FIRST QUARTER 2014
VOL 3, ISSUE 1

Ohio Libraries Quarterly

Library Services & Technology

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

Library Services & Technology

Some people think that each advance in the world of technology brings libraries one step closer to the brink of obsolescence. In my visits to libraries around the state, I have found much evidence to the contrary. I see libraries of all types embracing new technologies to help them deliver a broader array of services more effectively and efficiently and to help them bring new users to the library, if not physically, then virtually.

In this issue of the Ohio Libraries Quarterly, we take a look at the ways in which libraries have adopted various technologies, sometimes in surprising ways. The Upper Arlington Public Library is a good example of how libraries are delivering digital content including eBooks, magazines, music, movies, and television shows to remote users. Many public libraries often have difficulty meeting the demand for public computers due to space constraints. The Greene County Public Library has gone a long way toward solving this dilemma by providing iPads and laptops for patrons to check out and use while they're in the library. Nearby, the MidPointe Public Library is using an Automated Materials Handling System to help staff process the high volume of returned materials more efficiently, getting materials back on the shelves and ready for the next borrower in record time. The MakerSpace trend is impacting libraries in Ohio and across the country. In the MakerSpace at the Cleveland Public Library, library users can use a wide variety of high tech tools to help them create music, video, and even physical objects.

The articles in this issue really just scrape the surface of the exciting ways libraries are utilizing technology to operate more efficiently and effectively and to remain relevant in today's fast-paced, quickly changing society.

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Beverly Cain

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State Library Board

Left to Right: Krista Taracuk, member; State Librarian Beverly Cain; Stephen Wood, President; John Myles, Vice-President; Jennifer Thompson McKell, member; and Melissa (Missy) Hendon Deters, member

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

A technical solution for MidPointe Library

West Chester's check-in log jam

By Cari Hillman, Public Relations Manager
MidPointe Library System

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As a Library that circulates over 1.3 million items a year, the West Chester location of the MidPointe Library System needed a more efficient way to process returns. Check-ins were extremely labor intensive, requiring four to five staff members at a time to keep up with the constant stream of returned library materials, and on the day after a holiday, processing returns would necessitate an entire thirteen hour day to overcome the backlog.

A solution for MidPointe Library West Chester's check-in log jam was found in an automated materials handling system, installed in June 2012. Mounted on the wall immediately inside the library building, two computer screens above rectangular openings mask the sophisticated system found on the other side of the partition. After patrons scan a library item, it is digitally checked-in and pulled through the opening on a conveyor belt which sorts the material and deposits it into the appropriate bin. From there, library staff can place the items on book carts and quickly get them back on the shelves.

With the AMH system, two staff members can complete check-in during peak hours, with just one employee during slower times. The holiday "backlog" of the past can now be checked in by noon. This has allowed for staff to be assigned to other essential tasks throughout the building.

MidPointe customers rely on the system, as they can physically see their returned items as they are checked-in and then print a receipt at the end of each transaction. Much to the delight of younger patrons, MidPointe installed a video camera and monitor so users can watch as their materials are processed, then swept away into the next room and gently dropped into their respective bins.

The interface is user-friendly and patrons needed little or no assistance to begin utilizing this new service. Additionally, after an initial period to "work the bugs out," mechanical problems have been rare.

"The AMH has had a very positive effect on the way we do business at MidPointe Library West Chester," says MidPointe Library West Chester branch manager Steve Mayhugh. "It has been good for our customers and good for the library."

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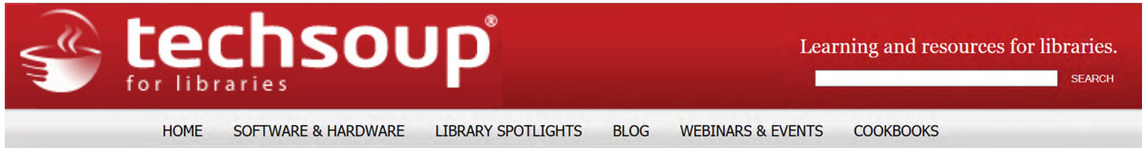

http://www.techsoup.org/support/articles-and-how-tos/what-techsoup-offers-libraries
Conent from website written by Ariel Gilbert-Knight, Senior Content Manager, TechSoup Global

You hear a lot about nonprofits here at TechSoup. But TechSoup also has many resources for libraries. Some resources are for libraries specifically, others are relevant to both libraries and nonprofits. This article will provide an overview of the TechSoup technology product donations and learning resources that can help your library effectively maintain and sustain its technology.

High-Quality Discounted Technology Products for Libraries

TechSoup distributes donated and discounted software and hardware products to eligible nonprofit organizations and libraries.

Learning Resources for Libraries

TechSoup for Libraries is where you'll find a wealth of resources that were created specifically with libraries in mind. They include: Techsoup for Libraries blog, Library Spotlights, Library Cookbooks, Articles and How-Tos, forums, and newsletter.

