



State Library *of Oregon*

Government-to-Government Report 2023

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Available online at <https://www.oregon.gov/library/Pages/Library-News.aspx>



About the agency

The State Library of Oregon is an independent state agency established under ORS 357. It has four divisions that carry out its statutory and other functions.

- [*Government Information and Library Services*](#)
The Government Services division collects, in print and digitally, state publications, federal documents, and items on Oregon history and culture, making them available to the public and tribal nations. They also provide specialized library services to state government employees and the Legislature.
- [*Library Support and Development Services*](#)
The Library Support division provides grants, consulting, leadership, and services to support Oregon's academic, public, school, and special libraries and tribal nations in delivering literacy and information services to their communities.
- [*Talking Book and Braille Library*](#)
The Talking Books division delivers free audiobooks and Braille books to people in Oregon, including tribal citizens, who are print-disabled, whether due to visual, physical, or reading impairments.
- [*Operations*](#)
The Operations division supports the work of the agency's other three divisions by assisting with administration, information technology, finance, volunteer coordination, and communications.

Agency priorities

The State Library of Oregon is honored to work with the nine federally recognized tribal nations in Oregon and affirm their sovereignty. This commitment is stated in the agency's strategic priorities and objectives.

- [*2023-26 Strategic Plan*](#)
The agency's recently approved strategic plan includes an initiative to "Work together with tribal nations in Oregon to digitize and preserve documents of interest to indigenous peoples." More information about this initiative will be discussed later in this report.
- [*2023-27 Library Services and Technology Act \(LSTA\) Plan*](#)
The 2023-27 LSTA Plan lays out priorities and objectives for the agency's use of

annual federal LSTA funds to support library services statewide. One of the plan's objectives is to "Work with tribal nations in Oregon to support access to library, technology, and information services."

Formalizing Government-to-Government Relations

Buzzy Nielsen, Program Manager for the Library Support division, was recently appointed as the agency's first official tribal liaison. This appointment came after Buzzy completed Portland State University's (PSU) Certificate in Tribal Relations program in August. In his new role, Buzzy will:

- Act as the agency's point of contact for federally recognized tribal nations in Oregon and beyond.
- Connect tribal nations in Oregon with State Library and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) resources, grants, and staff.
- Coordinate and assist with projects and grant programs to support tribal nations in Oregon.
- Foster partnerships among the agency, tribal nations, and other organizations supporting indigenous peoples.

He will also carry out other government-to-government duties for the agency. Most recently, he began participating in the Legislative Commission on Indian Service's (LCIS) Cultural Resources Cluster (CRC).

Activities supporting tribal nations and Indigenous peoples

The agency engaged in several activities in support of tribal nations and Indigenous peoples in 2023.

Grants

While the State Library did not grant funds directly to tribal nations in 2023, it awarded or completed grants this year that supported Indigenous communities.

- *Warm Springs Community Action Team*
This nonprofit based in Warm Springs, on the Warm Springs Reservation, was awarded a \$5,000 grant to provide books and materials to youth in their summer program at Bridges High School as well as other organizations on the reservation, including the Early Childhood Education Center, Boys and Girls Club, and Warm Springs K-8 Academy.

- *Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland (NPWH)*
In 2021, the agency awarded \$20,000 to this Wallowa County-based organization to help make a short film about the 30th anniversary of Tamkaliks, NPWH's annual celebration honoring the original inhabitants of waláwa, the Wallowa country, and their return and connection to the land. The [film](#) was completed this year. NPWH includes citizens of several federally recognized tribal nations, including the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (OR), Nez Perce (ID), and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (WA).

Projects

Two projects were launched this year to marshal our agency's library skills to help preserve tribal and indigenous history and uplift tribal voices.

- *Digitization of tribal newspapers and Indian boarding school materials*
This year, the State Library entered a partnership with University of Oregon (UO) Libraries for a multi-year project to digitize and make available documents of interest to tribal nations and indigenous communities. The project was initiated by David Harrelson, Cultural Resources Department Manager and citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Maureen Flanagan Battistella, Research Anthropologist at Southern Oregon University. The State Library is funding a portion of a position at UO to coordinate digitizing documents.

The first phase of the project will focus on digitizing public-facing historical documents from Chemawa Indian School in Salem, such as yearbooks and newsletters, to help people affected by boarding schools reclaim their or their ancestors' histories. Thanks to David Harrelson, this phase of the project was supported by the LCIS CRC and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) through [Resolution #2023-04](#).

