SECOND QUARTER
2015VOL 4, ISSUE 1

Ohio Libraries Quarterly

Community Engagement

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

Libraries Address Needs Unique to Their Communities

In a paper written for the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science in 2010, Alison McCarty defined library outreach services as "any service or activity that gets patrons or potential patrons interested in a library." Sometimes this service or activity is designed to bring people into the library and at other times, it is designed to take library services or activities into the community, meeting people where they are.

This issue of Ohio Libraries Quarterly examines a few of the outreach services being provided by libraries. The services are varied and far-reaching. All are designed to address a need in the library's community, whether it is hunger, helping college students cope with the stress of exams, or providing reading materials to inmates to help support their educational, vocational and personal development.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Ohio Libraries Quarterly and I'd love to hear about any unique outreach services being offered by your library. You can send them to me at bcain@library.ohio.gov.

Beverly Cain
State Librarian

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STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

SECOND QUARTER 2015
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LSTA Grants Update

The State Library will soon announce the availability of LSTA Competitive Grants. **Request for Proposal and grant application materials will be made available in mid-July.** Once the RFPs are posted on the website, announcements will be made to library listservs. The LSTA Advisory Council worked with State Library staff in developing grant programs to support Data management, Innovative outreach and partnerships programs, Literacy initiatives, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) programs.

All types of Ohio libraries are eligible to apply for up to $50,000 in federal funds. Applicants must match federal funds with a 25% local cash match of the total project cost. Applications will be due at the State Library no later than 11:59 p.m. September 9, 2015. Recommended applications will be presented to the State Library Board for funding December 8, 2015 and the implementation period is January 1 – September 30, 2016.

For additional information on the LSTA program visit the LSTA Page on the State Library website or contact Missy Lodge, mlodge@library.ohio.gov.

Staff Spotlight

JUDITH

Judith Cosgray is a Library Consultant with an emphasis on outreach to state government. She develops and implements outreach strategies to promote State Library services to employees of the state of Ohio and state agencies. As a member of the Research and Catalog Services department Judith regularly participates in agency fairs and presents information about State Library services available to their employees. She develops library use instructional tools such as video tutorials and topic guides. Judith also provides reference and research services to state employees and other patrons of the State Library.

Before joining the State Library staff Judith worked at Pickerington Public Library where she was the Adult Services Manager. Judith has worked for Fairfield County District Library, the Ohio State University Myers Oncology Library and Portage County District Library. She has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Kent State University, Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Youngstown State University.

Book Donations
to Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction Libraries

Items that are needed:
- Encyclopedias [a couple libraries still have encyclopedias from the 1990's]
- Fiction and nonfiction [hardcover or paperback]
- Books on Audio: CD and Playaway
- Movies: VHS and DVD

By Judith Cosgray
State Government Outreach Consultant
State Libary of Ohio

Providing services to state employees is a primary function of the State Library of Ohio. As the State Government Outreach Consultant, I have come to find that state government is far more diverse than I imagined. One segment of state employees that I have come to respect greatly are librarians for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Prison Librarians operate under strict guidelines and often difficult circumstances. The difficult circumstance they routinely face is access to materials. Unlike the public or academic library receiving funding from varied sources, the revenue source for prisons is very limited. In Ohio, the libraries are funded through a program called Industry and Entertainment fund (I&E). This fund purchases products for sale at the commissary, which sells the items at a two or three percent markup. The sales price plus the markup goes back into I&E fund. The markup goes to fund the Library and other inmate services.

The library may get 20% to 25% of the markup funds to purchase materials. The funds are all inmate generated. Inmates can receive funds from their families and visitors through a licensee who manages their money. As you can guess, that doesn't give prison libraries a lot of purchasing power. That is when I asked Library Administrator Rebecca Williams if they can accept donations. This is how the Prison Book Donation program began in November 2014. Since I worked in public libraries previously, I knew that they received many donations and had discards that definitely still had life left in them. We worked out a plan to ask Libraries via the various Listservs for book donations. The libraries and their friends groups came through. Since the start, we have provided 100-125 boxes of materials for the libraries, including VHS, DVD, fiction, nonfiction, encyclopedias, audio books, and even children's books.

Each prison's visit room also contains a children's reading room.

> "In 2000, former First Lady Hope Taft approached the Director about establishing a reading room for the children who visited their incarcerated parent at the Pickaway Correctional Institution. This idea spread across the state, and now the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction maintains children's reading rooms in each prison.
>
> The reading rooms encourage family literacy by providing a pleasant and comfortable setting for both child and incarcerated parent. Each room is stocked with a wide variety of children's books and has an inmate narrator who reads to the visiting children twice a day. The role of the inmate narrator is to read picture

REHABILITATION continued on p. 5

Heights Libraries Uses WordPress to Take Control of Online Calendars and Meeting Room Management

Marketing assistant Julia Murphy and Web Developer Colin Tomele test Book a Room software.

By Sheryl Banks
Marketing and Community Relations Manager, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library

In the spring of 2013, staff at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library was discussing their frustration with the third-party room reservation and calendar system they were using on their website. It was expensive (about $8,000 a year), and staff and patrons found it hard to use. The library's in-house web developer, Colin Tomele, suggested he be allowed to replace the third-party system with a custom-built system of his own, using free open source software from Wordpress.org. Tomele has years of custom-built websites and Intranet systems under his belt, so Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin gave his idea the green light.

With the guidance of his colleagues in the marketing department, suggestions and feedback from the public service staff, and extensive in-house testing, Tomele created what is now called Heights Libraries Book a Room, a web calendar and meeting room management program that launched in February 2014 as part of Heights Libraries' overall website redesign.

"The new system is so much easier to use than the old one. We hardly even notice it," says Marketing Assistant Julia Murphy, who manages Heights Libraries meeting rooms and uses the system more than any other staff member. "I went from spending three hours a day managing meeting rooms online to about a half hour a day."

Murphy also says calls from customers and staff asking for help reserving meeting rooms have completely disappeared now that the new system is in place. "I used to get several calls a day but now I get none. Book a Room is just really simple and intuitive."

Part of Book a Room's ease of use is due to the fact that Tomele created it with WordPress, an open source software known for both its sturdiness and simplicity, and popular enough to be used by both individuals for personal blogs and much larger companies like Variety, The New Yorker, and BBC America for their main websites. WordPress also features a giant repository of open source plugins and themes and extensive, well-written online documentation as well as help, which makes learning it relatively easy.

The biggest potential downside to using open source software can be a lack of support from developers and a lack of updates. Since open source software is free by its nature, developers generally don't have time to individually offer support for free – it would take all of their time. Also, they may release a pay-model version of their software with added features or offer paid support and those things usually get priority over updating or supporting a free plugin. Luckily, Tomele did not encounter those problems.

"Programs like PHP and WordPress do offer commercial support, but a lot of plugins and open source libraries that I use may be released as-is so may require a little reverse engineering if there are problems," says Tomele. "Fortunately, since the audience is large for open source software, there are usually a lot of people discussing similar problems and offering insight into fixing them. It's a very supportive online community."

In addition to the low (no?) cost and ease of use, another advantage to creating the in-house system was the customization that the process allowed. The old system was a cookie-cutter product that did not allow for true in-house control of things that Heights Libraries needed, like the ability to allow nonprofit and for-profit customers to have separate registration forms, for staff to easily change program days, times, and locations on the fly, and to schedule programs daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or at random with one event record. Heights Libraries was able to create a program that served its specific needs and was easy to change when the organization's needs changed.

Once the new system was live and running smoothly, Heights Libraries turned their efforts toward sharing the new software for free. "One of our goals from the outset was to make something we could share with other libraries that are in the same boat we were," says Tomele. "So we have plans to upload it to the Wordpress repository so other organizations can download it and use it."

Getting Book a Room ready for public release has, so far, involved extensive testing by volunteers who work at area libraries. These volunteers install the software and use it, letting Tomele know what kinds of challenges they encounter so he can fix the bugs.

