



# Exploring Other Libraries to Restore Your Beginner's Mind

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# University Librarian = Newbie?

After 30 years of working in public, hospital, academic and national libraries, seeing things with fresh eyes isn't easy.

**The Library is  
my Happy Place**



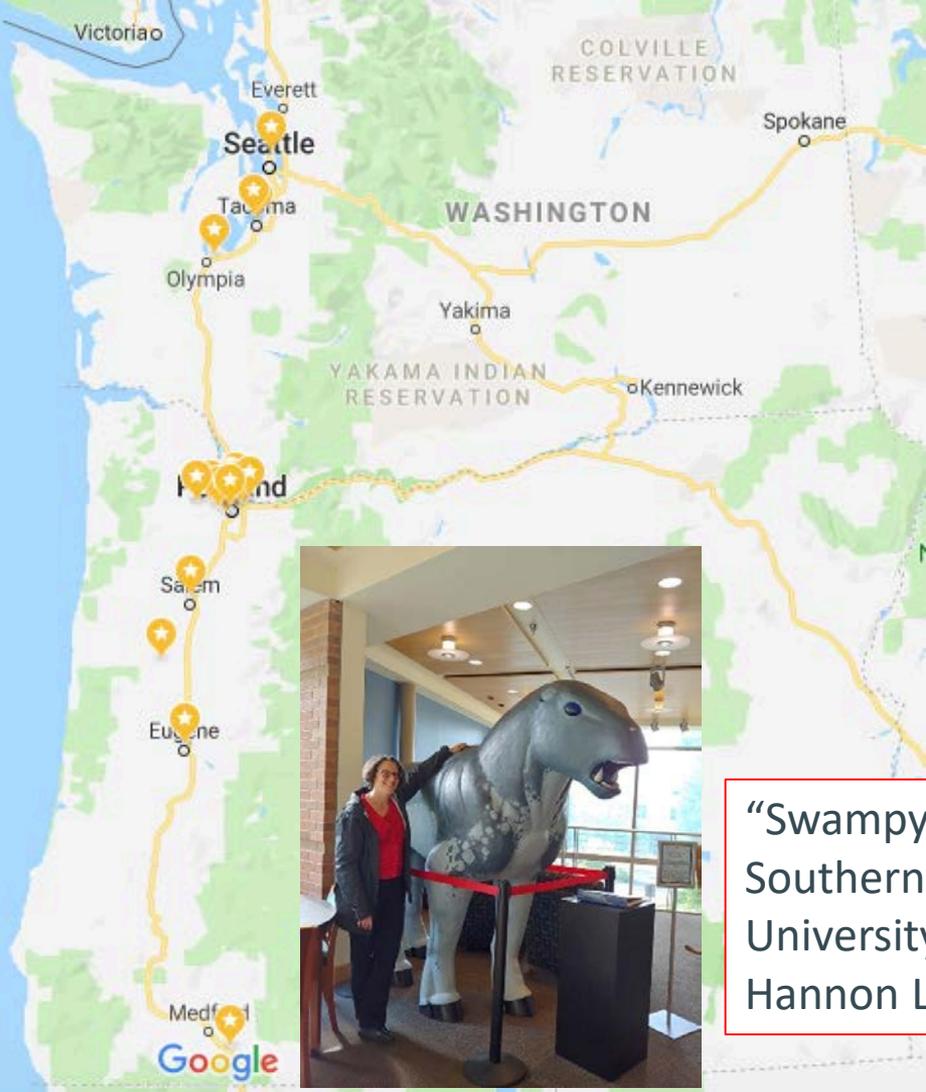
# Our Topics for Today

1. Revitalize by creating community with colleagues who do library work in different settings.
2. Reflect on what it means to see your library through others' eyes.
3. Pace ourselves like beginners when taking on something new.

# Revitalize through Connecting

It is refreshing to see how others pursue shared activities, goals or interests in other settings.

