



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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January 2, 2007

John Popko, Chair
Orbis Cascade Alliance Council
c/o Lemieux Library
Seattle University
P.O. Box 222000
Seattle, WA 98122

Dear Mr. Popko:

I am writing to you in your capacity as the Chair of the Council of the Orbis Cascade Alliance to ask for consideration of some arrangement whereby the Oregon State Library could participate in the Summit union catalog.

What motivates this request is a possible change in Oregon's plan for housing federal documents under the Federal Depository Library Program. As you may know, Portland State University, Millar Library, has been the Regional Federal Depository for Oregon for many years. For a variety of reasons, this arrangement may change in 2007. Attached to this letter is a plan developed by the Documents Interest Group of Oregon (DIGOR), a unit of the Oregon Library Association, that would spread the responsibility for collecting and making federal documents accessible among four research libraries in Oregon: at PSU, the University of Oregon, Oregon State University and the Oregon State Library. Each library would eventually house a retrospective and prospective collection of federal documents for a specified selection of federal agencies. The State Library would take on the designation as the Regional Federal Depository and serve in a coordinating role to assure that the partnership of the four libraries works effectively to make federal documents accessible to Oregonians.

In order for this arrangement to work effectively, we believe the Oregon State Library would need to participate in the Summit union catalog. As the only research library among the four partners not already in Summit, we think it would be difficult to have an effective resource sharing network for federal documents if we are relegated to using the traditional interlibrary loans methods that we now use. The DIGOR plan endorses the idea that for our new plan to work effectively "the Oregon State Library should participate in the Orbis Cascade Alliance at the level appropriate to assure that the Library's holdings are represented in the Summit catalog."

The Oregon State Library celebrated its centennial in 2005. We have been building a collection since our founding in 1905. Our current holdings consist of over 700,000 volumes. In addition to federal documents, the Oregon State Library's greatest and unique collection strength is in the area of Oregon documents (documents published by State and Territorial governments) which

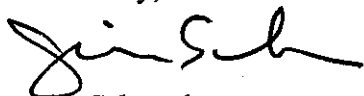
include monographs, serials, audio-visual items and maps from 1851 to the present. The Oregon State Library also has strong collections in Oregon history and culture, and books by Oregon authors before 1990. This collection mostly serves the reference and research needs of state government agencies. Our circulation is very small and we do not compete, in any way, with the Salem Public Library. I am certain that if we were able to participate in Summit, we would be a substantial net lender to other Orbis Cascade Alliance libraries.

The Oregon State Library shares an Innovative Interfaces Millennium ILS with Willamette University.

I want to clarify that the Oregon State Library, in seeking to participate in the Summit union catalog has no wish to become a full member of the Orbis Cascade Alliance. We have no desire to serve on the Council or participate in other aspects of the Alliance that are only open to members of the Alliance. We understand and support the mission of the Alliance as "a consortium of academic institutions in Oregon and Washington." What we seek is some sort of affiliate membership or other means of participation in Summit for the purpose of effectively and efficiently making federal documents and other holdings accessible to other research libraries. We realize that the Orbis Cascade Alliance has not established such a means of participation. We would hope, however, that the Council might consider how our request could be granted in a way that would be mutually beneficial for the Oregon State Library and for your academic library members.

I hope the Council will discuss this request and let me know what other information I might provide to you to inform your deliberations. I will appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Scheppke
Oregon State Librarian

Attachment

✓ c: John Helmer, Executive Director, Orbis Cascade Alliance

Recommendations on the Regional Federal Depository Collection and Services for Oregon

Endorsed by the Documents Interest Group of Oregon on October 31st, 2006

1. The Oregon State Library should pursue designation as a Regional Federal Depository.

- Portland State University can no longer devote sufficient resources to the administrative, outreach, and continuing education services required of a Regional Federal Depository Library. PSU has a continuing interest in housing portions of the Regional Federal Depository, and desires to remain in the Federal Depository Library Program as a selective federal depository.
- The Oregon State Library may draw on existing agency resources to coordinate outreach and continuing education activities and assume administrative duties of the Regional. Such activities fall within the Library's mission to provide quality information services to Oregon state government, and to provide leadership and services to improve library services in the state.
- DIGOR will assist the Oregon State Library in organizing outreach, mentoring, training, and continuing education activities for Oregon libraries, as required by the Federal Depository Library Program.

2. Portland State University, as the currently designated Regional Federal Depository Library, should initiate discussions with University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and the Oregon State Library to determine interest in housing certain portions of the Regional depository collection in Oregon. Once these interests have been identified, the establishment of selective housing agreements with these institutions for portions of the Regional collection should be pursued.

3. The Oregon State Plan for Federal Depository Libraries should be updated to reflect the changes in the distribution of the Regional collection.

4. In order to facilitate resource sharing among the Oregon libraries that may house portions of the Regional collection, the Oregon State Library should participate in the Orbis Cascade Alliance at the level appropriate to assure that the Library's holdings are represented in the Summit catalog.

5. To facilitate resource sharing with libraries outside of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, depository libraries housing portions of the Regional collection should make every effort to catalog this material and set holdings information in OCLC's WorldCat database.

6. Institutions that house portions of the Regional collection should provide Oregon libraries with reference services associated with materials in their collections.

