



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



**State Library
of Oregon**

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Report to the Oregon State Legislature Report on ORS 357.026 (9)

Executive Summary

HB 3523 was passed in the 2015 Legislative Session, changing the appointment process for the State Librarian and revising the composition and duties of the State Library Board. In addition, the bill called for specific activities to improve interagency coordination. This report meets the biennial report requirement as outlined in HB 3523 and codified in ORS 357.026 (9).

Achieve the statutory mission and programmatic outcomes of the State Library

Statutorily, the State Library of Oregon is charged with providing a wide range of services to several diverse groups, including state employees and the legislature; Oregonians with print disabilities; those providing services at public, academic, school, special, and tribal libraries; and to Oregonians.

- **Provide library services to support state government needs and operations**

The State Library's Government Information and Library Services Division promotes informed decision-making and government transparency by providing professional, high-quality, unbiased information services to support state government and permanent public access to government publications. Library services provided to state employees including research assistance, professional development, and training to use library resources. The State Library provides over one hundred [online library resources](#) specifically for state employees to support their research needs. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the total number of patron service transactions was 9,317.

The division collects and preserves state and federal agency publications and other Oregon-related materials. These materials are then made discoverable through the library's [online catalog](#), [Oregon Digital Collections website](#), and interlibrary loan services. These materials are key to the library services provided to state employees. State Library staff also offer reference assistance to Oregonians to utilize these materials, both virtually and in person.

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- **Provide Library Services for Oregonians with print disabilities.**

The State Library's Talking Book and Braille Library serves Oregonians with print disabilities by providing Braille materials, audiobooks, descriptive videos, and magazines through the mail and via digital download. This is a free service to eligible Oregonians, reaching more than 4,000 active users and circulating an average of approximately 30,000 items every month. The Talking Book and Braille Library is Oregon's regional library for the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) network. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the 4,414 Oregonians registered for the service checked out an average of 111 items per year. In 2020, the Talking Book and Braille Library implemented Duplication on Demand, which increased title availability, eliminated wait time for popular titles, and increased the number of titles a patron can have at one time. This system allows creation of customized digital cartridges containing titles requested by patrons from the entire NLS collection of more than 90,000 titles. This change greatly enhanced customer service and streamlined operations. In the past, patrons had received books with one title per cartridge. This new system allows the flexibility of up to 10 books per cartridge, reducing wait times and improving customer service, while streamlining staff processes.

- **Support and promote the establishment and development of local library services**

The State Library's Library Support and Development Services Division provides consultation services, professional development, statewide library services, and grants to 1,600 public, academic, school, and special libraries, and Tribal Nations across the state. The division administers state-funded Ready to Read grants to public libraries in Oregon to support summer reading and early literacy programs. The division also administers federal [Library Services and Technology Act](#) (LSTA) grant funding received through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to fund competitive grants and statewide library services including consulting, the [Answerland online reference service](#), the [Oregon School Library Information System \(OSLIS\)](#), the [Statewide Database Licensing Program](#), and [Northwest Digital Heritage](#). Oregon's LSTA allotment for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 is \$2,597,695.

Since its FFY 2023 allotment, the division spends federal funds according to its [LSTA Five-Year Plan 2023-27](#). The five priority areas established in the plan are: improving equity, diversity, inclusion, and antiracism in Oregon libraries; promoting digital equity; supporting students, youth, and lifelong learners; building community through libraries; and increasing library capacity. These priorities not only help determine which statewide library services the division offers; they also give direction to the subgrants the State Library distributes to libraries and Tribal Nations throughout the state. Such grants totaled \$1,330,572 combined from July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2024.