TechSoup for Libraries is a project of TechSoup Global, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit devoted to making technology and technology education available and affordable to nonprofits and libraries all over the world.
TechSoup for Libraries grew out of a desire to specifically address the technology needs of public libraries. An important part of the program is the information developed as part of the MaintainIT Project, which was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and managed by TechSoup Global. The Project gathered stories from public libraries about how they support their public computers. These tips and techniques are published in "Cookbooks" and articles, available for free on our website. http://www.techsoupforlibraries.org/about

Upcoming Webinars

Donations Through TechSoup
Event Type: Webinar
When: Thursday, April 10, 2014 - 11:00am
Registration link: Register
Duration: One hour

This free, hour-long webinar is your chance to have all your burning TechSoup donation request process questions answered. Get on your way to receiving the donated software, hardware, and technology services your library needs!
Read more

Public Tech Instruction: Online Job Search Assistance
Event Type: Webinar
When: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 - 11:00am
Registration link: Register
Duration: One hour

Supporting jobseekers is a critical service provided by public libraries. Learn how your library can improve its job search training programs. This free webinar will feature speakers from the Arlington Heights Memorial Library and TRAIL sharing tips and tools for training the public. Register now and become a better trainer today!
Read more

Help Youth Find a Meal: A Technology Solution to Meet a Community Need
Event Type: Webinar
When: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 - 11:00am
Registration link: Register
Duration: One hour

Join Marnie Webb, CEO of Caravan Studios, as she talks about Range, a new mobile app designed to help youth find a free meal this summer. Learn how your organization and supporters can download and use this app to help your community this summer.
Read more

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Photos from State Librarian Beverly Cain's visit in September 2012.
http://library.ohio.gov/category/image-galleries/library-visits/2012/midpointe-library-system

iPads® @ the Library: GCPL circulates iPads to patrons

By Jim Mann, Technology Coordinator
Greene County Public Library

iPads® are now available for in-library use to patrons of the Greene County Public Library (GCPL).

The iPads® @ the Library program is part of GCPL's mobile computing program which started several years ago with circulating laptops and has since expanded to offering 50 iPads to patrons at all seven GCPL locations.

In 2013, GCPL purchased 50 iPads for in-house circulation to patrons. As the project developed, each of the seven GCPL branches received a package which contained a MacBook® Pro, a Griffin MultiDock charging station and from five to a dozen iPads each pre-configured with a variety of apps.

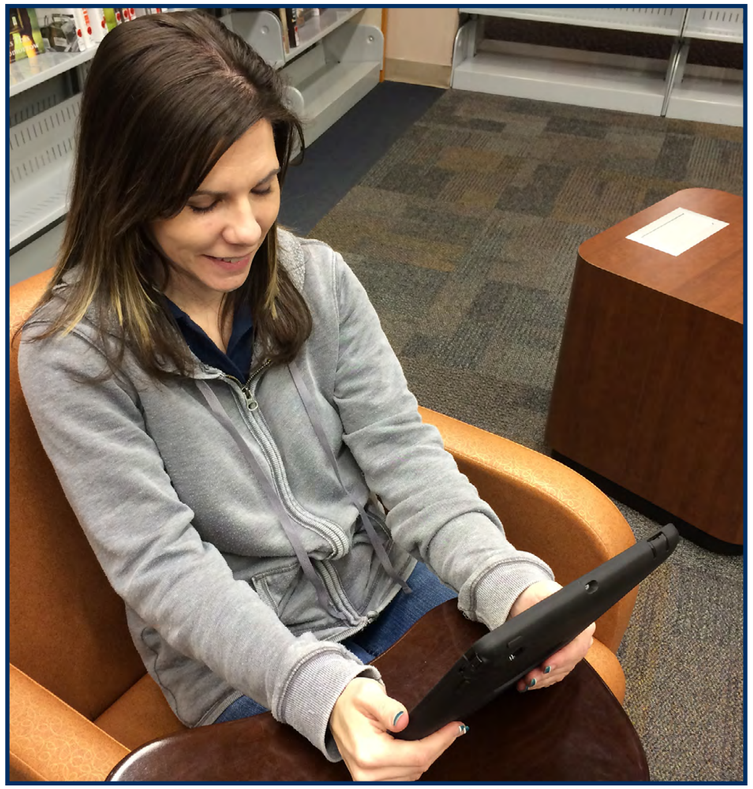
The iPads circulate for two hours and are available to both adult and young adult patrons. Before a patron can check out an iPad, they must sign a notebook agreement which is essentially a contract between the patron and the library ensuring that the patron knows the iPad fine structure and replacement costs.

Once the iPad is returned, it is placed in the Griffin, restored to factory settings and reimaged. This process erases any patron apps or data which may have been installed during checkout. In addition to the Griffin, the key to this process is the Apple Configurator Tool which allows administrators to configure the iPad® to library specifications, lock it down, save an image and reimage the iPad® after use.

Circulation of the iPads has been slowly increasing as patrons check them out to either try them before purchase or to enjoy the mobility they provide.

In 2013, in addition to adding the iPads to the overall technology mixture, GCPL added additional Windows® 7 public desktop computers and replaced and added circulating laptops at each branch.

