

FOURTH QUARTER 2015
VOL 4, ISSUE 2

Ohio

Libraries Quarterly

School Library FUNdraisers

Fortifying the Library

State Library of Ohio
2015 Year in Review

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO



2015 - A Year to Remember

2015 was an exciting year for libraries across Ohio, including the State Library. Many Ohio librarians and libraries shone at the national level. While Sari Feldman, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, was serving as President of the American Library Association, Felton Thomas, Director of the Cleveland Public Library, was elected as President of the Public Library Association. Douglas Lehman, Library Director at Wittenberg University, continued his term on the Board of the Association of College and Research Libraries. 28 of Ohio's public libraries were designated as Star Libraries by Library Journal. The national spotlight also shined on Ohio when the American Association of School Librarians held its national conference in Columbus.

It was a year when many library building projects either got underway or were completed. The new Roberta A. Smith Library at Muskingum University in New Concord was dedicated in October. Several public libraries were engaged in building projects including the Dayton-Montgomery County Public Library, Cincinnati Hamilton County Public Library, Ashtabula County District Library, Barberton Public Library, Washington-Centerville Public Library, Cuyahoga County Public Library, the Grove City Public Library, and Columbus Metropolitan Library, whose Driving Park Branch received an AIA Honor Award for Newly Completed Buildings, Additions, Remodelings, Renovations, and Restorations.

The lure of retirement proved to be too

strong for several Ohio library directors to resist in 2015. For example, the public library community bid a fond farewell to Debbie O'Connor after 30 years of service at Geauga County Public Library, Mary Frances Burns, who directed the Morley Library for over 20 years, and Mary Jane Santos, who retired in September after more than 31 years with the Delaware County District Library. Carol Diedrichs, Vice Provost and Director of University Libraries at The Ohio State University announced her retirement in 2015, as did Lois Szudy, Library Director at the Courtright Memorial Library at Otterbein University. Connie Carnicom, Library/Media Specialist for Fostoria Junior/Senior High School, also retired in 2015.

Ohio's school librarians had cause to celebrate near the end of the year when President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the reauthorization of ESEA previously known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) into law. ESSA is considered a major victory for school libraries because by including language specifically mentioning school libraries and school librarians, the law recognizes that school library programs and the instructional role of the school librarian are essential and integral components of a student's education, and as such, eligible for federal education dollars.

Digitization of Ohio's rare and culturally significant materials located in libraries, museums, and cultural heritage centers made major strides in 2015 as the regional Digitization Hubs, established with grant support

from the State Library of Ohio, moved forward with the implementation process. Representatives from the State Library, OPLIN, the Digitization Hubs, the Ohio History Connection, and other partners are moving ahead with plans to establish a Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) service hub in Ohio to make these important materials more broadly accessible through DPLA.

The State Library experienced several staff changes in 2015. New staff members include Gregory Gassman in Library Programs and Development (LPD), Stephanie Herriott in Human Resources, and David Daiber in Library Services. Julia Ward, Andy Ingraham-Dwyer, and Cindy Boyden were all promoted in 2015. Laurie Gemmill Arp joined the State Library Board in early 2015. Sharon Garrett Hayes and Paula Buco retired from the State Library/SEO Library Center last year after many years of service. Evan Struble, Library Consultant in LPD, received the Diana Vescelius Memorial Award from the Ohio Library Council in October.

The State Library hosted ILEAD-USA (Ohio) again in 2015 with an outstanding group of participants, mentors, instructors, and steering committee members. Other milestones included the launching of the new State Library website in May and the introduction of a new LSTA "Open Grant" program for libraries. A milestone of another sort came with the close of KnowItNow24x7 at the end of 2015 after many years of providing virtual reference service to Ohioans.

State Library staff and Board members were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of former Deputy State Librarian Roger Verna in August as well as the death of former State Librarian Richard Cheski in November. Both left an indelible mark on not only the State Library, but also the Ohio library community.

2015 was filled with many significant events that in turn, made us feel excited, hopeful, happy, and sometimes sad. We look forward to the events of 2016 with anticipation as libraries everywhere continue to constantly evolve to meet the needs of their changing communities.

