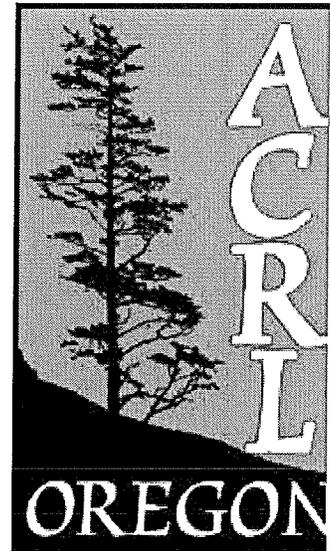


November 25, 2014

Emily Nazarov, Operations Policy Analyst
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97310-0203



Dear Ms. Nazarov,

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) of Oregon enthusiastically supports and affirms the letter sent by the Oregon Association of School Librarians (OASL) as they seek the endorsement of their school library standards by the State Board of Education.

Our association represents librarians in colleges and universities across Oregon, from community colleges to private and public four-year post-secondary institutions. Our members work closely with post-secondary students from the time they enter our institutions to the time they graduate with associate, bachelor or graduate degrees. As such, we are well-positioned to observe the impact of K-12 education in the state of Oregon on the success of Oregon students in post-secondary programs. A fundamental aspect of incoming students' preparation is their ability to identify and critically engage with information resources (otherwise known as "information literacy"). Students who have had appropriate K-12 instruction on how to find, use, and evaluate information are better prepared for the rigors (and quantity) of undergraduate education. Without a foundation of information literacy instruction provided in the K-12 setting, college and university students' potential for success is markedly diminished. We believe that adoption and endorsement of the OASL school library standards will provide a framework that ensures that every Oregon student receives the preparation they need to be successful not only in a post-secondary career, but as a functioning citizen of an information-saturated society.

Furthermore, we believe that two aspects of the current Oregon educational environment recommend the endorsement of the school library standards:

Increasing enrollment in community colleges: The continued costs of higher education, as well as emphasis on college education in general, has contributed to students (not just in Oregon, but nationally) looking to community colleges as a viable option for the first two years of their undergraduate education. As more Oregon students potentially stay close to home at Oregon community colleges for the first two years, Oregon community colleges will be more directly impacted by the preparedness of Oregon K-12 students. More importantly, there will be an increasing opportunity for Oregon school (K-12) and academic (post-secondary) librarians to collaborate in creating a continuum of information literacy education for Oregon students. School library standards in Oregon

will help academic libraries predict and prepare for the skill/knowledge level of incoming students. (It should be noted that it is not only community colleges that see large numbers of local students; for example, 51% of undergraduates at Pacific University are from Oregon).

Education priority – 100% graduation by 2025: As Governor Kitzhaber articulated in 2012, Oregon has a goal of achieving a 100% high school graduation rate by 2025. This ambitious goal is informed by several objectives; one of which is: “Build a coordinated approach to budgeting and school curricula across the full education spectrum -- no longer separating early childhood development from K-12 from post-secondary education and training” (<http://www.oregon.gov/gov/priorities/Pages/education.aspx>). The proposed school library standards will go a long way in helping to achieve this objective and in supporting the 2025 goal. By ensuring that every Oregon K-12 student has access to the same information literacy curriculum and is equally prepared for the next step of information use—from elementary school to middle school to high school to college—we will be equipping all of our students with the core tools need to not only graduate from high school but to succeed in college. And we will be making it easier to create curricular pathways for information literacy instruction between K-12 schools and Oregon colleges and universities.

Adopting this clear set of guidelines for school libraries will help school librarians provide a rigorous and consistent experience for K-12 students, and will help libraries to prepare K-12 students for post-secondary education. In addition, the recommended standards will assist school librarians as they make the transition to working with the Common Core curriculum. ACRL-OR strongly supports the standards laid out by OASL as we all seek to cultivate life-long learners, critical thinkers, and engaged citizens.

Sincerely,



Hannah Gascho Rempel
ACRL-OR President (2014-2015)
Oregon State University Libraries
Corvallis, OR 97331
hannah.rempel@oregonstate.edu