GCPL's circulating laptop project started several years ago with two laptops in a branch that serves a local college town. The project slowly expanded using "off-lease" laptops to mitigate concerns over cost, damage and theft. As the cost of new laptops continued to go down, in 2013 50 new Dell® laptops were made available to the public for in-house circulation.



GCPL patrons can use iPads and laptops on special computer furniture like this patron at the Xenia library.

The laptops run on Windows 7 professional and come with a fairly standard package of programs including Microsoft Office®, IE®, Firefox® and Acrobat Reader®. To prepare the laptops for distribution to branches, a "technician" computer is created and then using a Clonezilla® server running on a Suse Linux®, the workstation is imaged. Once the initial image is saved, multiple laptops are "cloned," renamed and tweaked to add local printers and any additional updates.

The laptop circulation policy has now become pretty standard in the library community. Patrons are required to sign a laptop agreement, have a valid library card and must be able to check out an item according to circulation policies. In GCPL's three larger branches, the laptops are added to PCReservation, which while creating a two-step checkout process, manages the patron queue and insures that the laptops are returned on time so they are available for the next patron.

There are several advantages to a mobile computing strategy whether it includes laptops, tablets or both. These advantages include:

Space

Mobile devices require less space than traditional desktop computers and use existing comfortable furniture as opposed to carrels.

Cost

The cost of mobile devices is constantly dropping and a wise shopper can find laptops for less than a new desktop CPU and monitor. Large resellers like CDWG offer small discounts on iPads®.

Mobility

Patrons like the ability to move around the library that a mobile device affords.

A mobile computing strategy, whether with laptops or as in the case of GCPL with iPads, can create a number of learning opportunities. While setting up a laptop, locking it down, attaching it to the local wireless and making it print are now pretty routine for most library IT staff, working with iPads (or tablets) is new territory. Some things GCPL learned include:

Cost

iPads and most Apple® products aren't cheap and what discounts are available are small.

iTunes

At the center of any iPad project is Apple's iTunes®. Making an iTunes account first requires a credit card (which is a challenge for some libraries), there is a limit to the number of iTunes accounts that can be added to a single credit card, and unless you use the configuration tool, there is a limit to the number of devices you can add to a single iTunes account.

Apps

Selecting the right number and the right type of apps can be a challenge, especially if staff selectors aren't familiar with apps. You also have to balance between free apps and the paid version or whether your policies will allow for staff to purchase apps.

Printing

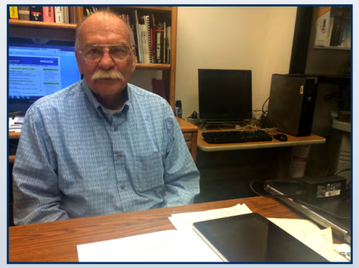
iPads can't print through our Envisionware LPTOne software.

But, at the end of the day, GCPL chose iPads over other type of tablets because:

- The setup process is extremely well documented since iPads are so pervasive in the education community.
- The iTunes "restore" and "re-sync" process allows you to erase any patron data between uses.
- Young patrons love them.

Greene County Public Library

What does the future hold? Is the desktop computer really dead? Will Windows tablets become viable or reasonably priced? Will libraries move away from the traditional desktop public computer to a more mobile strategy? Will libraries circulate laptops or tablets so patrons can use them at home? Only time and patron demand will tell.



Jim Mann

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INFOhio's New ILibrarians Support Schools Virtually

By Laura Sponhour
INFOhio Outreach Specialist
INFOhio

INFOhio, Ohio's PreK-12 digital library, has created a new ILibrarian position to support statewide projects and provide extra help to school librarians who are stretched too thin across multiple responsibilities and buildings. Among other tasks, the ILibrarians—short for "integration librarian"—will research ways to effectively use the latest digital tools in instruction and share them with librarians and classroom teachers. They are also working to increase cooperation with public and university libraries and investigating new ways to improve literacy with online resources.

"I am grateful to the state decision makers who provided INFOhio the resources to offer innovative library and classroom support across the state," said INFOhio Executive Director Theresa M. Fredericka. "The ILibrarians will dramatically increase our ability to help others effectively use digital tools to improve teaching and learning."

Meet INFOhio's New ILibrarians

To staff the new ILibrarian position, INFOhio tapped three veteran professionals with a variety of library backgrounds: Erica Clay, Emily Rozmus, and Brandi Young.

Erica Clay earned a BA in English and music from Wright State and a master of humanities from Wright State before earning a master's degree in library science from Indiana University. She has more than 10 years' work experience, including as an early childhood teacher and elementary music teacher. Most recently, she was the Humanities Librarian at Wright State and the Library Director of the University of Northwestern Ohio.

Emily Rozmus earned a BS in education from Bowling Green and a master's in education-library science from Wright State. She has worked for Mechanicsburg Exempted Village Schools for 20 years, first as an English teacher and later as a K-12 library media specialist. Since 2011, she has held both positions.

Brandi Young earned a BS in education from Ohio University and a master's degree in library and information science from Kent State. She taught English in Newark City Schools before moving into a middle school library program there. For the last year, she has been the media specialist at three elementary schools in Westerville City Schools.

ILibrarian Focus Areas

Erica will focus on increasing online information literacy skills for students, coordinating services with OhioLINK, and connecting students to online learning modules through virtual reference techniques.

