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CONNECTIONS: YOUR LINK TO THE
State Library of Oregon



Volume 32, Issue 8 - August 2022

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Oregon Talking Book and Braille Library Designated as Center for the Book

By Joel Henderson, Volunteer and Recording Studio Coordinator for Talking Books

We are very excited to announce that the Oregon Talking Book and Braille Library has been officially designated as the Oregon Center for the Book! They are the first National Library Service (NLS) network library to be a Center for the Book.

Established by Public Law in 1977, the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress promotes books and libraries, literacy and reading. Every state and territory has a Center for the Book affiliate library to carry out this mission to regional audiences, actively working to highlight a state or territory's unique literary heritage. Many Centers for the Book sponsor book festivals, author readings, and other events that celebrate books and libraries.

**LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS**
**CENTER
FOR THE
BOOK**
AFFILIATE

The Talking Book and Braille Library was approached with the idea back in April. As explained by Guy Lamolinara, Head of the [Center for the Book](#), the Center for the Book and the NLS (both divisions of the Library of Congress) were looking for an opportunity to collaborate by designating a NLS network library specifically. “[The partnership] would bring a dimension of diversity that the Center for the Book network is missing: a partner that works with people with disabilities. The new Oregon Center for the Book will serve as an inspiration to the other centers to consider people with disabilities from the beginning of the process when they design and plan their literary programs.” On June 1st the agreement was officially and enthusiastically signed.

“What an awesome opportunity,” says Elke Bruton, program manager for the Talking Book and Braille Library. “We are super stoked. Library service to people with disabilities is something the NLS and its network of libraries have been experts at for a long time, and we feel Oregon will be amazing representatives of this perspective.”



As the Oregon Center for the Book, the Talking Book and Braille Library will be sending representatives to the **National Book Festival**, which is being held in person this year in Washington, D.C., on September 3rd. This activity attracts thousands of families, where states promote their “literary heritage” and hand out bookmarks, maps, and other fun souvenirs. Every state also names a book for young people that represents their heritage. The book selected by Oregon is *A Game of Fox & Squirrels* by Jenn Reese of Portland. They have also selected an adult book to highlight as well: *What Strange Paradise* by Omar El Akkad. Both books are part of the Talking Book and Braille Library’s audiobook collection.

We are excited to see how the Talking Book and Braille Library grows into this new responsibility. However, seeing as how they already deliver a customized connection to the world to over 5,000 Oregonians, we’re pretty sure they’re going to crush it.

Oregon Library Association Starts Essential New Podcast on Equity & Inclusion in Libraries



A production of the Oregon Library Association
EDI & Antiracism Committee

By Sadie Verville, Communications Analyst

Have you listened to the Oregon Library Association's (OLA) new podcast, **OVERDUE: Weeding Out Oppression in Libraries**? If not, you're missing out!

OVERDUE episodes cover topics from OLA's critical **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Antiracism (EDIA) Toolkit**. You'll hear expert guests discussing important subjects, from "Combating Oppression at a Leadership Level" to "Making Space for Accurate Representation" and more. To date, they have five episodes released, with their latest on July 29th titled "Mentoring and Developing the Profession with Tracie D. Hall."

As to OVERDUE's origins, the OLA EDI & Antiracism committee sought a helpful follow-up to their toolkit's release, and a podcast was quickly suggested. The format is ideal for several reasons. It's an accessible alternative where people can listen to ideas presented in the toolkit rather than read them. Podcasts fit into people's daily routines, easing the barrier of time and busy schedules. Podcasts also have the potential to reach a larger audience outside

of Oregon, spreading the OLA's toolkit and messages to as wide of an audience as possible.

