

[View this email in your browser](#)

CONNECTIONS: YOUR LINK TO THE
State Library of Oregon



Volume 33, Issue 3 - March 2023

- [Celebrating Women's History in Oregon: Titles from Our Collection](#)
- [This Old Library: The Notorious Elevator in the Stacks](#)
- [Law Libraries in Oregon Use ARPA Funds to Lower Eviction Cases & Empower Renters](#)
- [Public Libraries & The Talking Book and Braille Library – What's the Difference?](#)
- [Welcome Janelle Youngblood!](#)
- [Library Support Will Miss Rock Star, Max Robinson!](#)
- [OrDoc of the Month: She Carries the Burden Alone](#)

Celebrating Women's History in Oregon: Titles from Our Collection

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

Oregon's history features a wide range of diverse and strong women, from local Native American heroines like Sarah Winnemucca or Marie Dorian, to the pioneer women like Mary Ann Adair and Abigail Scott Duniway who came across the Oregon Trail and then went on to fight for women's suffrage. In more recent years we have women such as Kate Brown and Tina Kotek, who are leading the way in state politics. For Women's History Month, we're highlighting a few of the titles in our collection that celebrate the strong, fierce, independent women who have shaped the history of Oregon.

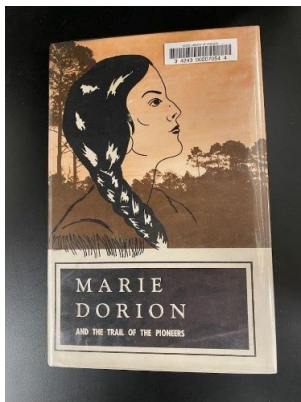
She flies with her own wings, indeed.

Sarah Winnemucca



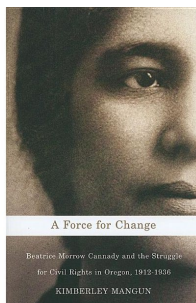
"Born in a Paiute community in western Nevada at a time when the Paiutes' homeland and traditional way of life were increasingly threatened, Sarah [Winnemucca] dedicated much of her life to working for her people... In 1883 she produced her autobiography - the first written by a Native American woman. Using private contributions, she returned to Nevada and founded a Native school whose educational practices and standards were far ahead of its time. [This book is] composed not only of public challenges and accomplishments but also of private struggles, joys, and ambitions."

Marie Dorion and the Trail of the Pioneers



Marie Dorion (1786–1850), a Native American of the Iowa tribe, was the only female member of the Astor Expedition (1811-1812) from Missouri to Oregon Country. Her epic story shows the strength and perseverance needed to survive in the unforgiving wilderness of the Pacific Northwest.

A Force for Change: Beatrice Morrow Cannady & The Struggle for Civil Rights in Oregon



"Between 1912 and 1936, Cannady tirelessly promoted interracial goodwill and fought segregation and discrimination. She gave hundreds of lectures to high school and college students and shared her message with radio listeners across the Pacific Northwest. She was assistant editor, and later publisher, of *The Advocate*,

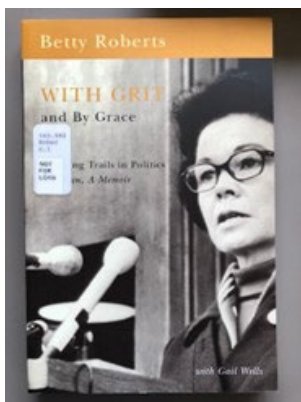
Oregon's largest African American newspaper. Cannady was the first black woman to graduate from law school in Oregon, and the first to run for state representative. She held interracial teas in her home in Northeast Portland and protested repeated showings of the racist film *The Birth of a Nation*. And when the Ku Klux Klan swept into Oregon, she urged the governor to act quickly to protect black Oregonians' right to live and work without fear. Despite these accomplishments, Beatrice Cannady fell into obscurity when she left Oregon in the late 1930s."

