To: Oregon Legislature, Interim Judiciary Committee  
Bill Taylor, Counsel to the Judiciary Committee  

From: Laura Orr, Washington County Law Librarian  

Date: November 4, 2008  

Re: Proposal to form an Oregon Public Law Library Advisory Task Force  

I present the following idea as one other option the Oregon Interim Judiciary Committee may wish to consider in response to 2007 HB 2331 Budget Note* and consistent with the Committee’s interest in having the county law libraries explore legal research database group purchasing agreements:

I propose:

- The Oregon Interim Judiciary Committee members authorize the creation of an Oregon County Law Library Advisory Task Force (or other name as requested).
- The Task Force’s first item of business will be to prepare a report on the feasibility of creating a legal research database group purchasing agreement. Specifically the Task Force will examine if and how cost savings can be achieved through the formation of a consortium or by any other method of streamlining the purchase and delivery of online legal research database service to the public, to members of the Oregon State Bar, to pro se litigants, and to all Oregon county law libraries.
- The Task Force be formed and hold its first meeting no later than February 2, 2009, and that it present its report to the Judiciary Committee within 9 months (or any other time limits the Judiciary Committee requires).

The Task Force shall include members from Oregon county law libraries of different sizes and geographic locations in addition to including:

- At least one county law library under the jurisdiction of the County Counsel’s office  
- At least one county law library under the jurisdiction of the District Attorney’s office  
- At least one county law library under the jurisdiction of the County Administrator  
- At least one private county law library (Multnomah)

The Task Force may also include, as proposed by the Judiciary Committee, representatives from other organizations whose interests coincide with those of county law libraries and who may benefit from improved county law library services. These may include, but not be limited to, a member of the Association of Oregon Counties, an elected or appointed county official, or a member of the bar, and a representative of the State Law Library, or anyone else who shares the county law library goal of improving access for all Oregonians to legal research resources.

*2007 HB 2331 Budget Note reads: “The Interim Judiciary Committee or Committees will study and make recommendations to 75th Oregon Legislative Assembly on the law library fees and the manner in which amounts generated by these fees are expended.”