Emily will explore how to better align INFOhio resources with standards, assessment, and professional practice; connect with public libraries to improve literacy and support the Third Grade Reading Guarantee; and create blended learning modules to support digital learning at public, charter, and online schools.

Brandi will promote online reading programs for students, investigate classroom applications for Web 2.0 curation technologies, and explore the best ways to support student achievement with new technologies.

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Making Makers at the Cleveland Public Library

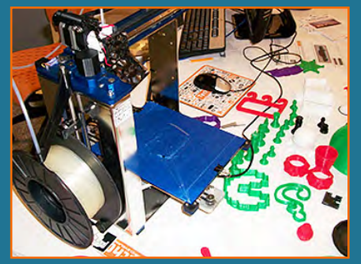
By Terry Metter, Library Assistant, Computer Emphasis
Cleveland Public Library, TechCentral

Many grand openings feature a ribbon cutting, but few use a laser to do the job. The **Cleveland Public Library** opened its MakerSpace on January 11th with the press of a button on an Epilog laser engraver. The laser engraver is just one of the many high tech tools available for use in the MakerSpace, which is housed in the TechCentral department of CPL's Louis Stokes Wing. For those users interested in physical fabrication, a 3D printer, 3D scanner, and vinyl cutter are available. Digital production tools include a green screen, DSLR camera, studio lighting equipment, an electric guitar, an electric bass, MIDI controllers, Korg synthesizers, CorelDraw, and the Adobe Creative Suite.

The MakerSpace has welcomed both professional and novice makers through its unique set of tools and programming.

Despite having been open less than two months, the MakerSpace has already attracted a large and diverse group of users. These include professional makers—engineers from Momentive, a specialty chemical and material company, who 3D printed a prototype for a new valve cover; a clothing designer that used the laser cutter to burn designs and make cuts in cloth and leather; and a musician who shot a music video using the DSLR and green screen. Since not all users come into the MakerSpace with prior training or experience, TechCentral offers MakerLabs as a way for new users to get acquainted with the new tools available to them. During the MakerLabs, library staff members lead users in the creative process. Past MakerLabs have given users the opportunity to 3D print their own cookie cutter, custom engrave wooden photo squares, and learn how to retouch photos using editing software.

On March 29, the library will hosted the Cleveland Mini Maker Faire. For the second year in a row, makers from throughout the region gathered to share their creations and innovations. This special event inhabited seven floors of the ten story Louis Stokes Wing and offered an entire day's worth of attractions and activities for visitors.



Through programming initiatives and cutting edge technology for makers of all skill levels, CPL is working to create a dynamic community of learning in its MakerSpace.

WEBINARS AT NO COST TO YOU

APRIL 23
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Digital Literacy: Libraries Respond to Community Needs
Learn about curricula, resources, and tools to support your library's efforts in helping people attain new digital literacy skills.

MAY 8
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Reference Services: Tried, True, and New
Explore both traditional and emerging approaches to library reference, addressing changing patron needs and with varied information resources and formats.

MAY 22
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT

Transforming Library Space for Community Engagement
Rethinking how library spaces can be configured to enhance and expand community engagement in the digital age.

MAY 28
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Health Happens in Libraries: Technology Planning for eHealth
Learn how public libraries can leverage their technology infrastructure to better serve the health information needs of patrons.

OCLC WebJunction® The learning place for libraries.

For more information visit the WebJunction Events Calendar at :**http://webjunction.org/events/webjunction.html**

Adaptive Technology at the Ohio State School for the Blind

By Dan Kelley, Kim Picard, and Janell Brown
Ohio State School for the Blind

In 1837, the Ohio government established the Ohio Institution for the Education of the Blind. This institution was the predecessor of the Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB). It was the first public school for the blind in the United States. The school opened its doors in 1837, and it was located in downtown Columbus, Ohio. Any blind children residing in Ohio could attend the institution. Eleven students enrolled at the Ohio Institution for the Education of the Blind this first year. In 1839, the first school building was constructed & initially had a maximum capacity of sixty students. Upon moving to a new building in 1874, more than three hundred students could attend at one time. Between 1839 and 1901, 2,058 students enrolled at the Ohio Institution for the Education of the Blind, with 339 attending in 1901 alone.

OSSB'S mission statement states: The Ohio State School for the Blind, a publicly funded educational facility, is dedicated to the intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth of students with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities. Our mission is to work cooperatively with students, families, and the community to provide an effective, enjoyable educational experience through specialized curriculum, equipment, and materials and individualized, disability-specific instruction to develop our students' unique potential.

This mission drives our curriculum at OSSB. Our population ranges from low vision to totally blind and includes students with additional disabilities. Each student is assessed for what type of technology will best meet his or her individual needs for accessing the educational curriculum. OSSB uses both standard and adaptive technology. Some students use special software and/or hardware to assist them.

As early as kindergarten, students are exposed to technology. Instruction continues throughout the student's educational experience at OSSB. At the primary level, students are shown hardware and software and begin to learn cause and effect relationships, i.e. different knobs and buttons do different things. Technology is used to explore different environments.