Campaigning for Office: A Woman RUNS



This book "offers insights into campaigning that only experience can teach. Although Jewel's story is of a political race in Oregon, it touches universal themes – ones that play out whenever a woman sets a goal for herself and strives against tremendous odds to reach it." – Governor Barbara Roberts

With Grit and By Grace: Breaking Trails in Politics and Law, a Memoir

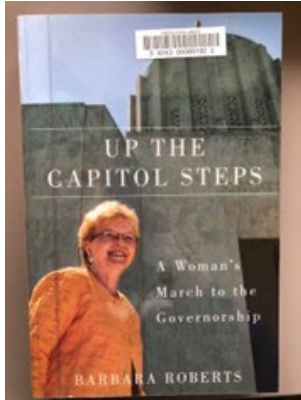


"In the 1950s, Betty Roberts did what most of her contemporaries considered audacious and inappropriate when she returned to college as a 32-year-old wife and mother. This was only the start of Roberts' lifetime commitment to overcoming obstacles to women's equality. *With Grit and By Grace* follows Betty Roberts' rise from a Depression era childhood on the Texas plains to become a teacher, lawyer, state

legislator, candidate for governor, and eventually Oregon's first woman Supreme Court Justice. In this memoir, Justice Roberts reflects on her role as a

mother, wife, and political trailblazer.”

Up the Capitol Steps: A Woman's March to the Governorship



“Up the Capitol Steps is a personal and political memoir by Oregon's first woman governor, one of [49] women who have served as state chief executives in the history of the United States. Barbara Roberts offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of a woman's life in politics and aims to ‘demystify’ leadership by telling the story of her own unlikely rise to power.”

All of these items are available for Oregonians to check out, either via inter-library loan from their local public library or by coming in person to the [State Library](#).

This Old Library: The Notorious Elevator in the Stacks



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

The State Library Building was built in 1939. Since then, it has had a number of renovations, including an additional stairwell, a seismic upgrade, air conditioning, a new freight elevator, and refurbishment of the main elevator.

One thing that hasn't changed is the elevator in the stacks.

The Library's physical collection is stored in the stacks: metal bookshelves on five tiers, which are the equivalent of floors, but don't necessarily correspond to the other floors in the building (that's another story!). The stacks are equipped with two elevators: One was decommissioned several years ago, and it displays a sign saying, "Caution. Do not use. Open hoistway. Not an exit." The other, however, is still functioning, at least most of the time.

At slightly less than four feet by four feet, the stacks elevator is hardly roomy. Getting a book cart and a person inside can be challenging, if not impossible.

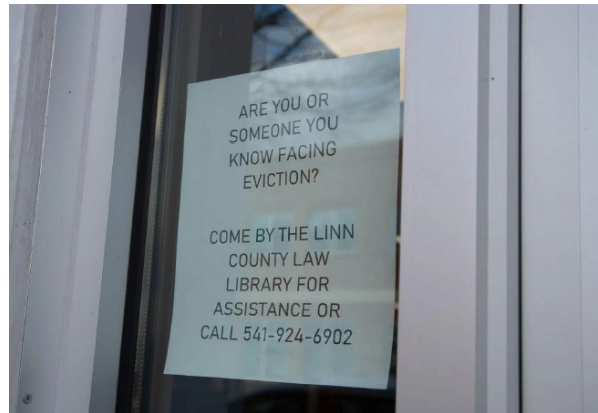
There's a gap between the floor of the tiers and the floor in the elevator big enough to drop a book down. And it definitely has an ambiance – or maybe it just smells funny.

Rather than the automatic doors that slide into the walls like we're used to, the stacks elevator has a hinged door that opens outward and a metal grate. If you don't close the metal grate properly, the elevator won't move. And, depending on how heavily it's loaded, the elevator may stop a few inches above or below the floor.

When you're riding the stacks elevator, there's nothing between you and the walls of the elevator shaft except the grate. The tier numbers are painted on the walls of the shaft, so you can see them as you go by.

A new, larger freight elevator was installed in the late 1990s. It's roomy, reliable, and doesn't have a distinctive smell. But for a ride back through time, the stacks elevator can't be beat!

Law Libraries in Oregon Use ARPA Funds to Lower Eviction Cases & Empower Renters



By Sadie Verville, Communications Analyst, Operations Division

In 2021, the State Library of Oregon received nearly \$3 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The State Library gave out over \$2.1 million of the ARPA funds in competitive grants to libraries, museums, tribes, and their partners so they could respond directly and immediately to community needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. For two law libraries, that meant helping tenants as landlord and eviction laws constantly changed in the tumultuous economy of the pandemic.

“Educating and Empowering Lane County Renters: Creating and Disseminating Legal Information Resources for Tenants” was created by the Lane County Law Library (LCLL) in partnership with Springfield Eugene Tenant Association (SETA) to do exactly what the project title says – get information into the hands of those who need it.

“Tenant/Landlord law is a common area of law that the law libraries (and libraries in general) get questions about,” says Brittany Young, Law Librarian and Program Supervisor for Lane County Law Library.

