

STATE LIBRARY OF OREGON

Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee (SDLAC)

A committee of the LSTA Advisory Council

Annual Report: July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022

Project Name: Statewide Database Licensing Program (SDLP)
Date Submitted: September 23, 2022
Submitted by: Arlene Weible, on behalf of the Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee

1. Summarize the overall purpose of the grant project

A. Scope

The Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee (SDLAC) is a committee of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Council, which, in turn, advises the State Library of Oregon Board. SDLAC's primary responsibility is to advise on the drafting of requests for proposals, to review proposals, recommend database(s) to license, and to advise about the allocation of costs (when necessary) to libraries participating in the Statewide Database Licensing Program.

For more information about the Statewide Database Licensing Program, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/Library/libraries/Pages/Databases.aspx>.

B. Summary of Licensed Databases

- Gale Databases
 - The Gale database package provides access to full-text periodicals, including reference ebooks, covering many topic areas.
- LearningExpress Library (EBSCO), including the Job and Career Accelerator, Personal Success Skills, Computer and Internet Basics, and PrepSTEP modules
 - This product provides career and education skill-building courses, practice tests, and job-seeking resources and tools.

For more information about the databases and for a complete list of the Gale databases, visit http://libguides.osl.state.or.us/SDLP_FAQ.

C. Supports LSTA Five-Year Plan

The Statewide Database Licensing Program supports two goals of the LSTA Five-Year Plan:

- Goal 1: Provide access to information sources and library services
- Goal 4: Develop information skills

The LSTA Five-Year Plan is available at <https://www.oregon.gov/Library/libraries/Documents/LSTA/2018-2022LSTAFiveYearPlanFinal.pdf>.

2. Summarize the project results to date

A. Usage Statistics Summary

Gale/Cengage Learning and LearningExpress provide usage statistics for each database available in the statewide contract. A summary of user sessions by library type is presented along with percent of total usage. Both Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 are presented to show changes in usage over time.

SDLP Annual Database Usage Number of Sessions by User Type Gale Databases

	FY 2021		FY 2022		FY21-22
Library Type	Database Sessions	Percent of Total	Database Sessions	Percent of Total	Percent Change
Academic	894,731	16.8%	704,201	10.7%	-21.3%
Public/Tribal	1,302,141	24.5%	170,004	2.6%	-86.9%
OSLIS/K12	1,173,701	22.1%	2,350,773	35.7%	+100.3%
Open Web	1,951,975	36.7%	3,365,378	51.1%	+72.4%
Total	5,322,548	100%	6,590,356	100%	+23.8%

LearningExpress Library

	FY 2021		FY 2022		FY21-22
Library Type	Database Sessions	Percent of Total	Database Sessions	Percent of Total	Percent Change
Academic	5,998	38.4%	4,250	30.4%	-29.1%
Public/Tribal	5,170	33.1%	3,569	25.5%	-31.0%
OSLIS/K12	966	6.2%	1,750	12.5%	+81.2%
OCIS	3,501	22.4%	4,412	31.6%	+26.0%
Total	15,635	100%	13,981	100%	-10.6%

The number of user sessions for Gale products increased by 24 percent in FY 2022. Growth was in both the K-12 sector and in Open Web sessions. It was expected to see K-12 usage rebound with the return to a more normal school year schedule after two pandemic-influenced years. Gale's Open Web initiative exposes Gale database content

