

Quick facts about the Linn Libraries Consortium Resource Sharing Project

The libraries of Albany, Harrisburg, Scio, and Sweet Home are using grant funds to implement a resource sharing program, in which we share library materials using a courier. Using this program, patrons can access over 200,000 titles with the click of a button.

Rationale

- Consortial resource sharing will allow us to make smarter use of our collections, saving taxpayer money and providing an increased level of service.

Benefits of this program

- Sweet Home residents will have access to over 5 times as many titles as they did previously. Scio and Harrisburg residents' options will grow 15 times.
- Courier service will provide an additional communication channel for area libraries.

Background

- The libraries of Linn County have a history of cooperation, which has allowed us to maximize our investment of taxpayer money.
- The libraries of Albany, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Scio, Sweet Home, and Linn-Benton Community College use a shared installation of Evergreen to manage patron information and library catalogs, which reduces costs and provides additional functionality.
- These libraries currently participate in the Oregon State Library's Passport program, which allows library patrons limited access to other library's collections. Resource sharing will allow us to streamline staff workflows by taking advantage of features in the Evergreen system. It will also allow patrons to make better use of the Passport program by eliminating its requirement that patrons travel to certain libraries to use their materials.

Potential financial impacts

- Courier service: our grant will pay for courier service until June 30, 2017.
 - Though this is a pilot project, we have begun planning a sustainable future for this service. Using the existing LBCC courier, for example, we could deliver materials to the Lebanon and Sweet Home libraries for a minimal cost.
- Damaged and lost materials: Patrons will pay replacement costs and fees to the library that owns the item. Libraries can recoup any losses through their replacement fees.
- Overdue fines: Initially, patrons will pay overdue fines to their own home library. Some libraries may gain or lose some money this way, but it will not be a large amount.
- Staff time: based on data from peer institutions in the SAGE consortium, we will not see an overwhelming impact on staff resources. Availability of the courier service will also make libraries less reliant on time-intensive interlibrary loan workflows.

Potential unavailability of local titles

- Each library will protect popular, valuable, or fragile titles for use by their own patrons only.