Their project has centered on getting guides in both English and Spanish out to the community on the most up-to-date landlord and tenant laws with a focus on tenant rights prior to being evicted. They partnered with [Grupo Latino de Acción Directa \(GLAD\) of Lane County](#) to ensure accurate translation. Currently, Oregon Law isn't translated into Spanish, making it more difficult for people to access.

In addition to the legal guides, LCLL used the grant money to create the SETA Hotline Manager, now known as Hotline Operations Director. The number of calls to SETA has doubled since then, making the hotline an essential resource to the community. While this has been the most used resource, the legal guides are still a huge help – they ensure people have 24/7 access to this information and reduce call volume.

From the start, equity was at the center of this project. When the library originally applied for the grant, they cited research pointing towards the need for a resource that supported, educated, and advocated for marginalized groups living in rental housing. The reports on the project so far have proven that need to be true. “The caller data has continued to suggest that a large number of renters needing legal information and help are people with a disability, senior citizens, people receiving public housing assistance, minority ethnic communities, and students,” says Brittany. Incredibly, [SETA's 2022 Hotline Report](#) states that they've resolved 2,376 cases, many of which were for the above listed groups. But they're aware this system still isn't perfect.

“SETA's and the LCLL's services are not saturated in the community,” says Brittany. “We know there are more people facing hardship that do not reach out to us or know about the resources we provide. This project helped to coordinate those efforts.”

Linn County Law Library (Linn CLL) also found ways to support their communities and make access to tenant law resources more equitable. Amber Boedigheimer, Law Librarian for Linn CLL, worked hard to create resources for her community when she learned about the financial impacts of COVID-19. “I felt compelled to initiate a project that would ultimately help people experiencing financial setbacks due to unemployment or reduced hours at work stay in their homes,” she says.

Linn CLL developed online eviction prevention clinics as well as a “warm line” that tenants can call for free to talk to attorneys for confidential information, support, and referrals. The warm line was created in partnership with Commons Law Center (CLC).

Some of the most frequently asked questions they’ve received so far have been on topics such as:

- Nonpayment of rent
- Rent hikes during the moratorium period
- Eviction cases during the moratorium, including 72- or 144-hour notices
- How to receive rental assistance payments
- Other sources of financial assistance

“These services do not discriminate in that they are available to all members of the Linn County community, not just those who can afford legal services. The capability to analyze issues through an equity lens, and to authentically engage diverse people and perspectives, are critical leadership skills that all librarians, including me, should have,” says Amber.

These resources have already proven a huge help as eviction cases in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties have gradually declined. Linn Library went a step

further and looked into the stats on evictions in these three counties to determine the leading cause, which they were then able to use to better educate and support the community.

“Persons at risk of eviction are finding value in the services that the law library and [Legal Aid Services of Oregon] provide,” Amber says. “Both landlords and tenants find that [access to information about] recent laws and regulations pertaining to evictions [is] necessary for educational purposes and for determining how to move forward with their legal issue(s).”

Both Brittany and Amber are looking forward to expanding these projects in the future to continue to serve their communities.

Public Libraries & The Talking Book and Braille Library – What’s the Difference?

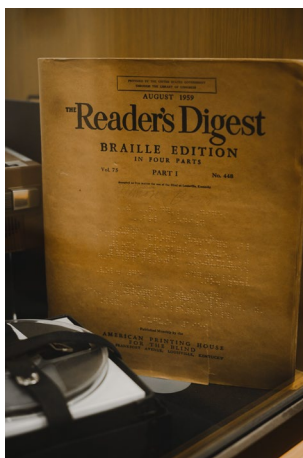


From the Talking Book and Braille Library

When you walk into a public library, you're greeted with displays full of new books. Covers face out, genres are clearly marked across the shelves, computers are available to find the call number for that nonfiction book you're looking for. You know exactly where to find your favorite authors. But what happens when sight isn't an option? That's where the Talking Book and Braille Library comes in.

"When you cannot read the newspaper anymore, or you cannot read books anymore, and you can't play your games anymore, and you can't do things you've done all your life, then all of a sudden you can read your books again – it saved my sanity," says Fran Baxter, a patron of the Talking Book and Braille Library.

Talking Books supplements traditional public libraries in many ways and supports them in others by providing a service that is tailored to a specialized audience with resources traditional libraries don't always have access to. For starters, there isn't a physical library for you to walk into and peruse – it's designed so that everything is done online or over the phone for ease of access to our patrons.