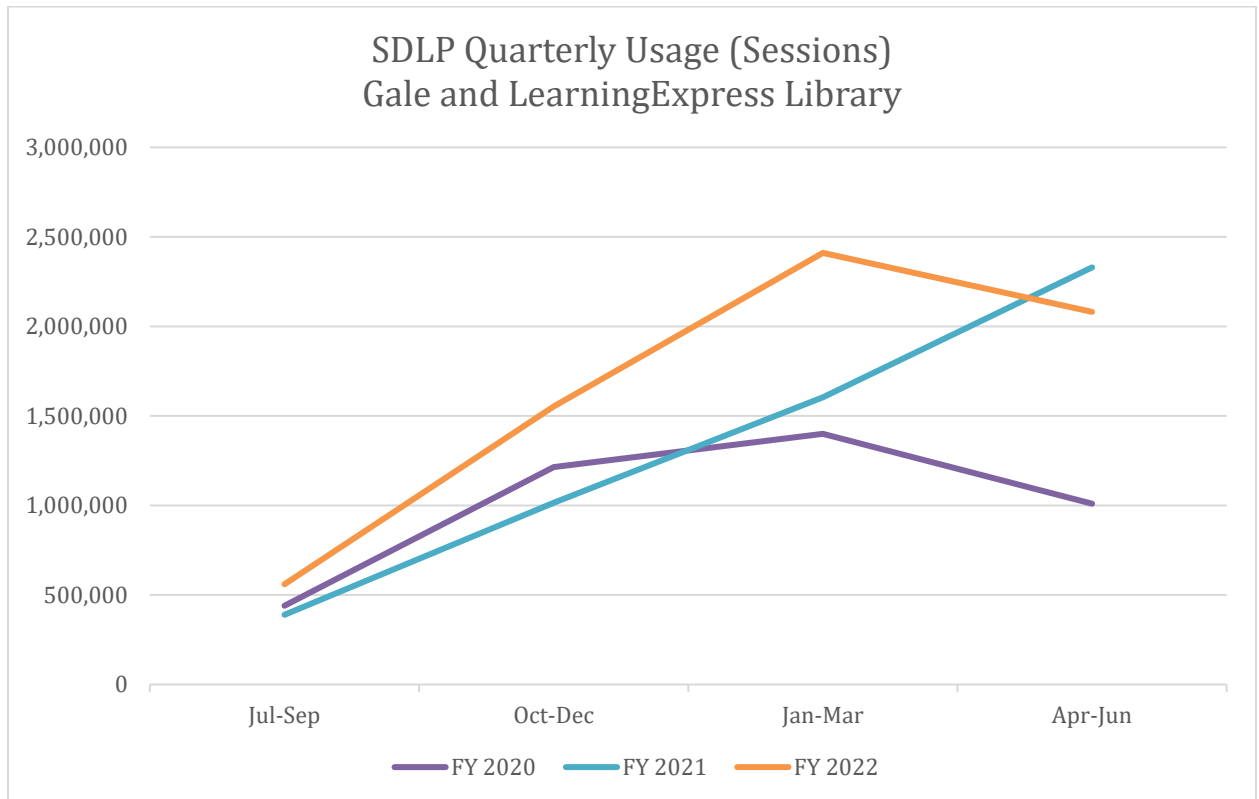
to search engines such as Google and is the main driver behind increased overall usage. The large decrease in the Public/Tribal sector is due to the change in reporting of Gale's Open Web initiative in FY 2021, which previously attributed this data to the Public/Tribal sector. Since Open Web sessions cannot be accurately attributed to a specific sector, it is now reported separately.

The number of user sessions for LearningExpress Library decreased by about 11 percent over the last year. Oregon Career Information Systems (OCIS) represents usage across several sectors and is now separated from OSLIS/K12 totals. Despite a return to more normal usage levels in the Gale databases, LearningExpress Library usage continues to remain low.

The Committee recognizes that user sessions may not provide a full picture of the program's reach and impact so reports the following additional usage data.

B. Changes in User Sessions over the Course of a Fiscal Year

The graph below illustrates changes in user sessions over the course of the fiscal year. It reveals that overall usage has rebounded from the last two years. The rise in use between the 3rd and 4th quarter of FY 2021 likely shows the return to more regular classroom activities. Educational activity continues to drive usage of the program, as usage is consistently higher during times when schools and academic institutions are in session.

