

Letter To Libraries Online

An Electronic Newsletter



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STATE LIBRARY BOARD BRIEFED ON FindOR

At their February 8th Board meeting at the State Library in Salem, the State Library Board of Trustees were briefed on the newest

State Library service, FindOR. FindOR provides the search capability for Oregon.gov (www.Oregon.gov), the new State of Oregon portal site that replaced Oregon Online several months ago. FindOR has been in development for about two years and builds on the Government Information Locator System grant that was provided to the Washington State Library by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Oregon was one of several states that partnered with the Washington State Library in the grant project. FindOR is currently logging thousands of sessions a day and that number is expected to increase as more Oregonians make use of Oregon.gov. In other business, the Board deferred action on donating two items from the Library• collection to the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. The Board also discussed an evaluation of the State Librarian• annual evaluation process, and discussed how the Board can give more recognition to Library staff. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 12th at the Beaverton City Library.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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GATES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES TIMELINE

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will mail grant application packets to all Oregon public libraries on March 12 and will host a conference call on March 21, giving librarians an opportunity to ask questions (and to hear the questions of other librarians). Completed applications must be returned to the Gates Foundation postmarked no later than April 1st.

The application packet will include the application, the State Partnership Program Grants and Eligibility Guidelines, and the Grant Application Resource Guide. Libraries in communities with greater than 10% poverty are eligible to apply for the cash grants (others may appeal); a Gates Foundation formula for population served determines whether a library is eligible to apply for a grant of one, two, four or six computers. The grants include training and technical support. Libraries may also apply for a content server.

The goal of the State Partnership Program is to enhance technology in public libraries, improving public access to computers and the Internet to help close the digital divide. Gates Foundation principles include sustainability, partnerships, leveraging, and need.

The estimated timeline, the library eligibility list and other information about the State Partnership Program is available on

the State Library Web page at
<http://www.osl.state.or.us/home/libdev/gates.htm>

Please contact Pam Horan for more information.

VIRTUAL REFERENCE SERVICES TELECONFERENCE

The first program of the satellite teleconference series "Virtual Reference Services...What, Why and How?" was held February 8th and attended by 115 librarians at nine sites around Oregon. The program was presented by the College of DuPage, and featured panelists Richard Dougherty, Paul Constantine, Anne Grodzins-Lipow, Steve Coffman, and Bernie Sloan.

"Virtual Reference Services" was sponsored by the Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR) in Oregon and other member states, providing library staff the opportunity to attend at no cost. Oregon's statewide membership in BCR is funded by LSTA.

The lively panel discussed differences between traditional and virtual reference services and analyzed the organizational impact that new services can have. The program gave an overview of the current state and variety of virtual reference services, as well as possible future directions, and described resulting changes in service.

The second program in the series (April 19) will show how library practitioners are instituting virtual reference services by showcasing successful implementations. The program's goal is to give practical, realistic information to the working librarian and decision maker on moving to virtual reference services. Discussions of the problems facing adopters of virtual reference services work will be candid.

Please contact Pam Horan for more information.

LSTA PROPOSALS DUE APRIL 12

Your vision of innovative library service can be rewarded! Grant application packets for the 2003 cycle of Library Services and Technology Act grants were mailed in January. The grant packet is also available online at:

<http://www.osl.state.or.us/home/libdev/lsta.htm>. The grant proposals are due April 12, so if you are interested and have not received a packet please contact Val Vogt or Ann Reed. If you are not sure about a proposal idea and would like to test it out on friendly ears, please contact Ann Reed!

PLAN AHEAD FOR THE 2002 PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS REPORT

Do more people go to Oregon's public libraries than go to Trailblazer's games? How much are electronic resources in public libraries really used?

We need everyone's help to improve the collection of statistics on library visits and the number of users of electronic resources. If you do not keep an annual count, March or April would be good months in which to pick a "typical" week to collect these statistics. The result can then be multiplied by 52 to reach an annual estimate. You will want a week without special events or holidays. For library visits, count people using the meeting room, stopping to make copies, read the newspaper, etc. Basically, count people stepping in the library door for whatever purpose. Director Randy Collver of Molalla Public Library uses his library visits statistic in fundraising and community relations. With a service population of around 16,000, Molalla had 100,000 visits last year. As he tells the City Council, local businesses and service clubs, statistically speaking, every man, woman and child visits the library 6 times in a year. With proof of traffic like that, he is able to leverage contributions and grants.

