

# OREGON STATE LIBRARY

Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee (SDLAC):  
A committee of the LSTA Advisory Council  
Annual Report: June 2013 to July 2014

**Project Name:** Statewide Database Licensing Program

**Date Submitted:** August 28, 2014

**Submitted By:** Stephen Cox, SDLAC Chair

## 1. Summarize the overall purpose of the grant project:

### A. Scope

The Statewide Database Licensing Advisory Committee (SDLAC) is a committee of the LSTA Advisory Council (which advises the Oregon State Library Board of Trustees). SDLAC's primary responsibility is to advise on the drafting of requests for proposal, to review proposals, recommend database(s) to license, and to advise about the allocation of costs (when necessary) to libraries participating in the Statewide Database Licensing Program. For more information see the Statewide Database Licensing Program at: <http://www.oregon.gov/osl/LD/Pages/technology/sdlp/index.aspx>.

### B. Summary of Licensed Databases (June 2013 thru July 2014)

- *Gale Databases*, August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2014: The package of databases provides access to full-text resources covering many topic areas. After the contract was awarded, *GREENR* and *U.S. History in Context*, were added at no additional cost and with the full cost frozen for the three year term.
- *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2014: Provides a small collection (about 30 depending on library type) of electronic reference books.
- *Gale Opposing Viewpoints*, August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2014: Provides pro/con summaries on controversial issues.
- *LearningExpress Library*, November 1, 2010 – October 31, 2015: Provides career and education skill building courses and practice tests.

### C. Supports LSTA Five-Year Plan

The Statewide Database Licensing Program supports two goals of the LSTA Five-Year Plan Goal 1: Provide access to information resources and library services and Goal 4: Develop information literacy skills. See the full plan here: <http://www.oregon.gov/osl/LD/LSTA/1staplanfinaljune27.pdf>.

## 2. Summarize the project results to date:

### A. Narrative Summary

Gale/Cengage provides usage statistics for each database. A summary of user sessions by library type is presented along with percent of total usage. Both FY13 and FY14 are presented to show changes in usage over time. Gale adheres to the COUNTER standard.

At 49% and 50%, OSLIS/K12 Library patrons continue to be the strongest users of the Gale/Cengage databases in each fiscal year. In FY2014, usage of LearningExpress Library has become more evenly distributed among all types of libraries, although Public and Tribal Library patrons continue to be the heaviest users. Learning Express Library upgraded to a new platform in January 2014, which may also account for the increased usage in FY2014.

B. Outputs Summary: *SDLP Annual Database Usage by Library Type*

**Gale Databases**

Library Type	FY 2013		FY 2014	
	Database Sessions	Percent of Total	Database Sessions	Percent of Total
<b>Academic</b>	1,156,582	24.8%	1,079,733	21.8%
<b>Public/Tribal</b>	1,220,078	26.2%	1,392,307	28.1%
<b>OSLIS/K12</b>	2,287,597	49.0%	2,476,869	50.0%
<b>Total</b>	4,664,257	100%	4,948,909	100.0%

**Learning Express Library**

Library Type	FY 2013		FY 2014	
	Database Sessions	Percent of Total	Database Sessions	Percent of Total
<b>Academic</b>	6,050	13.9%	13,010	26.4%
<b>Public/Tribal</b>	31,981	73.4%	22,895	46.4%
<b>OSLIS/K12</b>	5,486	12.6%	13,369	27.1%
<b>Total</b>	43,517	100.0%	49,274	100.0%

**3. Discuss significant developments:**

A. RFP Evaluation and Contract Award

From August to October 2013, SDLAC conducted several rounds of evaluations of RFP proposals. A more detailed explanation of the evaluation process can be found in the SDLAC's procurement and recommendation report to the LSTA Council:

<http://www.oregon.gov/os/LD/technology/sdlp/SDLAC-2013Recommendation.pdf> DAS representatives conducted an additional round asking for a Best and Final Offer option. This last round resulted in revised cost proposals from the three top scoring vendors: The Gale/Cengage reduced their price by 23%, ProQuest LLC by 7% and EBSCO Industries, Inc. by 4% making Gale/Cenage the successful proposer. While all vendors met the basic criteria established in the RFP; their costs (and proposed products)

differed significantly. Despite scoring criteria weighted to emphasize content, price was still a significant factor in part because the commitment to provide the resources at no cost to school libraries and other small public, academic, and tribal libraries. SDLAC recommended that the State Library move forward with negotiating a contract with Gale/Cengage recognizing this would meet basic information needs in Oregon. SDLAC further recommended that if contract negotiations resulted in significant cost savings, that it would identify additional resources to pursue to benefit the K-12 and academic community.