**Welcome To**  
**OSU Libraries**  
**Innovation \* Heart \* Ideas**



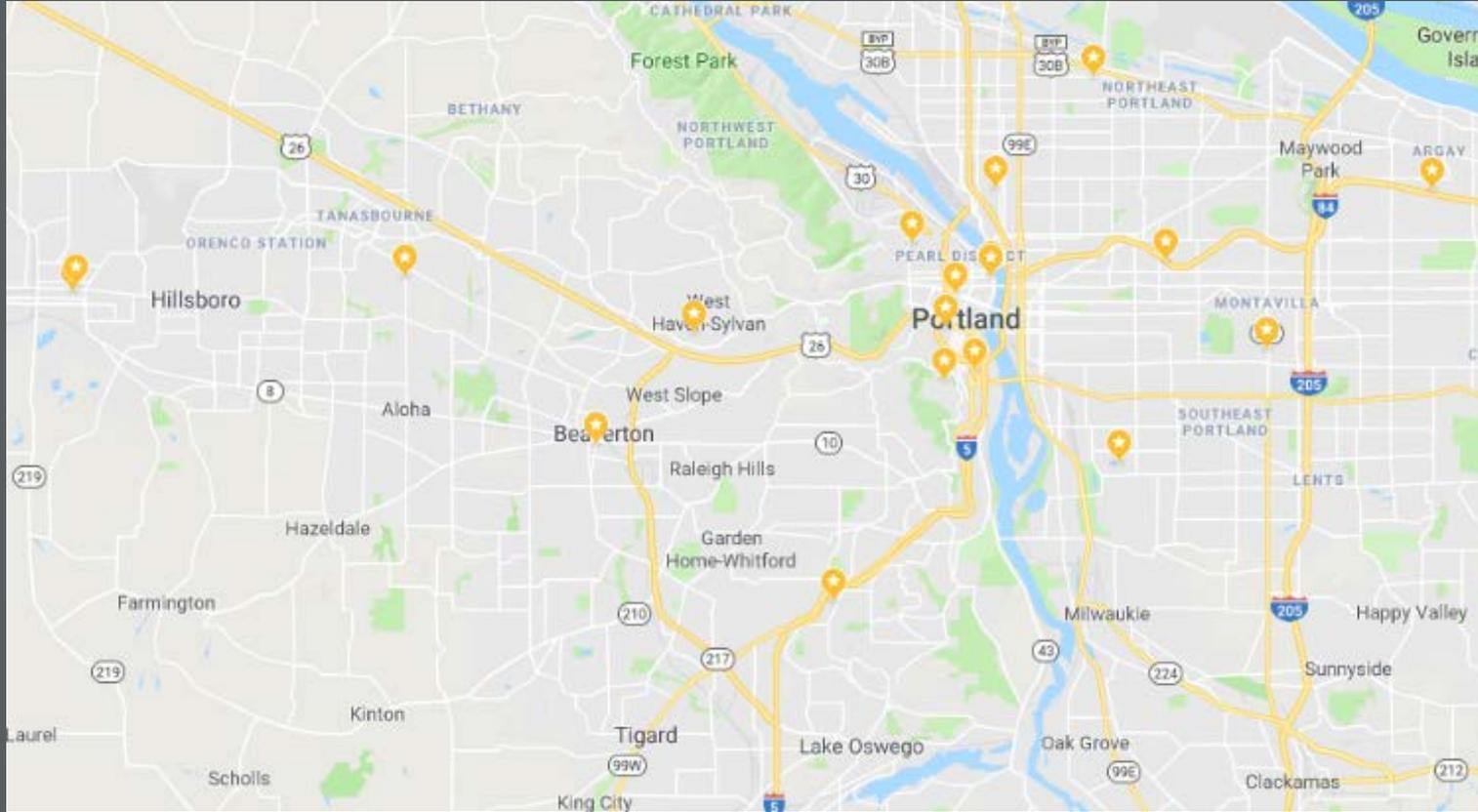
“Swampy” at Southern Oregon University’s Hannon Library

# Visits to PNW Libraries December 2018 - July 13, 2019

## Next 6 months - leave the I-5 Corridor!



# Zooming in on Portland Metro Libraries



Furthest distance between libraries was 22 miles driving. Most were less than 60 minutes away on transit