Depending on their visual impairment, students will use magnification software to magnify the computer screen, or screen reading software that will give auditory feedback of what is on the screen. These programs are used along with standard programs like MS Office® and internet browsers. Some of the adaptive softwares used at OSSB are JAWS for Windows®, ZoomText, WindowEyes, and Talking Typer. Use of OCR technology is also taught to our students starting at the middle school level. This technology involves computer software and the use of a scanner to scan a print document/book, allowing the reader/listener to save the scanned information in another format.

We also use Braille notetakers which are portable devices that have a braille keyboard and a refreshable braille display. This device can be used as a standalone unit the student uses to complete classroom and homework assignments. They can then print their work and present it to the teacher. The notetaker can also be connected to the computer to provide Braille output and input when working on the computer.

We incorporate iPads® and iPhones® in the curriculum, as well. We read books, learn how to send email, download apps and text friends. These are skills everyone needs to know and our students are no exception. The school library's card catalog is accessible to all staff and students and works with our magnification and screen reading software. Students may access the card catalog via the school's website when off grounds by going to the Library Media Center page.

For our students with additional disabilities, we use adapted switches, keyboard and iPad apps to teach choice making, sequencing and communication and social skills.

Dan Kelley is a teacher of students with Visual impairments at the Ohio State School for the Blind. He teaches standard and adaptive technology to grades 3-12 and has been the director of the Ohio State School for the Blind's Marching Band from 2009-2012.

Kim Picard is a teacher of the Visually Impaired at the Ohio State School for the Blind, who has taught at OSSB for over twenty years. She teaches standard and adaptive technology to grades 3-12+ and coordinates educational technology for the school as well.

Janell Brown is the School Library Media Specialist at the Ohio State School for the Blind, who has been at OSSB for over twenty years. She works with all K-12 students at the school, and helps coordinate services for students with the State Library for the National Library Service's Talking Book Program.

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Participants Selected for Library Leadership Ohio 2014

The State Library of Ohio and OHIONET are pleased to announce the group of developing leaders selected to participate in Library Leadership Ohio 2014. Participants were carefully chosen based on their outstanding leadership potential; excellent communication skills; successful library employment experience; initiative, commitment and reasonable risk taking; forward-thinking approach to problem solving, and; a commitment to the profession. "I am delighted that the State Library is once again working with its partners to present Library Leadership Ohio," expressed State Librarian Beverly Cain. "Library Leadership Ohio has long been recognized as Ohio's premier institute for helping future leaders identify and develop their skills. It is gratifying to look around the state and see LLO graduates in key leadership positions throughout Ohio's library community."

"OHIONET has been working with the State Library of Ohio and our partners representing the academic, K-12, and public library communities to present LLO 2014," said OHIONET Executive Director Michael Butler. "We are excited to continue the tradition of a hands-on leadership opportunity that started with the Library Leadership Ohio class of 2012."

Congratulations to the following individuals selected to participate in Library Leadership Ohio 2014:

Julie Albert, Editorial Library, The Columbus Dispatch
Nicole Balogh, Avon Lake Public Library
Cassandra Barok, Columbus Metropolitan Library
Jennifer Buckner, Dayton Metro Library
Samantha Chada, Sandusky Library
Sagoree Chatterjee, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton Cty.
Erica Clay, INFOhio
Christiana Congelio, Worthington Libraries
Kristine Cook, Columbus Metropolitan Library
Jessica Curtis, Westerville Public Library
Mary Frankenfield, Mansfield-Richland Cty. Public Library
Robin Gibson, Westerville Public Library
Gail Greenberg, Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Patricia Hehir-Brewer, Cuyahoga County Public Library
Jesse Henning, Westerville Public Library
Adam Hochstetler, Columbus Metropolitan Library
Brock Hutchison, Licking County Library
Tutti Jackson, Ohio Historical Society
Jennifer Johnson, State Library of Ohio
Megan Johnson, Stark County District Library
Elinor Kirchner, Worthington Libraries
Holly Klingler, Northeast Ohio Regional Library System (NEO-RLS)
Kirstin Krumsee, State Library of Ohio
Davina Little, Upper Arlington Public Library
Lisa Long, Ohio Historical Society
Eric Lucius, Medina County District Library
Erica Marks, Cleveland Public Library
Tracy Martin, Cleveland Public Library
Katy Mathuews, Clark Memorial Library, Shawnee State University
Joshua Michael, Centennial Library, Cedarville University
Caroline Molnar, Delaware Cty. District Library
Noreen Mulcahy, Mount Carmel Health Sciences Library
Grace Peterson, Portage County District Library
Linette Porter-Metler, Public Library of Mt. Vernon & Knox Cty.
Shiva Shakeri, Columbus College of Art and Design
Daphne Silchuk-Ashcraft, Orrville Public Library
Mandy Simon, Bexley Public Library
Barbara Smith, Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning Cty.
Cynthia Stafford, Lane Libraries
Heather Tiffany, Galion Public Library Association
Hayley Tracy-Bursley, Ashland Public Library
Maria Trivisonno, Cuyahoga County Public Library
Julie VanHoose, Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library
Holly Varley, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton Cty.
Gabriel Venditti, Bass Library, Lorain Cty. Community College
Carrie Waibel, OHIONET
Emily Wichman, Clermont County Public Library
Angela Wotjecki, Nordonia Hills City School District
Jane Wu, Courtright Memorial Library, Otterbein University

