

OREGON STATE LIBRARY

Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee (SDLAC):
A committee of the LSTA Advisory Council
Annual Report: August 2014 to July 2015

Project Name: Statewide Database Licensing Program
Date Submitted: August 17, 2015 (corrected August 26, 2015)
Submitted By: Diane Sotak, SDLAC Chair

1. Summarize the overall purpose of the grant project:

A. Scope

The Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee (SDLAC) is a committee of the LSTA Advisory Council (which advises the Oregon State Library Board). SDLAC's primary responsibility is to advise on the drafting of requests for proposal, 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, see information about the Statewide Database Licensing Program at: <http://www.oregon.gov/osl/LD/Pages/technology/sdlp/index.aspx>.

B. Summary of Licensed Databases (August 2014 thru July 2015)

- *Gale Databases*, August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2016: This package of databases provides access to full-text periodicals resources, including reference e-books, covering many topic areas. A complete list of titles is available on the website cited in Section A.
- *LearningExpress Library*, November 1, 2010 – October 31, 2015: Provides career and education skill-building courses and practice tests.

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 resources and library services and Goal 4: Develop information literacy skills. See the full plan here: <http://www.oregon.gov/osl/LD/LSTA/1staplanfinaljune27.pdf>.

2. Summarize the project results to date:

A. Narrative 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 FY14 and FY15 are presented to show changes in usage over time.

At 50% and 54%, OSLIS/K12 library patrons continue to be the strongest users of the Gale databases in each fiscal year. In FY2015, usage of LearningExpress Library increased significantly at academic libraries, particularly among community college libraries. Public library usage appears to drop in FY 2014 due to an anomaly in the way

Oregon State Library use was calculated that year. Data from another OSL client, the Oregon Career Information System, was included in the OSL total for statewide database usage. Eliminating this anomaly, as has been done in the third table in Section B, presents a more realistic summary of public library usage.

In 2015, SDLAC also reviewed usage data by region of the state. This report is in Section C. The large usage number on the Northern Coast can be attributed to the configuration of the Ocean Books library catalog, which serves three libraries in Lincoln and Tillamook Counties. In 2013-2014, each time a search was executed in this catalog, a search of Gale's Popular Magazines database was also completed. This increased the number of sessions in a way that is much higher than is typically seen in libraries that do not have this kind of configuration.

B. Outputs Summary: *SDLP Annual Database Usage by Library Type*

Gale Databases

	FY 2014		FY 2015	
Library Type	Database Sessions	Percent of Total	Database Sessions	Percent of Total
Academic	1,079,733	21.8%	1,147,463	21.6%
Public/Tribal	1,392,307	28.1%	1,302,863	24.5%
OSLIS/K12	2,476,869	50.0%	2,872,581	54.0%
Total	4,948,909	100.0%	5,322,907	100.0%

