



2023-27 LSTA Five-Year Plan: Year 1 Progress

January 2025

State Library of Oregon

From July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, the State Library launched the first year of the [2023-2027 LSTA Five-Year Plan](#), supporting libraries statewide through 52 grants, 24 statewide initiatives and projects, and consulting and assistance from a team of 9 staff members. Below is a closer look at the progress for each priority and focal area.

Oregon libraries break down systemic barriers

Access for the Underserved: Facilitate access to library services for communities that are historically and currently underserved and under-resourced.

Enhanced access to library resources for remote communities.

- Subsidized the Sage Library System courier, which transported over 91,500 materials between 77 academic, public, school, and special libraries spread across 15 counties of eastern and central Oregon.
- Funded installation of a holds pickup locker at a rural branch of Jackson County Library Services, which contributed to a 1.4% rise in physical checkouts at the branch.

Identified ways to improve underserved communities' access to legal information.

- Funded a statewide assessment of county law libraries by librarians at Lane County and Washington County Law Libraries. The project results highlight opportunities for enhanced collaboration and improved resource sharing to get people the information they need.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Antiracism (EDIA): Help libraries learn and use equitable, diverse, inclusive, and antiracist practices.

Offered training and support in EDIA principles and practices.

- Funded three equity, diversity, and inclusion cohorts that introduced 70 library staff to skills and practices that contribute to lasting and successful EDI initiatives.
- Supported production of 7 new episodes for the OLA EDIA Committee's podcast, *Overdue: Weeding Out Oppression in Libraries*, which has listeners all over the state.
- Welcomed a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Consultant who will assist libraries in serving underserved communities and learning practices that promote EDIA.

Supported creation of a unique, curriculum-based classification system.

- Funded a project at Columbia Gorge Community College Library to develop a custom knowledge organization system in collaboration with a consultant, students, faculty, staff, and

local community members. The project has led to more frequent patron interactions (library traffic tripled from October to May) and better cohesion with the curricular needs of the college.

Tribal Support: Work with tribal nations in Oregon to support access to library, technology, and information services.

Participated in efforts to broaden the reach of current and historical Tribal voices.

- In partnership with University of Oregon Libraries, started digitizing Tribal newspapers and public-facing historical documents from Chemawa Indian School.
- Funded a new microfilm reader for the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to better assist users with Tribal research and access to records.
- Provided scholarships through the Native American Collections Roundtable to support two enrolled citizens of Oregon tribes in attending the Northwest Archivists Annual Conference.

Worked on building relationships to support tribal objectives.

- Did outreach to Tribal Nations and participated in meetings such as the Legislative Commission on Indian Service's Cultural Resources Cluster and the Tribal-State Government-to-Government Summit. These efforts are initial steps toward working on common goals, as directed by the Tribes.

Oregon Libraries Close the Digital Divide

Connectivity and Technology: Support projects that increase broadband, connectivity, and technology access through libraries.

Supported internet and device access for underserved communities.

- Funded connectivity improvement projects at nine libraries located in small and rural areas. The libraries enhanced public computer stations, established spaces for online meetings, created private areas for confidential appointments, and acquired hotspots and laptops for lending.
- Helped Clackamas Community College Library purchase scanners and laptops for students facing technology access barriers. These devices were well-utilized in the first term, and students appreciated the multilingual instructions created as part of the project.

Digital Equity: Encourage libraries' digital inclusion and skills training efforts in their communities.

Collaborated with libraries and other organizations around digital equity and inclusion.

- Worked with the Oregon Broadband Office, OLA, individual libraries, and other digital equity-focused organizations to show decision makers how libraries improve broadband access and digital equity in their communities.

Provided a digital literacy and skills training tool.

- Continued to subsidize the subscription cost of Northstar Digital Literacy for libraries that find the tool useful in their digital inclusion and skills training efforts.

Supported internet and device access and training in underserved areas.

- Enabled Sweet Home Public Library, situated in a rural area with limited connectivity, to upgrade its public computers, offer computer and technical assistance, and provide educational technology to children.

- Assisted Lake County Library District in bringing digital access to the rural Christmas Valley branch by providing funding for new public and staff computers, internet upgrades, and charging stations.

Heritage Collections: Enhance equitable access to digital heritage collections.

Fostered digital collection development that is accessible and findable.

- Visited 9 small libraries and cultural institutions in Oregon to help them build and share their local digital collections through larger platforms online.
- Continued partnering with Washington State Library and Oregon Heritage Commission on [Northwest Digital Heritage](#) (NWDH), a site that now aggregates over 250 digital heritage collections from organizations around the Pacific Northwest.

Preserved and elevated collections and cultural resources of marginalized groups.

