



LETTERS TO LIBRARIES ONLINE

State Library of Oregon

Volume 31, Issue 3 - March 2021

AGENCY NEWS

State Library Board Opportunity

The State Library Board has an upcoming opportunity for a member representing a public library in eastern Oregon (east of the Cascades). This representative can be someone who works for a public library or serves on a public library board in eastern Oregon. The term for this position is four years beginning July 1, 2021. State Library Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Governor is committed to ensuring that all Boards and Commissions represent the age, racial, and gender diversity of the state.

The State Library Board has legal and fiduciary responsibilities, participates in the evaluation of the State Librarian, sets policy, determines the library mission and vision, adopts strategic plans, and is directly accountable to the public via the Governor and Legislature of the state of Oregon. See the State Library's [website](#) for additional information about the roles and responsibilities of the State Library Board.

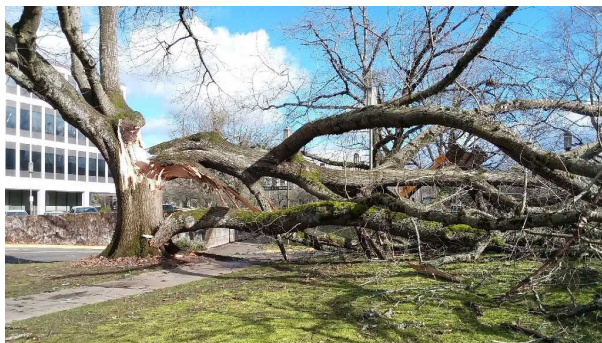
To apply to serve on the State Library Board, see the [Governor's Boards and Commissions website](#) for instructions and complete the [interest form](#).

Contact Jennifer Patterson at jennifer.l.patterson@slo.oregon.gov with any questions.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION & LIBRARY SERVICES

Ice Storms & Your State Library

Salem's trees took quite a blow due to the winter ice storm during the weekend of February 12th.



Unfortunately, the damage includes some of our old friends around the State Library building. We will greatly miss the shade they provide and the beauty they offer. The squirrels would also like to mention, they'll miss the acorns.

So, the next time you visit the State Library and walk around the Capitol Mall, things are going to look just a bit different. Perhaps, even a little muted for a time.



The soundscape outside the library the past couple of weeks has been filled with chainsaws and wood chippers. However, your State Library remains unbowed and undamaged. Our Akebono cherry trees will burst with color in just a few weeks, and their beauty will slowly grow with each succeeding year.

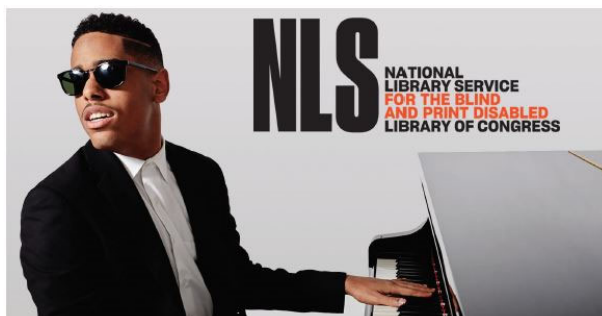
Speaking of time, we look forward to the time when we can visit in-person once again because after all, heading into this time of year, hope does “spring” eternal.



Photo credit: Parks employee with chainsaw - Salem Statesman Journal; Capitol mall park in spring - Edward Garman.

TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

NLS 90th Anniversary: Matthew Whitaker Virtual Concert



This year, the National Library Service (NLS)* is celebrating it's 90th anniversary! Their celebration will kick off with a **very special virtual concert featuring stellar jazz pianist Matthew Whitaker on**

March 3rd, marking the day the NLS founding legislation was signed by President Hoover.

Matthew Whitaker has been blind since birth and playing music since his grandfather bought him a small keyboard at age 3. At 10, he performed for Stevie Wonder's induction into the Apollo Theater Hall of Fame. Now, at age 19, Whitaker has been featured on stages around the world, including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Lincoln Center.