Beverly Cain
State Librarian

Feature Articles

School Library FUNdraisers—2

Fortifying the Library: Using Criminal Justice Principles to Protect Your Collection, Patrons, and Property—5

Ada Public Library shares fundraising tips—6

Summer of Heroes: The 2015 Ohio Summer Reading Program Report—7

Statewide Delivery—10

Guiding Ohio Online—10

E-Rate Information—11

State Library Outreach—12

Connecting to Collections—12

LearningExpress Database Subscription Cancelled—13

Digital Public Library of America—13

State Library Getting Facelift—14

ILEAD USA Ohio 2015—18

Evan Struble Recognized as Leader of Tomorrow—19

Choose to Read Ohio—20

Ohio Federal IMLS LSTA Grants Awarded—22

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies—23

New Website Launched in 2015—24

Shared CE Calendar—25

Welcomes, Promotions, and Goodbyes—26

Virtual Reference Service KnowItNow24x7 Signs Off—28

Places gone, People Met—29

OHIO LIBRARIES QUARTERLY

State Library of Ohio
274 E. First Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201
(t) 614•644•7061
(f) 614•466•3584
library.ohio.gov

State Librarian
Beverly Cain
614•644•6843
bcain@library.ohio.gov

Associate State Librarian
for Library Development
Missy Lodge
614•644•6914
mlodge@library.ohio.gov

Associate State Librarian
for Library Services
Ann M. Watson
614-728-4988
awatson@library.ohio.gov

Editor & Designer
Marsha McDevitt-Stredney
Director, Marketing &
Communications
614•644•6843
marshams@library.ohio.gov

**Ohio Libraries Quarterly
Committee**
Cindy Boyden
Paula Buco
Judith Cosgray
Janet Ingraham Dwyer
Kirstin Krumsee
Bill Morris
Evan Struble
Julia Ward, Copy Editor

Ohio Libraries Quarterly is a
publication of the
State Library of Ohio

The Ohio Libraries Quarterly contains
links to websites from a variety of
information resources. These resources
are provided as a courtesy and do
not constitute an endorsement by the
State Library of Ohio.



2015 State Library Board: L to R: John Myles, President; Laurie Gemmill Arp, member; Beverly Cain, State Librarian; Krista Taracuk, member; Jennifer Thompson McKell, Vice-President; and Melissa Hendon Deters, member

Board photo by Catherine Murray, of Photo Kitchen

School Library FUNdraisers

Every librarian has most likely been in the position at one time or another asking themselves the question: Where am I going to find the money for that? However, with a little creativity, you can engage your community, increase literacy awareness, and have quite a bit of FUN, all while raising money for your library.

Literary Cake Decorating Contest

Here's a recipe for the sweetest programming activity your library might hold: a cake decorating contest based on favorite children's books. It takes work, certainly, to organize this tasty activity, but you will create a memorable event for the whole school community that can also be a major fundraiser for the library.

The first thing to do is to decide when you want to hold your cake contest. Will you have it as a stand-alone event, or will it be part of a larger school function such as a Harvest Festival or a school Open House? Maybe it will be the central activity for Children's Book Week or National Library Week. And you will have to set times for the cake contest; you might have it run during the school day (so that all the students can view the cakes) and then have it linger into the evening so parents can see the cakes. (This is especially important because you want the parents to buy the cakes – it is a fundraiser, after all!)

At least six weeks prior to the actual event, you will need to invite your school families to consider baking and decorating a cake based on a children's book. Over the course of the next few weeks, send out reminders and/or fliers that provide basic rules for the contest:

- Families should decide what book they'd like to depict in culinary form. Cakes and frosting can be any flavor.
- All members of the family are welcome to participate (in other words, this doesn't have to be kids-only activity).
- Families bake and decorate their cakes at home and bring them to school on the designated day.
- Families are welcome to use cake forms and add non-edible items (such as plastic figurines or miniature doll furniture) to the cake, as long as the majority of the cake is edible.
- Cakes will be considered the property of the school and will be eligible for silent auction (this is the fundraiser part).

