



OREGON JUDICIAL
DEPARTMENT

ORS 9.825 Report
OJD SURVEY OF COUNTY LAW LIBRARY SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

January 2015

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Introduction

This report and two-page executive summary 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 statute requires that, every two years, the State Court Administrator survey the county law libraries and report to the Legislative Assembly regarding county law library services, not later than February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

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 November 2014, the State of Oregon Law Library (SOLL) in the Office of the State Court Administrator (SCA) solicited information from each of Oregon's 36 counties. SOLL received responses from 22 counties. Fourteen counties (Baker, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Grant, Hood River, Jefferson, Lake, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Union, and Wallowa) did not respond to repeated attempts for information.

In abbreviated form, the responses to the statutory questions are shown below for the 22 reporting counties. If a question was not answered by all, a lower response number will be listed.

1. *The extent to which counties provide access to statutes, rules, cases, and other legal information, whether through printed materials or electronic access:*

14 (63.6%) indicate that they have electronic access to all of the state and federal statutes;

20 (90.9%) indicate that they have print statutes for the state of Oregon;

14 (63.6%) indicate they have electronic access to all state and federal administrative rules;

14 (63.6%) indicate that they have print administrative rules for the state of Oregon;

14 (63.6%) 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/survey.

2. *Staffing in county law libraries:*

21 counties responded. Answers varied widely and were largely narrative but, it appears that 2 counties (Gilliam and Harney) report having no staff at all and 3 counties (Wasco, Wheeler, and Klamath) appear to report having some uncompensated personnel. Please see information in Question 8/survey.

3. *The number and types of persons who use county law libraries and other law library services:*

Of the 22 responders, 12 (54.5%) count patron type; 10 (45.5%) do not. See Question 10/survey. Question 11/survey then explains the information collected, and Question 12/survey provides estimates for those counties who do not specifically track that information.

4. *The hours that county law libraries are open, or access to law library services is available;*

Question 13/survey explains that 10 (47.6%) of 21 responders indicated that their county law library is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, where the remaining 11 (52.4%) 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/survey.

5. *The hours that law library staff assistance is available, either in person, by telephone, or through the Internet:*

Of the 22 responders, 7 (31.8%) provide assistance to patrons from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; 15 (68.2%) 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/survey, and the method of service in Question 17/survey.

6. *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 22 responders use a variety of equipment to provide free or low-cost public access to law library materials as shown in Question 18/survey; Question 19/survey gives further detail about the specific cost.

Additionally, the Oregon Council of County Law Libraries has information on local and electronic resources on the Oregon Library Association website at: <http://occll.org/>. A link to this summary and the full survey results, and those of previous years, may be found at: <http://soll.libguides.com/countylawlibrary>.