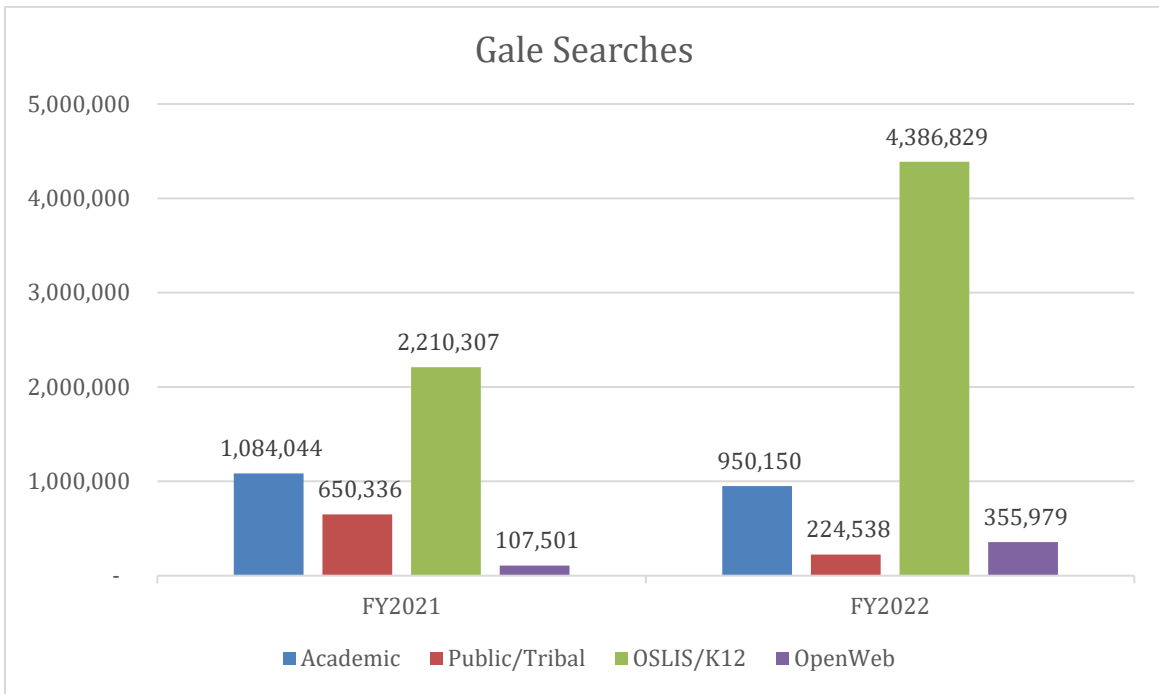


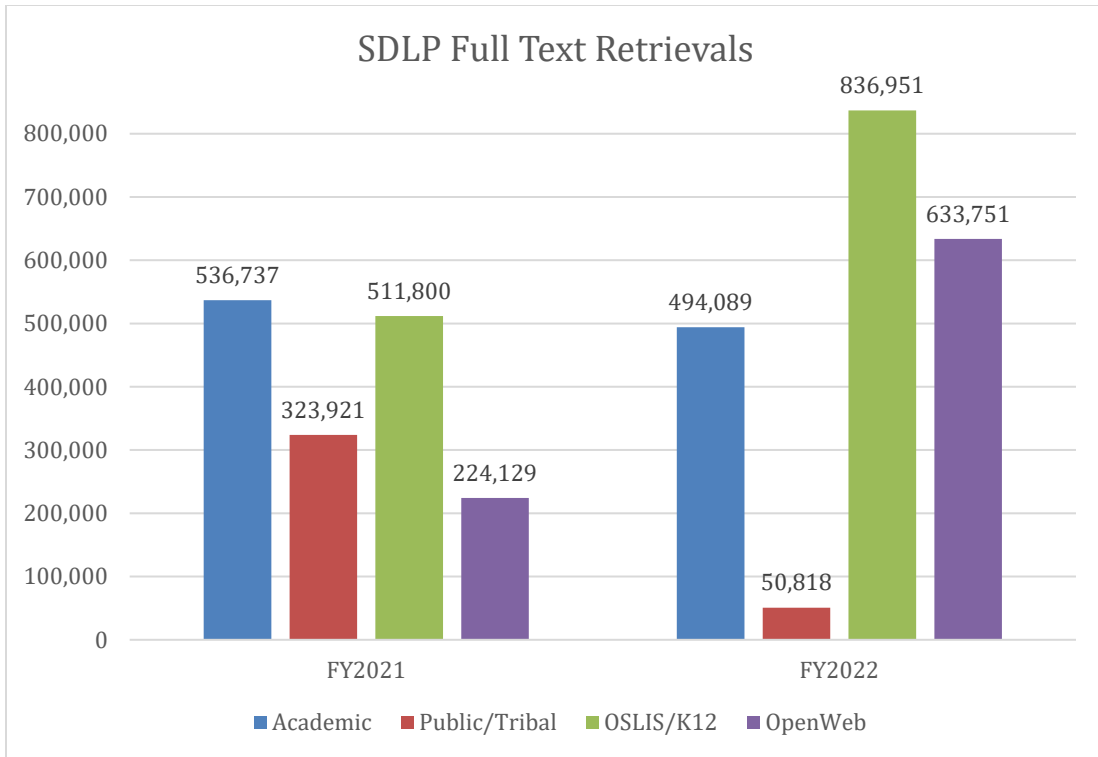
C. Number of Aggregated Searches/Retrievals

The following graphs illustrate the number of searches and full-text retrievals by all types of libraries in the program.