While the families are busy at home, thinking of what literary creation they will make, you will need to do the work of lining up judges and perhaps securing a few prizes to distribute. Judges can come from within the school (the principal, the reading tutors, the cafeteria crew, and so forth) or you can reach out into the community to secure judges, and thus bring the larger community into the school (local politicians, a nearby restaurant owner, a member of the school board, public librarians). It's also a good idea to invite members of the media to judge – and hope they bring their cameras!

Because this is a cake contest, it helps to have a few prizes. These can be as simple or as elaborate as you like, such as a gift certificate to a local pizza shop or book store. You can have one grand prize, or spread the wealth around and give several prizes (Best Cake based on a non-fiction book or Best Cake on a specific reading theme, for example). On the day of the cake contest, you'll need to have a suitable, secure place for the cakes to be on display for judges, as well as students and teachers and parents, to come and view the delightful cakes. Enlist the help

SCHOOL continued on p. 3



This cake bears an uncanny resemblance to the actual book cover!



This cake drum set helped get students in the mood during our "Read Like a Rock Star" themed contest.



Cakes based on well-loved children's classics, such as *Where the Wild Things Are*, are always fan favorites.

SCHOOL continued

of volunteers to watch over the cakes during the viewing hours; excited children might be tempted to stick a finger into the side of a Very Hungry Caterpillar cake.

During the course of the day, schedule times for every teacher and class to visit the cake contest; even students who haven't donated a cake will take delight in all the creations.

While judges come and go during a set time period, and students make visits to see the cakes, parents and other interested parties might bid on a cake via silent auction. Prepare a bidding sheet to place near each cake to allow interested people bid on the cakes. Suggest a starting bid for each cake (\$10 perhaps, with all subsequent bids in \$1.00 increments). Make sure everybody knows when the bidding will end, and make sure bidders know they need to take home their cakes on the day of the event. Make the ending time fun for everybody by having a 10-9-8- countdown and announce the winners after the bidding stops.

You could also add jars in front of each cake into which students can drop quarters or spare change to vote for their favorite. At the end of the event, the top vote-getter can receive the "People's Choice Award." After our contests, we usually sent the money collected from students' votes to a literacy charity.

One of the most rewarding parts of the cake contest is when students start telling you at the end of the cake contest, "Next year, our family is going to enter a cake. I already have an idea which book..."

The cake contest can become an annual event that goes beyond being just a fundraiser—though raising money for your school library is certainly the icing on the cake. To consider the cake contest simply as a fundraiser is to underestimate the powerful tool it can become as a community builder and a way to focus the entire school community on children's books. It really is the sweetest contest in town.

Birthday Book Club

A Birthday Book club is an on-going program where students are invited to celebrate their birthdays with the school library by donating a book to the collection. Students are invited to



President Barack Obama's first election was celebrated with this cake decorated with M&Ms during our "Vote for Reading" theme cake decorating contest.



A student selects a new book from the "Birthday Box" as part of a Birthday Book Club program.

participate by receiving a letter (either at the beginning of the school year or during the month in which they are celebrating their birthday), and families can decide whether to participate. Typically, students are asked to make a donation (anywhere from \$10-\$20) to the Library, and then they come to the Library to select a brand new, not-yet-circulated book that will be added to the Library's permanent collection.

Before you invite students to celebrate their birthdays with a donation, you will want to secure a collection of several dozen beautiful, interesting books that are fully processed and cataloged but are not out for circulation. (It's a nice touch to keep these Birthday Books in a box decorated with birthday wrapping paper.) When students come to the Library with their donation, they are able to look through the new books and select whatever book suits them best.

Once a child selects a book, you will need to properly identify the book as a Birthday Book—and make it fun for the child!

SCHOOL continued on p. 4



Themed photo booths bring in great funds for the school library, while also celebrating memories with family and friends.

SCHOOL continued

Add a special book plate inside the book indicating the name and birthday of the donor; place a photograph of the birthday child inside the front cover; put a candle sticker on the spine of the book; add a piece of cake to a bulletin board decorated especially for Birthday Book Club. In addition to acknowledging the donors, a Birthday Book Club bulletin board might spark interest for other donors.

