



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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Oregon Libraries Collaborate to Save Money

Oregon public, school and academic libraries have worked with the State Library to save nearly \$10 million on the annual cost of information databases for Oregon libraries.

Senate Bill 12, which Governor Ted Kulongoski signed into law last year, authorized the State Library to work with local libraries to negotiate a statewide license to realize cost savings and provide all Oregonians with access to electronic information through their local library. The State Library worked with the Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee, including representatives from public, academic, and school libraries, to select the best database supplier that could meet the needs of all library users.

"I want to commend the State Library for their efforts," said Governor Kulongoski. "This is a great example of changing the way we do business to make government more user-friendly and cost-effective."

The multi-year agreement with EBSCO Publishing will make available 26 databases providing electronic access to nearly 7,000 full text magazines and journals. In addition, the agreement will give library users access to nearly 800 reference books, 84,000 biographical summaries, 10,000 company profiles, and more than 100,000 photos and maps. The databases will be available to users of 50 college and university libraries, 128 public libraries, and approximately 1,200 school libraries in the state. Later this

year, users will be able to access the databases from their library, or by using Internet connections at home.

The total cost of the contract will be \$756,870 in the first year. About \$300,000 of the cost will be contributed by public and academic libraries, with federal Library Services and Technology Act funds providing the rest of the funding. EBSCO Publishing indicated that if each of the 1,400 or so participating libraries had bid and negotiated their own separate license, the combined cost would be about \$10.7 million.

"I am really proud of our libraries for getting together and selecting one supplier so that we could reduce the cost of providing this information access to Oregonians," commented State Librarian Jim Schepke.