

# OLAQ

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## Volume 22 Issue 2 Introduction

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# Introduction

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Challenge. We, in public libraries, are familiar with that word. Books and policies are frequently “challenged”, and we continue to face the challenge of offering more with less. The Aspen Institute’s “Dialogue on Public Libraries” was created to help advance the work that public libraries are doing to address community challenges and to support the transformation of public libraries in the digital age. This groundbreaking initiative seeks to change the public’s perception of libraries and concludes that the long-term health of libraries is essential to the long-term health of the communities they serve. Four strategic opportunities for action are identified to guide the continuing transformation:

- Aligning library services in support of community goals
- Providing access to content in all formats
- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of public libraries
- Cultivating leadership

Oregon libraries have risen to the challenge and addressed these opportunities. This issue of the *OLA Quarterly* showcases libraries and library workers applying the four Aspen Institute “Strategies for Success.”

In Multnomah County, Ross Betzer shares a unique project which is representative of interests in the local area. By strengthening community connections in unexpected ways, The Portland Brew Stories project is an example of all four “Strategies” being put into play, albeit unexpectedly.

Catherine Jasper from the Deschutes Public Library illustrates vision and innovation in her article which beautifully articulates “providing access to content in all formats.”

Kate Lasky from the Josephine Community Libraries and Douglas County Library System’s Harold Hayes speak passionately about securing and protecting the future of their libraries, and Erica Findley describes how EveryLibrary has supported their goals of long-term sustainability by empowering their efforts.

Nan Heim and Jane Corry illustrate how engaging the community through new services supports community goals in a new and surprising way.

We live in challenging times ... the Aspen Institute’s work helps us meet those challenges by aspiring us to embrace the boldness that helps create leadership both inside and outside the library community.

We hope you find this issue as enjoyable as we did in helping to create it — and as inspiring. 🐘



## OREGON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



ANN ROSEBERRY  
*OLAQ Guest Editor*

Ann knew in second grade that her world would be libraries. Her career goals included working in public, academic, and special libraries and earning a doctorate. Her current mission is recruiting the best and brightest to live library lives and to provide support to library administrators.

PAM NORTH  
*OLAQ Guest Editor*

Pam North has been involved in libraries since the second grade when she was selected as student assistant to the school librarian. She has over 20 years of experience working in public, academic and school libraries. As the former director of the Sherwood Public Library, Pam was instrumental in planning and designing a new 14,000 square foot library building. Her expertise also encompasses management of rural, small and medium-sized public libraries, library leadership, continuing education, and writing and editing for professional library publications.

