

CONNECTIONS: YOUR LINK TO THE
State Library of Oregon



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In this issue:

- [Opening Our Doors](#)
- [Congratulations Grant Recipients](#)
- [Celebrating One Year of Northwest Digital Heritage](#)
- [Descriptive DVDs in the Wild](#)
- [TRIVIA TIME!](#)
- [OrDocs of the Month: State Beverage 25th Anniversary](#)
- [New Exhibit Focusing on Oregon Landscape Photography](#)

AGENCY NEWS

Opening Our Doors



The State Library is pleased to announce that our building will be open to the public on Monday, May 2, 2022. Business hours are 8am – 5pm Monday through Friday. Please note that State Library staff will continue to work hybrid or remote schedules, meeting the needs of our patrons across the state. It is still best to make an appointment prior to visiting, either via phone or email.

If you are interested in seeing a specific item from our collection, the Government Services team can help. Public access to the collection is available by appointment 1:00-4:00 Monday through Friday. You can [request an appointment here](#). You can also contact Government Services staff by phone at 503-378-8800 or by email at LibraryHelp.SLO@slo.oregon.gov.

Our building has several new updates since we were last open, including video doorbells for each division and a new display monitor in the lobby. You'll also see a supply of masks at both entrances. While masks are not required in the building, you are welcome to wear one during your visit. State Library staff also have the option to wear masks during their workday.

Our conference rooms are set to reopen in June. These spaces were originally designed for in-person meetings, not the current environment where integrated microphones and directional video capacity are helpful for productive meetings. We're investigating options to support hybrid meetings in the future, but at this time both rooms have limited technology available.

Thank you for your patience during these last couple of years, and we look forward to seeing your faces again!

LIBRARY SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Congratulations Grant Recipients

Libraries and institutions across Oregon are receiving over \$986,000 in funding from the State Library of Oregon thanks to the federally funded [Library Services and Technology Act \(LSTA\) Program](#), administered on the national level by the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Grants to States Program.

The State Library is issuing grant awards using both regularly allocated LSTA funds as well as American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which were awarded to the State Library via the LSTA program.

Grant awards include:

- \$346,409 to support [7 projects](#) as part of the [competitive grant program](#)
- \$163,660 to support [4 ongoing statewide projects](#)
- \$74,325 in direct grants to 3 rural public libraries and 2 tribal libraries for [projects related to digital equity, EDIA](#) (equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism), and workforce development
- \$91,445 to 16 academic institutions to [enhance their collections](#) to meet the needs of historically and currently underserved and under-resourced student populations

- \$148,100 to 43 school districts, charter schools, and private schools to [enhance their school library collections and furnishings](#) to meet needs arising from the pandemic
- \$68,178 to 19 public, academic, and school libraries for [library internships for local high school juniors or seniors](#) who will increase skills working on a connected learning project
- \$59,366 to 12 academic and public libraries for [library collaborations with local WorkSource offices or community organizations](#) to support job seekers and those seeking workforce development training
- \$34,791 to 7 libraries and institutions to have [local newspapers digitized](#) for inclusion in University of Oregon Libraries' *[Historic Oregon Newspapers database](#)*

Questions about the LSTA grants program? Contact Tamara Ottum, Federal Programs & Grants Consultant, at tamara.ottum@slo.oregon.gov.

Celebrating One Year of Northwest Digital Heritage

This month the State Library of Oregon and its partners, Oregon Heritage and the Washington State Library, are pleased to announce the first anniversary of Northwest Digital Heritage!



Forde Photographers. World's Largest Birthday Cake at the World's Fair, 1962. 1962. Seattle Public Library. Retrieved from the Digital Public Library of America,

<https://dp.la/item/ca1300b81203220fd1fed098ce810ef0?q=birthday+cake+world%27s+fair&partner=%22Northwest+Digital+Heritage%22>. (Accessed

April 22, 2022.)

Northwest Digital Heritage is a collaborative, regional effort to help support and increase access to digital collections from libraries and cultural heritage institutions throughout Oregon and Washington. Since its official launch in late May 2021 – and despite a myriad of challenges during the pandemic – the project has met some significant milestones during its initial year, including:

- Over 190,000 digital item records from Oregon and Washington-based collections now available via the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)'s Northwest Digital Heritage (NWDH) hub
- Collections from nearly 100 different libraries, museums, historical societies, and other cultural heritage organizations represented
- An advisory group from contributing institutions formed to help steer NWDH's priorities and to identify potential access points for collections
- Additional initiatives and partnerships with the Orbis Cascade Alliance, University of Washington Libraries, and Densho are being explored and developed
- Ongoing outreach to other organizations to pull future collections into Northwest Digital Heritage



Toddler's birthday. 1940s-1950s. Densho. Retrieved from the Digital Public Library of America, <https://dp.la/item/22125810a540f9d02d0d2704461a1d40?q=toddler%27s+birthday>. (Accessed April 22, 2022.)