The second phase of the project, likely to begin in 1-2 years, will focus on digitizing the public-facing newspapers published by the nine federally recognized tribes. Titles identified as possibilities thus far include *Confederated Umatilla Journal* (CTUIR), *Klamath News* (Klamath), *Siletz News* (CTSI), *Smoke Signals* (CTGR), *Spilyay Tymoo* (CTWS), *The Voice of CLUSI* (CTLUSI), and older, out-of-print titles such as the *Klamath Tribune*.

- *Indigenous-focused metadata*
State Library staff have been working to use anti-racist, anti-oppressive descriptive language in both the agency's [catalog](#) and [digital collections](#). A

summary of these efforts can be found [here](#). Oppressive language is being replaced with more inclusive language. These efforts can involve replacing place names given by white settler communities with indigenous names.

This work is ongoing and extensive, as State Library staff often create new descriptive language for the unique materials held by the agency. That inclusive language may then be used by libraries and archives worldwide. Recently, staff in the Government Services division proposed a new official subject heading: “Whychus Creek (Or.)” The creek, previously “Sq*** Creek,” was renamed in 2006 to “Whychus”, meaning “the place we cross the water” in the Sahapatin language. The body of water lacked an official subject heading in the Library of Congress until staff proposed the one this year.

Information sharing and outreach

State Library staff regularly share information with tribal nations, provide information from and about tribal nations to Oregon libraries, and visit tribal nations and affiliated organizations.

- *Tribal library listserv*
The agency maintains an email list for tribal libraries and other people who provide literacy and information services in Oregon tribes. Staff regularly share opportunities for grants, training, and other resources.
- *Information sharing with libraries*
Staff share information from and about tribes with academic, public, school, and special libraries. For instance, the agency’s school library consultant regularly shared information about Tribal History/Shared History curriculum with school libraries.
- *Outreach and training*
In 2023, state library staff visited the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland, Museum at Warm Springs, Grand Ronde Tribal Library, and Tamástslikt Cultural Institute. Staff attended a preconference session about Tribal History/Shared History at the 2023 Oregon Library Association conference; the Grande Ronde Education Summit; and the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums conference.

As part of the PSU Certificate in Tribal Relations program, the agency’s Tribal Liaison attended the National Congress of American Indians Executive Council

Winter Session in Washington, DC, and the ATNI Midyear Convention in Worley, ID, hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. He also visited the Warm Springs and Umatilla Indians reservations.

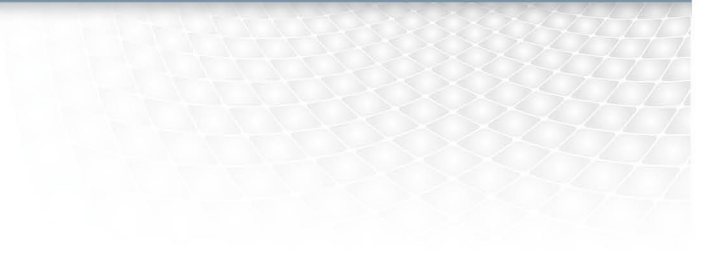
Goals for 2024

The State Library of Oregon will continue working together with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. Below are some of the projects planned for 2024.

- *Digitization of Chemawa Indian School records*
With the hiring of a coordinator by UO in early 2024, the digitization efforts described earlier will begin in earnest. Given strong interest from the tribal community, the initial focus will be on Chemawa Indian School yearbooks and newsletters. State Library and other staff will reach out to the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon, other tribes, and boarding school advocacy organizations to ensure the project is approached with consultation, compassion, and respect.
- *Digital collection exhibit on boarding schools*
The State Library has several other materials pertaining to Indian boarding schools in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Staff are analyzing those materials and will digitize several of them to produce a digital collection and exhibit, in conjunction with the Chemawa digitization efforts.
- *Tribal representative for the LSTA Advisory Council*
The LSTA Advisory Council advises the State Library on its use of federal LSTA funds from the IMLS. The approximately \$2.5 million in annual funds supports the delivery of literacy and information services by libraries and tribal nations throughout Oregon. The LSTA Advisory Council recently revised their bylaws to include a dedicated tribal representative, which will be filled in 2024.
- *Outreach*
With a new Tribal Liaison, there will be expanded outreach to tribal nations in Oregon, both in-person visits to tribes and participation in events such as the Governor's Government-to-Government Summit, the LCIS Cultural Resources Cluster, and other activities.
- *Grants*
The State Library continually seeks opportunities to support tribal projects with



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LSTA-funded grants. The expanded outreach will provide opportunities for discussions to see where grants may assist tribes to provide literacy and information services to their communities.

Tribal key contact

For more information about this report or the State Library of Oregon's work with the nine federally-recognized tribal nations in Oregon, please contact Tribal Liaison and Program Manager for Library Support Buzzy Nielsen at buzzy.nielsen@slo.oregon.gov or 971-375-3486.