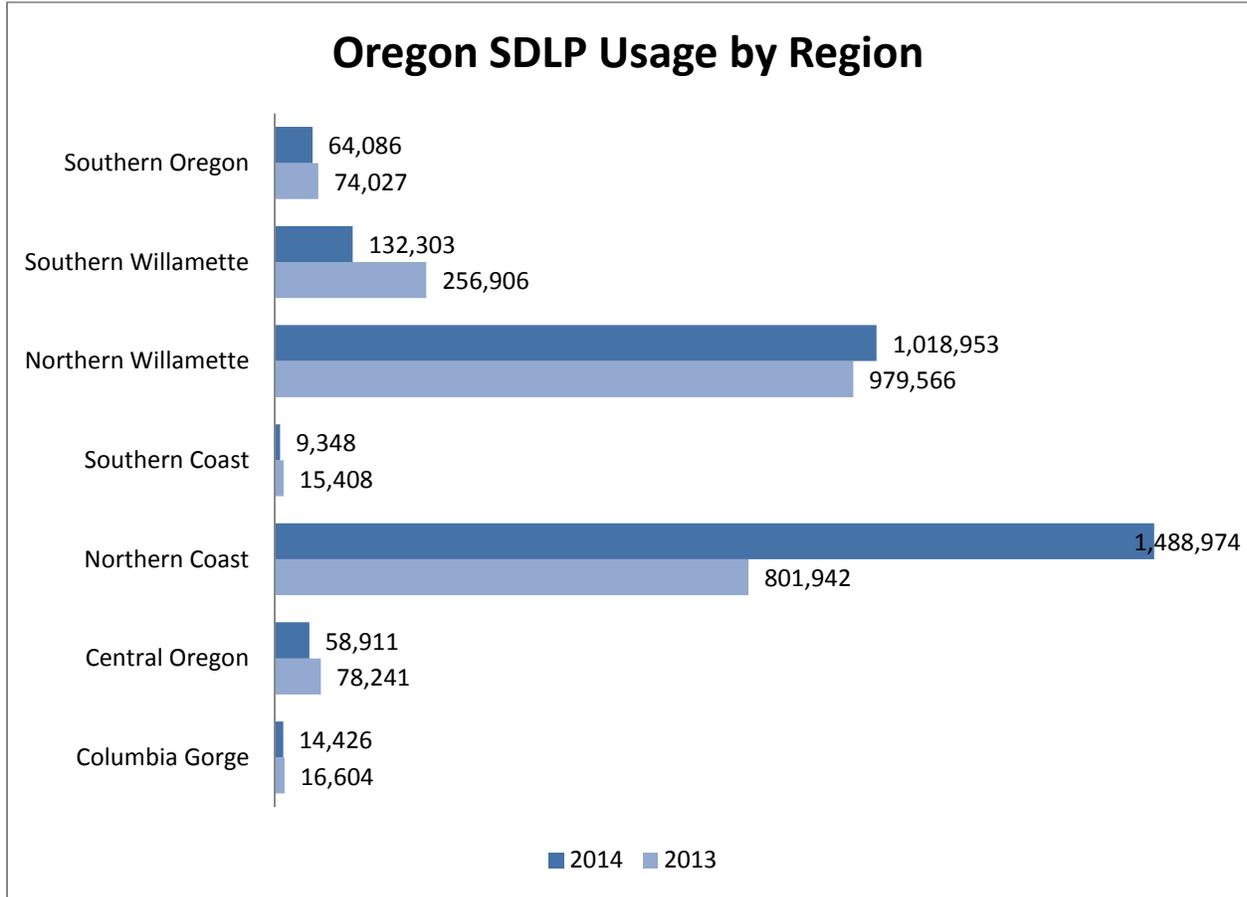
LearningExpress Library

	FY 2014		FY 2015	
Library Type	Database Sessions	Percent of Total	Database Sessions	Percent of Total
Academic	13,010	26.4%	21,069	39.4%
Public/Tribal	22,895	46.4%	10,545	19.7%
OSLIS/K12	13,369	27.1%	21,903	40.9%
Total	49,274	100.0%	53,517	100.0%

LearningExpress Library (without OSL Usage)

	FY 2014		FY 2015	
Library Type	Database Sessions	Percent of Total	Database Sessions	Percent of Total
Academic	13,010	38.4%	21,069	39.4%
Public/Tribal	7,488	22.1%	10,448	19.5%
OSLIS/K12	13,369	39.4%	21,903	41.0%
Total	33,867	100.0%	53,420	100.0%

C. Oregon SDLP Usage by Region



*Usage based on number of sessions by public, academic, and tribal libraries

*2015 data not yet available

3. Discuss significant developments:

A. RFP for Testing and Skills Building Resource

The LearningExpress Library (LEL) contract ends in October 2015, and the State Procurement Office determined that a RFP would be needed for a new contract. In preparation, SDLAC discussed content requirements and a scoring framework for a Testing and Skills Building Resource RFP. Two proposals were received, one from LearningExpress and the other from Gale/Cengage Learning. A SDLAC subcommittee of four members (Brodbeck-Kenney, Cox, Mercier, and Sotak) evaluated and independently scored the RFPs in March 2015.

The evaluation and scoring process differed from the previous statewide database RFP. This time evaluators were told not to discuss evaluations with each other and the scores were sent directly to the Procurement Office. Evaluators observed that scoring is more

difficult without the ability to share information among evaluators, but from the procurement perspective, it helps ensure that scoring is unbiased. Efforts will be made to clarify the process in the early stages of future RFP evaluations. Another aspect noted for the future was to better align scoring parameters with the language in the RFP's requirements section to improve ease of scoring and assessment.

LEL's proposal received the most points, and evaluators noted that it had more content in skills building for K12, more interactive content, and a more favorable design. The LEL proposal included additional products at an additional cost (\$35,000): **Job & Career Accelerator** and **Computer and Internet Basics**.

SDLAC felt the added content would enhance the availability of job-seeking tools and basic computer skills training to citizens throughout the state. The job-seeking tools give libraries specific resources to use when working with at-risk populations, such as out-of-school youth and displaced workers. The basic computer skills tutorials provide libraries with easy-to-access resources for helping their communities improve digital literacy skills. The State Library Board approved this recommendation and allocated additional funding for the new products. The new contract will start in November.

