lavare on the interior and exterior enhanced the building and reflected the mission and values of the library itself. One example is the series of beautiful carvings over the mall side exterior doors that allude to the library’s commitment to furthering education. These panels include the owl of wisdom, the tree of knowledge, and the lamp of learning. Nearly all the original carvings remain and can still be viewed throughout and around the building.

Properties listed in the National Register are recognized as significant to the nation, state, or community. In this regard, the State Library was significant during the WPA era for being the only library that served all Oregonians and contributed greatly to education in the state. The library distributed WPA funds to employ somewhere between 120-135 workers to drive bookmobiles, clean and repair books, staff service desks, and do outreach to community organizations. The project lasted through the end of the WPA funding in 1943.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in some way to this nomination and official listing, whether it was through public comment or other forms of support.

We celebrate the historic significance and look forward to the ways the library will continue to develop and grow.

Further Reading:

- [Full State Library application for the National Register of Historic Places](#)
- [History of the State Library](#)
- [Previous *Connections* article on the nomination](#)
- [Oregon Parks and Recreation Department press release](#)

LIBRARY SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Thank You to Marlene Lee, Whose Volunteer Work Made an Impact

By Jen Maurer, School Library Consultant for Library Support



Marlene and her husband travel the world. Here she is on a sampan in Hong Kong.

When you think of an excellent volunteer, what traits come to mind? Skilled? Enthusiast? Dedicated? Reliable? All of those adjectives and more describe Marlene Lee, who has been a State Library volunteer since 2017.

Through her work as member and chair of the OSLIS committee, Marlene has been involved with OSLIS for over a decade. [OSLIS](#) is a website that teaches upper elementary through high school students how to do research, and it includes access to Oregon's [statewide databases](#) and a tool for generating accurate citations in MLA and APA formats. The project is a partnership between the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) and the State Library of Oregon.

As OSLIS Chair on behalf of OASL, Marlene leads the annual grant application process, writes grant reports, organizes the OSLIS committee, and tackles OSLIS work – everything from developing video tutorials that teach the research process, to working with a vendor to rebuild the website or update the citation tools, and even presenting about OSLIS at conferences.

The State Library started tracking OSLIS Chair volunteer hours six and a half years ago, and during that time span, Marlene logged over 2,000 hours! She will step down from her role at the end of this month, so we asked what kept her involved with OSLIS so long. “I was a member of the OSLIS committee for many years; however, after I retired, I was given the opportunity to become the OSLIS Chair for the past eight years and to become even more involved. When I was a high school librarian, one of my favorite things was to help students find information. Working to upgrade Citation Maker, add content to the website, create videos, and more has allowed me to continue this valuable work. And, as a retiree, I was able to work with one of my favorite people, Jen Maurer, the School Library Consultant, to do this on my schedule – in between family activities and travel. It's been an honor.”

A past OASL president passed along these thanks to Marlene: “Your tireless dedication to school libraries and the OSLIS project has been invaluable to its success. OSLIS would not be as robust as it is without your hard work. I

appreciate the time you gave, both while working and long into your retirement, to bring the OSLIS dream to reality.”

We couldn't say it better ourselves! We sincerely appreciate Marlene's steadfast commitment to OSLIS. The results of her efforts will benefit students, teachers, and librarians for years to come.

TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

National Library Service Debuts Braille-on-Demand Program

By Joel Henderson, Volunteer and Recording Studio Coordinator for Talking Books



As part of its Braille modernization initiative, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) launched the Braille-on-Demand project on Monday, June 20, 2022. This project allows active NLS users to request and receive one hard-copy Braille title per month, which they can keep permanently for their personal use. If an individual who is not a registered user submits an order, NLS will refer the individual to their local network library to begin the [registration process](#) (here in Oregon, the process starts by completing a copy of our [application](#)).

Braille titles will be limited to books that are currently available on BARD, the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download service. At this time, requests are limited to one book per person per month. Only complete titles will be

distributed. Requests for partial titles (for example, volume one of a three-volume book) will result in receiving all volumes.

