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OLA QUARTERLY

Resources for the Underserved

With all the excitement and emphasis on technology concerns in the world of libraries and information today, we wanted with this issue to highlight developments taking place in a different realm. There are encouraging efforts focusing on meeting the underserved or underserved library service needs of constituencies that may have gone previously unnoticed and unsolicited. According to Oregon State Library data, over ten percent of Oregon's population falls into these categories. In this issue *OLA Quarterly* features diverse challenges to providing critical services to those in our communities who need us most but have difficulty in securing those services. These articles offer examples of creativity and thoughtful planning resulting in the implementation of effective programs that address these needs.

Articles in this issue include a discussion of the challenges facing learning disabled patrons and recommendations for increasing their success in using library services; the innovative ways in which technology is connecting isolated patrons and shrinking distances in eastern Oregon; examples of how one established program and a newly developed one in urban communities are working to better the chances for children's educational success through literacy programs; a model for responding to the need of a specific population within an urban community to preserve and access its history; and, a review of the library benchmark, one of the Oregon benchmarks, which supports the goal of providing adequate library services to all of the state's citizens.

We hope that these articles will inspire all of us to acknowledge the changing characteristics and needs of our communities and will encourage us to be innovative in responding to them.

Kristen Kern, Portland State University
Wendy Stewart, Portland State University
Guest Editors

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Correction

The Winter 1999 issue of OLA Quarterly should have been labeled Volume 4 Number 4, but we inadvertently labeled it Volume 5 Number 1. The current issue is the real Volume 5 number 1. We apologize for any inconvenience to your catalogs that our error may cause!

The *OLA Quarterly* is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association. Please refer questions and input regarding the quarterly to:

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