One of those testers is Brian O'Donnell. O'Donnell works at Torva Local, a marketing company in Wickliffe, Ohio, working with Wickliffe Public Library. "The initial idea to use the system was brought to us by the Wickliffe Public Library," says O'Donnell. "They saw it in action and felt that it would be a good fit for the redesign of their current website. After looking at the plugin it made

CALENDAR continued on p. 5

The Ohioana Library Book Festival

Authors Connecting with Readers

By David Weaver, Executive Director
Ohioana Library Association

In 2007, the Ohioana Library, which collects, preserves and celebrates Ohio literature from its home in Columbus' historic Jeffrey Mining Center, presented the first Ohioana Book Festival with ten authors and 600 attendees. By last year, the eighth festival drew 96 authors and more than 3,000 attendees, making it clear that the time had come to move once again!

And so it was as the Ohioana Book Festival moved to the heart of downtown Columbus for the first time on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square. The event, which was free and open to the public, was a fun-filled day with panel discussions, a book fair, children's activities, food, and entertainment. There were 106 participating Ohio authors, the most ever, according to Ohioana Library Director David Weaver. Nearly 4,000 people attended, despite a chilly downpour that lasted nearly the entire day.

"The 2015 Ohioana Book Festival was our biggest and best ever," said Weaver. "We were so excited moving to the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square. It not only gave us more room this year, but even more importantly will provide room to grow in the future, as we are already looking forward to next year, which will mark a significant anniversary for the event." Weaver said the 10th anniversary Ohioana Book Festival has already been set for Saturday, April 23, 2016, again at the Sheraton Columbus.

Highlights of 2015's festival included thirty panel discussions with authors on topics ranging from specific writing genres to creating characters for a mystery series to publishing to history and biography.

A larger room for children's programming and activities included a first-ever collaboration with American Girl® Columbus, and featured crafts and activities from the store's popular Easton Town Center location. There was also balloon twisting, Legos, and visits from popular PBS character Arthur and the Library Mouse, created by Ohio children's author Daniel Kirk.

The book fair enabled fans to talk personally to their favorite authors and get copies of their books signed, which were available at the on-site Barnes & Noble book store. Weaver said Barnes & Noble set a record this year, selling nearly 1,200 books.

Featured authors at this year's event included poet David

YA authors Erin McCahan & Natalie Richards

Baker; children's book writer and illustrator Jeffrey Ebbeler; journalist and historian Ann Hagedorn; writer for middle grades Michelle Houts; nonfiction writer Gene Logsdon; novelist Celeste Ng; young adult fiction author Edith Pattou; science fiction writer Mike Resnick (The Fortress in Orion); mystery writer Yolonda Tonette Sanders; and novelist Thrity Umrigar.

Ebbeler is also on the 2015-16 list of Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) authors. CTRO, collaboration between the State Library of Ohio, Ohioana, and the Ohio Center for the Book, grew out of the festival as a year-round program to encourage Ohioans to "Read Together, Read Ohio, Read for Life."

In addition to Ebbeler, 2015-16 CTRO listed authors Laura Bickle, Mary Kay Carson, Colleen Clayton, Margaret Peterson Haddix, Mindy McGinnis, Brandon Marie Miller, and Leah Stewart appeared at the festival. Authors who have been on prior CTRO lists who also appeared included Hagedorn, Andrea Cheng, Cinda Williams Chima, and Karen Harper.

Ohioana will begin taking applications in mid-July for authors wanting to take part in next year's festival.

"The Ohioana Book Festival has become the single largest literary event not only in Columbus and Ohio, but one of the largest in the Midwest," said Weaver. "We say there is something for every reader of every age at the festival," said Weaver. "We are so happy with the great success we had in our first downtown festival, and we hope everyone will join us in 2016."■

For more information: **www.ohioanabookfestival.org**.

Jeffrey Ebbeler designed the 2015 Book Festival Poster

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Library Community Engaged in Website Redesign Process

The State Library launched its new website in late, May. The site, which features a more user-friendly interface, improved site navigation, and enhanced search functionality, was designed and developed by IdeaBase, a Kent State student powered design firm based in Kent, Ohio.

The site offers Ohio residents, state government employees, and libraries across Ohio improved access to library resources and services and is the result of a yearlong collaboration between IdeaBase, Kent State University School of Library & Information Science and the State Library of Ohio.

"Working with IdeaBase was a wonderful experience," expressed State Librarian Beverly Cain. "The team assigned to our project was responsive, creative, and dedicated to providing a finished product that truly met our needs."

The project encompassed research with stakeholders and usability testing, design, development and user focused content strategy. The site has a scalable interface that adjusts to any device, allowing State Library users to fully engage the website from their phone, tablet, or computer. The IdeaBase team developed a custom design template within the WordPress content management system to reinforce the library's brand and allow for faster content editing.

The IdeaBase team members on the project included Kent State students from the College of Communication and Information, with specific focuses in Advertising, User Experience Design, and Visual Communication Design, as well as the College of Business's Computer Information Systems program.

Jeff Fruit, interim director for Kent State University's School of Library Information Sciences, said "The School has a long history of collaboration with the State Library, with some of our offices and classrooms collocated there since 2008."

Beverly Cain added, "The State Library appreciates the help from all the volunteers that participated in the pre-design survey and focus groups, and participants in the pre-launch website usability studies."

REHABILITATION continued from p. 2

books to the children in much the same manner that children's hour would be done at a public library.

A variety of arts and crafts supplies for the children are also available in most of the rooms. Many of the supplies and books are donated by employees and service organizations." http://www.drc.ohio.gov/Public/ocf.htm

Even the ALA website contains a statement regarding Prison Libraries:

"The American Library Association encourages public libraries and systems to extend their services to residents of jails and other detention facilities within their taxing areas." Also, the Intellectual Freedom Committee has interpreted the Library Bill of Rights to include Prisoners' Right to Read. http://www.ala.org/tools/prison-libraries

If your library does not already have a relationship with your local county jail or state prison, I encourage you to reach out. You may never know what your gift of reading might do for an inmate by supporting their educational, vocational and personal development.

"Prison libraries have an opportunity within an institution to reach inmates in a way like none other. A prison library is an engaging place for inmates to relax, read, research, and to utilize resources they can use to better themselves. Programming is a great way for librarians to meet the needs of prison inmates. Starting a book club, poetry contest, or institution writing project can generate positive participation in an institution, and give inmates a creative outlet (an outlet that many in a prison have a hard time finding). Programming not only benefits the inmates, but also helps security staff by providing an opportunity for inmates to occupy their time and stay out of trouble. At our library, we just finished collecting recipe submissions for an inmate cookbook project. We are working on typing the recipes, and making the cookbook available for inmates to check-out from the library."

~Andrew Hart, M.L.S.
Librarian I■
Ross Correctional Institution

CALENDAR continued from p. 3

sense to use it since it has a great range of functionality and potential."

"The testing experience has been really great. We have had setbacks but that is to be expected when developing something new so I cannot fault anyone for that," O'Donnell continues. What has really stood out to me is the support I have received from Colin [Tomele]. He is very interested in hearing about issues and very quick at helping resolve them. So far, our overall experience has been incredible and we can't wait to see what the final product will look like."

Heights Libraries can't wait either. Tomele is hoping the software will be ready this summer.
Libraries interested in learning more about the system, including how to become a tester, can email Tomele at ctomele@heightslibrary.org.■

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The Red Feather Lakes Library (CO) offers public computer classes. [Photo courtesy of Colorado State Library on Flickr.]

Group at work developing literacies for a Student Digital Media Activities workshop held in Paterno Library (PA). [Photo courtesy of psutlt on Flickr.]