The new contract with Gale/Cengage was finalized in April 2014, and began on August 1, 2014. A new database (National Geographic Kids) was added to the contract, as well as an upgrade to a more complete business database, Business Insights: Global. Also, 275 additional ebook titles were added to the Gale Virtual Reference Library subscription. Even with those additions, the contract confirmed an annual cost savings of \$50,000 for the next two years. As a result, SDLAC recommended exploration of options to use the savings to pursue a general online encyclopedia product to serve the K-12 library community and an online product to better serve the content needs of the academic library community.

#### B. Addressing Academic Library Concerns

SDLAC recognized academic librarians' concerns about lack of desired content in the Gale/Cengage databases. After exploring several options for using the cost savings resulting from the new contract, SDLAC recommended that the entire cost savings for the upcoming FY be used to support the Orbis Cascade Alliance's group subscription to EBSCO's Academic Search Premier package. With State Library Board approval, \$50,000 was given to the Orbis Cascade Alliance to help off-set the cost of the EBSCO group subscription for 35 Oregon academic libraries in June 2014, reducing the overall subscription cost for each library by 9%.

#### C. Addressing School Library Concerns

SDLAC also learned through the evaluation of RFP proposals that there is a strong desire in the K-12 library community to have the SDLP pursue a general encyclopedia product such as *World Book* or *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Committee members shared that even though a few school districts have been able to secure funding for this type of resource; typically smaller districts are not able to support an encyclopedia product. The Oregon State Library's online reference system, home-schooled students and public library patrons are additional audiences for a general encyclopedia product.

State Library staff suggested that the Oregon Department of Education be contacted to pursue more collaborative opportunities to provide resources to the K-12 community, including the possibility of joint funding of resources. SDLAC urged OSL staff to pursue these opportunities.

#### D. Committee Membership Changes

Jennifer Parkhurst, representing Position #6 (OASL Membership) resigned from the SDLAC in August 2013. Stephen Cox of Salem-Keizer Public Schools was appointed as

a replacement, and was elected Chair in Feb. 2014. Two new members began their term in July 2014: filling Position #1 representing public libraries serving under 25,000 people is Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney from Driftwood Public Library (Lincoln City) and in Position #2 representing academic libraries from the Oregon University System is Emily Miller-Francisco from Southern Oregon University. Returning to serve in Position #3 (OASL Membership) is Garnetta Wilker, now retired, formerly of Portland Public Schools. The Committee thanks outgoing members Sheryl Eldridge and former Chair Jane Nichols for their service during a very busy year.

**E. Communications with Library Community**

SDLAC continued to make efforts to improve communication with the Oregon library community about its work. In addition to information updates through the LIBS-OR email distribution list, SDLAC Chair Jane Nichols and OSL staff member Arlene Weible presented information about the procurement process and challenges in the SDLP program at the Oregon Library Association Annual Conference in April 2014. Information from that presentation can be found at: <http://nwcentral.org/ola-2014-conference-what%E2%80%99s-new-not-new-statewide-database-licensing-program>

**4. Discuss future plans:**

**A. RFP for Testing and Skills Building Resource**

LearningExpress Library upgraded to a new platform in January 2014 and continues to see a steady growth in usage. Given that the contract ends in October 2015, SDLAC has agreed that it is desirable to continue to provide this type of resource through the SDLP. The State Library staff have been advised that they will need to go through an RFP process to establish a new contract. The SDLAC will advise the staff as it moves forward with this procurement. A tentative timeline is listed below:

**RFP Timeline 2014-2015**

Aug 2014	Initiate RFP with DAS; OSL begins draft
Oct 2014	SDLAC meeting – feedback to OSL on requirements
Dec 2014	RFP finalized
Jan 2015	RFP opens/closes
Feb 2015	Evaluate proposals (with reps from SDLAC); vendor identified
Feb-Mar 2015	SDLAC recommendation to LSTA Council
May 2015	LSTA recommendation to OSL Board
Jun 2015	OSL Board approves vendor
Jun-Oct 2015	Finalize new contract
Oct 31, 2015	Current LEL contract expires

**B. Collaborative Opportunities with Oregon Department of Education**

OSL staff will be meeting with Oregon Department of Education staff to discuss potential collaboration on the provision of resources to the K-12 community. The SDLAC will be discussing strategies for supporting these efforts, including possible information gathering activities.

### C. Refining Scope of SDLP

It is clear that the SDLP has reached a crossroad while trying to accommodate several constraining factors:

- Oregon libraries have distinct content needs (Academic, Public, School) resulting in some needs being met while others are not.
- The current proprietary information environment is ill-suited to meeting such distinct needs because the information that would meet all needs sits with multiple vendors.
- Given the resources currently allocated to the SDLP, the Program has few options outside of taking advantage of vendors' "can't miss" deals which do meet the SDLP budget and some content needs.

While last year's RFP effort attempted to break out of the single-vendor mold, the constraining factors resulted in an approach that only partially addresses the true scope of Oregonians' information needs. SDLAC will discuss ways to expand the SDLP budget or consider redefining the program's scope.