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LSCA Title II and public library construction in Oregon

Jim Scheppke
State Librarian

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The Corvallis-Benton County Public Library used the traditional method of funding, a bond measure, to finance its latest remodeling project. An earlier remodeling project at that library had the distinction of being the first LSCA-funded project in the country. — the editor

During the past 15 years, Oregon has seen more library construction than at any time in its history. New public and academic libraries have been constructed and older facilities have been expanded and improved in many communities and on many campuses throughout the state.

Much of the public library construction that we have seen was stimulated by the availability of federal funds granted by the State Library. Since 1983, Congress has appropriated public library construction funds under Title II of the Library Services and

Construction Act (LSCA). As the following map and table illustrate, roughly \$3.7 million in LSCA money has helped fund 43 projects since 1983. These 43 projects represent about one fifth of all the public libraries in Oregon.

The LSCA Title II program began in the mid-1960s. In fact, the Corvallis-Benton County Library in Corvallis was the first library in the country to be awarded an LSCA Title II grant. A number of Oregon libraries benefited from the program in the 1960s and 1970s. During the Nixon administration, support for the program waned, and no funds were appropriated for it by Congress for about a decade.

Funding for LSCA Title II was renewed by Oregon's own Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, who became chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee in the early 1980s. Always a champion for libraries, Hatfield used his new leadership position to secure an appropriation for LSCA Title II. He saw his opening in an emergency jobs bill designed to combat the effects of the deep recession of the early 1980's. Because the jobs bill would fund many construction projects, Hatfield seized the opportunity to

fund library construction as part of the bill. The 1983 jobs bill put money back into LSCA Title II for the first time in a decade, and Title II has continued to be funded ever since.

Securing appropriations for LSCA Title II has never been easy. But Hatfield has always made it a priority to use his leadership position to make it happen. By 1994, the U. S. Department of Education estimated that about \$267 million dollars of LSCA Title II funds had been used to improve 1,530 public library facilities throughout the country.

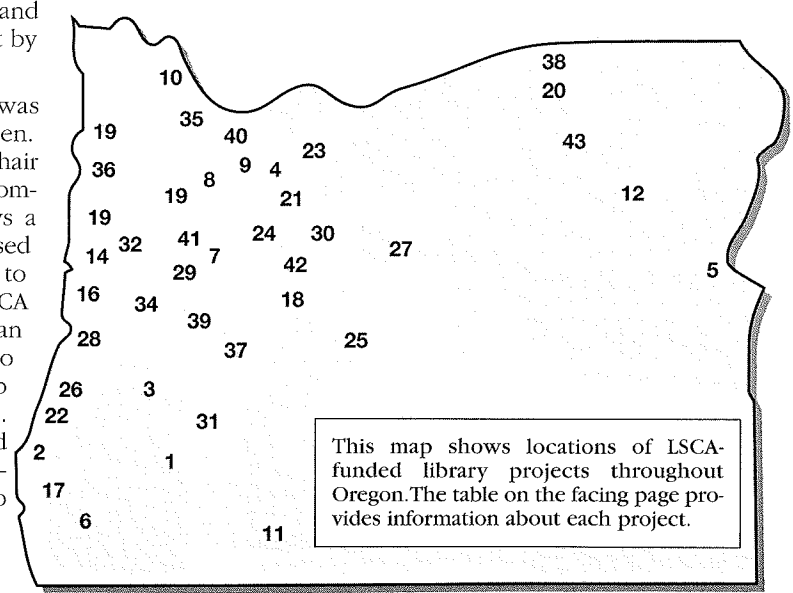
The impact of Title II funds in Oregon has been tremendous. Many communities have been motivated to plan and fund improved public libraries, thanks to the stimulus provided by the availability of Title II funds. As the table on the facing page indicates, \$3.7 million in Title II funds has helped leverage more than \$26 million in local support for public libraries in Oregon.