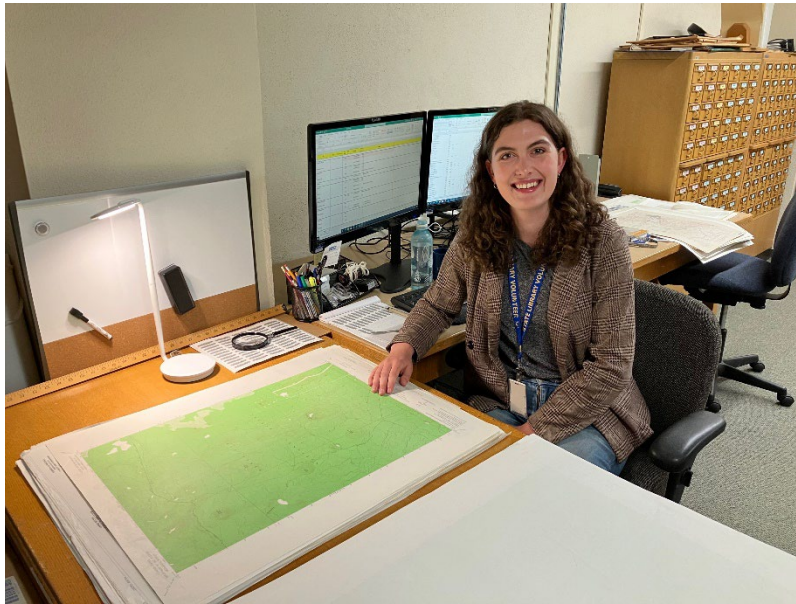
What this podcast intends to do is help librarians and others understand that EDIA is about action. Guests on the show share their lived experiences not only to help people learn from the past but also to demonstrate that everyone can make change. Libraries by their very nature are hierarchical and rooted in a white supremacist structure; with the expertise presented by the podcast hosts and guests, library staff can walk away with the tools to challenge the current structures in place and make EDIA work central to all they do in libraries.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the State Library of Oregon. Thanks to this as well as funding from OLA, guests on the show are paid a small stipend for their work, interrupting a little of the history of EDIA work going unpaid. Funding also allows the committee to outsource some of the podcast's labor, relieving some of the burden of production work. The committee itself is volunteer based and does not get paid.

As to what comes next, the OLA EDI & Antiracism committee will have some slight updates in membership, so they don't want to plan too far ahead - they want to leave it open for new members and new ideas. So keep an eye on the show, and stay tuned!

Thanks to podcast hosts Max Macias and Kristen Cure for participating in an interview for this article.

Forwards and Backwards: A Progress Update on the Topographic Maps Internship Project



By Shelby Kruger, Topographic Maps Project Intern

As I prepared to graduate from college this past spring, friends, family, and faculty were eager to share pieces of post-grad advice with me. One reoccurring statement I heard was, “No one is going to give you a map of where you should go in life— forge your own path.” I soon discovered that their words were entirely truthful: only weeks after commencement, I wasn’t handed a single map but instead a case of thousands. The State Library’s collection of topographic maps displays the elevation and contours of numerous locations across Oregon. Many are in wonderful condition and date back to as early as 1897, providing a glimpse into how Oregon’s land and communities have changed over the years. My internship position at the State Library has entailed accounting for many of these maps, while learning more about cataloguing

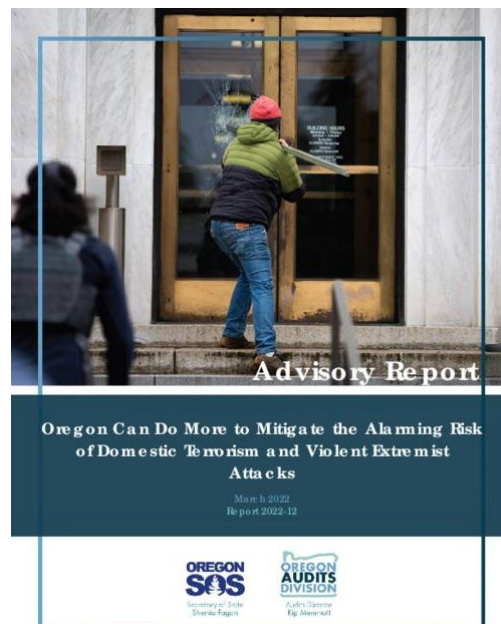
processes and library professions overall. So far I've found inventorying the maps to be an experience of looking both forwards and backwards in time.