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Crossroads
The monthly newsletter from WebJunction
March 2015
Oh, the Places You'll Go!
"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!"
Theodor Seuss Geisel was born on March 2, 1904 — 101 years ago. From The Lorax to the Grinch, his characters have inspired children (and adults) for decades. His stories share the importance of patience, of acceptance, of kindness, and of learning; qualities we all hope for and strive to exemplify in our work as humans and as library staff.
Our resources this month, as always, focus a bit on fulfilling the learning portion of the message, but also have a bit to do with happiness, community, and social welfare. Whether you are pursuing happiness through libraries,

Online courses and webinar archives

The WebJunction course catalog contains free self-paced courses and over 130 curated webinar archives on library-specific topics. These resources were developed by expert trainers in the field and by organizations including LibraryU, Infopeople, TechSoup, and ALCTS. Certificates of completion are provided for courses and webinars archives viewed through the WebJunction course catalog. Simply set up a free account at **learn.webjunction.org** to get started.

About WebJunction

Since our launch in 2003, WebJunction has helped thousands of library staff build the job skills we need to power relevant and vibrant libraries. WebJunction is a not-for-profit project managed by OCLC, with grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Additional support is provided by state library agencies, including the State Library of Ohio.

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Rocky River Public Library Trades Food for Fines

By Kitty Sommers
Director of Marketing and Development
Rocky River Public Library

Jen Golya who co-chairs the Rocky River Assistance Program. She is seen unpacking donations from the library's patrons at the food pantry.

For the past six years, Rocky River Public Library has partnered with the Rocky River Assistance Program (RRAP) to provide hunger relief in our community through its "Food for Fines" drive. RRAP is the only food bank in Rocky River. It serves hundreds of families each year and is operated completely by volunteers from the Rocky River Women's Club.

For every canned or boxed non-perishable food item donated at Rocky River Public Library, patrons' fines are reduced by $1.00, up to a maximum of $10.00. The library's "Food for Fines" program is in effect for the entire month of February.

Donated food items for the Rocky River Assistance Program are collected by the library's circulation staff. Undamaged, unexpired food items are accepted preferably canned soup, tuna, fruit, beef stew, spaghetti sauce and vegetables. Food supplies are consistently low in RRAP's food distribution center after the holidays, so donations are very much appreciated at this time of the year.

Our local media, the City of Rocky River, social media, and local community groups help us get the word out to patrons, who typically donate over 4,000 food items to feed families in need. The Library is proud to make this commitment to the community to improve the quality of life for residents of Rocky River. ■

Kitty Sommers
Rocky River Public Library

USDA' Summer Food Service Program and Libraries

Working Together to Meet Nutritional Needs in Their Communities

Note: This article was written in the spring by Ryan Bowling during his MLIS practicum experience at the State Library of Ohio.

It's that time of year again. Unseasonably excellent days when the mercury has crested seventy degrees have finally arrived. Bitter cold might soon be firmly in the rear view. Birds are singing, buds are budding, and public librarians are looking ahead, stacks already echoing cautious whispers, "Summer is coming." Children's departments will explode. Libraries will pulse to the rhythm of pounding feet. Young voices will not be restrained anywhere near whisper volume. Librarians are already rolling up their sleeves, getting ready to… serve lunch.

From coast to coast, libraries will be including food service in programming to young patrons. Some Ohio libraries have been feeding kids for years; some excited newcomers are jumping in for the very first time. They're not just serving lunch, either. Some will offer snacks, and a few will even have breakfast menus.

Why are they doing this? How are they affording it? Finally, how is this the responsibility of the public library? The library is not, after all, a cafeteria. There is almost certainly little to gain by undertaking something bound to be cumbersome for a staff untrained for, and a facility unsuited to, providing a service that will only add to the pandemonium of this, the most chaotic time of year, right? So, again, why?

Some of those kids packing libraries are going hungry, more than a quarter of them statewide, in fact (ODE 2015). During the school year, almost three quarters of a million Ohio children depend on the USDA's Free and Reduced Price Meals Program in order to have their nutritional needs met (ODE 2015). Many of these kids eat breakfast at school, too. That's ten meals each week many kindergarten through twelfth graders depend on their school to provide. That's more than half of the food a person needs in a week. So then what happens when school is out? The simple answer is, 623,000 children relying on school meals spend their entire summer uncertain where half of all their food is coming from (ODE 2015). If this provokes discomfort, it should. The word nagging at the back of some minds reading this might sound something like, starving.

This isn't news to children and teen librarians. Many have done that unfortunate math, adding up the long hours a bony little frequenter of their department is around, and couldn't help but silently ask, "Honey, if you're spending all this time here, who is feeding you?"

The good news is public libraries can be the answer to that question, and the how is thankfully easy. The USDA offers the Summer Food Service Program. This source of federal funding is intended to fill the summer nutrition gap, seeing that children spend vacation weeks healthy, rather than worrying about their next meal. Working with the USDA, the Ohio Department of Education trains and reimburses sponsors who provide summer meal programs statewide. There is funding for sites, including libraries, to provide meals. Kids just need connected to participating sponsors and programs.

This is where librarians come in. Public libraries are uniquely qualified to provide Summer Food Service. It's where kids are. Many are from low income families. Libraries are staffed with professionals that are trained to administer children's programming that in turn is a natural fit for serving food. Storytime can be a good deal more enticing when lunch is provided, free of charge. The library is more than the place where kids are; it already has the most to offer to those kids. Still, is this really the mission of the public library?

Hungry kids don't read. Maintaining literacy and slowing summer slide are integral to library programming. Hungry kids can't be expected to get too excited about how many books they read, or stickers they get on their sheet. If the mission is maintaining healthy minds, healthy bodies are critical. There's no singling out of low income families either; all children at a participating library may be served.

Children and families are not the only ones that benefit. Adding food to programming is an obvious plus. It can bolster the late summer months, when program attendance is waning. The profile of the program is high. Its tangibility with local governments and school boards can yield enormous rewards. Increased goodwill from the community, extra volunteers, additional funding, as well as partnerships and grants are just a few of the things Ohio libraries have gained from involvement.

No, the library is not a cafeteria. That's true. More good news—it doesn't have to be. By partnering with a sponsor—a simple step—a library can become a site. This often means that food can be delivered and even served by volunteers working for the sponsor.

The USDA Summer Food Service Program presents an exciting way for libraries to serve those members of their communities that need it most. There is funding. Getting involved is simple. Get started: **https://library.ohio.gov/summer-food**.■

Ryan Bowling, MLIS, wrote this article during his practicum experience, working with Janet Ingraham Dwyer at the State Library of Ohio, while he was a graduate student at the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science Columbus Program. Ryan's practicum work focused on creating and curating resources to facilitate public library participation in the USDA Summer Food Service Program, in addition to writing Choose to Read Ohio toolkits and participating in teen services meetings and events.