Over the next two years, we plan to bring even more organizations and collections across the Northwest region into the fold, and both Oregon Heritage and the State Library of Oregon are very excited to bring new funding opportunities, a centralized digital repository, and in-person digitization support to Oregon libraries and organizations.



Gigantic Brewing Company's one year anniversary poster. 2010-2019. Multnomah County Library. Retrieved from the Digital Public Library of America, <https://dp.la/item/f5bbd247872bc5ef7fb89d24ea62ac64?q=anniversary&partner=%22Northwest+Digital+Heritage%22&page=2> (Accessed April 22, 2022.)

To learn more about Northwest Digital Heritage, please visit northwestdigitalheritage.org, contact us via our website, or email Ross Fuqua, Data & Digital Projects Consultant for the State Library of Oregon, at ross.fuqua@slo.oregon.gov.

Descriptive DVDs in the Wild

One of the optional extras the Talking Book and Braille Library makes available to users is a collection of DVDs with an additional audio narration track that describes the visual elements of the movie without interfering with the movie's dialogue or sound effects. But did you know that you probably have movies with descriptive audio in your own collection as well?!



It used to be that described movies had to be special ordered. But since 2007, more and more movies are being commercially released with a described audio track included. The big change came in 2010, when several major studios, including Sony, Universal, and Disney, started committing to description tracks on their DVD releases. Fox, Paramount, and Warner Brothers followed suit by 2015. More recently, streaming services, including Netflix, have committed to releasing all their content with described audio as an option. So, whereas in the early 2000s there used to be only a handful of DVDs released with descriptive audio, in the last 5 years there are on average over 150 movies per year!

Oftentimes, you will find the described audio option listed as **English Audio Description**, **English Descriptive Audio**, or **English DVS**. You can check the back cover of your DVDs or Blu-rays, or search the [Audio Description Project](#)'s website for a complete list of releases they have confirmed come with audio description.

Highlighting the described audio option of many DVDs or Blu-rays you probably already have in your collection is an excellent way to promote the diverse ways people connect with popular culture. Libraries can more broadly serve their visually-impaired users. Schools can help students experience life from a different perspective. You can even try it at home! Pick a movie you like that has a descriptive audio track, then watch it with your

eyes shut. Did you notice anything new you may have missed the first time you watched it?

The Talking Book and Braille Library would like to give a special shout-out to the [Audio Description Project](#), an offering of the American Council of the Blind, for their work advocating for and documenting descriptive audio in visual media.



Talking Book and Braille Library TRIVIA TIME!

We're back with another Talking Book and Braille Library TRIVIA TIME! But before we get to this month's question, here is last month's answer:

What factor has NOT contributed to the problems with printing Talking Book Topics?

Volatility of crypto currency

Thank you to everyone who submitted their answers, and feel free to keep participating each month. [Here is this month's question:](#)

Q: The National Library Service has partnered with which government agency to pilot a Rapid Sign-up Project?

- Department of Human Services
- Center for Disease Control
- Veterans Affairs
- Space Force



Hint: you can find the answer in a [previous issue of Connections](#).

Click the button above to submit your answer to the trivia question. If you provide your name and contact information and answer the question correctly, **you may win a fun prize!**

Check back next month to see the answer, and we'll be back with more trivia in future *Connections* issues.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION & LIBRARY SERVICES

OrDocs of the Month: State Beverage 25th Anniversary



Milk was designated as the Oregon state beverage in 1997, recognizing its long importance to the state economy and culture. In the [Oregon Government Publications](#) digital collection, you can read [rules about dairy product plants from 1955](#), learn [basic facts about milk in Oregon](#), or [watch a video](#) about a modern family dairy farm.

New Exhibit Focusing on Oregon Landscape Photography



“Setting the Scene: Exploring the Place of Landscape Photography in Oregon Print Culture” is our latest exhibit on display on the 2nd floor lobby of the State Library building. Landscape coffee-table books, souvenir viewbooks, travel brochures, postcards, and other photo objects celebrate a century of Oregon’s rich heritage publishing landscape photography. Featured artists include Carleton Watkins, Lee Moorhouse, Sarah Ladd, Benjamin and Ralph Gifford, Ray Atkeson, Robert Adams, and Terry Toedtemeier. The exhibit will be on display Monday through Friday during open building hours through December 2022.

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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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