Whitaker is also a patron of NLS, using their Music Section's accessible scores and reading materials (the largest collection of its kind in the world) on his rise to fame. You can see Whitaker's past performances -- including appearances on television shows like the *Today Show*, *60 Minutes*, and primetime talk show *Ellen* -- at www.matthewwhitaker.net.

The concert will take place at 8PM EST on the [Library of Congress's YouTube channel](#), preceded by an interview conducted by NLS Director Karen Keninger. You will find engaging digital content throughout the rest of the calendar year focusing on the rich history, extensive services, incredible patrons, and committed staff of the NLS and its invaluable network libraries across the country.

For more information about the virtual concert, please contact Gabrielle Barnes at gbarn@loc.gov or Brian McCurdy at bmccurdy@loc.gov. You can also request ADA accommodations five days in advance at 202-707-6362 or ADA@loc.gov.

***About the NLS:** The NLS is a division within the Library of Congress that functions as the federal administrator of the Talking Book and Braille program. They record 99% of the books, provide the players and accessories, and administer BARD. Our library acts in conjunction with NLS as the contact library for residents of Oregon who are eligible for the program.

Update to Certifying Authority for Reading Impairments

A monumental change that makes it easier for people with reading impairments (i.e. dyslexia, dysphasia, etc.) to register with our library has finally been made! Now **ALL** certifying authorities -- including reading specialists, speech-language pathologists, educators, librarians, and school psychologists -- can certify the eligibility of people who apply for our library services based on a reading impairment.

The National Library Service (NLS) has long made its services available to people with reading disabilities. Up to now, however, a doctor of medicine or osteopathy was required to certify that an applicant's reading impairment was "the result of organic dysfunction." This requirement was a high bar for potential

users to hurdle, and network libraries, including ours, have urged NLS for years to relax it. A 2016 Government Accountability Office report on NLS even noted that it is now widely accepted that a medical diagnosis is not necessary to determine if a person has a reading disability. Thankfully, because of the **2018 Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act** and the 2019 Library of Congress Technical Corrections Act, this restriction has officially been lifted!

We have already updated our **website** and **application** to reflect this change, so if you need copies of our application with the updated language please let us know at 800-452-0292 or talkingbooks.info@slo.oregon.gov.



Topic Talks from the State Library



This month, we're pleased to present two Topic Talks:

Tuesday, March 16, 1:30 pm (PT) – County Law Libraries and You!

Oregon's county law libraries provide invaluable services to the general public and legal community. They provide specialized legal resources and staff guidance to assist with legal matters and research.

In this session, join Amy Gregory from the Washington County Law Library and Jenny Pedersen from Deschutes Public Library to learn more about Oregon's law libraries. Amy and Jenny will share examples of services offered by county law libraries, the types of resources available, and how the public can access those services and resources.

No registration required, just join us via computer or phone on **March 16 at 1:30 pm.**

[Zoom link](#) or by phone: 669-900-6833 US (San Jose) or 253-215-8782 US (Tacoma) with Meeting ID: 843 3593 3468

Tuesday, March 30, 10:00 am (PT) – Learn All About: Oregon Documents Depository

Jey Wann, Oregon Documents Coordinator, will discuss the history of the [Oregon Documents Depository Program](#), describe how to access State Library's Oregon Documents Collection, and feature some interesting, useful, fun, and even wacky Oregon government publications. And reference librarian Dave Hegeman will cover the many ways Oregon documents can be used, including laws and rules, statistics, and notable reference sources.

No registration required, just join us via computer or phone on **March 30 at 10:00am.**

[Zoom link](#) or join by phone: 669-900-6833 US (San Jose) or 253-215-8782 US (Tacoma) with Meeting ID: 862 0862 7126

These sessions will be recorded for later viewing. Missed a previous Topic Talk? You can find recordings [here](#), listed under **PREVIOUS TOPIC TALKS.**



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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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