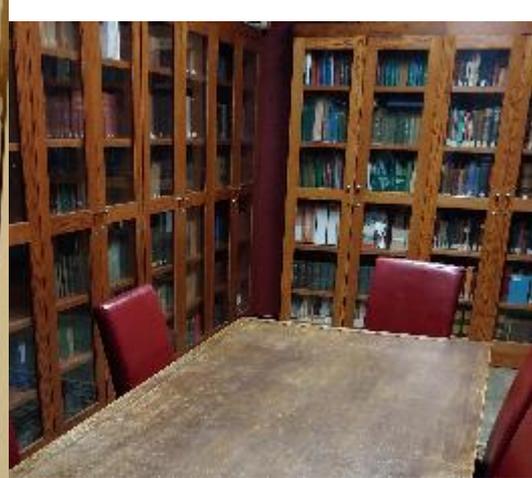
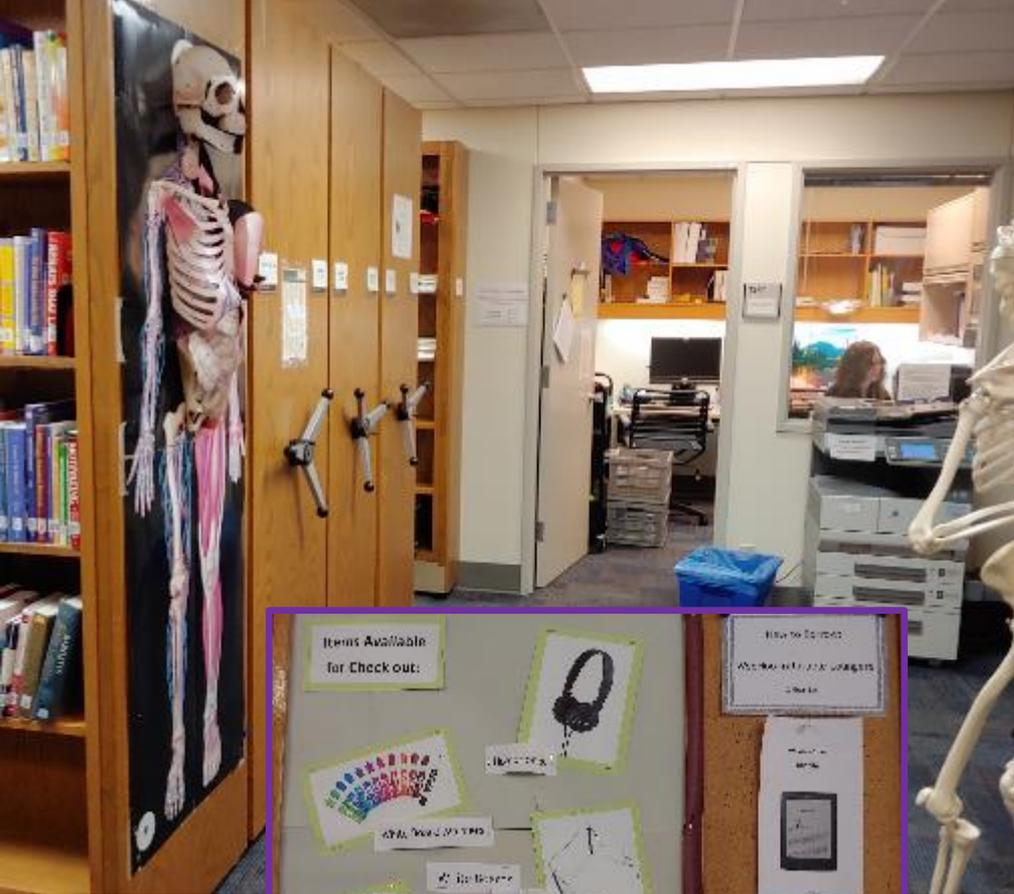
# Thank you for welcoming me!

- Beaverton City Library
- Concordia University
- Legacy Health Emanuel Hospital
- Linfield College - Nursing Library
- Multnomah County Public Library - Capitol Hill Branch and Central Library
- National University of Natural Medicine
- OHSU West Campus Library
- Oregon College of Oriental Medicine
- Oregon State University - Valley Library and Veterinary Library
- Pacific University Health Sciences Library
- Panorama and Mirabella Libraries
- Portland Community College - Southeast Campus Library
- Portland State University
- Providence Portland Hospital
- Providence St. Vincent's Hospital
- Reed College
- Southern Oregon University
- State Library of Oregon
- Tuality Health
- University of Oregon - Main Library, Allan Price Science Commons & Research Library; UO Portland Library & Learning Commons
- University of Puget Sound
- University of Washington-Health Sciences Library
- University of Washington-Tacoma
- University of Western States



Visiting was my conscious effort to join a library community with diverse roles, constituencies, and services.

Meeting Portland Area Health Library partners was first on my list!



Every visit taught me about spaces, furniture, signage, and community-building for professional and institutional purposes.