In the same week library visits are counted, you can also count the number of users of electronic resources. This item encompasses more than just the Internet. This item includes automated catalogs, word processing terminals, CD-ROM terminals, etc. Both statistics together show the library as a hub of its community. If you have not already done so, time still remains in this fiscal year to gather these useful statistics.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LSTA GRANTEEES OF 2002!
INTERESTING PROJECTS ARE STARTING!

Fifteen competitive grants totaling \$1,063,619 were awarded for 2002. A complete list of grants can be found on the LSTA Web page, <http://www.osl.state.or.us/home/libdev/lsta.htm>. Among the exciting projects funded are:

Lane Council of Governments
Develop Library Service for the Unserved in Lane County
Grant Award: \$43,500

This three-year grant aims to develop a proposal for a Lane Library District that would provide adequate library service to the 85,000 unserved residents of Lane County. The project builds on the work of the Lane Library League, founded as a result of an LSTA funded report in 1998. The first year focus is on organization building and starting a demonstration project.

Multnomah County Library

Child CARE (Create A Reader Early)

Grant Award: \$77,629

In the first year of a two year grant, the Multnomah County Library will recruit a corps of volunteers to provide weekly story times at area child care centers on a rotating basis and offer in-service training at forty child care centers addressing the importance of literacy activities and the support of the library. The library will also produce four bi-monthly newsletters for childcare center personnel, with tips for parents. A third party evaluator will be hired to report on the impact of the project.

Orbis Library Consortium

Data for Local Communities

Grant Award: \$73,432

This two-year project aims to collect in one location the best sources of current data on Oregon and its sub-state areas: counties, cities, watersheds, port districts, etc. The resources will be assembled on a Web site. Orbis members will participate in cooperative cataloging of data sources.

Oregon Historical Society

Latino Arts and Culture in Rural Libraries

Grant Award: \$71,400

This project will provide language, arts and culture-specific activities and information to help build a bridge between rural Latino communities and their local libraries. Among the activities to accomplish this are: offering programs through mobile libraries that target labor camps and areas where youth and women are isolated, and introducing local folk artists and cultural specialists to library staff to build rapport for future programming.

Tigard Public Library

Hispanic Youth Initiative

Grant Award: \$16,200

The Tigard Public Library is establishing a Hispanic Teen Advisory Group that will meet monthly and plan events for Hispanic youth, advise on collection development and help recruit volunteers for outreach programs. The grant project will also close the technology gap with dedicated workstations with Spanish language instructional software. The library will recruit bilingual homework tutors, with after school transportation provided by the Tigard-Tualatin School District.

LSTA RETREAT HELD

On February 25 and 26, 2002, twenty-four members of the library community attended an LSTA Retreat at the State Library. The purpose of the retreat was to develop consensus around objectives

to include in the next LSTA five-year state plan. In order to be eligible for LSTA funds each state must submit a five-year plan for the funds to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Retreat participants were asked to develop a flexible plan that would allow for future possibilities, given that the Senate Interim Task Force on Library Cooperation has yet to meet.

After hearing an overview about Oregon libraries by Jim Scheppeke, a review of the Oregon Library Association's Vision 2010 by President Janet Webster, and a summary of evaluation of the first LSTA five-year plan by consultants Himmel and Wilson, the participants heard (by conference call) descriptions of successful projects in other states that Oregon does not yet carry out. The projects covered were The Colorado Digitization Project, the 24/7 digital reference project in California, the Colorado Library Card Statewide Borrower's program, and statewide/regional catalogs implemented by Innovative Interfaces Inc. in various locations. In the afternoon the work included ranking current LSTA goals and objectives in the categories of "keep", "discard", "needs major rewording", or needs "minor rewording", and generating new ideas for projects to be funded by LSTA. Facilitator Lee Parker of the Parker Training Group introduced a six-step tool about the levels of consensus to help the group reach agreement about the new ideas. On the second day of the retreat, small groups worked on the objectives to include in the five-year state plan, and reported these back to the entire group which reached agreement about accepting the conceptual objectives. Participants also raised "bigger issues" about the LSTA program, discussed them, and passed them on to the LSTA Advisory Council Steering Committee to handle. Finally, time was spent considering different ways of evaluating the LSTA program.

NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS

The facilitator will transcribe the flipcharts of the accepted objectives and forward to State Library staff. Staff will distribute these raw notes to the retreat participants as well as a version that has been re-worked to be consistent in language and format. Staff and the LSTA Advisory Council Steering Committee will meet in March to further develop the draft document. This draft will then be distributed electronically to the library community for input in early April. The Steering Committee plans to meet at the OLA/WLA Conference to process the input and finalize the draft. The LSTA Advisory Council will consider the draft at their meeting on May 20 - 21(second day tentative), and the State Library Board will consider the draft at their meeting on June 21, 2002. The new five-year plans must be submitted by July, 2002.

RETREAT PARTICIPANTS

The State Library appreciates the time and work of the retreat participants. The entire Oregon library community can feel they were well represented by:

Jim Maxwell, LSTA Advisory Council Chair LSTA 5-YR Plan Steering Committee

Cindy Romaine, LSTA 5-YR Plan Steering Committee NIKE Design Library, also representing special libraries

Cindy Cunningham, LSTA 5-YR Plan Steering Committee Oregon Health & Science University, also representing health sciences libraries

Lynda Kettler, LSTA 5-YR Plan Steering Committee Rogue Community College

Leah Griffith, LSTA 5-YR Plan Steering Committee Newberg Public Library,

Meg Young, LSTA Advisory Council Oregon Literacy Inc., representing disadvantaged persons

Patty Sorensen, LSTA Advisory Council Oregon Educational Media Association, representing school libraries

John Helmer, Orbis

Michael Gaston Deschutes Public Library System, representing Oregon Reference LINK

Ann Payne, PORTALS, Portland Area Library System

Ruth Metz, Multnomah County Library

Dale Edwards, Treasure Valley Community College, representing Oregon Community College Library Association

Ted Stark, Jackson County Library, representing Southern Oregon Library Federation

Laurie O'Connor, citizen, representing Libraries of Eastern Oregon

Janet Webster, OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, representing Oregon Library Association

Paula Hamilton, Mt Angel Abbey Library, representing Oregon Library Association Resource Sharing Committee

Amanda Six McKeraghan, Oregon Library Association Outreach Roundtable

Teresa Landers, Corvallis-Benton County Library Corvallis-Benton County Library, representing Oregon Library Association Public Library Division

Shirley Roberts, Eastern Oregon University, Pierce Library, representing Oregon Library Association Association of College and Research Libraries

Bonnie Allen, Oregon State University, Valley Libraries, representing Oregon University system libraries

Freda Vars, citizen, representing the Oregon State Library Board

State Library staff that participated were Jim Scheppke, State Librarian, Mary Ginnane, Group Leader, Library Development Services, and Ann Reed, Federal Programs Coordinator, Oregon State Library. Questions about the development of the new LSTA five-year state plan can be directed to all three, or any member of the LSTA Advisory Council Steering Committee.

OTHER LIBRARY NEWS
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SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL INDEXING CEASES

The State Library has dropped the Oregon Index coverage of the Salem Statesman Journal newspaper, effective January 1, 2001. There will be a coverage gap of the Statesman Journal (SJ) from that date to the present, until the full text Web archive of the SJ comes up as a vendor offering later in 2002. That full text online file will contain newspapers back to 1999.

The State Library is not shutting down the Oregon Index. It will continue to grow, by adding indexing data for other publications. These items are contributed by local libraries. The State Library intends to keep providing the Inmagic Web Publisher database server, as a help to other libraries who produce unique and valuable indexing for local publications.

Current (2002) contributors to the Oregon Index now include: Eastern Oregon University; Eugene Public Library; Estacada Public Library; Lake Oswego Public Library; Salem Public Library; West Linn Public Library; and Wilsonville Public Library. In addition,

the State Library continues selective indexing of: Oregon Outside, Brainstorm, Journal of the Shaw Historical Library, Restoration, Oregon Quarterly, and Forest Log.

WALLOWA COUNTY LIBRARY WINS
NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARD

The Wallowa County Library is the 2002 recipient of the PLA Excellence in Small and/or Rural Public Library Service Award. EBSCO Subscription Services donated \$1,000 to honor a public library serving a population of 10,000 or fewer that demonstrates excellence in service to its community as exemplified by an overall service program or a special program of significant accomplishments. Library Director Claudia Jones has worked with Nancy Press, Consumer Health Coordinator, National Network/Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region to provide Internet access to medical information in the station libraries of Imnaha and Troy as well as the larger communities of Enterprise, Joseph and Wallowa. Our congratulations to Claudia and the Wallowa County Library!

FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS
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MOVIES IN MADRAS

This summer if you're traveling in Central Oregon and find you're in the mood for a good movie, you might consider visiting the Jefferson County Library in Madras. Yes, Madras.