B. Academic Library Subsidy

Last year, SDLAC agreed to allocate budget savings from the Gale contract to support the group subscription to EBSCO's Academic Search Premier managed by the Orbis Cascade Alliance, recognizing the need to support academic libraries' need for more robust academic content. SDLAC revisited the subsidy in light of a ProQuest offer for similar content, which caused some libraries to end their subscriptions to EBSCO's package. Discussions with Kathi Fountain from the Orbis Cascade Alliance led to an alternate formula that allows participating libraries to apply their portion of the subsidy to either subscription. Libraries will receive a 7.75% decrease in their subscription costs for either EBSCO or Proquest in FY 2015-16. This is a bit less than last year's decrease of 9%, due to an increase in EBSCO subscription prices (+3%), while the subsidy amount (\$50,000) remained constant.

C. Forging Partnerships

SDLAC members (Cox and Wilker) provided information to the State Librarian for her meeting with Oregon Department of Education (ODE) about the need for a K-12 encyclopedia product. The initial hope was that ODE might partner with OSL in funding this type of resource for statewide availability. After a debriefing on that meeting, SDLAC decided the best course of action was for OSL to develop more relationships with ODE. OSL staff have reached out and met with ODE staff this past year. Jennifer Maurer (OSL School Library Consultant) was invited to participate in ODE trainings throughout the state, and OASL was invited to present school library standards to the Oregon State Board of Education in November. Also, there might be an opportunity to contribute to ODE's project to develop an information resource sharing portal. Stephen Cox (previous SDLAC Chair) also met with ODE about their Open Educational Resource (OER) initiatives.

D. Committee Membership Changes

Position #4: Public Library Serving 25,000 to 100,000

Robert Lanxon (Ledding Library of Milwaukie) began his term in July 2015.

Position #5: Academic Library from an Oregon Community College

Marika Pineda (Lane Community College) resigned in April 2015. Linda Crook (Lane Community College) was recruited to complete Pineda's term through June 2015.

Amy Hofer (Linn-Benton Community College) began her term in July 2015.

Position #6: School Library drawn from OASL Membership

Miranda Doyle (Lake Oswego School District) began her term in July 2015.

Position #7: Public Library Serving over 100,000

Glenna Rhodes (Deschutes Public Library) resigned in June 2015.

Jennifer Pederson (Deschutes Public Library) was appointed to fill the remainder of her term (through June 2016).

Position #10: Tribal Library Representative

Marion Mercier (Grande Ronde Tribal Library) is continuing for another three-year term.

LSTA Council Representative

Carol Dinges (Lebanon Public Library) wrapped up her service on the Council and Jonathan Cain (University of Oregon) is taking her place.

Diane Sotak (University of Portland) in Position #8 was elected incoming Chair in April 2015.

The Committee thanks outgoing members Liz Paulus, Carol Dinges, Linda Crook, Glenna Rhodes, and former Chair Stephen Cox for their service.

E. Centralized Portal to Statewide Databases

SDLAC discussed making statewide databases more visible via a centralized portal. Currently centralized access is through the Libraries of Oregon portal. However, it was created to provide library resources to underserved Oregonians, rather than to promote the databases, so may not be an appropriate option. Arlene Weible (OSL Electronic Services Consultant) worked with Gale to draft a portal page and also shared examples of centralized portals from other states. SDLAC also discussed reasons not to have a centralized portal. The main one that emerged was the potential impact on local library usage statistics. However, this might be addressed by using a geolocation script to geographically track usage down to the zip code level. It was decided to solicit feedback from Oregon public library directors at their fall 2015 meeting.

4. Discuss future plans:

A. New RFP vs. Renewal

The two-year contract with Gale will be up for renewal in 2016. SDLAC will evaluate use and how well basic library needs are being met by the content. Gale has been making interface and content improvements in 2015. This information will be used to make a recommendation on how to proceed.

B. Database Visibility and Ease of Access

SDLAC will continue exploring this area with the goal of making a recommendation to the LSTA Council/OSL on next steps. This will include a closer examination of other state database portals, Gale-created portals, and the existing Libraries of Oregon site. An effort will also be made to identify Oregon agencies and organizations that could serve as additional avenues to statewide databases.

C. Develop a Communication Plan for Statewide Databases

SDLAC will provide some guidance for communications/outreach about the databases. Gale provides marketing materials specific to their products, but SDLAC's efforts would focus on communicating the availability of these resources on a broader scale. This might dovetail with similar communication/outreach plans for other statewide services provided by the State Library.

D. Monitor OER Initiatives

SDLAC will continue to monitor OER initiatives in the state and explore options for promoting SDLP resources in those initiatives.