Looking for  
computer  
labs for the  
2020  
Medical  
Library  
Association  
Meeting



# Furniture reflected library clientele and space usage

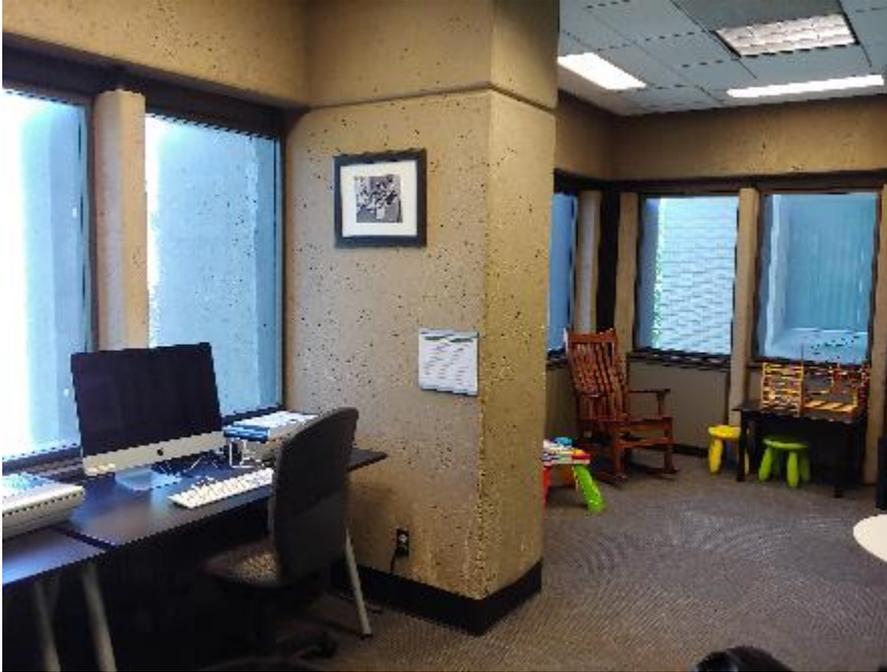


TalkBox

# Technology set ups



# Pleasant surprises! Family Friendly-Spaces in Academic Libraries





What words and images should we borrow?

**Library Voice Levels**

- Collaborative**  
Enthusiastic sharing. May be loud.
- Normal**  
Normal conversational tones.
- This Area** → **Table Talk**  
Soft voices. Only your group can hear you.
- Quiet**  
Individual study. No one is talking.







Enjoying  
beauty and  
diversity



Temporary  
Unexpected  
Permanent  
Destination





# What makes an item special?



# Reflect as a Visitor

SUSAN ORLEAN

Sometimes it's harder to notice a place you think you know well; your eyes glide over it, seeing it but not seeing it at all. It's almost as if familiarity gives you a kind of temporary blindness. I had to force myself to look harder and try to see beyond the concept of library that was so latent in my brain.

From *The Library Book*, p. 92



# Be a visitor in your library

See it through others' eyes.

- **Invite someone to visit and be present with them during the tour; stay during hand-offs to other units**
- **Volunteer for job candidate tours, onboarding for new staff or volunteers, or orient new students, staff, or community members.**

**What about virtual visiting? Let's give it a try with the OHSU Library!**



A multi-level library atrium with large windows and study desks. The scene is viewed from an elevated position, looking down at a study area on a lower level. The study area features several wooden desks with black chairs. A person is seated at one desk, and another person is visible in the background. The atrium is characterized by its high ceilings, large windows, and metal railings. The overall atmosphere is bright and modern.

OHSU Library is your  
learning, care, and  
discovery partner.

# Library Staff are your Partners!

**Collection Management** buys and organizes your books and journals.



**Technology** team supports your online Library and on-site computing.



**Access Services** helps you at service desk, scans items, and ensures a great library experience!



**Historical Collections & Archives** preserve OHSU and broader health history for future research.



**Library Administration** keeps it funded and maintained for you!



A high-angle, wide shot of a modern library atrium during Research Week. The space is filled with people, many of whom are gathered around large posters and whiteboards. Some individuals are looking at the displays, while others are in conversation. The atmosphere appears to be one of active engagement and collaboration. The lighting is bright, and the overall scene is dynamic and busy.

**This is OHSU Library  
during Research Week!**

# Pace ourselves like beginners

**Remember that we are beginners when taking on new roles, engaging new audiences or expanding to offer new services.**

**When tired, overwhelmed or frustrated, how can taking another's perspective make challenges more tractable?**

Example: I tried to view the health information needs of OHSU's general public patrons from the public library perspective instead of our academic library point of view.

**Give ourselves multiple opportunities for exposure to sink in.**



# Make time to engage post-visit or post-conference!

- Benefits from this conference can go beyond what you learn today.
- Plan to engage and explore an idea that you take home.
- Make a date in your calendar now for 2 blocks of 30 minutes to:
  1. unpack your conference materials
  2. follow up with someone you met
  3. share at least one thing you learned with your colleagues



Thank You!  
Questions?  
Now or [alpi@ohsu.edu](mailto:alpi@ohsu.edu)