- Enabled Oregon Historical Society to translate and digitize the [Yasui family papers](#), which offer a rare glimpse into the lives of early Japanese immigrants and their contributions to Oregon. These materials are now widely accessible for researchers, educators, and the public.
- Funded a project by [Joseph Library](#) to digitize journal work and related ephemera of Alvin M. Joseph, Jr., a non-Native historian who specialized in Native American history. Content was shared with University of Oregon's Special Collections and NWDH to widen use of materials.

Oregon Libraries Support Students, Youth, & Lifelong Learners

Information Literacy and Education: Collaborate with libraries to support the information literacy and educational needs of students and citizens.

Provided information literacy resources and tools.

- Continued partnering with Oregon Association of School Libraries on the [Oregon School Library Information System](#) (OSLIS), a site that gives K-12 students and teachers across the state access to vital research tools and information. OSLIS had 678,023 site visits this year.

Made resources accessible and affordable to underserved and under-resources students.

- Funded a project by Hannon Library at Southern Oregon University to support students in accessing required textbooks by establishing more sustainable practices, encouraging the use of open educational resources, and expanding the accessibility of the collection. Course materials available through the library had over 2,100 uses during the academic year.

Youth Services: Cultivate impactful library services that support learning and wellbeing for youth for youth from birth through young adulthood.

Helped libraries engage youth in reading and language activities, in the library and in the community.

- Worked with individual library staff on an as-needed basis to support quality summer reading programs across the state.
- Subscribed to [iREAD summer reading programs](#) to provide public libraries with themes, artwork, activities, and more to plan and implement high-quality summer reading programs. 92% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that using the summer reading resources improved library services to the public.
- Funded robotics, coding, and STEAM learning projects at three public libraries (Harney County Library, Klamath County Library, and Driftwood Public Library). The programs brought new technologies and skills to children that would not otherwise have access or exposure.

Enabled libraries to help children develop skills for school and life.

- Funded a project at Coquille Public Library to develop a collection of 27 Social Emotional Learning kits to foster social and emotional growth in young children and students. The kits have been popular; a school counselor requested the death kit to support a first grader who had lost a parent, and they shared that the books facilitated an important conversation, while the toys allowed the student to express and process their emotions through play.

Lifelong Library Users: Support library programs and services that encourage lifelong learning and library use.

Encouraged workforce development, human services, and/or civic engagement initiatives.

- Funded internships at 19 libraries for teens to develop valuable work skills while contributing to library projects. Collectively the interns worked 3,255 hours on new programs, collections, spaces and community outreach.

Supported literacy and learning programs for a variety of ages.

- Subsidized [Oregon Battle of the Books](#) (OBOB), the statewide, voluntary reading-promotion program for students in 3rd-12th grades. A portion of the funds helped purchase digital copies of the OBOB titles which had nearly 2,000 checkouts during the school year.
- Helped fund Cornelius Public Library's [STEM Learning Lab](#) that provides community members of all ages engaging and culturally responsive activities.
- Funded projects at three rural public libraries (Adams Public Library, Clatskanie Library District, and Oakridge Public Library) to increase learning in their communities through outreach activities, adult education and recreation, and access to reading technologies.

Oregon Libraries Build Relationships to Foster Community

Data and Stories: Empower libraries to better understand and connect with their communities through data and stories.

Gathered data to help libraries communicate the value of their collections, programs, and services to vested partners, governing bodies, and residents.

- Worked with each public library and library district to collect data for the [Oregon Public Library Statistical Report](#), which is then sent to IMLS and published in the State of Oregon's Open Data portal. Access to this data assists library directors and state and national groups with planning, assessment, and advocacy efforts.

Used stories to foster connection and engagement in communities.

- Helped Redmond School District play a key role in welcoming the first cohort of students to the Obsidian Middle School dual language program by expanding the collection of English and Spanish books, hosting engaging storytelling events, and offering reading backpacks for checkout. Usage of library materials increased by 300% during this initiative.
- Supported a collaboration between Oregon Health & Sciences University Library and Northwest Narrative Medicine Collaborative to expand a digital library that supports healthcare training and community workshops. The collection highlights the work of diverse artists, creatives, and advocates, and had 1,832 views this year.

Library Consulting: Guide and advise libraries on matters of concern to them.

Made connections, pointed to best practices, and offered guidance and support.

- Had 990 interactions with library staff throughout the state on topics such as governance, policies, staffing, funding, collections, privacy, and security. Due to an increase in book challenges, a notable part of consulting focused on intellectual freedom.
- Performed 54 outreach visits, attended 9 regional library group meetings, and served on 15 OLA units to deepen relationships with library staff around the state.
- Worked with 20 other state agencies - including Department of Early Learning & Care, Oregon Department of Treasury, and Oregon Parks & Recreation Department – to seek opportunities for collaboration and to promote the value of strong libraries.
- Hosted twice-weekly virtual meetups for library directors. These gave directors a chance to check-in with colleagues, share what was happening at their libraries, and ask questions.