- **Promote and support library services for children and youth**

The Ready to Read grant program is supported by state General Fund dollars. It is available to all legally established public libraries to provide early literacy and summer reading programs to local communities. Funds are distributed by formula, based 80% off the number of children ages 0-14 served by the library and 20% off the square mileage served. The minimum grant is \$1,000. As shown in the [latest Ready to Read annual report](#), grants support projects as diverse as literacy camps for children from communities that are underserved and under-resourced;

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social and emotional learning activities in a variety of languages; bolstering library collections for youth; creating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs; and much more. In 2024, Ready to Read funds went to 140 public libraries in all 36 counties in Oregon, with over 260,000 youth participation at grant-funded programs.

- **Leverage federal, state, and local funding for the benefit of state and local libraries**

Federal LSTA funds received from IMLS require both a maintenance of effort (MOE) and a non-federal match on the part of states. LSTA funds are used to benefit local libraries through grants and statewide services. The Ready to Read General Fund grant funds distributed to public libraries every year contribute significantly to the required MOE and match and support libraries in providing early literacy and summer reading programming. In addition, General Funds allocated to the Talking Book and Braille Library contribute to MOE.

State Library grants also leverage local funds and in-kind contributions from recipient libraries. For every \$1 in state Ready to Read funds distributed, libraries were able to leverage \$4.05 in local funds, including cash, staff time and materials in 2024.

- **Promote the electronic delivery of library and information resources and services**

Using federal LSTA dollars, the State Library provides 23 electronic databases to all Oregonians through their local libraries and through the [Libraries of Oregon](#) website, via the Statewide Database Licensing Program. [Answerland](#), a 24/7 virtual reference service, is also available to all Oregonians and includes service in Spanish.

- **Maintain free access for the public to State Library materials**

The State Library building is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with staffing available to assist the public with the collection and questions from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. each weekday. The State Library continues to provide assistance to the public by phone and email. The State Library [digital collections](#) are freely available to the public 24/7.

Implement initiatives and improvements to interagency coordination

- The Reference Coordinating Council, composed of the State Librarian, the State Archivist, and the State of Oregon Law Librarian, meets regularly to discuss programs and services, explore areas for collaboration, and reduce duplication of effort.
- The State Librarian designee serves on the Oregon Heritage Commission to share relevant State Library updates and bring back items of interest to the agency and the local library community.
- The State Library and Oregon Heritage Commission partnered with the Washington State Library to develop and grow [Northwest Digital Heritage](#) (NWDH). A part of the [Digital Public Library of America](#) (DPLA), NWDH collects information about digital collections from numerous institutions in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho and makes them searchable online in one place. The service also hosts digitized content from the libraries in Athena, Lowell, and

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Weston, and the Oregon State Archives.

- The Oregon Heritage Commission, State Archives, and State Library have met regularly since the devastating 2020 wildfire season to discuss impacts on local libraries, museums, and historical organizations, to share resources, and to discuss any necessary response efforts. Fortunately, the damage to collecting organizations was not extensive, but this situation prompted the three agencies to agree to begin work on a disaster response and recovery plan at the state level for heritage interests. These efforts continue.
- HB 3523 changed the composition of the State Library Board. The Executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, or their designee, now have permanent positions on the State Library Board. In addition, the Board also includes two rotating positions for state agency staff, which are currently filled by staff from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Oregon Health Authority.
- A representative from the Commission for the Blind and from the Oregon Textbook and Media Center serves on the Talking Book and Braille Library Advisory Council.

Implement initiatives and improvements to the electronic delivery of government publications and services

The State Library continues to make great strides in digitizing valuable state documents and publications. By statute, the State Library is charged with collecting state agency publications and has been doing so since the early 20th century. In 2009, the library created an [online digital collection](#) to provide access to [both born-digital and digitized versions of these publications](#). In 2024, the entire database of digitally accessible documents was migrated to an updated, user friendly digital content platform called Recollect. The digitized state documents are now easier to search, and users can create groups by agency, topic, and type of documents. The State Library now also has the ability to create digital exhibits that highlight the work of the state agencies.

The State Library is systematically digitizing older items from the Oregon Documents Collection, prioritizing unique or rare items. Digitizing efforts make these publications available worldwide and protect fragile items from damage through physical use.

