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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES ANNOUNCES  
2017 PUBLIC ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AWARD WINNER**

*This Year's Honoree Oversaw the Digitization of  
Oregon Statutes Dating Back to 1953*

**CHICAGO, June 6, 2017**—The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) today revealed that Laura J. Orr, a Portland, Oregon-based legal research library consultant, will receive this year's Public Access to Government Information (PAGI) Award.

A principal tenet of AALL is the right of equal access to information for all to ensure an informed citizenry and to promote a just and democratic society. Established in 1998, the Public Access to Government Information Award is given to recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to protect and promote greater access to government information, thereby increasing the public's knowledge about the workings of government.

Orr created and managed the Superseded Oregon Revised Statutes 1953-1993 Digitization Project while working as director of the Washington County Law Library in Hillsboro, Oregon. The project began in 2011, when the library began scanning the 1953-1993 editions of the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS). Only two complete copies of the ORS existed in the country; neither was publicly accessible, let alone scannable, so library staff members spent years tracking down missing volumes and pages, to provide a publicly accessible, free legal resource for Oregon law researchers.

Editions of the ORS are published every two years and contain all laws and changes to laws enacted by the Legislative Assembly, up through the odd-numbered year's regular session. The content from the Superseded Oregon Revised Statutes 1953-1993 Digitization Project is housed on the Oregon Legislative Counsel's website.

"Laura J. Orr was chosen as this year's Public Access to Government Information Award recipient due to her efforts to digitize four decades' worth of Oregon statutes," AALL President



Ronald E. Wheeler Jr. said. “Her exemplary work echoes AALL’s commitment to making legal information widely accessible—a central goal that we are proud to see members supporting in their professional endeavors.”

"While creating the ORS database was no small undertaking for our county law library team, it has become a time- and money-saving resource for anyone researching Oregon laws," Orr said. "I cannot thank AALL and my law librarian colleagues enough for honoring me with the PAGI Award. I am proud to belong to an association that supports public and private law librarians who provide unique legal research services to our communities."

The Public Access to Government Information Award winner will be recognized at the upcoming 110th AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, to be held in Austin, Texas, from July 15-18, 2017.

For more information about AALL’s Public Access to Government Information Award, visit [bit.ly/AALLpublicaccess](http://bit.ly/AALLpublicaccess).

To learn more about the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting and to register, visit [www.aallnet.org/conference](http://www.aallnet.org/conference). Full conference registrants who are not AALL members will receive a complimentary one-year AALL membership.

#### **About AALL**

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that people—lawyers, judges, students, and the public—need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, its nearly 4,500 members are problem solvers of the highest order. AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger. For more information, visit [www.aallnet.org](http://www.aallnet.org).

#### **About the AALL Annual Meeting & Conference**

The AALL Annual Meeting & Conference is the premier educational and networking event for more than 1,500 legal information professionals. In its 110th year, the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting will be held in Austin, Texas—July 15-18, 2017—and offers three days of must-have educational programming featuring more than 70 sessions in six content areas. For more information, visit [www.aallnet.org/conference](http://www.aallnet.org/conference).

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