Library Partnerships: Encourage partnership, learning, and shared impact across Oregon libraries.

Used partnerships to share resources and/or extend services.

- Continued to oversee the statewide 24/7 chat reference service, [Answerland](#). 252 Oregon library staff and volunteers covered over 2,300 hours and answered 17,957 questions. Satisfaction with the service remains high: 94% of survey respondents rated the service good or excellent.
- Continued to support [ODLC](#), a group of libraries from across the state that offers Oregonians in various communities—from some of the smallest towns to the some of the largest cities — access to digital books and audiobooks. Usage of the service continues to increase, particularly in Spanish language titles which saw a 44% rise in checkouts.
- Funded Lane Council of Libraries' continued improvement of the shared integrated library system that connects eight area libraries. Over 7,000 people in Lane County now have improved searching of their library collections and new options for using the library on their mobile devices.

Oregon Libraries Have Training & Resources They Need

Continuing Education: Improve the knowledge and skills of library workers across Oregon through relevant and responsive continuing education.

Provided learning opportunities to further library staff's ability to effectively serve their communities.

- Curated a [robust collection](#) of professional development opportunities to improve the knowledge and skills of library workers across Oregon. There were 2,754 registrations for these offerings, and 97% of survey respondents indicated they agreed or strongly agreed that the resources provided by the State Library helped them learn something
- Supported three regional library symposiums for staff that work in school libraries. Held in Medford, Klamath Falls, and Pendleton, the three day-long conferences provided an opportunity for library staff to learn, exchange ideas, and collaborate.

Core Resources: Equip libraries with a core set of resources needed for basic library service.

Provided core resources to save libraries money, staff time, and/or create other efficiencies.

- Continued to facilitate the statewide licensing of electronic databases for all types of libraries through [Statewide Databases Licensing Program](#). Oregonians accessed more than 1.7 million research resources through this program.
- Managed [Jobline](#), a site featuring library-related jobs in both Oregon and out of state. There were 15,200 visits – a 30% increase over last year - and 68,600 views – a 21% increase.

Standards and Practices: Connect libraries with current standards and practices to elevate their services.

Provided guidance and resources for library staff to learn standards and practices.

- Contracted with consultants to develop two key resources: the [Handbook for Public Library Board Members in Oregon](#) and the [Oregon Library Districting Toolkit](#), which provide guidance for public library development and district formation.
- Maintained the [Library and Information Science \(LIS\) collection](#), which had 203 checkouts. User comments such as “I appreciate your robust collection of LIS material!” demonstrate appreciation for making such resources available.

Helped libraries apply standards and practices to improve collections, programs, and services.

- Reviewed and reported on the compliance of public libraries for the [Minimum conditions for public libraries in Oregon](#). Nearly all libraries met the conditions, providing strong evidence that they are successfully fulfilling their intended purpose: ensuring every public library offers a foundational level of service, access, and transparency.
- Facilitated strategic planning sessions at two libraries and began the process with a third. Sessions included creating objectives with library staff, providing supporting materials and tools, and instructing attendees on the elements of a strategic plan document.

Looking Forward

The State Library is currently in the second year of implementing the plan. 11 competitive grants have been awarded, the teen internship grant program is accepting applications, and 20 statewide projects and initiatives are continuing. There are also several new projects in the works:

- Oregon libraries break down systemic barriers:
 - Creating new support groups for the Oregon library community.
 - Resuming Reforma Oregon’s [Mock Pura Belpré Award](#).
- Oregon libraries close the digital divide:
 - Working with AGE+ and local libraries to facilitate digital skills training for seniors in selected rural communities.
- Oregon libraries support students, youth, and lifelong learners:
 - Facilitating a [Supercharged Storytimes](#) cohort for staff involved in early literacy.
 - Working with Oregon Humanities to bring [Reflective Conversation Facilitation Training](#) to library staff, volunteers, and partners as part of the [Beyond 250](#) project.
- Oregon libraries build relationships to foster community:
 - Creating an advisory group to give feedback on the PLS data-gathering process.
 - Establishing a professional learning community for classified (paraprofessional) library staff in schools who have no library experience or education.
 - Looking into how Answerland might be able to help provide reference to Adults in Custody in Oregon institutions.
- Oregon libraries have the training and resources they need:
 - Awarding professional development scholarships through the OLA EDIA Committee to Oregon library staff who identify as belonging to one or more marginalized communities and/or are looking to develop skills in providing services to underserved communities.