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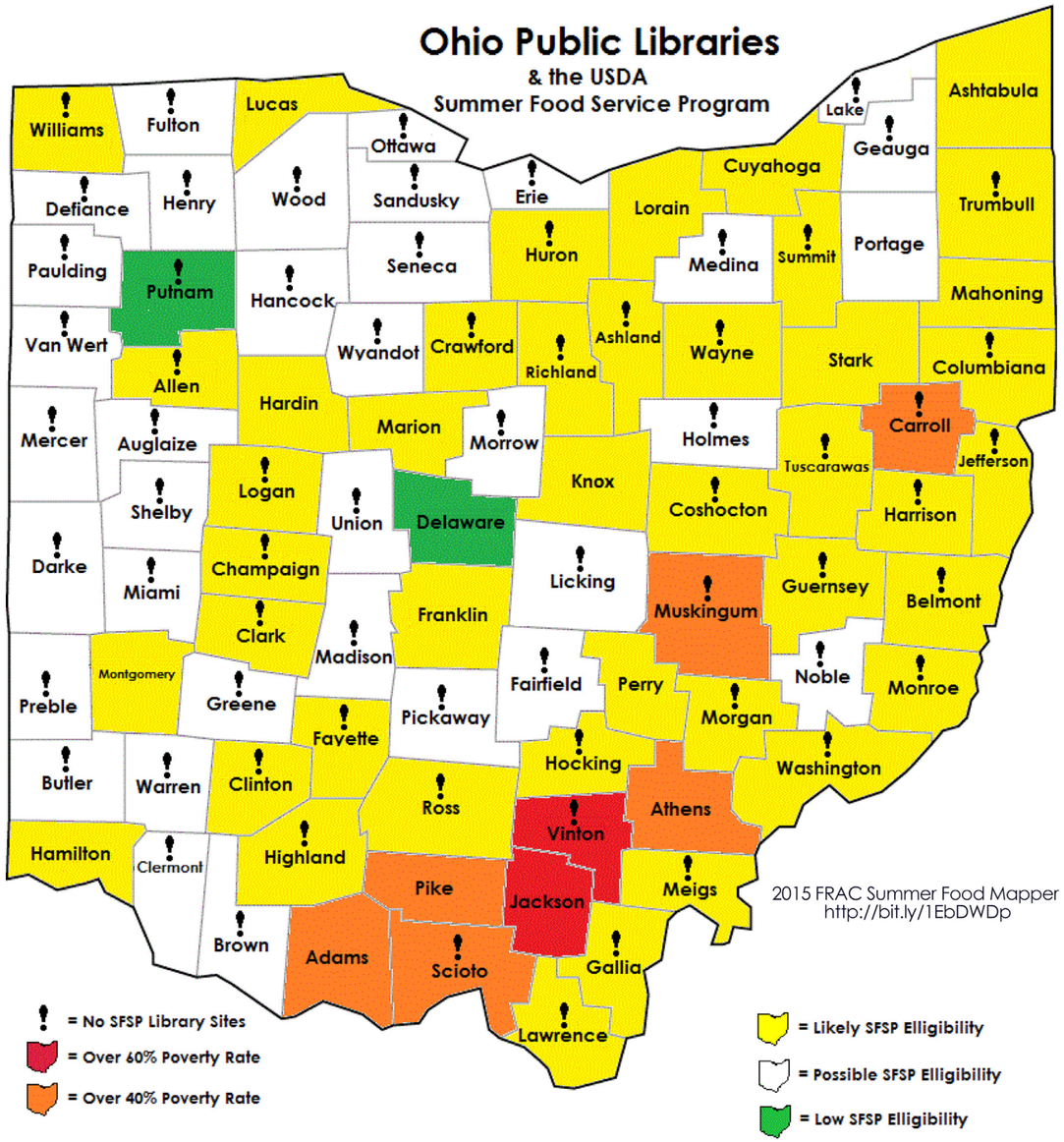

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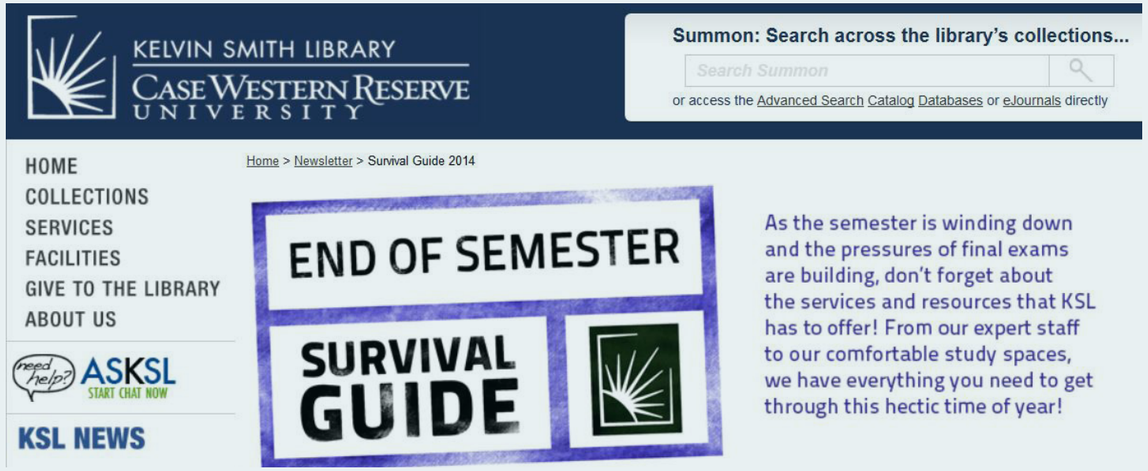
Academic Libraries Helping Students During Stressful Times

Earlier this year an email request was posted to the **Academic Library Association of Ohio** (ALAO) listserv asking libraries to share how they help students during stressful times like midterms and finals, or just the everyday stress of going to college. We received the following replies*.



Case Western Reserve University

Here are some examples from the last couple of years from the Kelvin Smith Library. My colleague Gail Reese has helped coordinate many of these events.

We have done food, therapy dogs, yoga, gift raffles, music, video games, Legos, and many other things. The theraphy dogs are here in coordination with the University Hospitals/Case Medical Center PetPals program.

The *End of the Semester Survival Guide* was one of our newest efforts put together by our very talented Marketing person: http://library.case.edu/ksl/newsletter/survivalguide2014/ (pictured above)

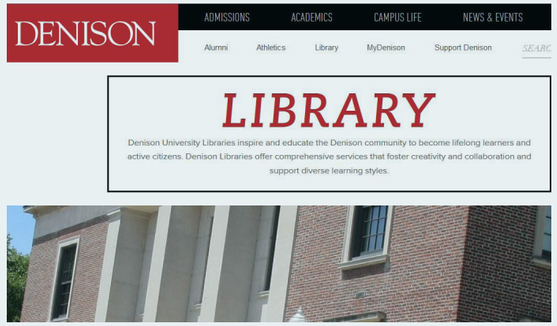
Here are the blog entries from midterm and final events - some include photos:

Take a Break with Midterms Events at KSL!

Take a break at KSL with therapy dogs and a "Stress Free Zone"

Brian C. Gray, MLIS
Team Leader, Research Services
Librarian: Chemical Engineering and Macromolecular Science & Engineering
Kelvin Smith Library 201-K

* All photos were provided by the academic libraries with permission to use in this publication.



Denison University Libraries

We do a couple of small things during finals: provide cookies on a very limited time frame (the first reading/ study day and first day of finals) and we put out a large bowl of assorted candies during the entire exam week.

For our big event we bring therapy dogs into the library right before finals (organized by our Interlibrary Loan Associate and former vet tech, Susan Rice). We have done this for four years and it's wildly successful with the students. The students look forward to it every semester!

Last year we also held an "Interfaith Midnight Pancake Dinner" for the students during second semester finals week, planned and executed by the Religious Life Advisory Board (Kristen Pantle is the current chair) with volunteers of varying faiths and no-faiths (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, atheist, etc.), which included staff, faculty, and local religious leaders. The students loved it so much that we ran out of pancakes before the end. Many expressed great appreciation of the service.

Kristen Pantle
Library Associate III

Peggy J. Rector
Assistant to the Director of Libraries

Susan Rice
Library Associate III

Alden Library, Ohio University
A few of the events that we've done at Alden Library at Ohio University.

• Therapy Dogs: We did this for the first time this past December. The event was very popular, with a long line of students waiting to hang out with Bandit, who you'll see in the attached photo.

• Coloring Sheets/Contest: The past two semesters, we've put out crayons and coloring sheets for students to grab while they take a break from studying.

• Twitter Trivia Contest: We post university history trivia questions for two hours during the Tuesday evening of finals week. Winners get coffee drink coupons and sometimes t-shirts or other prizes. This is a great way to share our University Archives collections.

• We have a puzzle table out throughout the year, which seems to be a place that students like to stop when they need a break or want to chat with friends. It's great to see the students building something collaboratively.

•Final Bites: We give out coffee and doughnuts in our Learning Commons after our other floors and in-library café close on the night before finals start. As you can imagine, they are gone quickly.

Jessica Hagman
Social Media Coordinator &
Subject Librarian for Scripps College
Alden Library

Photo credits/captions:
Therapy Dogs: Josie Pommering, Ian Cossman, Ava Willford, Logan Fouss and Jared Wilder, all freshmen in media arts and studies, exchange stories about their dogs as they pet Bandit. (Photo by Mark Clavin/Ohio University Libraries)

Doughnuts: (Left) Austin Hinders, a freshman in sports management, Martinez Lee, a freshman in marketing, Noelle Boyd, a sophomore in psychology, and Shayanna Crone, an undecided sophomore, enjoy donuts and coffee during Final Bites. (Photo by Mark Clavin/ Ohio University Libraries)

Hannah V. McCauley Library
Ohio University – Lancaster | Pickerington
We do tiny things, but I thought I'd participate to remind people that little things help, too. We give out candy or other treats for the week of midterms & the week of finals. We also provide free ear plugs the week or two before finals.