Library Leadership Ohio 2014 will be facilitated by Ivy Library from Charlottesville, Virginia and take place July 22 – 25, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Worthington. As part of the application process applicants were asked to select a project topic they were interested in pursuing. Following the 3-day session, the Library Leadership Ohio class of 2014 will continue work on the group projects, with support from a mentor. The projects will further the goals of Library Leadership Ohio by having participants work together in a collaborative environment to share ideas, enhance networking, and discuss future issues facing Ohio libraries.

Library Leadership Ohio is co-sponsored by the State Library of Ohio and OHIONET, with support from OLA, OELMA, ALAO, and INFOhio. The program is funded in part through a federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS LSTA grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio. For more information visit the Library Leadership Ohio 2014 website.

Digital services at the Upper Arlington Public Library

By Kevin Bauer, Emerging Technologies Librarian
Upper Arlington Public Library

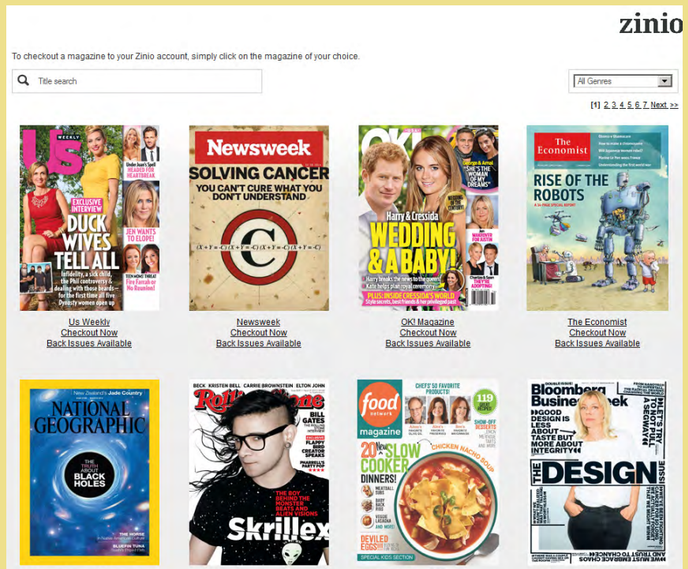
The Upper Arlington Public Library was one of the first libraries in central Ohio to offer eBooks to its patrons. Since then, we have added new digital services to give our patrons access to media in the formats they want. To ensure a great customer experience, we also provide scheduled, one-on-one patron training and email tech support for our eBook consortium.

eBooks are nearly ubiquitous in public libraries and other formats are following in their digital wake. New services offer our patrons digital access to magazines, music and—most recently—movies.

The following services are available through a web browser and on mobile apps for iOS and Android. Titles are always available and like eBooks they will never be overdue. Patrons can read magazines, listen to a CD or watch a movie anytime, anywhere.

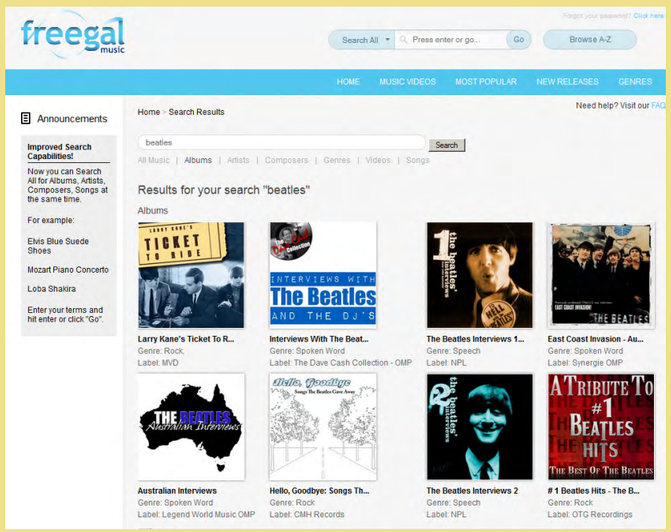
Zinio offers patrons access to popular magazine titles. Your library can offer a basic collection or select specific titles. Patrons have access to current issues and back issues starting from the first month of your subscription. For instance, our library's patron can access issues back to February 2013, the beginning of our subscription.

Zinio can be tricky for patrons to set up because you are actually creating two accounts: one with Recorded Books and one with Zinio.



Freegal is a favorite of music fans, allowing them to download songs from the Sony music catalog. Freegal offers a tiered system where libraries can pay for a certain number of downloads per week, or an unlimited plan.

Patrons like being able to keep the songs they download, though if you subscribe to the limited plan, be prepared for questions when the limit is met. We have many regulars who download first thing on Monday morning to make sure they don't miss out.



