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Volume 25  
Number 2 *Oregon Libraries are for Everyone:  
Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion*

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10-24-2019

## Volume 25 Issue 1 Introduction | From the Guest Editor

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### Recommended Citation

Hirsch, E. G. (2019). Volume 25 Issue 1 Introduction | From the Guest Editor. *OLA Quarterly*, 25(2), 3-4.  
<https://doi.org/10.7710/1093-7374.1983>

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*OLA Quarterly* is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association | ISSN 1093-7374

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### Erratum

Removal of name of person who did not work on issue

# From the Guest Editor



ELAINE HIRSCH

Elaine is the Associate Director of Watzek Library at Lewis & Clark College and currently serves as OLA President. OLA has been the focus of Elaine's professional service for over twenty years and she is constantly inspired by her innovative, socially conscious, and dedicated association colleagues. Her MLS is from Indiana University.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) are at the center of our work in libraries. A cornerstone of democracy, libraries provide free and open access to services and resources for everyone in our local communities. This year EDI is a specific area of focus for the Oregon Library Association (OLA), and related initiatives include this issue of *OLA Quarterly* (OLAQ), the development of an EDI Plan for the association, and setting Equity, Diversity, Inclusion as the annual conference theme to provide a concentrated opportunity for OLA members to engage in related conversations. Together OLA is exploring EDI in its many connotations and intersections, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, physical and mental abilities, body size, religious beliefs, political ideologies, and geography.

This issue shares the important work that a wide variety of libraries are doing to help create equitable and inclusive communities in Oregon. It includes contributions from public, academic, and school libraries, and authors include staff, librarians, administrators, and graduate students in library and information science. On the coast, Driftwood Public Library in Lincoln City has updated its policies to better serve patrons experiencing homelessness, and Coos County Library Services District has initiated an early literacy program partnership with a local correctional institute to reach at-risk children and their caregivers. A Portland Public Schools



librarian, who is also an Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) Equity Fellow, shares her experiences at ALA, and we'll learn how Oregon State University Libraries are helping to fill the gap of information on African American history in Wikipedia.

Explore how Sherwood Public Library developed diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies through a broad strategic planning process and how a middle school librarian in Beaverton initiated a culturally relevant book club in her school community. This issue concludes with an article on Somali language sewing classes at Multnomah County Library, EDI micro-actions undertaken at Oregon Health & Science University Library by library and information science graduate student workers, and reflections from a retiring Youth Services Manager at Deschutes Public Library on “doing it right.”

Every issue of the OLAQ takes a tremendous amount of work from many people. Many, many thanks go to the contributing authors who came together to share their thoughts and experiences. A sincere thank you also goes to OLA Communications Committee Chair Charles Wood, as well as the twelve copy editors listed in the back matter. I also want to acknowledge Julie Weiss, who continues to provide remarkable graphic production for the *Quarterly*. Thank you all!

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