Searches represent the number of times users use unique terms to search the Gale databases (Note: search data is not available from LearningExpress Library, as this resource relies primarily on guided navigation). Full text retrievals represent the number of times users access content relevant to their search when using SDLP resources.

From FY 2021 to FY 2022, overall searches have increased by 46% and full text retrievals by 26%. Increases are most substantial in the OSLIS/K-12 and Open Web sector. This data is consistent with the user session data presented earlier.





D. Cost per Search

Cost-per-search data is reported to demonstrate the value of the program.

Since search data is not available from LearningExpress Library, the table below illustrates the cost per search of the Gale databases.

Gale Searches	FY 2021	FY 2022
Academic	1,084,044	950,150
Public/Tribal	650,336	224,538
OSLIS/K12	2,210,307	4,386,829
Open Web	107,501	355,979
Total Searches	4,052,188	5,917,496
Total Annual Cost	\$380,000.00	\$380,000.00
Cost per Search	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.06

Since the number of searches has increased, the cost per search dropped from FY 2021 to FY 2022.

E. Cost per Session

SDLP Sessions	FY 2021	FY 2022
Academic	900,729	708,451
Public/Tribal	3,259,286	173,573
OSLIS/K12	1,174,667	2,352,523
Open Web	1,951,975	3,365,378
OCIS	3,501	4,412
Total Sessions	5,326,049	6,604,337
Total Annual Cost	\$581,389.00	\$586,424.00
Cost per User Session	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.09

Given the increase in the number of user sessions, the cost per session has also decreased.

F. Cost per Full Text Retrieval

SDLP Full Text Retrievals	FY 2021	FY 2022
Academic	536,737	494,089
Public/Tribal	323,921	50,818
OSLIS/K12	511,800	836,951
Open Web	224,129	633,751
OCIS	1,971	3,616
Total Full Text Retrievals	1,598,558	2,019,225
Total Annual Cost	\$581,389.00	\$586,424.00
Cost per Retrieval	\$0.36	\$0.29

The cost per retrieval has also decreased in FY22.

The committee was interested in further exploring the decreased usage of LearningExpress Library, so the cost per session and retrieval for that resource alone is reported below.

LearningExpress Library Costs			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Cost	\$196,478.00	\$201,389.00	\$206,424.00
Retrievals	34,475	24,343	9,843
Sessions	38,652	30,660	13,981
Cost per Retrieval	\$5.70	\$8.27	\$20.97
Cost per Session	\$5.08	\$ 6.57	\$ 14.76

Educational activity has always been a big driver of usage in the program, and the return to more consistent activities in FY 2022 can account for the substantial increase in usage of Gale databases over FY 2021. This did not hold true for LearningExpress Library, however, so further assessment of decreasing usage is needed. The increase in percentage of use from Gale’s Open Web initiative indicates that Oregonians may not be turning to their library’s web site for access

to online information but are using general search engines instead. Methods to assess the nature of OpenWeb data more fully will continue to be explored with the vendor. In general, the data indicates that Oregonians are using a basic set of resources provided through the SDLP even if they may not be using traditional library access points to find them.

3. Discuss significant developments

A. EBSCO/ProQuest Subsidy

The State Library continues to provide the EBSCO/ProQuest subsidy (\$100,000) to academic libraries. 36 academic libraries received an average of \$2,778 to help subsidize their subscriptions to EBSCO's Academic Search Premier or ProQuest Central. The Orbis Cascade Alliance distributed the subsidy to 34 of those libraries (those that participate in Alliance group subscriptions), and the State Library distributed the subsidy to two libraries with direct subscriptions.

B. Gale Ebook Collection

With approximately \$67,000 in unspent LSTA and other one-time reserve funds available, State Library staff worked with SDLAC members to improve the Gale eBook collection for the statewide program in fall 2021. Earlier Gale had updated the Gale In Context: Elementary database, and as a result, ebooks classified as K-5 in the Gale eBooks database are now also available in Gale In Context: Elementary. That enhancement made the lack of elementary-level titles in the ebooks collection more evident. Jen Maurer, the State Library's School Library Consultant, worked with committee members Carrie Light and Laura Axon to review and select titles for purchase. They used data from frequently searched topics to help identify titles in the sciences and social sciences. They also looked for titles that offered perspectives on history not frequently represented, covered news literacy concepts, and were in Spanish language. 106 titles were selected and are now available in the collection.

