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Volume 35, Issue 1 - February 2025

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AGENCY NEWS

Fundraising Success is a Win for Everyone!

By Joel Henderson, Donor Engagement Coordinator, Operations

"Talking books is the difference between surviving and thriving!"

Every November through January, the Talking Book and Braille Library sends out an appeal for donations. The most recent appeal was a record-breaking success! Our goal was to raise \$40,000; we ended up raising over \$53,000! Thank you to everyone who participated and helped us exceed our goal.

Donations to the Talking Book and Braille Library broaden the choices available to users and improve their quality of life. Together with the support of donors, we are able to:

- Restore the joy of reading by helping more eligible Oregonians learn about the library.
- Give our state a national voice and users more choices by narrating local-interest books by Oregon authors.
- Enable users to make an informed vote by providing impartial information about candidates and initiatives in a variety of accessible formats.
- Allow users to continue enjoying their favorite film series or the latest blockbuster thanks to an extensive collection of DVDs with audio description.
- Keep users connected to the world in real time through the audio newspaper service NFB-Newsline®.

All donations, be they large or small, have a huge impact on the lives of many people (and are tax deductible). So, here's a big THANK YOU to all our donors and community partners for contributing to the benefit of the print-impaired community here in Oregon. We can all be grateful for the Talking Book and Braille Library because we are all better together!

2024-25 APPEAL BY THE NUMBERS

431

*number of
donors*

\$53,332

*total
funds raised*

\$50

*most
common
donation*

***“The Talking Book and Braille Library has **opened back up**
an important part of my world that I thought
my blindness had closed forever.”***

New Ways to Access Federal Documents

*By Allison Hatch, Government Documents Librarian, and Janelle Youngblood,
Electronic Resources Librarian, Government Information and Library Services*

Since 1895, the Government Publication Office (GPO) has distributed copies of federal government funded research reports, agency documentation, and more to depository libraries nationwide. The State Library has participated in this program since the early 1900s. Continued progress and updates make it easier for the public to access the Federal documents they care about.

We are excited to share an updated way to access Federal Documents online. [DiscoverGov](#) searches GPO’s more traditional discovery tools (GovInfo and the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications) and presents those results in an intuitive interface. DiscoverGov’s responsive design, citation generator, and the ability to filter search results make finding federal government documents easier.

Here at the State Library, many older items in our print Federal Documents Collection are not yet in our online catalog, but a special cataloging project is adding more every day. This makes it easier to find legislation authored by Oregon Congressional delegation over the years, or the history of federal land management in Oregon. Since the project began in July 2024, over 10,330 titles have been added.

You can find digital federal documents with a focus on Oregon and the Pacific Northwest in our [Federal Government Publications digital collection](#).



Consulting Services: The Library Support Division's Hidden Gem

By Buzzy Nielsen, Program Manager and Tribal Liaison, Library Support and Development Services



The Silver Lake branch of Lake County Library District is currently using consulting services to create a strategic plan.

The State Library's Library Support and Development Services Division provides a [range of services](#) to Oregon's 1,600 libraries. One of the most impactful services we offer is our library consulting program. Library Support staff are available to give advice, offer recommendations, connect staff from different libraries, or just be a listening ear to libraries throughout the state.

We get inquiries from every type and size of library across Oregon. Oregon library staff ask questions as diverse as the communities their libraries serve. Questions can be as simple as recommended activities for storytimes or more complex such as needing help creating a new library district. Recent topics include:

- Advice on checking out laptops and WiFi hotspots to patrons
- A list of other libraries that have makerspaces
- Keeping up morale among overworked staff
- Digitizing historic photo collections and making them available online

The time and effort that go into answering these questions varies widely. School Library Consultant Jen Maurer was once asked the difference between how schools and public libraries approach social emotional learning, and she was able to respond that same day. Public Library Consultant Darci Hanning often helps libraries create strategic plans, which takes months and involves several meetings with different parties, multiple write-ups, and visits to the library.

These consulting services adapt to the changing needs of Oregon's libraries. Recently, by request of the library community, Library Support expanded our ranks to include a community outreach consultant, hiring Ericka Brunson-Rochette in 2024. Ericka helps libraries better serve communities that are underserved and/or under-resourced – such as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) – and to

improve libraries' internal practices to allow them to better support their staff and serve their communities. Ericka is frequently asked about internal work practices in libraries, how to start serving a new community, or how to help BIPOC library staff feel welcomed and supported.

Consulting questions can also touch on challenging issues. Over the past two years, Library Support helped libraries facing calls to remove books and other materials from their collections. The increase in such consulting is unsurprising considering the [record-breaking numbers of challenges in Oregon libraries](#) and around the country. Library challenges can be difficult for library staff, who often are overworked, are verbally abused by people challenging materials, or even have their identities and values questioned.

The entire [Library Support](#) Division stands ready to help Oregon libraries! Arlene Weible, Gesse-Stark-Smith, Greta Bergquist, Ross Fuqua, Tamara Ottum, and Buzzy Nielsen round out the consulting team. See the divisions [contact page](#) to learn about each staff member's area of expertise.

For questions about Library Support's consulting services for libraries –please contact the division at library.support@slo.oregon.gov or 503-378-2525.

Staff Updates

Welcome Chris Hamilton – Reader Advisor

The Talking Book & Braille Library is excited to welcome the newest Reader Advisor Chris Hamilton. Chris comes to us with 26 years of experience in Portland Public School Libraries where she worked with kids pre-k through seniors in high school. She spent the last 7+ years supporting high school students and staff with library and textbook needs.

Born and raised in Oregon, Chris received her bachelor's degree from Linfield College in Creative Writing. She built her life and family in Oregon with her husband of 22 years, two sons, and three fur babies.

Chris shared "My focus has always been about making connections with my students (patrons) in order to best serve them and I am excited to bring these skills to Talking Books."

Welcome to the team Chris!

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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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