**Oregon Connecting To Collections Project**

An update for the board of the Oregon Library Association, a partner in this IMLS-funded project operated by the Oregon Heritage Commission.

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**Project History**: A handful of studies during the past 20 years have shown that besides money, the biggest need for collections care is training. An Oregon C2C Planning Grant (2010-2011) confirmed that, identified serious shortage of disaster plans by cultural organizations, and solutions. A year ago, the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded the Oregon Heritage Commission a grant to carry out a project aimed at beginning to solve those issues.

**Project Partners**: OLA, Oregon State Library, Oregon State Archives, Oregon Museums Association, Oregon Historical Society, Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, Northwest Archivists, Oregon Heritage Commission (project coordination).

**Project Goals**:

1. 30-50 additional libraries, archives and museums in all regions with disaster preparedness plans.
2. Ten organizations that had made no previous effort to create a disaster plan will have created a plan.
3. Volunteers and staff from 100 additional organizations will receive the knowledge and training to give better care to collections.
4. Creation of a statewide portal to relevant collections preservation information.
5. A network of mentors, statewide organizations and state agencies will energize libraries, museums and archives to obtain better care for their organizations’ collections.
6. Continued collaboration about libraries, museums, archives, statewide organizations and state agencies engendered through the C2C Planning Grant.
7. Reach most rural areas.

**Project Components**:

 Training Workshops. Website

 Heritage MentorCorps Heritage Collections Preservation Cabinet

**Results So Far**: Hundreds of people attending 23 workshops on collections care, disaster planning, and disaster response and recovery; formation and training of Heritage MentorCorps with three dozen volunteers; initial cabinet meeting.

**Still To Be Done**: Five workshops (Sept.-Oct.) MentorCorps announced publicly (late October); website launch (January 2014); mentor consultations with libraries, museums and archives (beginning November); presentation at OLA Spring 2014 Conference.

**How OLA Can Help**: Communication about MentorCorps; programs at OLA conferences; support for MentorCorps members to attend OLA trainings; other support identified by OLA.