

Letter To Libraries Online

An Electronic Newsletter



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LIBRARY BOARD NEWS

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STATE LIBRARY BOARD ADOPTS RULE TO JUMPSTART SB 12

At their August 15, 2003, meeting in Hood River, the State Library Board adopted a temporary administrative rule to allow the new statewide database licensing program authorized by SB 12 to begin. The rule will be in effect for six months, but the Board tentatively plans to adopt a permanent rule at their December 12th Board meeting. The new rule sets the parameters for program, including library subsidies and creation of an advisory board. Testimony at the Board meeting persuaded

the Board to amend the draft rule to allow consortia to act on behalf of their members to participate in the program. In other business, the Board deferred application for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation "Staying Connected" grant program until next year. They also authorized the use of undesignated donation funds to purchase needed furniture for Talking Book and Braille Services and conducted the annual review of agency head financial transactions that is required by State Controller's office. Before the business meeting, Hood River County Librarian June Knudson gave the Board a tour of the newly remodeled and expanded library facility. The next meeting of the State Library Board is scheduled for October 16th at the State Library in Salem.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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STATEWIDE DATABASE LICENSING PROGRAM UPDATE

The new Oregon Statewide Database Licensing Program, administered by the State Library and supported by LSTA funds, is now under way. The program subsidizes at least half the cost of subscription to the statewide general full-text periodicals database (currently EBSCOHost) for academic and public libraries, and underwrites the statewide subscription to The Oregonian (currently NewsBank) for all public, academic and school libraries. The first year of the program is one of transition, with the Orbis-Cascade Alliance continuing to bill libraries for EBSCOHost under the existing contract in 2003- 04.

Academic and public libraries participating in the program have submitted applications certifying that they have met the eligibility requirement of endorsing the Oregon Library Association's ILL Code (formerly a requirement under the ILL Net Lender program).

The State Library is forming a Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee. Nominations are requested by September 2, 2003, to be approved by the LSTA Advisory Council. Appointed Advisory Committee members will advise State Library staff in the drafting of a Request for Proposal for a full text general periodicals database during the coming year, will review bids, and will comment on an award. Membership will be representative of library groups, with public library (3 representatives), academic library (3), school library (2), resource sharing system (1), and LSTA Advisory Council (1) members. The Advisory Committee will meet at least twice each calendar year, and may meet more often as needed. Committee members should have experience in database licensing and the use of databases.

More information about the program is available at the Oregon Statewide Database Licensing Program Web page at <http://www.osl.state.or.us/home/libdev/osdlp/index.html> For additional information, contact Pam Horan, pam.horan@state.or.us, 503-378-2112, ext. 224.

ANSWERLAND UPDATE

As the school year begins, Oregon's Collaborative Virtual Reference

Pilot Project, Answerland, is preparing for a busy autumn. Staff from the 21 volunteer provider libraries are live online 46 hours per week to answer questions directly from Oregon's citizens or queries referred from libraries. Hours for live chat reference are Monday- Thursday 1-9pm, Friday-Saturday 2-6pm, and 2-6pm on Sunday. Questions may also be submitted by e-mail. More information about the service may be found at <http://www.answerland.org/>.

Oregon libraries may link directly to Answerland, and we encourage you to place a link on your library Web pages so your community may easily have access. Additional service providers may join Answerland when the pilot project is complete.

Answerland is funded by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) through the Oregon State Library, with Multnomah County Library as project manager and fiscal agent. For more information, contact Caleb Tucker-Raymond, project manager of Answerland, at 503-988-5438 or calebt@multcolib.org. For additional information contact Pam Horan, pam.horan@state.or.us, 503-378-2112, ext. 224.

QUICK TIPS ON USING BIBLIOSTAT COLLECT

The 2002-2003 Public Library Statistical Report is now available at www.bibliostat.com. Passwords and logins were mailed August 14. Here are a few quick tips. Question 1.13 is asking about Cooperative or Federation membership in regards to governance, not automation. Enter phone numbers by simply typing the numbers without dashes or parentheses. The program will add punctuation to the string of numbers. If a library does not have a foundation or Friends group, those blocks of questions can be left blank. Due to connection speed and local firewall issues, the PDF reports will not always work. If you are printing the Web report of last year's and this year's values and the data does not fit on the page, go to the FILE menu, choose PAGE SETUP, and click landscape orientation.

NEED HELP ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICAL REPORT?

Help is available for the Oregon Public Library Statistical Report! Val Vogt can assist with questions on using Bibliostat Collect, and Ann Reed can assist with questions on Collect or the survey itself. Please don't hesitate to call or email. We'll be happy to do a phone walkthrough, or organize a local workshop! Val can be reached at (503) 378-2112 x222 or val.t.vogt@state.or.us and Ann can be reached at (503) 378-2112 x254 or ann.reed@state.or.us. Remember that the survey is due October 1.

LSTA COUNCIL MEETS SEPTEMBER 19 IN SALEM

The Library Services and Technology Act Advisory Council meets September 19 in the first floor conference room of the Oregon State Library. The agenda is posted on the state library Website at: <http://www.osl.state.or.us/home/>. The State Librarian and the Advisory Council encourage any interested librarians or citizens to attend the

meeting. Individuals will have the opportunity to address the Council during the Open Forum at 2:30 p.m. Speakers are requested to furnish 15 typewritten copies of their text to the Council Chair.

2PLATINUM STARS OF STATISTICS

Congratulations to Toledo Public Library (Peter Rayment, Director) and Weston Public Library (Kathleen Schmidtgall, Director) for being the first and second libraries to complete the statistical survey!