Sadly, availability of LSCA Title II funds appears to be coming to an end. The House and Senate have both passed reauthorizations of LSCA, which is now called the Library Services and Technology Act, that omit federal funding of public library construction. The stimulus this program has provided will be missed, particularly in the rural communities that have been the focus of Oregon's Title II grant program.

If we have indeed seen the last of LSCA Title II, we shouldn't be saddened as much as we should be grateful for the amazing record of library improvement that LSCA Title II has set in the state during the last 13 years. Let us also be especially grateful for the role that Sen. Hatfield has played in helping us build better public libraries, both in Oregon and throughout our country. **Q**

LSCA Title II and Public Library Construction in Oregon

by Jim Schepcke
State Librarian



LSCA Title II Grants Since Resumption of Funding in 1983

	Location	Project No.	LSCA Funds	Local Funds	Total Project	Date Completed
1.	Camas Valley	2-83-1	\$13,350	\$12,972	\$26,322	27-Jan-84
2.	Coos Bay	2-83-2	\$54,223	\$60,375	\$114,598	30-Jun-84
3.	Drain	2-83-3	\$201,000	\$352,217	\$553,217	30-Jul-87
4.	Gladstone	2-83-4	\$35,548	\$52,352	\$87,900	20-Dec-87
5.	Huntington	2-83-5	\$11,862	\$11,627	\$23,489	18-Sep-87
6.	Myrtle Point	2-83-6	\$51,510	\$52,995	\$104,505	30-Oct-84
7.	Salem	2-83-7	\$55,290	\$55,290	\$110,580	21-Aug-84
8.	Sherwood	2-83-8	\$126,549	\$144,978	\$271,527	25-Nov-85
9.	Tualatin	2-83-9	\$201,000	\$500,000	\$701,000	29-May-85
10.	Clatskanie	2-85-1	\$51,000	\$69,650	\$120,650	17-Dec-86
11.	Klamath Falls	2-85-2	\$10,000	\$10,735	\$20,735	15-Apr-86
12.	La Grande	2-85-3	\$18,364	\$18,463	\$36,827	9-Jul-86
13.	Newberg	2-85-4	\$101,000	\$1,494,000	\$1,595,000	18-Oct-85
14.	Newport	2-85-5	\$51,000	\$798,345	\$849,345	14-Jan-86
15.	Seaside	2-85-6	\$68,740	\$72,010	\$140,750	2-Mar-86
16.	Yachats	2-85-7	\$17,500	\$20,720	\$38,220	11-Feb-87
17.	Bandon	2-86-1	\$75,000	\$88,645	\$163,645	21-Feb-87
18.	Stayton	2-86-2, 2-87-2	\$135,502	\$298,601	\$434,103	4-Dec-89
19.	Manzanita	2-86-3	\$98,265	\$105,000	\$203,265	13-Jul-87
20.	Hermiston	2-87-1	\$95,543	\$633,881	\$729,424	19-Jun-89
21.	West Linn	2-87-3	\$95,543	\$1,469,473	\$1,565,016	18-Oct-89
22.	North Bend	2-88-1	\$95,543	\$1,682,968	\$1,778,511	31-Mar-89
23.	Sandy	2-88-2	\$95,544	\$414,768	\$510,312	18-Aug-89
24.	Wilsonville	2-88-3	\$95,544	\$746,396	\$841,940	24-Mar-89
25.	Sisters	2-89-1	\$115,000	\$115,821	\$230,821	5-Dec-89
26.	Lakeside	2-89-2	\$39,127	\$48,167	\$87,294	12-Dec-89
27.	Madras	2-89-3	\$126,175	\$196,833	\$323,008	10-Apr-90
28.	Florence	2-90-1	\$135,641	\$1,264,359	\$1,400,000	16-Nov-90
29.	Dallas	2-90-2	\$90,428	\$392,119	\$482,547	8-Aug-90
30.	Canby	2-90-3	\$86,810	\$638,954	\$725,764	7-Aug-90
31.	Roseburg	2-90-4, 2-91-1	\$126,160	\$3,198,840	\$3,325,000	3-Mar-95
32.	Toledo	2-91-2	\$126,160	\$136,832	\$262,992	15-Apr-93
33.	Lincoln City	2-92-1	\$112,466	\$498,534	\$611,000	2-Jun-94
34.	Philomath	2-92-2	\$112,465	\$704,117	\$816,582	22-Apr-96
35.	Scappoose	2-93-1	\$112,396	\$562,707	\$675,103	7-Aug-95
36.	Pacific City	2-93-2	\$112,395	\$388,405	\$500,800	11-Mar-96
37.	Albany	2-94-1	\$23,750	\$26,250	\$50,000	10-Feb-95
38.	Hermiston	2-94-2	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$96,000	
39.	Monmouth	2-94-3	\$125,000	\$1,456,780	\$1,581,780	21-Jul-95
40.	Portland	2-95-1	\$94,451	\$5,290,000	\$5,384,451	
41.	West Salem	2-95-2	\$94,452	\$485,548	\$580,000	3-Nov-95
42.	Silverton	2-95-3	\$94,451	\$1,260,000	\$1,354,451	
43.	Echo	2-96-2	\$72,000	\$221,498	\$293,498	
TOTAL			\$3,701,747	\$26,100,225	\$29,801,972	
Percent of total			12.42%	87.58%		

