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State Library of Oregon



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AGENCY NEWS

Join Us in Celebrating World Braille Day

By Joel Henderson, Admin Specialist, Talking Book and Braille Library

January marks Braille Literacy Month, and what better way to start the month than by celebrating World Braille Day on January 4, the birthday of Louis Braille. Born in 1809, Louis lost his vision at the age of three, and as a teenager he started developing a system of embossed raised dots to empower people who are blind with the tools to be independently literate.



Louis's system is comprised of a series of cells with six locations for raised dots (two columns and three rows). Letters, numbers, and punctuation marks all correspond to a specific combination of raised dots within each cell. This system means the Braille typewriter is different from a typical keyboard. Brailers have six keys corresponding to each of the six dots in the Braille cell, as well as a space key, enter button, and backspace.

Braille is the only path to literacy for many people who are blind, which makes modern Braille resources all the more important. Initiatives like their Braille e-reader pilot and Braille-on-Demand program show how the National Library Service (NLS) and the Talking Book and Braille Library are making their support of Braille literacy a top priority.

Fun facts about Braille:

- Braille is not a language; it is an alphabet that can be used to write almost any language.
- There are two versions of Braille: **uncontracted Braille** spells out every word, whereas **contracted Braille** is a shorthand form with abbreviations for familiar words.
- Braille can be written several ways: embossed with a slate and stylus (also known as Braille handwriting) or printed using a Braille typewriter.
- Braille readers usually pass their fingers along the raised dots to read, but some people have used their toes or even their lips.
- Castel Sant’Elmo, a popular tourist attraction in Italy, is home to an art installation by Paolo Puddu titled *Follow the Shape*, a handrail embossed in Braille with a poetic description of the surrounding view of Naples.
- In the Talking Book and Braille Library’s lobby, there are two Braille items of interest: a percent-for-art plaque with a poem by Kim Stafford embossed in Braille and an official Tactile Braille American flag bronze plaque (one of only a handful in the state)!
- In recent years, more toys have become available in Braille, including the Rubik’s Cube, Uno, Monopoly, and LEGOs.

The 2023 Legislative Session & State Library eClips



By Jerry Curry, Reference Librarian, Government Information and Library Services

Swearing in/organizational days for the 2023 legislative session ([calendar](#)) are scheduled for Monday, January 9, and run through Friday, January 13. However, the session really gets underway on Tuesday, January 17.

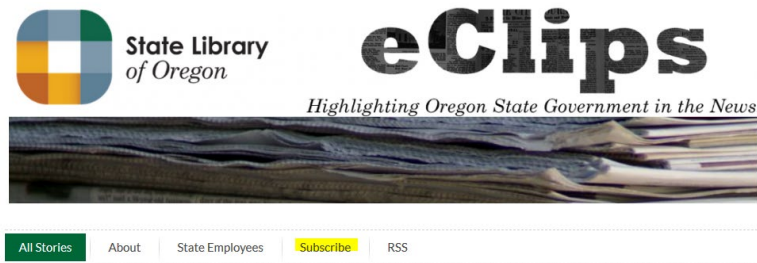
This regular annual session may not exceed 160 calendar days without a vote to extend. This means the constitutional “sine die” or adjournment date for the 2023 session is on Sunday, June 25, although the “targeted” conclusion is scheduled for Thursday, June 15.

The [Oregon Legislative Information System](#), or [OLIS](#), will help you monitor bills of particular interest after they are introduced. OLIS can help you review how legislators vote in committee, as they may vote differently on the floor than in a committee work session. You can also choose to receive updates on specific bills, committee agendas, legislative news, or even communications from any member by using the [e-Subscribe](#) service.

The Legislature’s [main site](#) contains links to legislative content including

background briefs, mandated reports, and publications from both the Legislative Fiscal and Legislative Revenue offices. There is also a useful search interface for the entire legislative site.

In addition, *The Oregonian's* [Your Government](#) resource is a great way to keep up with a legislator's voting record on the floor of their respective chamber.



Speaking of keeping up, we'd like to remind you of the State Library's [eClips](#) service. This resource will help keep you informed about the 2023 legislative session, state agencies, and even federal or national issues that could affect our state.

eClips is available to everyone, and [subscription](#) is only one click away. By subscribing, you will receive an email each business day containing the top 30 stories we include in our daily edition.

By visiting our [eClips blog](#), you can access all the posts we added for the day. Typically, we add far more than 30 stories into our daily edition. Use the search function to locate other stories of interest. We categorize and tag each entry so you can easily locate related stories from the past.

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State Library Jobline - Free Way to Post and Find Library Jobs in Oregon

By Ferol Weyand, Consulting Assistant, Library Support and Development Services

Are you looking for a library job or trying to hire someone to work in a library? The State Library wants to help!

Advertise or find that perfect library job through the [State Library's Jobline](#). Jobline is a valuable tool for helping you fill your job openings by reaching across the state of Oregon and beyond. Simply send us the library-related job announcement to reach interested job seekers. It's very simple to use—click [here](#) for instructions.

As a job seeker, you can search for a particular type of library, position, or location by using the search tool located at the top of all Jobline pages. There are also other job listings available on the “Additional Library Job Resources” [tab](#).

From July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, there were 12,928 visitors to Jobline and 63,520 views, which is double from the previous year.

Jobline is updated every weekday morning, and we are happy to work with you

on getting your job openings publicized. Please contact [Ferol Weyand](#) for more information.

OrDoc of the Month: Published in 1923



By Jey Wann, Oregon Documents Coordinator, Government Information and Library Services

I decided to look for something published in 1923 to celebrate the first OrDoc of the Month for 2023. There were several possibilities, including a publication about [growing walnuts](#) and [a bibliography](#) of items about the John Jacob Astor Expedition.

But what really caught my attention was a three-page publication called [Stage Lines in Oregon](#). It conjured up a romanticized image of stagecoaches pulled by spirited horses, traveling through the dusty roads of early 20th-century Oregon.

Alas, it appears from my research that horse-drawn stagecoaches were mostly replaced in the late 19th century by the railroad, and the stage lines in this list were probably automobiles. Still, the roads in Oregon in the 1920s were challenging, and the roads these stage lines travelled were undoubtedly difficult.

In case you really do want to see a horse-drawn stagecoach, here is a [picture](#) from our [Photograph Collection](#). This undated post card shows the Burns Stage at the summit of the Trout Creek Mountains in Central Oregon.

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 Oregonians received accessible voting information thanks to the partnership between the League of Women Voters of Oregon and the Talking Book and Braille Library? **700***

Thank you to everyone who submitted their answers, and feel free to keep participating each month. [Here is this month's question:](#)

Q: Which position on the KLAS Users Group was Crystal Grimes recently appointed to?

- Vice-President
- President
- Emperor
- King



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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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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