OTHER LIBRARY NEWS

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FOSSIL PUBLIC LIBRARY CLOSES

The only public library in Wheeler County was closed after the Fossil City Council voted on August 14th to withdraw funding for the city library this year. The Fossil Public Library is the second Oregon library to shut its doors this year. The Sweet Home Public Library remains closed until Sweet Home citizens vote for the fourth time in September on a local option levy that would reopen the Library. The levy failed last November, and then passed in March and May elections, but fell short of the double majority. Library supporters in Sweet Home are confident of winning in September with a double majority, and are stepping up their efforts to get the required 50% voter turnout. In Fossil a committee has been formed to come up with funding strategies to reopen their library.

STATE ARCHIVES WEBSITE CHOSEN ONE OF BEST WEBSITES

The Oregon State Archives website is one of the "101 Best Websites for Tracing Your Roots" selected by Family Tree Magazine. It is the only state archives program west of the Mississippi to garner such a distinction.

The website <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/banners/genealogy.htm> contains a Oregon Historical County Record Guide, an Oregon Historical Records Index, and a Provisional and Territorial Records Guide. In addition, it contains topical research aids for seven types of records particularly useful to researchers.

The August edition of Family Tree magazine article about the websites can be found at <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2003/> or <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2003/regional.html>.

A LIBRARY HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Although Oregon state employees work all over the state, they may find themselves on state business in Salem. These people often find themselves "unattached," with no dedicated personal workspace. In addition, local state employees often need a place for small meetings, or simply to get away from their distracting work environment for planning, deep thinking, and research.

The State Library has created a "home away from home" spot open 8-5 weekdays, just for these folks. There is a reference room area set aside for their exclusive use. This "temporary worksite" has two PC workstations, and more are planned. The PCs provide easy access to state e-mail, and to their other online business tools. They also feature menu links to the online catalog and to all the State Library's free or licensed electronic resources. In this location, these library customers will of course have ready access to the library's print and document collections, and to the librarian research consultants.

All reference area worktables have both electrical and network connections. We are also shortly adding wireless network coverage in the library, to provide for easy use of laptop computers. We provide convenient copier, phone, and fax services for our state employee customers, and provide Microsoft Office software on the PCs.

This "temporary workspace" effort is part of OSL's plan to develop a library and professional workplace environment that is welcoming, useful, and easily available to our state employee customers.

FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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DONOR RELATIONS

In Oregon, 59 percent of donations to non-profit organizations come from individuals (this excludes gifts to religious organizations). The key to long-term success in establishing a base of private donations involves cultivating relations and gifts from individuals. Once you have a gift, you must continue to nurture the relationship an aspect of fund development work referred to as donor relations.

This facet of fund development work involves promoting a greater understanding of and involvement with the library among its various supporters. Donor relations focuses on creating and maintaining lasting relationships between the library and those who support the organization with their wealth, wisdom and work.

The key steps to effective donor relations are:

1. Acknowledging any and all contributions in a timely, accurate, and appropriate manner;
2. Recognizing donors in meaningful ways that faithfully adhere to any stated wishes regarding anonymity and other levels of public disclosure; and
3. Reporting to donors in a consistent and accurate manner on the use and impact of their financial contributions. Your efforts do not have to be elaborate, but by following these steps you will prove that your library is a good steward of public and private funds.

For help with fund development issues, contact Kathy Thomas, Fund

Development Consultant, (503) 378-2112 ext. 264, or via email
Kathryn.Thomas@state.or.us.

PS. (FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN)
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My compliments to the editorial writer at The Oregonian who hit the nail on the head with this opinion on the recent Children's Internet Protection Act decision by the U. S. Supreme Court:

"If the ALA's activists had understood in the beginning that society has equal interests in protecting children and in free expression for adults, it's possible that Congress wouldn't have interfered. But the librarians' unbalanced view of censorship practically invited congressional conservatives to get involved." (The Oregonian, June 25, 2003)

Exactly. When CIPA was first introduced in the Congress, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies tried to engage ALA's leadership and suggest that their radical policies and confrontational stance on Internet filtering were bound to lead to a bad end. That's what has happened.

Has ALA learned anything from this? Apparently not, judging from their defiant press release issued on June 25th, right after the decision. They say they will "continue to seek to protect the First Amendment rights of library users, in accordance with policies established by the American Library Association."

Among these policies is one that, again in the words of The Oregonian, "invited congressional conservatives to get involved." It is Article V. of the Library Bill of Rights which states that "a person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of age."

Article V. is a radical and unsupportable policy in the age of the Internet. The specific language of Article V. was adopted as ALA policy, I believe, in the mid-60's. That's only four decades ago, but an eternity in terms of its implications. I don't know of a single public library that strictly adheres to Article V. To do so would mean that when library staff might see a couple of 8-year-olds punching up www.hustler.com, they would do nothing about it.

What did we expect the Congress to do in the face of the fact that the American Library Association refused to modify Article V. to fit with the new realities of the Internet? And what can we expect the Congress, not to mention state legislatures, to do now if they continue to hear expressions of defiance from librarians?

The Supreme Court decision in *United States v. ALA*, coupled with earlier decisions such as *Ginzburg v. New York*, establishes that the First Amendment does not apply equally to children and adults. It is therefore entirely appropriate and necessary to "abridge" a person's right to use a library because of age.

ALA's June 25th press release sets out three goals and 12 objectives in response to the CIPA decision. Some of these are helpful and reasonable. Some are loony. For example, the objective "ultimately to reverse [CIPA]." Not in our lifetimes.

Missing from the list of objectives is the most useful and reasonable thing that ALA could and should do: convene a task force to recommend to the ALA Council modifications to Article V. of the Library Bill of Rights. -- Jim Schepcke

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