

To: Library Advisory Board

From: Roy

Subject: Observations from data extracted from the Oregon State Library Database

In addition to Jim's work, I'd like to present some findings from my own analysis of information drawn from the library database. The study reviewed 21 library systems, each serving populations between 30,000 and 200,000, selected according to this criterion. Six measures were examined: open hours, facility square footage, collection size, operating expenditures, collection expenditures, and staff expenditures. I chose these factors because they affect a patron's experience, for instance, the library's size, the breadth of its collection, and the level of financial support each system receives. All metrics were converted to a per capita basis and used to rank the library systems.

Springfield recorded 2,236 open hours, ranking seventeenth between Salem and Newberg. Eugene reported the highest number of open hours at 3,245, while Beaverton represents the median with 2,800 open hours. Springfield's open hours are 20 percent lower than the median.

Springfield has a total of 24,910 square feet, which amounts to about 0.39 square feet per capita, ranking it 18th and placing it between Sandy Public Library and Cedar Mill Community Library. West Linn Public Library boasts the highest number of square feet per capita at 0.93, while Klamath County Library Service District sits at the median with 0.56. Springfield's total square footage is 29% below this median value.

Springfield ranks 19th in physical and digital items per capita with 4.65, below the median of 6.98 set by McMinnville Public Library and between Hillsboro and Albany libraries. Klamath County Library Service District leads with 49.67 physical and digital items per capita. Reporting methods may differ; for example, Klamath County reports over 3.5 million items, 51% more than Eugene's 1.85 million.

Springfield's per capita operating expenditures were \$34.75, ranking 20th between Josephine Community Library District and Salem. Tigard Public Library had the highest at \$128.45, while Albany Public Library was median at \$63.29. Springfield's spending is 33% below the median.

Springfield's total collection expenditures per capita was \$2.00 ranking 20th between Beaverton City Library and McMinnville Public Library. Corvallis-Benton County Public Library had the highest collection expenditures per capita at \$10.50, while Albany Public Library was the median at \$3.58. Springfield's spending is 44% below the median.

Springfield's total staff expenditures per capita were \$26.55 ranking 18th between Klamath County Library Service District and Clackamas County - Oak Lodge Public Library. Lake

Oswego Public Library had the highest staff expenditures per capita at \$78.92, while Hillsboro Public Library was the median at \$43.50. Springfield's spending is 39% below the median.

Based on the data, I have observed that compared to other library systems, Springfield appears to be underfunded, smaller in size, and has a more limited collection.

Nevertheless, I believe the Springfield library provides an exceptional experience for its patrons despite these challenges.