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Oregon Library Association legislative agenda

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WHY DO IT?
why do it?

The OLA's legislative agenda is based on the belief that libraries are key to providing fair and equitable access to information in the 21st century and a dedication to lifelong learning.

By the year 2000, critical information policy decisions will have been made at the national, state and local levels that will impact profoundly libraries of all kinds and the publics they serve. As the nation moves to build an information superhighway, the public good will be best served by ensuring that some fundamental information values and ethics guide its development.

OLA will mount vigorous, long-term efforts to educate and inform the profession, the public, and policy makers about the issues and decisions facing them as we all move toward full implementation of the information

superhighway. Library educators must be involved in revising educational and research goals that enable and empower individuals to use information to the fullest extent. New continuing education and staff development opportunities for working professionals must be provided to prepare them to respond to the rapidly changing social and information environment. Local library staff must be supported in efforts to inform and involve the general public in substantive discussions related to their information future.

OLA will actively seek partnerships and coalitions to further its legislative agenda.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Intellectual Freedom

Libraries and librarians uphold and protect the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know by providing their users with ready and equal access to ideas and information that reflects the multiplicity of view points on which a democratic society depends.

Libraries and librarians are committed to providing access to information in all formats, including electronic formats and Internet connections, to the individuals they serve, particularly those who are barred from other access.

Lifelong Learning and Literacy

Libraries and librarians play key roles in encouraging children and young people to develop a lifelong interest in reading and learning, and in providing them with literacy skills that will enable them to be full participants in society.

Libraries serve as learning centers, assisting students and scholars in meeting educational objectives, and

supporting people of all ages in their lifelong pursuit of self-education.

Equitable Access

Equal, ready and equitable access to information must be protected for all.

Full access is possible only when all of the public has full intellectual participation: sufficient awareness of the importance of information, a genuine say in the critical decisions related to information and sufficient education to transform information.

Libraries are the most logical and effective mechanisms to provide the broadest range of government information, nationally, statewide and locally, in every community; and libraries will urge the government to affirm its obligation to create and widely distribute government information as a necessary resource for participation in a democratic society.

Stewardship of Public Resources

Libraries serve the public interest by being economical, credible, locally-based points of access for traditional and new information formats and services.

Libraries and librarians are committed to resource sharing and partnerships that promote equity of access to information.

Libraries, the foundations of our nation's information infrastructure, make significant contributions to other national, state and local programs to further societal goals.

Librarians' unique expertise in selecting, analyzing, organizing, preserving, and distributing information in all formats is a significant resource for making the emerging information environment meaningful and accessible to the public.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: 1996-2001

To fulfill these principles, OLA has identified the following areas for emphasis in the next six years.

Intellectual Freedom

Legislation: OLA will support specific legislation that reaffirms libraries' role in providing wide access to information, and it will oppose specific measures that could restrict this access.

Ballot Measures: OLA will oppose any measures that can lead to censorship, and will support any measures that reaffirm and protect the principles of intellectual freedom.

Lifelong Learning and Literacy

Children's "Ready to Read" Grants: OLA will work to increase state aid to children in order to support libraries in their mission to advance literacy and contribute to lifelong learning for children.

See Agenda page 20

**Oregon Library Association
Legislative Agenda**

*1995/96 Library Development
and Legislation Committee*

Nan Heim

(continued from page 5)

elected officials, and legislators. Do not assume that people know about the potential impacts of Measure 47 on your library!

- This is a good time to ask your patrons, perhaps through a survey, what kind of service they want. It's also an excellent time for a story in your local newspaper.
- To communicate to others, you need to know what's going on. OLA's Legislative Committee will make an extra effort in the months ahead to keep you informed. At the same time, you need to keep on top of what's happening in your community and share it with us. Good news or bad, let us know, so we can share the information with others and use it to build a case for library revenue.
- The narrow passage of Measure 47 is not a mandate for anything except perhaps property tax relief. It is most certainly not a mandate for wholesale cuts in library services! ❏

OLA Legislators of the Year

OLA has always seen the wisdom of acknowledging our friends. The Legislative and Development Committee selects legislators who have been particularly supportive of OLA's legislative agenda. Listed below are members of Congress who helped Oregon's as well as the nation's libraries and members of the Oregon Legislature who have protected freedom of speech, championed new ways of financing library services, and improved the quality of library services for Oregonians.

Edith Green*	Wayne Morse*
Mark Hatfield*	Stan Bunn
Joyce Cohen	Darlene Hooley
Denny Jones	Bob Pickard
Frank Roberts	Cliff Trow

**Honorary Life Members*

Agenda

(continued from page 6)

Equitable Access

Electronic Information: OLA will actively participate in information public policy discussions taking place within the state in order to assure equitable access to electronic information.

Government Information: OLA will continue to support the state government's obligation to create and disseminate easy-to-use government information, readily available at no or low cost to the public, and outside the exclusive control of private interests.

STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Resource Sharing: While continuing to support funding and development of Reference Referral Centers and Net Lender Reimbursement, OLA will work to secure funds for direct loan reimbursement.

Information Highway: OLA will seek ways, through legislation or other means, to enable even the poorest and most isolated libraries to connect to Internet

services. The goal is making every library an interconnected, information access point for the widest range of information seekers, particularly those who have no other way onto the information superhighway.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

State Library Funding: OLA will continue to support adequate funding for operation of the Oregon State Library.

Additional State Aid: OLA will continue to work towards increased state support of all types of libraries, including school, public and higher education libraries, in addition to supporting "Ready to Read" grants.

Other Legislative Initiatives: OLA will study and respond to any legislative initiatives that affect the ability of Oregon libraries to follow the Guiding Principles. ❏