

# From the Guest Editor



JENNIFER PATTERSON

Jennifer Patterson is the Director of the State Library of Oregon (State Librarian). She has over twenty years of library experience working in public, academic, and special libraries in California, Colorado, and Washington State before joining the State Library of Oregon in 2019. She has a houseful of pets and enjoys hiking and exploring the beautiful Pacific Northwest with her family. You can reach her at [jennifer.l.patterson@state.or.us](mailto:jennifer.l.patterson@state.or.us).

This issue of the *OLA Quarterly* features articles written by State Library staff highlighting the programs, services, and history of the State Library. The State Library of Oregon was established as the Oregon Library Commission in 1905 and renamed as the Oregon State Library in 1913. Today, the State Library of Oregon has three distinct roles:

- The Talking Book and Braille Library serves Oregonians with print disabilities by providing Braille, audio-books, descriptive videos, and magazines through the mail and digital download. This is a free service to eligible Oregonians, with over 5,000 active users and an average of approximately 30,000 items circulated every month. The Talking Book and Braille Library is the regional library in Oregon for the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) network.
- The Library Support and Development Services Division provides consultation services, professional development, statewide library services, and state and federal grant administration to libraries across the state. The division administers state-funded Ready to Read grants to public libraries in Oregon to support summer reading and early literacy programs, and administers federal LSTA grant funding as competitive grants and for statewide library services including the Answerland online reference service, the Oregon School Library Information System (OSLIS), and the Statewide Database Licensing Program.



- The Government Information and Library Services Division provides library services to state employees including research assistance, professional development, and instruction. Through the embedded librarian program, each state agency is assigned a librarian to provide specialized assistance and resources to support state agency staff in their work. The division preserves state agency publications and makes them accessible to state employees and the public through the Oregon Digital Collections website, and reference assistance is provided to the public in utilizing State Library collections and resources.

Articles featuring the work of each of these divisions are included in this issue.

Joel Henderson, User Accounts Coordinator for the Talking Book and Braille Library, writes about the recent transition to customized cartridges in the Talking Book and Braille Library. This new service model increases title availability, eliminates wait time for popular titles, and allows up to eight audiobook titles per cartridge. This change greatly enhanced customer service and streamlined operations.

Greta Bergquist, Youth Services Consultant, and Jennifer Maurer, School Library Consultant, highlight two ways the State Library supports service to youth. Greta's article focuses on the evolution of the Ready to Read grant program and Jennifer's article provides an overview of State Library services for school libraries and the current state of school libraries in Oregon.

State Library collections are highlighted in three of the articles in this issue. Arlene Weible, Electronic Services Consultant, provides an overview of the Federal Depository Library Program Regional Collection in Oregon libraries and how the collection and management of the collection have evolved over time. Jey Wann, Oregon Documents Coordinator, writes about the Oregon Documents Depository Program and the processes involved in collecting born-digital publications and building the Oregon Government Publications digital collection. Finally, a project to digitize the Oregon Index, a citation index mainly covering articles published in major daily newspapers of Portland and Salem from 1900 to 1987, is described in the article written by Sarah Cunningham, Cataloging Assistant, Angela Jannelli, Oregon Documents Specialist, and Heather Pitts, Cataloging Services Librarian.

The Government Information and Library Services embedded librarian program, a program connecting librarians to state agencies in order to enhance and tailor services to meet the needs of state employees, is covered in Natalie Brant's article. Natalie, Reference Librarian, describes the origin of the program and how it has changed over time, including recent successes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amy Coughenour, Electronic Resources Librarian, highlights successful efforts to promote databases to state employees. The strategies outlined can be adapted by libraries looking to increase awareness and usage of electronic resources, which may be of particular interest as students, job seekers, workers, and families are increasingly turning to online options.

The first state librarian, Cornelia Marvin Pierce, is featured in an article written by Courtney "Cam" Amabile, Volunteer and Operations Coordinator. Although Cornelia Marvin Pierce made significant contributions to the development of library services in Oregon, she was a strong supporter of eugenics and later married former Oregon Governor and known KKK associate Walter Pierce. Cam's article discusses these issues and the State Library's actions to address this troubling aspect of our agency's history.

My hope is that the articles in this issue not only provide a glimpse into some of the interesting resources and services available through the State Library but also provide ideas and strategies that can be adapted and applied to other library environments. One of the State Library's primary roles is to support the Oregon library community, and we welcome you to [contact us](mailto:jennifer.l.patterson@state.or.us) to discuss any of the topics in this issue or any other library-related topics.

Jennifer Patterson  
*OLAQ Guest Editor*  
State Librarian  
State Library of Oregon  
[jennifer.l.patterson@state.or.us](mailto:jennifer.l.patterson@state.or.us)