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AGENCY NEWS

Spotlight on Standards - A Feature from the Federal Repository Collection

By Allison Hatch, Federal Documents Cataloging Specialist, Government Services

Deep beneath the stone façade and wood-paneled walls of the State Library lies a secret. For many years - decades even - we have collected federal publications by the thousands. The Oregon Regional Federal Depository Collection is made up of many treasures that can be found in the extra-tall shelves in the basement. This collection is receiving some much-needed attention to ensure the materials are added to the State Library's online catalog, and this is a great opportunity to highlight some interesting, unusual, or otherwise noteworthy publications that have surfaced.

Currently, the focus of the Federal Regional Depository cataloging project is the C-13 subject heading, home to nearly 3000 publications from the United States Bureau of Standards and its subsequent agency iterations. The documents range from massive math textbooks to pamphlets detailing metric system conversions for home use. Dates for the series begin in the early 1910s and continue through as recently as the late 1990s.

One item that stood out among the largely very technical series was Special Publication #479, Corrosion and metal artifacts: a dialogue between conservators and archaeologists and corrosion scientists. It features a plate of full-color images as well as many more black and white depictions of historic artifacts and their preservation methods.

Published in 1977, the document details cutting-edge techniques (at the time) for the preservation and restoration of metal artifacts like statues, weapons, jewelry, and more. It stands as a record of collaboration between the arts and sciences to

preserve history and ensure the enduring value of cultural objects, even if most of the chemistry-heavy sections were too technical for the average person to understand.

Even before the modern concept of conservation was born, humanity has taken steps to ensure the protection of artwork and day-to-day items for generations to come. While metal may be considered one of the more durable materials for item construction, according to this collection of studies, there's a lot that goes into making sure a metal item lasts for centuries. From chemical composition of the material to how to item was used, and even the weather can change how metal degrades over time. These variables are reminiscent of how we here at the State Library must consider how we store materials to ensure they won't degrade: temperature, use and even digital formats are closely monitored to make sure the public has permanent access to our materials. All of the materials we are discovering in the C-13 range of the basement are now available through the online [catalog](#). Watch this space for more interesting discoveries from this part of the State Library collection!



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Figure 7. Thomas Hart Benton, Lafayette Square, St. Louis: before conservation treatment.



Figure 8. The same sculpture after conservation treatment.

Titles at the State Library Celebrating Hispanic Heritage in Oregon

By Natalie Brant, Reference Coordinator, Government Information and Library Services

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th - October 15th), we are highlighting some items from our collection that celebrate Hispanic heritage in Oregon. You can check any of these books out from the State Library!

[Latino Literature](#), edited by Sara E. Martinez

Color: Latino Voices in the Pacific Northwest, by Lorane A. West

Hispanic American Chronology, edited by Sonia G. Benson et al

Nosotros: The Hispanic People of Oregon, edited by Erasmo Gamboa et al

These titles are just a small selection of what we have available, so feel free to do your own searching in our [public catalog](#). You can request these items from the State Library via inter-library loan from your local public library or [make an appointment](#) to come by and check them out in-person.

State Library releases new Handbook for Public Library Board Members in Oregon

By Darci Hanning, Public Library Consultant and Continuing Education Coordinator, Library Support and Development



Most public libraries in Oregon have some kind of board: either an advisory board that reports back to a local government or a governing board that is responsible for the operation of their library . In all these cases, there are guidelines, best practices, and laws public library board members need to know to function effectively.

This month, the State Library is pleased to release a new resource: [Handbook for Public Library Board Members in Oregon](#). This handbook covers important topics such as roles and responsibilities of public library board members, an example of a typical year for governing board members, recommendations for best practices, and available tools to help board members succeed.

The Handbook for Public Library Board Members in Oregon can be found online. Library staff and board members are encouraged to download a copy to keep locally, as well as explore additional learning resources and tools to support them in their roles. Many thanks to library consultant Erin McCusker bringing her extensive public library experience to the development of content for this handbook.

Staff Updates

Congratulations Ashley Wilsey – State Library Specialist 2

The Government Information and Library Services division is thrilled to welcome Ashley Wilsey as our new Cataloging Specialist. Ashley joins us internally, coming from the Operations division where she had been the Office Specialist since 2021. She holds an MLIS from the University of Washington, graduating in 2018. Born and raised in Oregon, Ashley enjoys the outdoors, writing, gardening, and taking care of her pets. She is also a semi-fluent German speaker. We are excited to have her multitude of skills on our team!





Welcome Matt Roach – Talking Books Outreach Librarian

The Talking Book and Braille Library is proud to introduce our new Outreach Librarian, Matt Roach! With rich and varied experience, including several roles in public, institutional, and state libraries in North Carolina, Alabama, and Washington

state, Matt has a passion for accessibility and bringing communities of people together in library spaces.

Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Matt has spent the past 27 years working in libraries doing a little bit of everything, including: inter-library loans, reference and reader's advisory, acquisitions, training, programming, and outreach. Most recently, Matt was a librarian for the Timberland Regional Library system in southwest Washington, where he focused primarily on programming and outreach for teens and adults. His hobbies include role-playing games (like Dungeons and Dragons – he is a game master), hiking, video games, learning and exploring new technology, 3D printing, and learning how things work in general.

Welcome to the team and welcome to Oregon, Matt!

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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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