A recent entry from Midwest Tapes, Hoopla allows you to stream or download music, movies, television shows and audiobooks. Hoopla allows patrons to check out content for a limited time. For instance, they can borrow a CD for 7 days. During that time, they can stream it or download it if they are using the app. There is no service fee for libraries; instead you pay for each time a title is borrowed.

The Hoopla app is available for Android and iOS. Hoopla does require patrons to download a plugin for their web browser, but otherwise it is very easy for patrons to use.

We feature all of our digital media services on the front page of our website (www.ualibrary.org).

Edge is a series of benchmarks that will help public libraries assess their current technology services and make improvements that will better serve their communities. It is a groundbreaking, first of its kind management and leadership tool, helping libraries create a path for the continuous growth and development of their public technology services. It was developed with an understanding of the challenges libraries face today. Technology demands and challenges are different for every library, just as each community has unique needs and demographics. Through completing the Edge Assessment, libraries evaluate their current services and identify opportunities for improvement. The Edge Assessment evaluates the library's public technology services. Through the assessment tool, libraries understand best practices in technology-related services for their communities and determine what steps they need to take to improve their public technology programming.

Where People Connect, Communities Achieve

A principal goal of Edge's 2014 national launch is to generate comparison data that libraries need. To create this data, a select random sample of libraries has been invited to participate at no cost in 2014. Edge has reached out to the State Library to promote the benchmarks to selected Ohio libraries for the free preview.

"The Edge process provides an excellent, straightforward framework for conducting a comprehensive evaluation of our digital initiatives." Don Barlow, Director, Westerville Public Library.

The State Library of Ohio encourages selected libraries to participate in Library Edge (http://www.libraryedge.org/).

Questions on the Edge Initiative can be addressed to Mandy Knapp, aknapp@library.ohio.gov

Good Question! What is a Discovery Layer?

By Gwen Evans
Executive Director, OhioLINK

OhioLINK
Ohio's Academic Library Consortium
An OH·TECH Consortium Member

What is a Discovery Layer?

In terms familiar to most users, a discovery layer is a Google-like search across all library resources. In library language, a discovery layer is a searchable meta-index of library resources, usually including article-level metadata, e-book metadata, metadata from library catalogs, open access resource metadata, etc., and it includes a means of retrieving resources in the result set through linking technology.

In 2013, OhioLINK negotiated a contract for EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) on behalf of the OhioLINK membership. In 2013, 58 OhioLINK libraries implemented EDS on their campuses – an OhioLINK initiative that was so successful, we celebrated in December with a combination party/round-table discussion, complete with cake.

Other OhioLINK libraries have chosen to implement other discovery layer products, such as Serials Solutions' Summon and OCLC's WorldCat Local, for even more discovery layer coverage across the state. So what is a discovery layer, and why did OhioLINK member libraries want to implement one?

Why is a discovery layer needed for libraries?

Without a discovery layer, users have to search many separate silos of information one by one – the library catalog for books and journals, publisher sites and individual ejournals in particular subjects for articles, and other specialized databases. Even for experienced users who know which databases and resources are likely to be most relevant to their needs, this is time-consuming and involves duplicating the same search over and over in different places. For novice users, or those who want a broad, interdisciplinary search, the initial choice of resource can be daunting and frustrating, unless users already know to ask their librarians for help. In addition, every database or resource interface is different – there are many similarities, but users have to learn different procedures and strategies for each information silo. While specialized interfaces deliver a lot of power for the advanced user, sometimes they can get in the way for other kinds of tasks.Screenshots of various search resources

Discovery layers offer a simple search box and consistent interface that allows searching across multiple resources, making it much easier to retrieve a variety of materials. The user can choose to limit the search by parameters particularly relevant to the academic environment, and refine the result set in powerful ways.

Why not just use Google or another search engine?

Many library resources are difficult to find using search engines, even if a user is savvy enough to be using Google Scholar or Microsoft Academic Search instead of regular Google or Bing. In addition, almost all online library resources, such as full-text articles and ebooks, are most decidedly not free or open access – academic libraries pay quite a bit of money for them (OhioLINK and its members invest approximately $38 million per year just for resources managed and negotiated via OhioLINK) and their use is restricted to the students, faculty, and staff at a particular academic institution. Finding an article, ebook, or other resource using general or specialized search engines doesn't mean that the searcher will have access to it once he or she finds it; and even if the resource is available via the home library, there is usually no transparent and seamless way for these search engines to detect the searcher's institutional affiliation, especially for anyone working remotely off-campus. SearchBox.jpg

Discovering library resources in a new way

By contrast, library discovery layers search only library resources; and only those resources that are available to the users at a particular institution. Not only are users guaranteed that they can access what they find, the search is also restricted to resources that have been determined by librarians to be accurate, current, and relevant for the particular curricular and research needs at their institution. Library discovery layers do an excellent job of filtering out much of the extraneous, inaccurate, or unobtainable results that can appear by using a general search engine.
Will discovery layers replace the many different databases and resources that academic libraries offer? Unlikely. Discovery layers are just another tool in the digital toolbox that OhioLINK libraries offer to their students, faculty, and staff. For more information about the discovery layer that may be in use at your institution, contact your own OhioLINK library. To further investigate discovery layers and why libraries choose them, view the archived discussion on American Libraries Live, where I joined Courtney Greene, head of Discovery & Research Services at Indiana University, and Edward Smith, executive director of the Abilene Library Consortium, to discuss "Making the Discovery Decision."