Jefferson County Library Foundation President Sandy Jackson says children in her community have nothing to do, and adults have to go to Redmond to see a movie. Jackson says that will all change come June, when the group plans to open a theater in a church the library district and the foundation purchased last year. The land purchase prevented the library from becoming landlocked. Some of the library staff offices were moved into the building, but there was still a huge sanctuary sitting unused.

Members of the Oregon Arts Commission (OAC) were in Madras on other business when discussions with Library Foundation members surfaced the idea to turn the sanctuary into a film venue.

Jackson says that OAC prefers to fund requests that show existing community support, so the Foundation has been busy raising the \$30,000 in needed funds. In addition to \$5,000 from OAC, the Foundation has received \$1,000 from Jefferson County; \$3,000 from

the Bean Foundation (to purchase chairs); \$2,500 from Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; \$5,000 from a local citizen; and \$4,000 from the Jefferson County Library Foundation. Additionally, the project will be the recipient of proceeds from a recent Rotary Club of Jefferson County fundraiser. The group is awaiting word on another request to Oregon Community Foundation.

The Library Foundation is purchasing equipment that will allow films to be shown in a variety of formats, 16mm, DVD, and VCR. The group also plans to purchase a slide machine, a screen, and 6 speakers.

"We want the facility to be available to any person or group in the community, and plan to only charge enough to cover the basic facility costs," says Jackson as she lists their plans. "We are working with the Boys and Girls Club to offer Saturday matinees. There is a large Hispanic community here, so we plan to show Spanish-language films. The stage is deep enough to host musicians. The church also has a full kitchen so the Library Foundation is planning on holding dinner theater fundraisers," Jackson says.

"This project is allowing our group to make the best we possibly can of the situation. We•e making the library more than books, and this project will help voters realize that they are getting a lot more than a library," Jackson says.

PS. (FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN)
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From Professor Siva Vaidhyanathan's new book, COPYRIGHTS AND COPYWRONGS (NYU Press, 2001), we learn that the term "intellectual property" should always be placed in quotation marks. Why? Because under our U. S. Constitution, there really is no such thing.

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to "promote the progress of science and the useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." "For limited times" is the key phrase. As an indication of what the Founders intended, we have only to look at the first federal copyright statute passed in 1790, only two years after the Constitution was ratified. It provided for copyright protection lasting only 14 years. Clearly, the Founders intended, as Professor Vaidhyanathan writes, "that copyright and patent laws are meant to benefit the public first and foremost," not the holders of "intellectual property."

How the Founders intentions were progressively subverted over the next two centuries is the subject of Vaidhyanathan's book. And a fascinating story it is. For example, for most of the 19th century, British authors did not receive any copyright protection in the U. S., which meant that cheap pirated editions of popular British authors flooded the U. S. market and made it hard for American authors to compete. This situation didn't end until 1891, when the first international copyright law in the U. S. was passed.

Another interesting part of the story is the leading role played by Samuel Clemens in efforts to extend the term of copyright. As a highly successful author, and less successful publisher, Clemens believed strongly in "intellectual property" and was one of the first to popularize the concept. He believed in the concept despite what the Constitution said about a strictly "limited" right, and he lobbied for 30 years to extend copyright to the life of the author plus 50 years. A partial victory for Clemens and "intellectual property" came in 1909, when the Congress extended copyright to 28 years, with an ability to renew for another 28 years. Complete victory came 66 years after Clemens' death in 1910, when the Congress did extend copyright to the author's life plus 50 years. In 1998, passage of the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act (I kid you not), made it 70 years after the author's life that copyright finally expires. Thankfully, this is being challenged in a lawsuit (Eldred v. Ashcroft) that will be heard by the Supreme Court this year.

Especially in the 20th century, Professor Vaidhyanathan writes, "courts and corporations have exploited public concern for rewarding established authors by steadily limiting the rights of readers, consumers, and emerging artists. All along, the author was deployed as a straw man in the debate." What it really was about was maximizing revenue for the publishing industry, now concentrated into a handful of giant multi-national corporations.

If publishers can subvert the supposedly "limited" copyright granted in the Constitution, what to say they can't begin to subvert "fair use" and "first sale" and the other legal principles that have made libraries possible? Librarians need to read this book. Then we need to be ready to defend the public interest, enshrined in our Constitution, against any further encroachments by the advocates of "intellectual property." -- Jim Schepcke

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