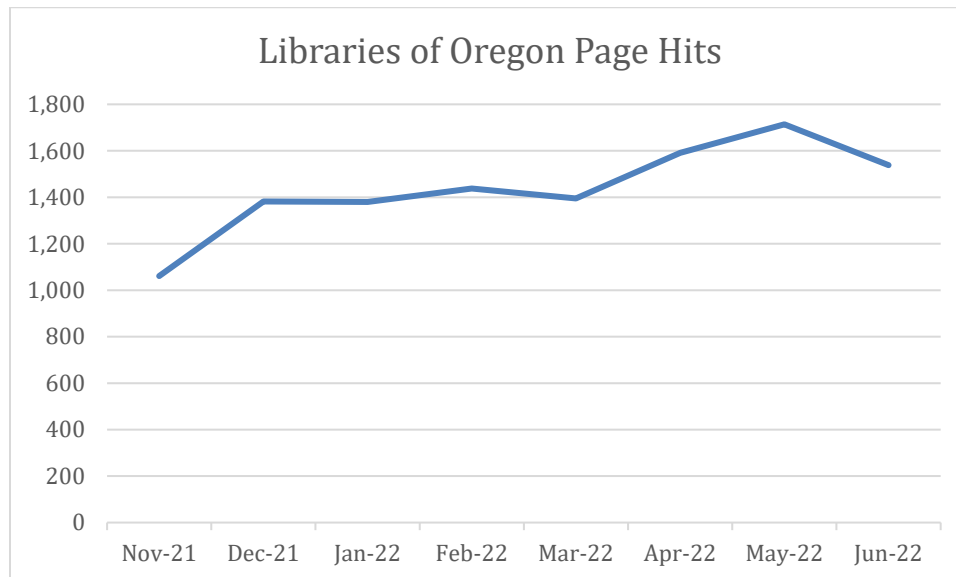
In addition, the reconfiguration of the Gale contract now allows for \$30,000 each year to be used to add titles to a permanent collection that will continue to be accessible if the contract with Gale ends. Several committee members worked with staff on this now annual review and refresh of the collection. Approximately \$30,000 in additional unspent funds were used to supplement the purchase, resulting in 30 new titles being added in August 2022. Titles were added on the topics of mental health, equity, and inclusion. Two reference works were also added: *Gale Encyclopedia of Psychology* (4th edition, published 2022) and *Diccionario de Sinonimos, Antonimos, Paronimos* (Spanish language thesaurus). A [complete list of titles](#) with detailed information is available. New

titles can be viewed by filtering this spreadsheet with the codes oregonsc2021-1 and oregonsc2022.

C. Libraries of Oregon

The Libraries of Oregon website (<https://librariesoforegon.org>) serves as an easy-to-access portal to SDLP databases, using geolocation to authenticate Oregon users. In November 2021, the State Library migrated the site from its long-time host, Oregon State University Libraries & Press, to a platform hosted by Gale. This interim hosting solution will allow the Committee to assess usage of the site and give State Library staff time to evaluate how support for the site fits into State Library priorities in the new LSTA Five-Year Plan. The Committee thanks Oregon State University Libraries & Press for its support of the site over the last decade.

Preliminary usage data for the site after the transition is represented in the chart below. The State Library will be working with the vendor to access additional analytic data to assess usage of the site.



D. Committee Membership Changes

Incoming Committee members are:

- Position #7 – Public Library Serving over 100,000 [Term ends 6/30/2025]
Brandon Barrett, Multnomah County Libraries
- Position #8 – Academic Library from Private Institution [Term ends 6/30/2025]
Garrett Trott, Corban University

- Position #9 – Resource Sharing Network [Term ends 6/30/2025]
Megan Dazey, Sweet Home Public Library (Linn County Libraries)

Alex Rolfe served as Chair over the last year. Margaret Mellinger was elected to serve as Chair in the upcoming year.

The Committee thanks outgoing members Christopher Davis, Alex Rolfe, and Julie Retherford for their service.

4. Discuss future plans

- Continue to advise the State Library on the development of the Libraries of Oregon website.
- Advise State Library staff on priority needs for online library resources in the Oregon library community in light of goals identified in the LSTA Five-Year Plan, 2023-2027.
- Recommend ways to promote and measure usage of SDLP resources among libraries.