

From: [Ellen Otani](#)
To: [Public Records Task Force](#)
Cc: [REP Hoyle](#); [DINGLE Stephen E](#); [MILLER Shanda K](#)
Subject: Attn: Kristina Edmunson Public Records Law Reform suggestions
Date: Monday, May 16, 2016 9:02:37 AM

Good Morning Ms. Edmunson:

I was not able to attend the public hearing May 9, 2016 in Eugene. However, I have discussed by concerns with the public records system as used by Lane County government with Val Hoyle, and would like to share them with you:

1. Audio recordings as the only minutes:

Audio recordings are not searchable through Google or the "edit/find" function so are very difficult and time-consuming for researchers to use.

If no one is taking minutes and the recording device is full but no one notices, oh well.

Access is to the tape available only if researchers have computers compatible with the county system. Once the technology changes, the minutes may be lost for good.

There is no longer an officially authorized transcription. Anyone who wants to quote a statement must make their own transcription or do without. The person who made the statement loses control over his/her own words.

Humans invented writing for a reason. Voice recognition programs are improving enough, and transcription services cheap enough that cost should not be a deterrent to producing electronically stored written versions that people can actually use.

Thank you for considering this issue.
Ellen Otani, Eugene

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