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News Release

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### **PORTALS Council of Librarians Announces Dissolving of Consortium**

Effective November 1, 2008, Portland Area Library System (PORTALS) will cease to exist. The PORTALS consortium has been in existence since 1993 and has had a number of functions within the local library community.

PORTALS was initially funded by the State of Oregon and the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Its purpose was to create a regional research library in the Portland-metropolitan area, and for more than a decade PORTALS provided resource sharing and database licensing for its member libraries. In recent years, PORTALS' focus has been on providing continuing education for the library community.

PORTALS' recent activities include the creation of NWCentral [[www.nwcentral.org](http://www.nwcentral.org)], a community-driven clearinghouse of training resources for the library community in Oregon and Washington that has been partly funded by LSTA, and sponsorship of highly popular continuing education events. In 2005, Portland Community College Library became PORTALS' fiscal agent and as such has administered NWCentral and coordinated the classes.

On September 29, 2008, the PORTALS Council of Librarians voted that its present organizational structure was no longer necessary to fulfill the mission of supporting continuing education. The Council voted to transfer its governing authority and resources to Portland Community College (PCC). PCC Library accepted this responsibility because it is consistent with the mission of the college to support work force development and lifelong learning. PCC Library plans to align the continuing education efforts with NWCentral under the leadership of Roberta Richards ([rrichard@pcc.edu](mailto:rrichard@pcc.edu)), and to broaden the reach to include the entire state of Oregon.

PCC Library will work with the NWCentral Advisory Group and others to develop a plan for next steps. It is the hope of the PORTALS Council that this transformation will be the beginning of a new era of library continuing education and that the effort will benefit all libraries in Oregon and Washington.

If you have questions about the transition, please contact Donna Reed, Director of Libraries, Portland Community College at (503) 977-4497, [donna.reed@pcc.edu](mailto:donna.reed@pcc.edu).

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