This project has provided many avenues to look ahead at my career in libraries. I've developed knowledge and skills surrounding special collections, cataloging, and networking that I will carry with me far beyond this position. Spending time with the maps and staff at the State Library has provided more clarity about the library settings I hope to continue working in. But the hours I've spent looking over each map have also revealed many glimpses into the past. Several have illustrated paths that led me to where I am today, and the history of the state I've always called home. Maps of Gladstone and Brownsville show the streets and hills of my parents' hometowns from the years they were born. In a 1976 orthophoto of Lebanon, I can pinpoint the gray speck that is my childhood home, built in the late 1800s. Maps of Three Fingered Jack and Mount Jefferson delineate the slopes of forest I've backpacked through for years. A 1957 edition of Salem shows my high school four years after it was built, the fairgrounds I've spent countless summers at, and the State Library building I've always admired. Each letter of the alphabet has produced quadrangles of space containing precious memories, both within the grids of civilization and the green of remote wilderness.

The opportunity to see my own history woven into the topography of our state has been a wonderful privilege. So far in the project I have examined and inventoried 4,105 maps. Alongside noting their place within the collection, I've also learned how to repair rips and tears and how to find record of their existence in other collections, helping improve preservation and accessibility for patrons and other libraries. Four more drawers remain for me to uncover, and I feel so much gratitude in continuing the work of organizing and handling these pieces. I hope that in doing so, others will have the chance to further explore

the changing nature of our state, and their own place among its ranging mountains and valleys.

Oregon Documents Win National Conference of State Legislatures Award



By Jey Wann, Oregon Document Depository and Acquisitions Coordinator for Government Services

Two Oregon government publications were chosen for the National Conference of State Legislatures 2022 **Notable Documents Award**. The award recognizes documents that "... explore topics of interest to legislators and staff, and present substantive material in an outstanding format." The publications were nominated by **Oregon Documents Depository Program** staff.

Advisory report, Oregon can do more to mitigate the alarming risk of domestic terrorism and violent extremist attacks, produced by the Audits Division of the Secretary of State's Office, explores the history of extremist violence in Oregon and recommends action the Legislature can take to reduce the risk of future violence.

Village research & how-to guide, produced by the Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative at Portland State University, explores the village model for housing people experiencing homelessness, describes the current situation, and makes recommendations for the future.

Congratulations to the winners!

Newspaper Digitization Grants Focus on Communities Impacted by 2020 Wildfires

By Ross Fuqua, Data & Digital Projects Consultant for Library Support

This month, we're celebrating the completion of two LSTA+ODNP grant projects, one by the Scio Public Library and another by the Josephine Community Library Foundation. Together, these two efforts digitized approximately 18,000 pages from several newspaper titles dating from 1885 to 1925, which reported on areas surrounding Scio and Grants Pass. This content is now freely accessible online and features full text searching via the [Oregon Historic Newspapers database](#).

\$1200.00 IN GOLD
Commission and Valuable Prizes Given Away

CAMPAIGN CLOSES SAT'Y, MARCH 15
AT 7 P. M.

General Information

The commission will be given to the person who has the largest number of correct answers to the questions on the ballot. The commission will be given to the person who has the largest number of correct answers to the questions on the ballot.

Capital Prize

\$500.00 In Gold

Second Prize

\$350 Weiler Piano

Of the H. P. Nelson make, with Galton Chik finish. On display at the Station Road Music Store.

Third Prize

\$100 DIAMOND, size 1-2, less 1/4 Karat

Mounted in Solitaire or Tiffany case. On display at the Letcher & Son Jewelry Store.

Rules Governing Campaign

The person who has the largest number of correct answers to the questions on the ballot will be the winner. The commission will be given to the person who has the largest number of correct answers to the questions on the ballot.