Gwen Evans

Thursday, January 16, 2014, OH-TECH Blog, OhioLINK posting. Copied with permission from Gwen Evans

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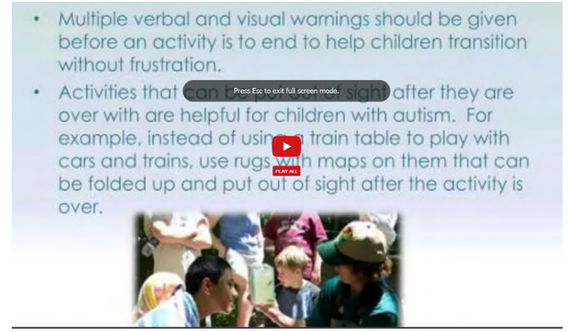
Digital Sensory Storytimes: Integrating iPads® in library programs for children with autism and other sensory processing issues

By Janet Ingraham Dwyer
Library Consultant, State Library of Ohio

Is your library a welcoming environment for children with autism and other sensory processing issues? Are parents and caregivers comfortable bringing their children with special needs to the library for storytime programs? If you're not sure, then training, awareness, and experience working with community members with or affected by special needs will help. The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce the **Digital Sensory Storytime Video Tutorial and Resource Guide** as one option to help libraries serve children with autism and other sensory processing issues.

"I'm very proud of the State Library's participation in the development of the Digital Sensory Storytime and believe it will help libraries become places where children with autism and their families feel welcome," expressed State Librarian Beverly Cain. "Research has demonstrated that the activities children experience in library storytimes help them learn essential literacy skills. It is important for children with autism to have the opportunity to acquire these skills through experiencing storytimes."

This four-part video tutorial builds the case for why it's important to include children with autism in library programming and explains how to develop a "Digital Sensory Storytime". The strategies presented enable librarians to develop successful inclusive storytime programs incorporating iPad® technology. You will learn how a technology-enhanced storytime can meet needs of children with autism and other sensory processing issues, and that it is interesting and attractive to typically developing children too.



The tutorial includes segments on Autism and the Library, Interactive eBooks, Preparing Your Environment, and Communication During Storytime. Each segment is between 15-26 minutes long. The tutorial provides ideas that will help to ensure a comfortable and meaningful sensory storytime experience, including:

- Using digital stories to effectively convey information to children with sensory processing issues.
- Successfully utilizing picture schedules and social stories to communicate easily with limited or non-verbal children.
- Preparing a welcoming environment to reduce levels of typically experienced anxiety and set the stage for successful and enjoyable interactions.

The accompanying resource guide offers tools, supports, and information about library services to children with autism and their families, including educational materials on sensory storytimes and on inclusive practices for libraries.

Presenter Amy Price, librarian at Oakstone Academy in Westerville, Ohio, promotes the use of digital storybooks and the practice of inclusion to support children with autism and other sensory processing disorders, and to make the library a known effective and welcoming place for children with autism and their families. Oakstone Academy is a private school in central Ohio that uses an academic and social inclusion model to serve students with autism and their non-disabled peers ages 12 months to 22 years.

Oakstone Academy

In 2010, Amy received a federal Institute of Museum and Library Services LSTA grant, awarded by the State Library of Ohio. The grant allowed Oakstone Academy to incorporate iPads® into the classroom to enhance academic programming and support communication. The project demonstrated that children with sensory processing issues benefit from the use of interactive digital books.

Amy encourages librarians to learn about autism and to explore and implement practices that are known to work for the large and very diverse population of families affected by autism. Individuals with autism and their families have many demands on their time and energy, and little capacity to engage in activities that don't work. If a family perceives the library as a place that really knows how to and wants to work with their child, they are likely to become dedicated patrons, and to spread the word among their network of families affected by autism.

View the Digital Sensory Storytime video tutorial and resource guide on the Ohio Ready to Read website: http://ohreadytoread.org/dss.html

Government Information Library Consultant Audrey Kise Retires

L to R: State Library of Ohio Board President Stephen Wood and Audrey Kise

Government Information Library Consultant Audrey Kise has retired after more than 26 years with the State Library of Ohio. The State Library Board recently recognized Audrey for her dedication and service.

Library Apps

Access My Library

Uses GPS to find public libraries within a 10-mile radius of the user's location then provides access to Gale online resources.

Bard Mobile

The BARD Mobile app provides access to braille and talking books directly from the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD).

EBSCOHost

Discover, read, or save full-text articles from many EBSCO databases from your smartphone

Freegal

Download three free songs per week from the library with the Freegal app.

Mango Languages

Free mobile access to more than 34 foreign language courses and 14 English as a Second Language courses.

PubMed

Multiple ways to search PubMed/ MEDLINE, PICO, askMEDLINE and Consensus for medical information.

Overdrive Media Console

Access thousands of eBooks & eAudiobooks on your mobile devices.

Zinio

Read and browse popular magazines on your mobile device

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