We don't have enough space to do anything else because what little space we do have is used for studying. I'd LOVE to do a therapy dog visit, but we would have to put it outside the library since we don't have any free public space aside from our study tables and computer desks.

Judy Carey Nevin
Director, Hannah V. McCauley Library
Brasee Hall

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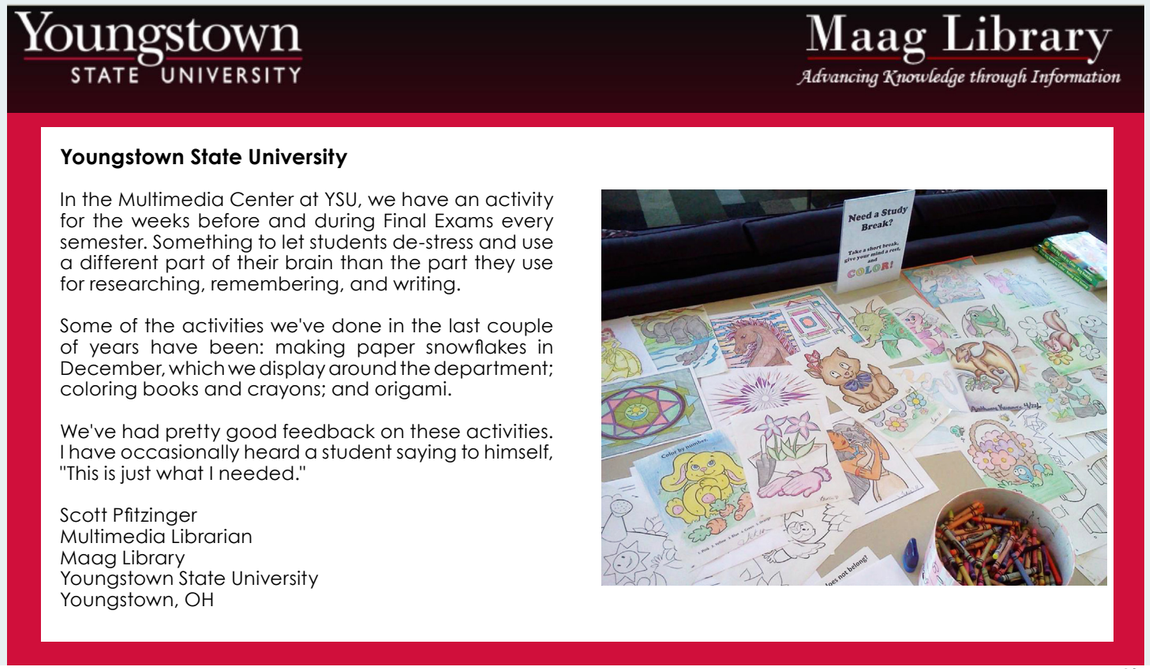
Bowling Green State University

The Learning Commons and University Libraries annually hosts Study on Sunday (SOS) the Sunday during exam week. SOS offers extended hours for drop-in tutoring for math/stats and many subjects, and writing consultations. We also provide therapy dogs, games, arts and crafts, make-your-trail mix, popcorn, academic coaching, and more. We also partner with Undergraduate Student Government and the University Activities organization for a late night snack session and study tips.

Kari Johnson
Manager, Administrative Services



Youngstown State University

In the Multimedia Center at YSU, we have an activity for the weeks before and during Final Exams every semester. Something to let students de-stress and use a different part of their brain than the part they use for researching, remembering, and writing.

Some of the activities we've done in the last couple of years have been: making paper snowflakes in December, which we display around the department; coloring books and crayons; and origami.

We've had pretty good feedback on these activities. I have occasionally heard a student saying to himself, "This is just what I needed."

Scott Pfitzinger
Multimedia Librarian
Maag Library
Youngstown State University
Youngstown, OH

Wright State University

We do Fuzz Therapy (service dogs from 4 Paw for Ability and 4 Paws WSU) which is a great way for the students to de-stress during finals and for the service-dogs-in-training to practice being socialized. Also, here is a link to our blog about some of the other activities we hosted Fall 2014 finals, in collaboration with the University Activities Board, with financial and in-kind support from Hospitality Services, Tutoring Services and Counseling and Wellness Services.

- http://www.libraries.wright.edu/community/blog/2014/11/25/fall-finals-14-stress-reliever-dec-8-12/
- http://www.libraries.wright.edu/community/blog/2014/11/21/relax-wright-stress-management-workshop/
- http://webapp2.wright.edu/web1/newsroom/2013/12/10/students-beat-the-dog-days-of-finals-week-with-a-little-help-from-furry-friends/
- https://instagram.com/dunbarlibrary/

Maureen Barry
First Year Experience Librarian

Fall Finals '14 Stress Reliever – Dec. 8 – 12

Posted on November 25, 2014 by University Libraries

From Massage Monday to the return of Fuzz Therapy on Friday, University Libraries and University Activities Board will be hosting Stress Reliever activities in Dunbar Library (with some in the Student Union) EVERY DAY of finals week!

Massage (and Mario) Monday, Dec. 8 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 15-minute professional chair massages in Dunbar Library Atrium and Student Union Atrium. In the SU, you can even play Mario Kart while you wait! Sign up for your massage early at Cram Jam, December 7th 6:00 to 10:00 pm in Dunbar Library.

Coffee and Cookies Tuesday, Dec. 9 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dunbar Library Group Study Room. First come first served. Free coffee samples provided by Hospitality Services. Decorate holiday cookies and play a few Brain Games as you enjoy your creations.

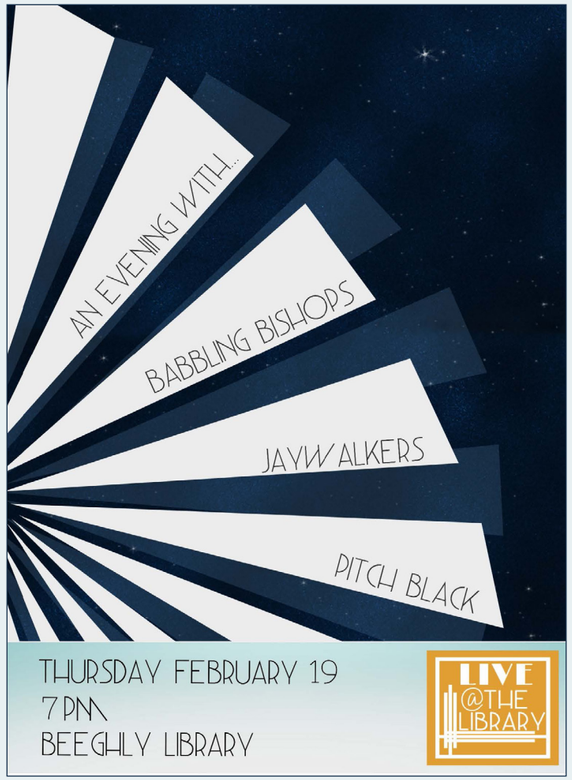
Candy "Bar" and Cards Wednesday, Dec. 10 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dunbar Library Group Study Room. First come first served. Indulge at our candy bar and decorate holiday cards for Dayton Children's Hospital.

Throw Back Thursday, Dec. 11 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dunbar Library Group Study Room. Feel like a kid again as you color, draw or play with Play-doh and unwind before or after finals.

Ohio Wesleyan University

LIVE @ The Library is a red carpet event held in the midst of awards season. It features performances by student groups on campus (this year's iteration featured our men's and women's a capella groups and our improv comedy troupe). We transform our Bayley Room into a classy night club, complete with a red carpeted VIP entryway, cabaret tables, and a mocktail bar. Students can dress up for the event, have their picture taken on the red carpet, and feel like a celebrity! This event helps us show how much we appreciate our students and leads to improved student relations. Students who have positive experiences with the library and its staff are so much more likely to come asking for help with school work.