The Braille-on-Demand project is the NLS's latest effort to expand Braille accessibility and availability, following a pilot program to distribute free Braille e-readers to registered users. The previous NLS Director Karen Keninger began these efforts in earnest during her tenure, and the current NLS Director Jason Broughton is committed to continuing these initiatives, in keeping with the NLS motto: That All May Read.

If you know someone who would benefit from this new Braille-on-Demand project, or any of the [other offerings our library provides](#), please let them know we are here. You can contact us at 800-452-0292 or talkingbooks.info@slo.oregon.gov. A personalized connection to the world awaits them!

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:

*Oftentimes, you will find the described audio option on a DVD listed as? **All of the above (English DVS, English Audio Description, English Descriptive Audio)***

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 people was Books for the Blind serving when Mary-Ellen worked for them during the summers of 1959 and 1960?

- 500
- 400
- 300

- 200



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.

**GOVERNMENT INFORMATION &
LIBRARY SERVICES**

OrDoc of the Month: Bee Trading Cards

By Jey Wann, Oregon Document Depository and Acquisitions Coordinator for
Government Services

Lil' Lumberjack



Photo by Oregon Department of Agriculture



**OREGON
BEE ATLAS**

oregonbeeproject.org

June 20th – 26th was [Pollinator Week](#), dedicated to promoting pollinator health. Pollinators are vital to Oregon agriculture and thus to Oregon's economy.

The [Oregon Bee Project](#) protects and promotes Oregon's bees. They produced [bee trading cards](#), which include such characters as Grumpbee and The Bling Bee.

The trading cards are part of the [Oregon Government Publications](#) digital collection.

It's Wildfire Season: Protect Your Library, Protect Yourself

By Jerry Curry, Reference Librarian for Government Services



Depending upon your location within the state, don't let our wet spring fool you. Fire season is upon us and usually runs from mid-May through mid-September. The National Interagency Fire Center [forecast](#) indicates there is an above normal wildland fire risk for much of Oregon throughout this season.

Oregon has always had a large amount of land considered to be within a wildland-urban interface (WUI). These areas, which are growing in Oregon, are zones where homes and other structures meet wildlands and are at an increased risk of wildfire.

As required by [2021 SB 762](#), the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is creating an updated wildfire risk map which is expected soon. In the meantime, ODF's 2020 [Communities at Risk Report](#) contains information and maps regarding the 508 communities identified and assessed to be at some wildfire risk. Of these, 185 communities are considered at high risk.

We don't always think that libraries are in danger from wildfires. However, along with our homes, they certainly can be. In 2014, the Weed Public Library in northern California was destroyed, and in 2020, both the volunteer library in Blue River, Oregon and the Malden Public Library in eastern Washington were [lost](#).

In order to be ready for fire season, you must both prepare and prevent.

To prepare, one should be both informed and ready. More information about [wildfire preparedness](#) is available via the [Oregon Wildfire Response & Recovery](#) site. If you are located in an area with wildfire risk, you might consider signing up for [OR-Alert](#), emergency notifications.

It's also imperative that we make our buildings fire-safe by hardening or increasing the resilience of our buildings ahead of time as our homes and buildings can ignite through direct contact, heat transfer from nearby structures,

and via embers, sparks, or firebrands. Building survivability within the wildland-urban interface depends upon ignition, and mitigation aims to reduce ignitability.

We can accomplish that by creating defensible spaces and using noncombustible construction materials.

- Use [drought/fire resistant plants](#) for landscaping
- Keep roofs and gutters free from flammable material
- Cover vents and minimize roof entry points for embers
- Consider adequate tree spacing on the property in question
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.

These suggestions and many more can be found in the list of resources:

- [Make Your Home & Property Fire-Safe](#) (ODF Video)
- [Your Home Can Survive a Wildfire](#) (National Fire Protection Association NFPA Video)
- [Wildfire Preparedness Tips](#) (NFPA)
- [Preparing Homes for Wildfires](#) (NFPA)
- [Wildfire Risk Reduction: 10 Safety Tips](#) (NFPA Handout)
- [7 Firewise Tips](#) (NFPA Handout)



CONTACTS

Library Support & Development Services Program 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.



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Our mailing address is:

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

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