



OREGON JUDICIAL
DEPARTMENT

Section 5, Chapter 224, Oregon Laws 2011
OJD SURVEY OF COUNTY LAW LIBRARY SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

January 2013

Sec. 5, Ch. 224, Or Laws 2011 – OJD Survey of County Law Library Services

Introduction

This report is submitted to the Legislative Assembly pursuant to ORS 192.245.

In 2011, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2367 with an effective date of January 1, 2012 (Sec. 5, ch. 224, Or Laws 2011, adding ORS 9.825). This section requires that, every odd-numbered year, the State Court Administrator survey the county law libraries and report to the Legislative Assembly regarding county law library services, as noted below:

ORS 9.825 Law library surveys; reports.

(1) The State Court Administrator shall conduct every two years an electronic survey of all county law libraries and the law library services provided by counties. The survey must request information on:

(a) The extent to which counties provide access to statutes, rules, cases, and other legal information, whether through printed materials or electronic access;

(b) Staffing in county law libraries;

(c) The number and types of persons who use county law libraries and other law library services;

(d) The hours that county law libraries are open, or access to law library services is available;

(e) The hours that law library staff assistance is available, either in person, by telephone, or through the Internet; and

(f) The extent to which persons who use county law libraries and law library services have free or low-cost public, on-site access to computers, printers, copiers, and other electronic devices provided by the counties.

(2) The State Court Administrator shall submit a report to the Legislative Assembly in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 based on each survey conducted under this section. The report must be delivered to the Legislative Assembly not later than February 1 of each odd-numbered year. [2011 c.224 §5]

Survey Findings

In September 2012, the State Law Library and Appellate Court Services Division in the Office of the State Court Administrator (SCA) solicited this information from each of Oregon's 36 counties. The SCA received responses from all but five counties (Curry, Grant, Lake, Morrow, and Sherman). Several counties returned multiple responses (2 responses each were received from counties Jackson, Jefferson, Linn, Marion, and Wheeler; 3 were received from Wasco County).

In abbreviated form, the responses to the statutory questions are shown below for the 31 reporting counties:

(1)(a) The extent to which counties provide access to statutes, rules, cases, and other legal information, whether through printed materials or electronic access;

17 (54.8%) indicate that they have electronic access to all of the state and federal statutes;

31 (100 %) indicate that they have print statutes for the state of Oregon.

15 (48.4%) indicate they have electronic access to all state and federal administrative rules;

22 (70.96%) indicate that they have print administrative rules for the state of Oregon.

18 (58.1%) indicate they have electronic access to all state and federal cases.

The types of resources and the format of their availability is described in Question 6. Whether the Oregon Session Laws are available in print form is answered, by 20 responders, in Question 7.

(1)(b) Staffing in county law libraries;

The counties' responses varied widely and were largely narrative but, it appears that 7 counties (Coos, Baker, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler, Gilliam, and Malheur) all report having no staff at all and 3 counties (Harney, Lincoln, and Polk) appear to report having some uncompensated personnel. Please see information in Question 8.

(1)(c) The number and types of persons who use county law libraries and other law library services;

Of the 24 responders, 15 (62.5%) count patron type; 9 (37.5%) don't. See question 10. Question 11 then embellishes the information that is collected, and question 12 provides estimates for those counties who do not specifically track that information.

(1)(d) The hours that county law libraries are open, or access to law library services is available;

Question 13 explains that 17 (53.1%) of the 32 responders indicated that their county law library is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, where the remaining 15 (46.9%) are not. Those that are not open the traditional hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, explain their hours further in question 14.

(1)(e) The hours that law library staff assistance is available, either in person, by telephone, or through the Internet;

Of the 31 responders, 8 (or 25.8%) provide assistance to patrons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; 23 (74.2%) do not. Those that do not provide staff assistance during the traditional hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, explain their services further in question 16, and the method of service in question 17.

(1)(f) The extent to which persons who use county law libraries and law library services have free or low-cost public, on-site access to computers, printers, copiers, and other electronic devices provided by the counties.

The 33 responders explain the variety of equipment available to provide free or low-cost public access to law library materials in question 18; and the subsequent question, number 19, explains further detail about the specific cost.

Additionally, the Oregon Council of County Law Libraries has information on local resources on the Oregon Library Association website at:

http://www.olaweb.org/assets/documents/legalref_OCCLL_DB_May2012.pdf. The table provides information about electronic resources available at the various county law library locations. Information regarding the State of Oregon Law Library is absent from the table inasmuch as this table represents county, rather than state, law library reference. A link to this summary and the full survey results may be found at

<http://www.oregon.gov/soll/Pages/Reports/sollreportsandsurveys.aspx>.