Fourth Prize

\$80 Dining-Room Set

Consisting of Table, Buffet and Four Chairs in Colton Oak Finish. On display at A. M. McKeown's Furniture Store.

Fifth Prize

\$50 Buck's Yale Steel Range

On display at the Rogue River Hardware.

Sixth Prize

\$50 SCHOLARSHIP

Including Six Months' course in Shorthand and Typewriting, or Shorthand and Typewriting, at the Success Business School.

Ten Per Cent Commission to All Who Do Not Win One of the Grand Prizes

VOTE SCHEDULE	FREE VOTES	NOMINATION BLANK
<p>Each ballot to contain the name of the person to whom the voter wishes to give the vote. The name of the person to whom the voter wishes to give the vote must be written in full, and must be legible. The name of the person to whom the voter wishes to give the vote must be written in full, and must be legible.</p>	<p>Each ballot to contain the name of the person to whom the voter wishes to give the vote. The name of the person to whom the voter wishes to give the vote must be written in full, and must be legible. The name of the person to whom the voter wishes to give the vote must be written in full, and must be legible.</p>	<p>Each ballot to contain the name of the person to whom the voter wishes to give the vote. The name of the person to whom the voter wishes to give the vote must be written in full, and must be legible. The name of the person to whom the voter wishes to give the vote must be written in full, and must be legible.</p>

This Campaign is Conducted By and Under the Management of

The Rogue River Courier

What are our **LSTA+ODNP grants**? These

annual grant opportunities evolved from a partnership between the **State Library of Oregon's Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA)** program and the **University of Oregon Libraries' Oregon Digital Newspaper Program (ODNP)**. These funds, provided by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and administered by the State Library, provide dedicated support specifically for newspaper digitization for Oregon communities.

While the State Library of Oregon typically offers LSTA+ODNP grants annually through a competitive application process, the COVID-19 pandemic had negative impacts on our agency's capacity and the capacity for digitization processing at the University of Oregon. Compounded by the tragic wildfires in the fall of 2020 – following the successful digitization of the Mill City Enterprise the previous year – we chose to offer a small number of FY2021 LSTA+ODNP grants directly to communities impacted by these fires, and to communit

y organizations situated in areas of greater risk from future wildfires.

For more information about LSTA+ODNP grant opportunities, please contact Ross Fuqua, Data & Digital Projects Consultant, State Library of Oregon, at ross.fuqua@slo.oregon.gov.

The State Library Welcomes Wren Kominos



By Natalie Brant, Reference Coordinator for Government Services

The Government and Information Services Division is excited to welcome Wren Kominos as our new Web Services Librarian! He will be working on managing our website and participating in reference services and instruction, as well as our embedded services program with Oregon state agencies.

Most recently, Wren was the Web Services Librarian at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He graduated in 2020 with his Master of Science in Information and Library Science from Wayne State University, with a focus on Information Management. Wren is from Los Angeles but has a long-standing relationship with the state of Oregon; he attended Reed College for his undergraduate education and worked in a molecular microbiology lab at Oregon Health & Science University after that. He is a member of [Library Freedom Project](#), a privacy advocacy group focused on digital privacy training for librarians. Outside of the library, he likes to build things (both physical and digital), listen to KCRW, and be outside.

Welcome back to Oregon, Wren!

OrDoc of the Month: Squatch Helps Prevent Forest Fires



By Jey Wann, Oregon Document Depository and Acquisitions Coordinator for Government Services

Wildfire season has begun, and Oregonians are looking at many ways to reduce wildfire risk. Fortunately, we have help! Sasquatch is assisting the State Fire Marshal in reminding us to be careful in the outdoors.

Remember: **leave only footprints!**

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:

*How many people was Books for the Blind serving when Mary-Ellen worked for them during the summers of 1959 and 1960? **200***

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 several key initiatives as part of their _____ modernization efforts, including their new _____-on-Demand program?

- Donuts
- Braille
- Large Print
- Digitization



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.

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Connections is published monthly by the State Library of Oregon, and was formerly known as *Letters to Libraries Online*.

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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