Jillian Maruskin, MLIS
Public Services Librarian & Interlibrary Loan Manager
L.A. Beeghly Library



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Shawnee State University

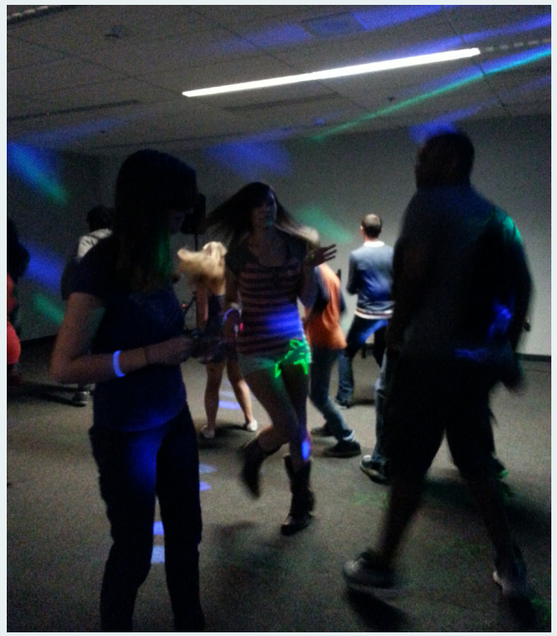
Clark Memorial Library

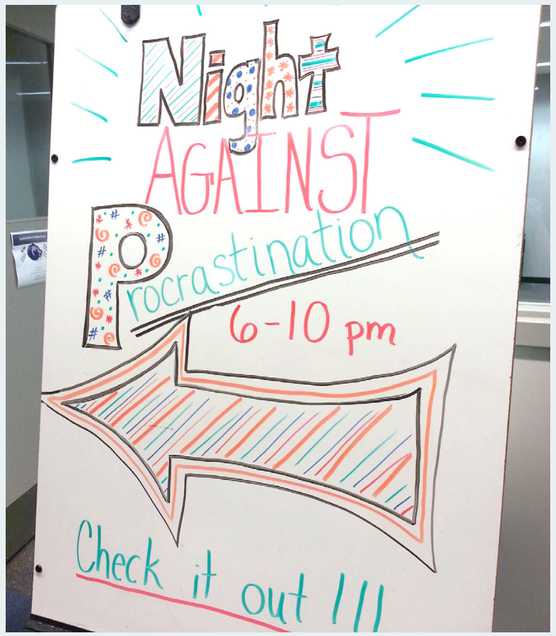
Shawnee State University

In the week before and the week of finals, we set up a "stress-free zone" that has puzzles, coloring sheets, and games. The coloring sheets were a huge hit. We went through about 200 of them. We also had a "Night Against Procrastination" event in partnership with our Writing Center. We had extra library and Writing Center staff on hand on the Sunday evening before the last week of class to encourage students to get a jump on their semester-end projects. We provided snacks and three study breaks in which we did origami, created our own buttons, and laughed over Mad Libs. We also raffled off two "Finals Survial Kits" that included candy, a flashdrive, pens, highlighters, post-it notes, and a slimy brain toy.

We also have a huge party the night before fall semester begins. The purpose is to help students connect with each other and with the library and to become comfortable in the physical space of the library. This year, we had a DJ, photo booth, candy bar, bingo, board games, miniature golf, Atari video games, and a scrapbooking station. The prizes for many of our activities were school supplies including notebooks, highlighters, pens, and Post-its. This event is part of the university's Weekend of Welcome.

Katy Mathuews
Learning and Outreach Librarian
Shawnee State University





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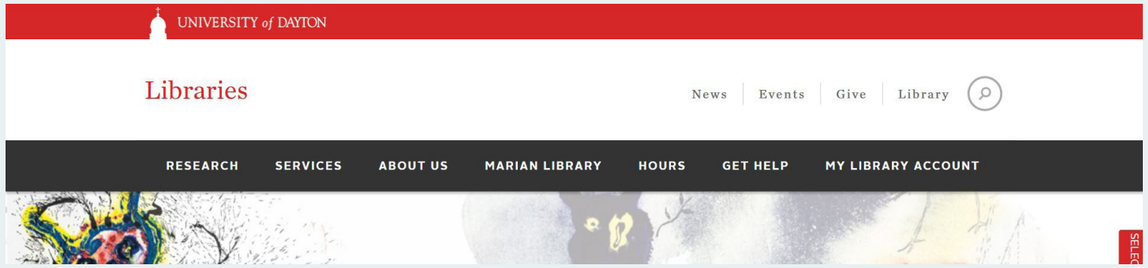
The Ohio State University

The time-lapse castle puzzle was a group effort that took the entire week for different students to complete. It was fun to watch it come together.

Ruth Sesco, Outreach Assistant
Thompson Library
The Ohio State University

Shawnee State University *continued*...



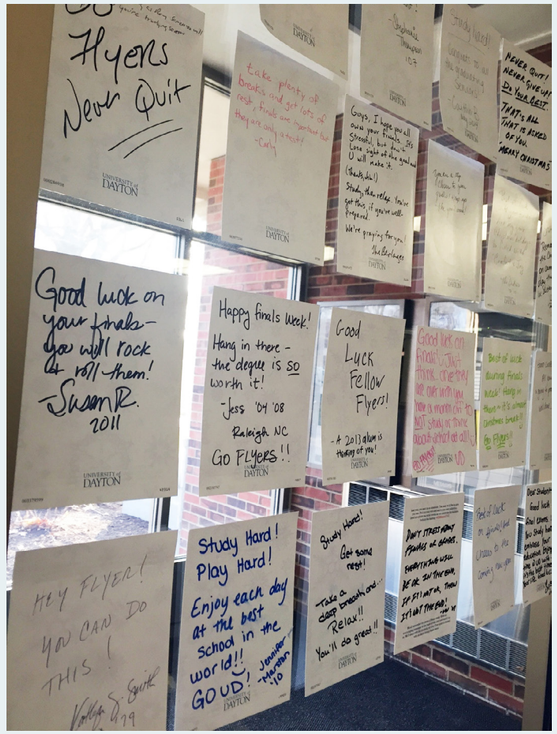
University of Dayton Libraries

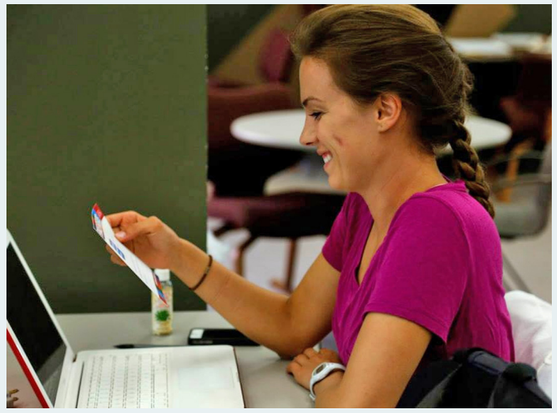
At University of Dayton Libraries we host several stress-relief services and some are co-sponsored by the Provost's Office. Services include: chair massages, taxi rides home, free coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and pizza. We also host therapy dog visits and give away one study room key via social media. We often theme our finals week services to help with promotion. Here are blog posts that list all of the activities from previous semesters along with their themes. I've also attached some photos of the services in action. Please let me know if I can provide more information.

"Finals Games" (Hunger Games) Fall 2014: https://www.udayton.edu/blogs/libraries/2014_11_21_finals.php
Spring 2014 (no theme): https://www.udayton.edu/blogs/libraries/2014_04_22_finalsweek.php
"Finals Week Crush" (Candy Crush) – Fall 2013: https://www.udayton.edu/blogs/libraries/2013_11_26_finalsweekcrush.php

Another service we started doing is passing out or posting notes of encouragement from alumni through a program called "Finals Friends." I've attached some images of notes of encouragement as well.

