

ANALYSIS

Item 47: State Library of Oregon Increased Information Access Costs

Analyst: Kim To

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for the State Library of Oregon by \$335,000 to accommodate increased information technology access and rent costs.

Analysis: The State Library of Oregon (SLO) serves as a resource for Oregonians seeking government information. The agency is statutorily required to preserve state agency publications and to make them accessible through the Oregon Digital Collection website. Due primarily to expansive COVID publications issued by state agencies, the in-house server that retains Oregon documents needed additional storage capacity. Because replacement of the server was cost-prohibitive, the agency opted to contract with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to migrate content to a DAS hosted server resulting in an increase data storage cost of \$52,000 for the 2021-23 biennium.

The Library also provides the public with access to research databases such as O'Reilly and Medline. The costs for these subscriptions as well as the technology to support them, including an integrated authentication system, have increased by \$198,000.

In addition, during the development of the 2021-23 budget, the limitation for the agency's rent was shorted by \$85,000, due to an incorrect square footage number being used.

In order to cover these costs, SLO is requesting a \$335,000 Other Funds limitation increase.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for the State Library of Oregon by \$335,000 for increased information technology access and rent costs.

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$335,000 for increased rent and information technology costs.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon State Library (Library) has experienced an increase in costs related to usage of and an increase in costs for information technology services it provides to its customers. To provide customers with easier access to library materials, the library upgraded to an integrated authentication system, which standardized the verification of eligible patrons for library services from the Government Services division. Also, during COVID, the publications issued by the state increased significantly. The increase in data storage for those documents brought the library's storage capacity to an extremely low level. Rather than replace the library's storage system at significant cost, the library migrated its existing content and new data to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) State Data Center. The limitation increase associated with these two items is \$250,000.

In 2021, DAS started a re-survey of the library's space using a technology that more accurately measures square footage. With the new survey, the library signed a contract for the space in January 2022. The agency needs additional limitation to true up its rental costs in the amount of \$85,000.

The library's existing revenues provide sufficient coverage for the expenditure limitation increase. With the increased Other Funds expenditure limitation, the library's ending balance will provide just over seven months of operating costs.

Legal Reference: Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 308, section 3, Oregon Laws 2021, for the Oregon State Library for the 2021-23 biennium.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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of Oregon

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October 24, 2022

Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The State Library of Oregon respectfully requests an increase in the Other Funds expenditure limitation in the amount of \$335,000 to accommodate payments for costs that have increased since the legislatively adopted budget was approved.

Agency Action/Need:

During the current biennium, the State Library has seen increased costs that are higher than standard inflation for the information resources that our patrons access for their research needs, such as O'Reilly and Medline. Additionally, the costs for the technology the Library utilizes to provide access to these services have also increased. The State Library upgraded to an integrated authentication system that allows for ease of access for our patrons.

The State Library was also beset by end of life technology issues that required significant upgrades to continue our statutorily obligated duties. Due to the expansive COVID publications issued by state agencies, the in-house server that housed Oregon documents became dangerously low on storage, and the cost to replace was prohibitively expensive. Migrating the content to a DAS provided solution was the most cost-effective option, but still outside the LAB budget.

In total, the increase in these information resources and access costs for the current biennium is \$250,000.

In 2021, DAS initiated a planned re-survey of the State Library's space in order to utilize new technology that accurately measured the square footage. Once the contract was signed in January 2022, retroactive to the start of the biennium, the State Library realized that the rent increase of 19%, compounded by a budget reduction that occurred during the last budget cycle, could not be supported by the limitation allocated. The increase in this cost for the current biennium is \$85,000.

Action Requested:

The State Library requests additional Other Funds expenditure limitation of \$335,000 for this biennium, to carry forward into the budget process for AY 25.

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.

Legislation Affected:

Chapter 308, 2021 Oregon Laws 2021, Section 3

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Cornelisen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Wendy Cornelisen
State Librarian