The following list includes sample public law library service business model options. Funding model options are listed in a separate memo.

Creating a law library, and access to justice, services blueprint for the future is a task for the entire judicial system, the OSB, and the legislature - and Oregon public law librarians. Services should be aligned with research needs of local attorneys and pro se litigants and, with statewide coordination, duplicate costs and services would be minimized while increasing and improving service to all corners of the state.

FOUR LAW LIBRARY SERVICE BUSINESS MODELS

I. OREGON COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES, 2011-13

- Current statutes providing for county law libraries: 2011 ORS 9.815 et. seq.
- County Commissioners decide how to provide law library services to their constituents. Some county law libraries collaborate with public or academic libraries or local bar associations; others assign law library service responsibilities to district attorneys, county counsel, or county administrative offices.
- More information about Oregon County Law Libraries is available at the OCCLL website.

II. PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM MODELS

- Law library services would be provided to county residents through a municipal, county, or district public library or library system.
- E.g.: Washington County the Law Library, which currently reports to the County Administrative Office and the Circuit Court Presiding Judge might affiliate itself with the Washington County Cooperative Library Service (WCCLS). The affiliation could take a variety of forms, e.g. as a member library or as a WCCLS program. (Judges and litigants with active cases may still need some near-Courthouse law library services, but space needs could be minimal, e.g. conference room, non-remote access database workstations, an Oregon collection (not online).)
- E.g.: The Multnomah Law Library, a nonprofit corporation, might contract with the Multnomah County Public Library to provide law library services to the public (e.g. to businesses, students and teachers, potential self-represented litigants, etc.) Law library services for lawyers, judges, and litigants with active cases would be negotiated separately, since in or near courthouse law library services are often needed by the parties with active cases.

III. REGIONAL PUBLIC LAW LIBRARY MODELS

- Oregon county law libraries could reorganize into regional law library service organizations. They might have reporting responsibility to a statewide agency, e.g. the State Library or the State Law Library, but each regional unit could also remain responsive to the needs of its respective region’s constituents.
- Regional clusters might be centered in counties that already have dedicated law library staff, e.g. Pendleton (Umatilla), Bend (Deschutes), Roseburg (Douglas), Klamath Falls (Klamath), Medford (Jackson), Grants Pass (Josephine), and LaGrande (Union) counties.
The regional public law libraries would work closely with local public libraries. Public libraries in Oregon have a history of strong collaboration and support, from their Statewide Database Licensing Committee (http://oregon.gov/OSL/LD/technology/sdlp/index.shtml) to their regional library consortia and they and the Oregon State Library would be an invaluable information resource for the public law library managers who draft a regional law library service plan.

IV. STATEWIDE / HYBRID MODELS

Some administrative tasks (e.g. purchasing) and public service responsibilities (e.g. statewide e-reference) could be delegated to the State Library or State Law Library. Local law library services (e.g. reference, training, and outreach) would be provided by existing or selected county law libraries that would have authority from the state and their counties to create multi-county law library partnerships.

Two states, Minnesota and Ohio (see Note 1, below), have recently streamlined their county law libraries and self-help centers into hybrid state/county partnership business models.

Note 1:

**Ohio Model:** Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Judicial Conference, and a coalition of county law library boards and bar associations collaborated to draft the legislation. The new law created a County Law Library Resources Board (CLLRB) in each county whose members are appointed by county commissioners, judges and the prosecuting attorney. The CLLRBs are responsible for the maintenance of county law libraries, as well as managing the coordination, acquisition, and utilization of legal resources for the entire county. CLLRBs also have the power to create multi-county partnerships and contract with other CLLRBs, private entities, public agencies, and a state-wide consortium of CLLRBs. The consortium will catalog each library’s resources, facilitate state-wide resource sharing, negotiate contracts, and issue recommendations and guidelines to assist law libraries.

**Minnesota Model:** Minnesota county law librarians formed a “Minnesota Coalition of County Law Libraries” (MCCLL). It was modeled on a similar group formed earlier in Maryland. The Minnesota group meets regularly to share information about local county law library events and practices, and it has offered an educational program on county law librarianship. The group works with the Minnesota State Law Library’s (MSLL) county law library coordinator to communicate with those counties that are not actively part of the MCCLL. The MSLL county law library coordinator informs the county law libraries about items of interest at the state court level, attorney general actions or statements that impact law libraries or their policies, and passes along legislative items of concern.

Note 2:

The vast majority of local public law libraries around the country are organized as follows:

1. Quasi-private, associated with a county bar association, with or without member support, selected members of the public welcome (e.g. students, short term guest passes, etc.); bar or law library board set policy, or
2. Public, e.g. state, county, or city, and associated loosely (no law or contractual basis) with a state or county bar association serving in an advisory capacity, or
3. Public, e.g. state, county, or city, associated with a state or county bar association, by law or contract, serving in an advisory capacity or more, or
4. Public, one of the above, with member support, through dues or other type of member fee, or
5. Public, a department or branch of a county or city public library system (law library may be located in the public library or in a Public, a department or office of the county counsel or district attorney’s office or a city attorney’s (aka solicitor) office.