Katy Kelly
Communications and Outreach Librarian
Assistant Professor
University of Dayton





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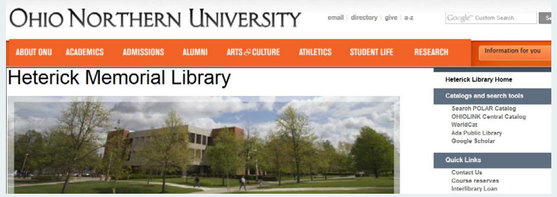


Ohio Northern University

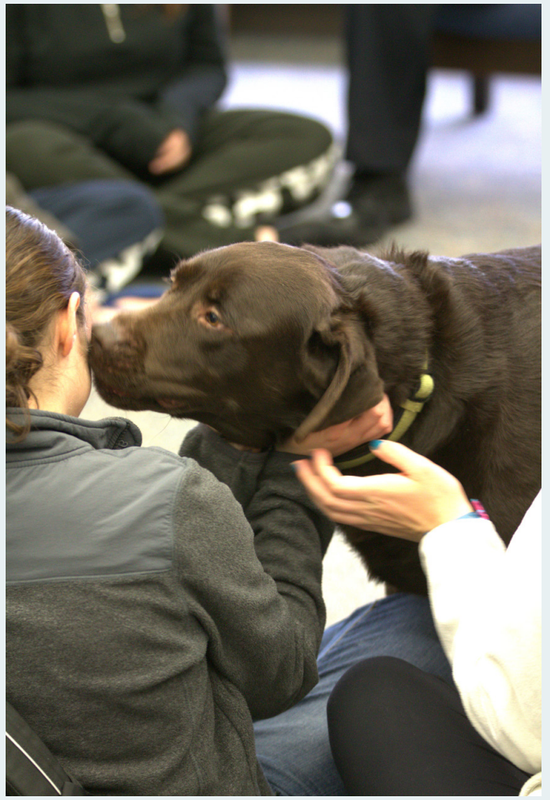
We are fairly new to stress busting activities here at Heterick Memorial Library, Ohio Northern University. Last spring semester was our first year having therapy dogs in at finals week and it was a huge hit. We have also teamed up with our Student Planning Group on campus and for the past two semesters they have brought massage therapists into the library.

This past fall semester, we had holiday crafts and cookie decorating one night of finals week. We also always provide free coffee from 10PM - 2AM on the week before finals and finals week for students.

The therapy dogs will be with us again at the end of this spring semester and we are brainstorming ideas for other stress busters at the end of this semester.

I have attached photos from last spring of just the dogs (as I am not sure what permissions I would have to obtain to include students) - - please give a photo credit to Ken Colwell.

Kathleen Baril
Director
Heterick Memorial Library
Ohio Northern University



OLSSI Receives H.W. Wilson Library Staff Development Grant

CHICAGO - The Ohio Library Support Staff Institute (OLSSI) has been named the H.W. Wilson Library Staff Development Grant recipient for 2015, for its cooperative venture to provide professional development opportunities for support staff from academic, public, school, and special libraries throughout the State of Ohio. The focus of this program is to develop and train library support staff to become good supervisors and to better serve their patrons.

With this grant, the Ohio Library Support Staff Institute plans to provide attendees interested in library supervision with some basic skills they will need to motivate employees, evaluate performance, navigate the implementation of library policies, and determine their own best management style. Good supervisors make it easier for staff to better serve patrons. The goal of these sessions is to assist the library support staff develop good supervisory skills that will benefit their libraries and their own careers. All attendees will be given the opportunity to attend the supervisory track, but especially the five (5) library support staff who apply for a $275 scholarship with the supervisory track in mind. The sessions will be evaluated by the attendees and in this case there will be follow-up with participants to see how many have taken on supervisory responsibilities in the year following the institute and/or how many have applied for a supervisory position. Based upon the results OLSSI will determine if the track should continue.

In selecting The Ohio Library Support Staff Institute (OLSSI) for this year's H.W. Wilson Grant, jury members commented on how this supervisory training program seemed well designed to meet a need in libraries. The jury was also delighted that five scholarships are to be offered, according to Jury Chair Joseph Egan, Montgomery County Public Libraries.

Members of the 2015 H.W. Wilson Library Staff Development Grant jury were Joseph Egan, Chair, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Jezmynne Dene, Portneuf District Library; Janice Flug, American University; Deana Groves, Western Kentucky University; and Rebecca Nous, University at Albany (SUNY).
The award will be presented at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, California in June. More information about the H.W. Wilson Staff Development Award including how to submit a nomination is available on the ALA website.

The deadline for submissions of applications for the 2016 H.W. Wilson Library Staff Development Grant is Dec. 1, 2015.
http://olssi.org/

Libraries as vital hubs connecting their communities to the digital world

Guiding Ohio Online places AmeriCorps members in areas of highest poverty in rural Ohio to perform training sessions, outreach, hands-on help, and other services. Funded by the Cooperation for National and Community Services, AmeriCorps places thousands of young adults into intensive service positions where they learn valuable work skills, earn money for education, and develop an appreciation for citizenship. By placing Guiding Ohio Online AmeriCorps members in libraries, we seek to enhance the image of libraries as premier providers of 21st century learning and as a vital hub connecting the community to the digital world.

Guiding Ohio Online

Great Stories

Great Stories were written by Guiding Ohio Online AmeriCorps members about their service.

Great Story: A couple months ago, I had the joy of meeting an elderly patron, George. He was browsing through the newspaper, as he often does when he visits. On this particular day, one of the librarians told him about our Guiding Ohio Online service. He had never used a computer before, but was eager to learn. We set up an appointment for the next week and he anxiously anticipated it.

At our first session, I showed him the very basics: how to move the mouse and use the keyboard. He was enthusiastic but struggled with the mouse due to the severe arthritis in his hand.

Each week, he continued to practice. He learned more about the capabilities of the computer, including email and browsing the internet. Even though his knowledge improved, he continued to struggle with the mouse. Fortunately, I was able to request that our library buy trackball mice for each branch, so that George and other patrons would have an easier time using the computer.
The next time we met, I showed him the new purchase and how to use it. Everything we had been working on finally clicked for him. It was like a whole new world opened up as he was able to navigate with ease. At the end of our session that day, after browsing various sites, he looked over to me and said, "I can see how people waste so much time on here. There's so much to see."

I am delighted that the weeks of practice paid off and so thankful that he will be able to use the computer without such pain. Even though he struggled, his enthusiasm kept me inspired as we practiced each week. This is only the beginning for George, he continues to come in each week, ready to learn something new.
-Shaila Lias

Great Story: I had an elderly patron come in who needed help accessing her unemployment information in order to fill out her tax forms. This was last week and well after the standard tax due date, so she was extremely flustered at being unable to complete her taxes without this information. She had waited because she was unsure of how to access the information and print it off in order to complete her forms.

She came to the library to try and do it for herself, but became quite frustrated with the confusion and difficulty of locating the information she needed. I spent roughly a half an hour showing her the step by step process of accessing her unemployment account and sifting through the documents to find the ones that she needed to print of for herself and her husband. I made sure she had copies of each document that she needed and really took the time to demonstrate the process, so that next time she can do it herself. I also made sure that it was a team effort and that she was actually learning the process. By the end, she was proud of her improvements in mouse control and that she could complete the process on her own. From my perspective it was simply printing a document, but to her it meant that she could do something independently and access her unemployment account and information by herself online. Hopefully, she will continue to come in and gain more experience with computers and the Internet. For now, I'm happy that I have helped her make strides and get her taxes turned in!
-Haley Goodson

Great Story: Larry was one of the first patrons my site supervisor scheduled me to assist during my second week on site. I was asked to help him learn how to play solitaire on the computer so that he would understand both the rules of the game and functionality to make the program work. Simple enough I thought but I was informed that he was suffering from dementia, which was the reason his wife wanted someone other than her to assist him with this. When I first met him he barely acknowledged me and was quite distant. Some progress was made and we scheduled another appointment.

