

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Perry Stokes

For the May 13, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting

ADMINISTRATION

IMLS Status – On May 8, State Librarian Wendy Cornelisen announced that multiple states previously issued termination notices for their 2024 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grants had received reversal notifications. These grant funds will now be distributed. Oregon, a party to a lawsuit challenging the March 14 Executive Order, received a temporary stay on the cuts on May 6. The Oregon State Library has since received an award letter confirming 50% of its 2025 grant, with assurance that the remaining funding will follow.

While this development is positive, IMLS remains under serious threat. The President's proposed 2026 federal budget includes plans to eliminate IMLS, along with other cultural agencies such as the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). I will be participating in strategic planning discussions later this week with representatives from Sage Library System, Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO), and the State Library of Oregon.

FACILITIES

Interior Painting Scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend – A three-day closure of the Baker branch is scheduled for maintenance (Saturday–Monday). I have been working with staff and the contractor to finalize color selections.

New Signage for Baker Branch – We are collaborating with Oregon Sign Company to add decal signage to the public entry doors, including the main entrance and meeting rooms. Signage will include the library name and hours of operation. Additionally, a new sign for the drive-thru window is in production.

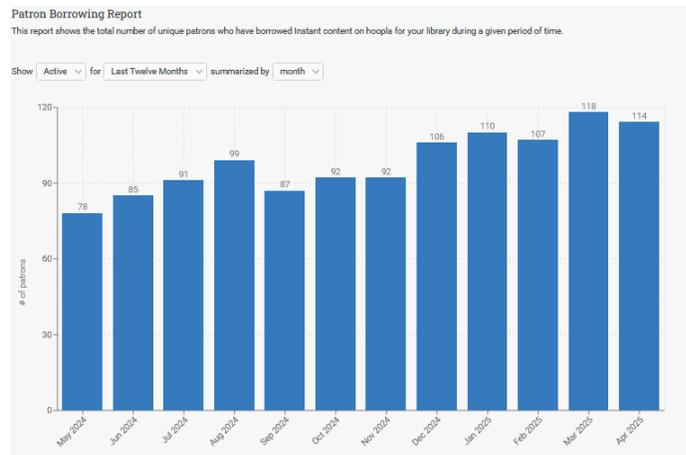
Business Manager Office Update – Christine is reviewing options to update her desk furniture to improve functionality and workspace efficiency.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Free Comic Book Day – May 3 – BCLD hosted its 9th annual Free Comic Book Day event, thanks to our sponsor, The Collector's Outpost. I traveled to Meridian, Idaho, to retrieve our comic allocation, which we shared with the La Grande Public Library. Public participation and the variety of titles were lower than in previous years, but the event was still well-received.

Digital Collections

- **Consumer Reports Database** – We have added online access to *Consumer Reports* through our EBSCO subscriptions. For the first year, the cost will be partially offset by savings from the discontinued BookChat service.
- **Hoopla** – Usage continues to grow steadily. We have now fully expended the initial \$10,000 deposit. Current monthly costs are around \$750, with projections increasing to approximately \$1,000/month in the next fiscal year.
- **Kanopy** – I am exploring the addition of Kanopy, a streaming movie service tailored to public libraries, to our OverDrive/Libby offerings. Like Hoopla, Kanopy uses a Pay-Per-Use (PPU) model, so we will need to monitor loan volume for budget sustainability.



Volunteer Reception – May 7 – A well-received light brunch reception was held on May 7 to honor our volunteers. Staff member Sylvia Bowers did an outstanding job coordinating the event, which featured excellent food and festive decorations.

PERSONNEL

Oregon Library Association (OLA) Conference – April 23–25 – I attended this year’s OLA Conference in Eugene. It featured numerous inspiring and informative sessions, as well as meaningful networking opportunities. Guest author presentations were a highlight.

Senior Planet Training – Through a partnership with the Age+ advocacy organization, I am participating in a five-week AARP “Senior Planet” training. This program, part of the Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) initiative, will enable me to lead future technology classes for older adults in our community.

Jury Duty – I have been summoned for jury duty through August. I am coordinating with the Baker County courts to ensure I am excused from service on dates critical to library operations, such as Board and Budget Committee meetings.

TECHNOLOGY

Public Computer Workstation Upgrade – With Microsoft ending support for Windows 10, IT Manager Jim White is preparing to replace many public workstations with new computers running Windows 11. We are also reviewing usage trends and will likely reduce the total number of stations.

Phone System Conversion to VOIP – On May 12, Facilities Specialist Ed Adamson successfully migrated the Baker branch’s phone system from landlines to a Voice over IP (VOIP) system. The new system is expected to yield cost savings of approximately 90%. We are evaluating the cost-effectiveness of maintaining current fax services, especially considering potential impacts on local businesses that rely on providing fax services as a revenue stream.