Public libraries often face limitations beyond their control because of physical space restrictions and funding. Talking Books is funded differently and has different restrictions because they solely serve an audience that experiences disabilities. The collection is one hundred percent digital, making it so those who need access to audio or Braille materials will always have it. "The most obscure book that is only borrowed every ten years is available right now, and it always will be," says Elke Bruton, Talking Book and Braille Library Program Manager.

Nearly any title by any popular author you can think of is there for patrons to check out. Each title is read by professional narrators, same as any audiobooks you would check out at your public library. The State Library also records titles of Oregon interest that are narrated by volunteers who have a background in professional audio narration. "We will not produce a subquality title," says Elke. The audiobooks narrated and produced by the Oregon Talking Book and Braille Library are then available for the rest of the national network of Talking Books libraries. Since 2019, the Talking Book studio has recorded and produced 28 titles, which have been checked out 3,870 times!

Any patron in the state who has a print disability can qualify, making it so those who need access to Talking Books have it and don't have to compete for audiobooks at their local library or navigate a potentially inaccessible process. The problem is that most people still don't know this resource even exists. "We talk about it anywhere and everywhere we can," says Elke, "whether that's reaching out to public libraires, sending messages via email, sending out newsletters... we are constantly trying to be in the back of people's mind. People don't think about us until after they already need us, or their family members need us."

Long-time patron, Barb Clark, first heard about the library from her nurse while she was in the hospital for an extensive time. After suffering an accident that left her completely blind, she faced a six-week recovery and spoke of how she had nothing to do. One of the nurses recommended that she apply for the Talking Book and Braille Library. That was 20 years ago; she says the rest is history. "I've always been a huge reader before I lost my eyesight, and nothing has changed," Barb says. "I live on a ranch. If I'm not down at the barn or in the garden, I have my Talking Book with me. It's my companion and my friend."

Other places patrons may hear about Talking Books is through service clubs such as Rotary or assisted living facilities. Mona Gerg, another long-time patron, talks about how her assisted living facility handles mailing all the library materials back and forth for her. She says she loves how prompt the library is and appreciates how helpful staff are at putting new books on her list. “I can’t say enough good about them. It’s fantastic.”

Mona also told us about the early days of receiving Talking Books – back then, they were on records. She remembers listening to books on records at the Salem School for the Blind, when she was eight years old. By 2003, Talking Books had switched to little cassette tapes, which she called “an adventure.”



The most common way patrons report hearing about the Talking Book and Braille Library is through friends and family. Currently, we’re not part of any organization’s regular process, but we would like to change that. “There are people everywhere who experience disabilities that prevent them from reading print materials: students in school, folks living independently or in facilities, individuals in custody. It happens everywhere, so how do we get to all those people?” Elke says. The goal is to build an information army by sharing this library with as many people as possible, “so five years from now, if it’s something you need or something your neighbor needs, the memory of our talk surfaces.”

Take a moment and consider some of the people in your life who might benefit from knowing more about the Talking Book and Braille Library. Have them [fill out an application](#) for the library today!

Welcome Janelle Youngblood!



Janelle Youngblood recently joined the State Library as the E-Resources and Reference Librarian for the Government Services division. She'll be managing the electronic and online research and reference resources for state employees, including the databases and learning tools that we offer to support state agencies' research projects. She'll also act as a reference librarian, further assisting with state employees' research needs.

Prior to joining the State Library, she worked for the Office of the Minnesota State Attorney General as an analyst and writer. She attended library school online, when she started working at the Hillsboro Public Library (Ore.) where

she remained for five years doing project management and user experience work. Prior to joining the State Library, she worked as an on-call Readers' Services Librarian at the Tigard Public Library, staffing both the reference desk and the children's desk. Janelle also serves on the Oregon Library Associations' Library Development and Legislation Committee. She lives in Hillsboro with her family.

In her free time, Janelle enjoys reading, baking, serial crafting, gardening, and anything outside. She volunteers as a musician and librarian for the Hillsboro Symphony Orchestra, her local community orchestra. Her favorite books to read are contemporary romance because "who doesn't love a happily ever after?" Her favorite authors include Chloe Liese and Olivia Dade, who both write about neurodiversity, body positivity, and mental health.

Library Support Will Miss Rock Star, Max Robinson!



By Buzzy Nielsen, Program Manager, Library Support and Development Services

The Library Support division has been fortunate to have Max Robinson on the team as a Library Consulting Assistant. Max was hired to a limited duration position in January 2022 to assist the division with distributing the nearly \$3 million of additional money that the State Library of Oregon received from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. During that time, Max's administrative support, keen attention to detail, accounting prowess, and many other skills proved invaluable.