The next week we both felt discouraged as we seemed almost back at square one but I felt hopeful when I noticed how much quicker he remembered things from the previous weeks once we started getting into our groove. We continued weekly meetings for several months and I felt very proud of our time together because his working on a simple repetitive task is helpful for dementia because it puts these skills into long-term memory. Not only was he retaining more and more of the basic skills needed to perform his task but he was also picking up on little tricks that I showed him too. However, what affected me the most from my time with him was how he changed in terms of his attitude more so than anything else.

When we first started he was quite reserved and easily became frustrated when he couldn't remember something. By the end of our time working together he became more outgoing, always greeting me and asking how I was doing. When he couldn't remember something he laughed at himself rather than becoming angry about it. It was really special and meant a lot to me that our one-on-one sessions were helping him with his skills in addition helping him with his condition.
-Devin Warner

While working at the East Palestine Memorial Public Library as the area's Guiding Ohio Online representative, I had a woman ask for assistance in preparing and sending her resume for positions she found interesting on a job-search website.

I provided the woman with the help she requested, to which she repeatedly apologized for troubling me with such simple problems. She was a nurse and apologetically explained that her skills were isolated in the medical realm. She didn't know the first thing about computers, writing or technology. I assured her that I was working at the library for the very purpose of assisting patrons with their technology concerns and assured her that her concerns and difficulties were no less important than anyone else's.

After a session that lasted barely a half-hour, the woman was more than pleased with the help I had provided and was exuberant with the way her resume had turned out and the confidence she felt at having applied for a number of desired employment opportunities.

Read more Great Stories at: http://www.guidingohioonline.com/content/great-story

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Guiding Ohio Online AmeriCorps Members
October 2014

Participating Host Libraries for the 2015-2016 program year.

Libraries hosting a full time member:
Adams County Public Library
Athens County Public Library
Brown County Public Library and Union Township Public Library
Cardington-Lincoln Library and Mt. Gilead Public Library
Hubbard Public Library,
Meigs County Public Library
Forest-Jackson Library and Mary Lou Johnson Hardin County Library
Perry Public Library and Madison Public Library
Puskarich Public Library
Sandusky Public Library

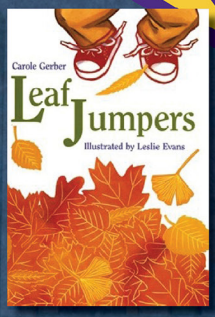
Libraries hosting a part-time member:
Grafton-Midview Library
Ada Public Library
Birchard Public Library
Bucyrus Public Library
Public Library of Chillicothe and Ross County
Defiance Public Library
East Palestine Public Library
Fairfield County Public Library
Garnet A Wilson Public Library
Germantown Public Library
Grand Valley Public Library and Rock Creek Public Library
Jackson City Library
Kingsville Public Library
Massillon Public Library
Public Library of Mt. Vernon and Knox County
Piqua Public Library
Reed Memorial Library
St. Clairsville Public Library
Wagnalls Memorial Public Library

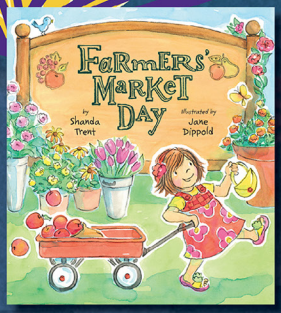
AMERICORPS

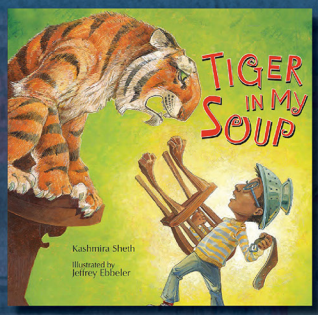
SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

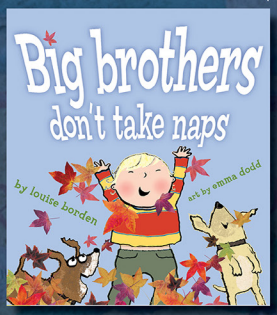
Choose to Read Ohio

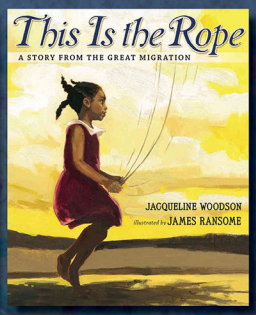
2015 & 2016



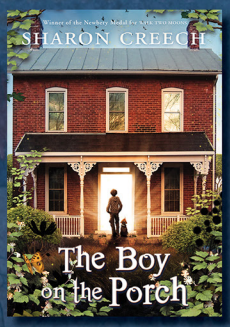


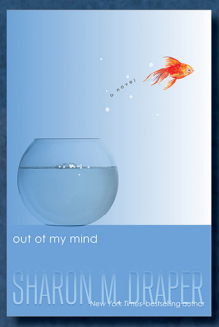


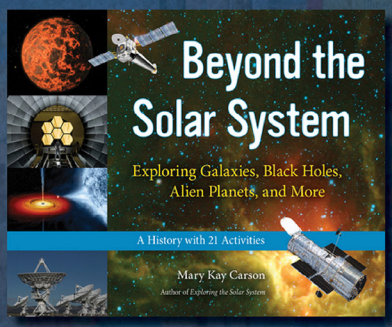


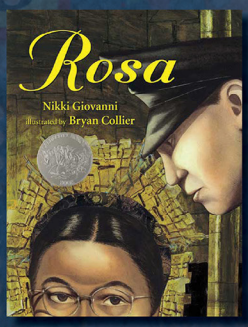


Read Together

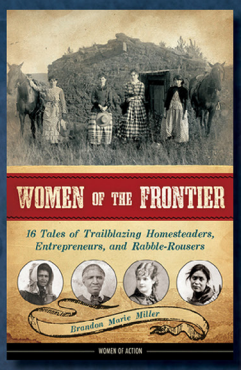


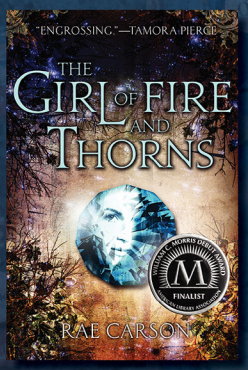


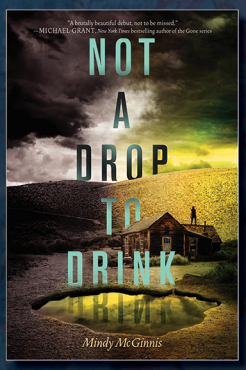




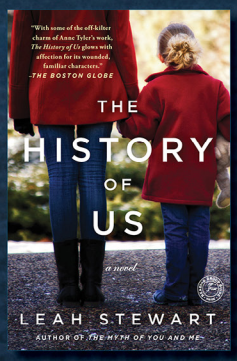
Read Ohio

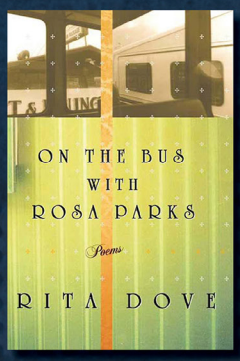


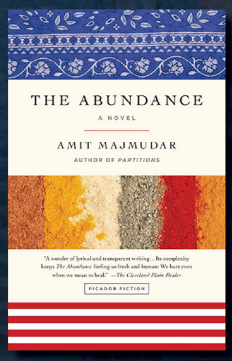


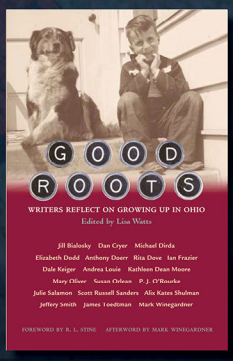


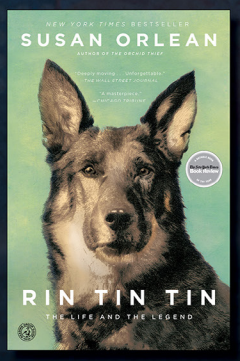
Read for Life!











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