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OLA's vision 2000

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Lynn Chmelir initiated OLA's *Vision 2000* during her year as OLA president. She believed that librarians ought to develop a vision of what library service for the state of Oregon should be as we entered the next millennium. Thus, from the beginning, the vision was to transcend OLA's specific interests and identify general directions for library development in the state. The plan suggests goals for the Oregon State Library; the Oregon State System of Higher Education; and other library, cultural and educational organizations.

OLA's *Vision 2000*

by Melvin R. George

Chair, *Vision 2000* Committee

Delpha and Donald Campbell
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The *Vision 2000* Committee attempted to consult the entire Oregon library community in creating the vision and its planned implementation. The committee, whose members represented a cross-section of the library community, developed a statement of goals and objectives that it shared with library leaders across

the state. Then, the Committee invited members of the Oregon library community to write vision Statements, brief documents of two to four pages that outlined the writer's vision of the library future based upon a goal or objective. More than two dozen such statements were received. The committee printed and distributed the vision statements broadly, inviting additional comment. Response was good, especially from leaders of the local White House Preconference Speak Ups, which were held throughout the state. After much revision and discussion, the final *Vision 2000* document was approved by the OLA Board on August 16, 1991.

The plan outlines four standards for library development to be achieved in Oregon by the year 2000.


1. The Oregon library community is committed to quality local library collections and services for each Oregonian.
2. The Oregon library community is committed to unrestricted access to the state's collection and library services for each Oregonian.
3. The Oregon library community is committed to excellent, well-trained staff at every Oregon library.
4. The Oregon library community is committed to creating a more positive image of libraries in Oregon as service-oriented institutions supportive of the needs of society in general.

Attached to each standard is a series of objectives and to each objective there is a series of assignments for specific action indicating who is responsible for an action and when the task should be completed. Thus, OLA, OEMA, SLA, and the State Library were to meet the goals and objectives by the year 2000. In 1995, Jim Scheppke, state librarian, issued a progress report with assistance from Deborah Jacobs and Mary Ginnane. For each objective they identified whether limited progress, some progress, or substantial progress had been made. They judged that

substantial progress had been achieved for eight of the twenty objectives, that some progress had been made in nine objectives, and that limited progress had been made in only three objectives.

They judged that substantial progress had been made through a number of actions:

- The State Library's publication of lists of core reference collections
- The establishment of the LINK reference centers
- Progress in cooperative collection development
- Growing agreement among libraries to subscribe to the OLA resource sharing code
- Shared development of automated systems in a number of communities and counties
- Increased legislative awareness of the needs of library development in Oregon
- Legislative approval of support for PORTALS and ORBIS
- Development of fax protocols and substantial growth in networked dissemination of digital information
- Introduction of an accredited MLS program in Oregon
- Continuing, award-winning efforts to support intellectual freedom in Oregon

While it is unlikely that all of the goals, objectives, and actions in the document will be completed by the year 2000, there is evidence that *Vision 2000* has served as a catalyst for improvement of library services in Oregon. Through *Vision 2000*, OLA has fulfilled one of its chief aims: to improve the delivery of information and cultural materials to all the citizens of the state. 

“Basic Vision: Every Oregonian will be served by public, school, academic, and special libraries which have secured adequate staff, collections, facilities, and technology to meet the needs of their primary users. Moreover, every library will participate fully in a coordinated statewide network that will provide every Oregonian with access to all of the library resources in the state.”

—*Vision 2000*:

*A Strategic Plan for Library Development
in Oregon Through the Year 2000.*