Long before LSCA, Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy gave many cities and towns their first permanent library buildings. These buildings came with strings attached: A city had to provide a suitable site for the building and support a public library annually at a cost of at least 10 percent of the Carnegie grant.

The table below lists the Carnegie libraries in Oregon as well as the amount of the original grant. The story at right gives us a look at the restoration of Oregon's first Carnegie library, the Multnomah County Central Library in Portland.

— the editor

Carnegie Public Libraries in Oregon

	Location	Established Before Carnegie Grant?	Amount of Grant	Date	Used as Library in 1996?
1.	Albany	No	\$12,500	8-Apr-11	Yes
2.	Ashland	Yes	\$15,000	25-Jun-09	Yes
3.	Baker City	Yes	\$25,000	13-Dec-07	No
4.	Dallas	Yes	\$10,000	7-Dec-11	No
5.	Enterprise	Yes	\$5,000	31-Jan-13	Yes
6.	Eugene	Yes	\$10,000	14-Dec-03	No
7.	Grants Pass	No	\$12,500	18-Nov-03	No
8.	Hermiston	No	\$5,000	6-Jan-15	No
9.	Hillsboro	No	\$10,000	3-Nov-13	No
10.	Hood River	No	\$17,500	3-Dec-12	Yes
11.	Klamath Falls	No	\$20,000	14-Mar-13	No
12.	La Grande	Yes	\$12,500	2-Apr-13	Yes
13.	McMinnville	Yes	\$10,000	6-Jan-12	Yes*
14.	Marshfield	Yes	\$12,500	28-Apr-13	No
15.	Medford	Yes	\$20,000	6-Jan-11	Yes*
16.	Milton	No	\$7,500	6-Jan-15	Yes
17.	Newberg	Yes	\$10,000	18-Mar-11	Yes*
18.	Ontario	Yes	\$7,500	3-Dec-12	No
19.	Oregon City	Yes	\$12,500	23-Dec-11	No
20.	Pendleton	Yes	\$25,000	6-Jan-15	Yes**
21.	Portland	Yes	\$165,000	21-Feb-01	Yes* (Central)
22.	Portland	•	•	•	Yes (St. Johns)
23.	Portland	•	•	•	Yes (N. Portland)
24.	Portland	•	•	•	No
25.	Portland	•	•	•	No
26.	Portland	•	•	•	No
27.	Portland	•	•	•	No
28.	Salem	Yes	\$27,500	24-Dec-07	No
29.	The Dalles	No	\$10,000	9-Mar-07	No
30.	Union	Yes	\$5,500	25-Apr-11	Yes
31.	Woodburn	Yes	\$10,000	14-Jan-14	Yes*

*Original library facility has had extensive expansion or improvement.

**New library location under construction.

Sources: Carnegie Libraries, George Bobinski, ALA, 1989; Oregon State Library.