Max's main task was very important: ensuring that the libraries and other organizations who received grants got paid! Using his previous accounting experience, he helped simplify reimbursements and Library Support's grant processes in general. His work will have lasting impact, making applying for a State Library grant easier for everyone moving forward.

Grantees found Max to be a friendly and welcoming voice, whether they interacted with him over email or in person. Max was a guest at the launch of Estacada Public Library's [new mobile library](#) and at an event highlighting the [Oregon Post Adoption Center \(ORPARC\) Resource Library](#). ORPARC's comment about Max is indicative of how he approached working with grantees:

"One final highlight we'd like to share is a reflection on the State Library of Oregon's thoughtful approach to grant making. ORPARC was delighted to host a State Library staff [Max Robinson] at a book release event for two of the participating consultants back in October 2022. Both ORPARC and the Consultants felt honored and impressed by this on-the-ground gesture of participation and support from the Library. Thank you!"

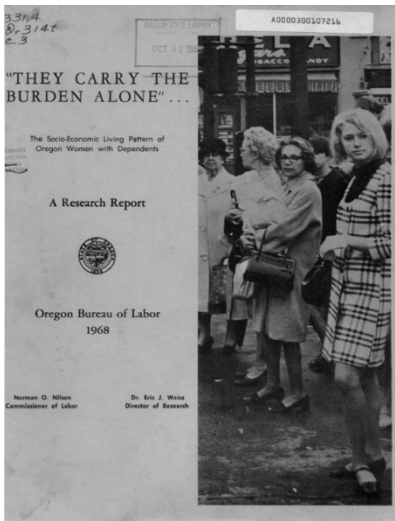
But Max's skills weren't limited to working on grants. Indeed, he could handle pretty much anything the division could think of. Enter data into the annual public library statistical survey to help time-strapped rural libraries? Done! Streamline the

process of getting school library staff connected to our statewide resources? A breeze! Completely rethink and improve upon Library Support's process to track information about libraries around the state? Sure! Oh, and how about completing a master's degree in library and information science in between all this work? No problem!

Max's impact goes beyond just the Library Support division. In his time at the State Library, he served as a key member of the agency's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) workgroup. Thanks to Max's passion and hard work, the agency now has a monthly EDI book club that has recently expanded across the Columbia to include the staff from the Washington State Library.

A lot happened in a year thanks to Max. While Library Support is sad that his time in the division has ended, luckily for the State Library, Max didn't go far. In February, he joined the Talking Book and Braille Library as its Administrative Specialist and Recording Studio Coordinator, where he can put his background in audio and radio to work. Like his role in Library Support, Max will provide administrative support to the Talking Books division. Additionally, he will coordinate Talking Books volunteers and oversee the recording studio, where new audiobooks are recorded for folks who are blind and print-disabled. Thanks for all that you've done for libraries across Oregon, Max. You're a rock star!

OrDoc of the Month: She Carries the Burden Alone



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

March is Women's History Month.

The history of Oregon includes many amazing women, like Sarah Winnemucca, Tabitha Moffatt Brown, Abigail Scott Duniway, and Beatrice Morrow Cannady. Women have been instrumental in all aspects of Oregon history, though frequently in ways that get little notice.

In 1968, the Oregon Bureau of Labor published [*They Carry the Burden Alone: The Socio-economic Living Pattern of Oregon Women with Dependents: A Research Report.*](#) It reports the special challenges that faced women who were the sole wage-earners in their households. (Please note: this report uses language that is no longer considered appropriate and may be offensive.)

Among the obstacles they faced, the women were frequently confined to low-wage jobs, felt that society viewed them negatively, and reported feelings of isolation in the dual role of wage-earner and parent or caretaker.

In the 55 years since this report was published, women in Oregon have made great strides in achieving equality but still face many of the same challenges. [The Oregon Commission for Women](#) works to promote equality for women and girls in Oregon.

CONTACTS

Library Support & Development Services Manager

[Buzzy Nielsen](#), 971-375-3486

Talking Book & Braille Library Manager

[Elke Bruton](#), 971-375-3509

Government Information & Library Services Manager

[Caren Agata](#), 971-375-3483

Chief Operating Officer

[Susan Westin](#), 503-378-5435

State Librarian

[Wendy Cornelisen](#), 503-378-4367

Connections is published monthly by the State Library of Oregon, and was formerly known as *Letters to Libraries Online*.

Mission

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.



[Click here if you wish to change how you receive this newsletter or unsubscribe.](#)

Our mailing address is:

State Library of Oregon, 250 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Copyright ©2022, All rights reserved.