- From July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024, 25,115 Oregon documents were added to the Oregon Documents collection, with 23,851 of those added to Digital Collections and 1,264 to the print collection.
- As of June 30, 2024, there are 177,198 Oregon state government publications in Digital Collections.
- As of spring 2025, the State Library's digital collections are exposed to wider audiences thanks to their inclusion in NWDH and the national DPLA digital heritage search site.

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Implement initiatives and improvements to State Library reference services to state agencies

- Work continued with the State Library's highly successful embedded librarian program, in which each state agency is assigned a librarian to provide specialized assistance and resources to support state agency staff in their work. Through the embedded librarian program, these librarian liaisons become familiar with the work of their assigned agencies and conduct presentations and training on resources tailored to the specific needs of the state agency, as well as providing research support on specific agency initiatives and programs.
- Between July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024, librarians conducted 201 presentations or participated in events with their assigned agencies engaging with a total of 2,181 state employees.

Report the number of public, nonprofit, and private partnerships entered into by the State Library

The State Library currently has 39 partnerships with agencies and organizations:

- Oregon Library Association and its divisions
- American Library Association and its divisions
- Oregon Department of Education
- State of Oregon Law Library
- Oregon State Archives
- Fujian (China) Provincial Library
- Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
- Federal Superintendent of Documents
- Oregon Heritage Commission
- Oregon Historical Society
- Oregon Textbook and Media Center
- Oregon Commission for the Blind
- American Council of the Blind of Oregon
- National Federation of the Blind of Oregon
- National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS)
- Utah State Library
- League of Women Voters
- Oregon Broadband Office
- Oregon Broadband Equity Coalition
- Oregon Office of Cultural Change
- Oregon Humanities
- OregonASK
- Oregon Secretary of State
- Washington State Library
- Oregon Career Information System
- iREAD Summer Reading Program
- Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service (CCRLS)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- Oregon State University Libraries
- University of Oregon Libraries
- Digital Public Library of America
- Urban Libraries Council
- Link Oregon
- AGE+
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Western Council of State Libraries (Westco)
- Department of Forestry
- Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)
- Portland State University

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In addition, the State Library partners with many local public, academic, school, and special libraries, and Tribal Nations through LSTA grant programs and other engagement opportunities and activities.

Reduce duplication in state agency services and costs related to the mission of the State Library

Subscriptions: Rules relating to subscriptions for reference related databases, as mandated by ORS 357.115 and outlined in [OAR 543-020-0080](#), were adopted in June 2016 and a process was created for agencies to submit requests for approval from the State Librarian.

- The State Library works with liaisons from each agency to proactively share information about the subscription approval process and current resources that the State Library has available. In some cases, state agencies cancel their agency subscriptions in favor of using the database versions provided by the State Library.
- Previous data collection efforts concluded that duplication—of non-newspaper subscriptions especially—is minimal. A review and approval process where agencies may submit requests and receive approval for eligible subscription purchases in accordance with OAR 543-020-0080 is in development. With this new process in place, the State Library can provide both longitudinal and point-in-time analyses of subscription duplication between agencies.

Certification of state agency libraries: HB 3523 mandates that the State Library of Oregon certify “any state agency library or library service that is maintained separate from the State Library or that is proposed to be maintained separate from the State Library.”

- The only agency library requiring certification is the Oregon Department of Transportation library. The ODOT library partners with the State Library regarding resource sharing. This library is professionally staffed, collects metrics, and is willing to share those metrics. This library conforms to the legislation.
- The Oregon OSHA Resource Center and the Prison Law Library are focused on serving the members of their stakeholder communities. Because they are not focused on serving other Oregon state agencies or their employees, they do not require certification from the State Library. Their agency employees, however, do utilize State Library resources to support their work.
- The Department of Revenue maintains a small resource room where materials are housed. This resource room is not considered a library and does not need to be certified by the State Library.

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