Make sure the children understand that the book is part of the permanent collection, but they will be the first person to check out the new book! It's important to stress that most birthday gifts are outgrown or worn out weeks or months after they are opened, but a book donated to the Library can last for well over a decade, and that's something to celebrate.

Other Literacy Tie-ins

These ideas are great ways to promote events and build excitement around other big events you might be hosting, such as literacy nights or book fairs. They can also be great stand-alone events to get your entire community working together and talking about books, while also raising a decent amount of money. In particular, these are great if you have the student body engaged in fundraising for charity so students feel like they are involved in

the contributions.

• **Teacher Challenge:** Begin by challenging the teachers: "What Would You Do for Reading?" Have individual teachers or teams of teachers submit crazy ideas that they would be willing to do for the cause. Then, students vote on their favorite suggestions by dropping change in buckets labeled for each idea. The teacher whose idea earns the most money must follow through, ideally at an all-school assembly. In the past, teachers have suggested such things as: DJing a 30-minute dance party for the whole school, getting pied in the face by their classroom's top reader, wearing a crazy costume to school for the day, or agreeing not to assign homework for a day or week.

• **Principal Challenge:** In a similar fashion, students adore seeing the principal do wild and crazy things and are willing to invest a lot of money (or time) to make it happen. Once you have your principal on board, start the buzz with the students by asking them to submit suggestions of what they'd like to see the principal do. Take the list of suggestions to the principal and allow him or her to select their top three to five choices of ones they would actually be able to complete. Then, have students vote on their favorite of the finalists by bringing in change and voting. Similarly, this suggestion can

be used to get students to invest time in academic challenges as well. Inspired by Miss Malarkey Leaves No Reader Behind by Judy Finchler, our principal agreed to dance like a chicken at an all-school assembly when the whole school met a reading goal of 10,000 Accelerated Reader points during the 4th Quarter. It was the first time I've ever had 8th graders knocking on the library door first thing in the morning to take an AR quiz to help meet the goal!

• **Photo Booth:** Create a photo booth area, in which guests can put on silly costumes and get their pictures taken together. We tied this in with a Hawaiian Book Fair theme and had out a rack with lots of Hawaiian shirts, leis, and other beach-inspired attire, all of which were donated by teachers and parents at our school and then hung a large beach backdrop on the wall. We charged \$1 for each print. We uploaded our digital photos to a local pharmacy and were able to pick them up each afternoon to deliver to the students the next day. Depending on your in-house printing capabilities, you might also be able to purchase good quality photo printer paper and print your photos on location inexpensively and quickly. If your audience is likely to have their own cameras, you might also charge a reduced rate to use the backdrop and costumes and have you take the picture for them on their device. This is great for family events, where parents and grandparents can have fun posing with the students, or for older students to have some fun during lunch and recess times. You could try many different themes, such as Hollywood Red Carpet, Circus, Safari, and more. It's a great way to create memories, have some fun, and raise some funds for your cause.

Whichever of these ideas you may want to use or adapt, we hope it brings you some needed funds and a lot of well-deserved FUN! ■



Annie Ruefle



Jessica Klinker

Fortifying the Library:

Using Criminal Justice Principles to Protect Your Collection, Patrons, and Property

By Andrew Hart

Librarian, Ross Correctional Institution in Chillicothe

With the recent shootings in public schools and on university campuses, it is important for library staff, now more than ever, to evaluate their libraries and ask the question: Is our library safe? As a prison librarian, safety is my number one priority. But what if you are not in a prison setting? How do you know if there are threats or soft spots to the security of your public or university library?

Following basic criminological theory will aid you in protecting not only your patrons, but your property and collection as well. One of the major theories of crime prevention centers on a set of three things: a suitable target; a motivated offender; and an absence of guardians (Lab, 2010). This is referred to as Routine Activities Theory.

A Suitable Target

This is someone or something that is appealing to a potential criminal. In other words, it is something that is determined to be of high value. For example, a rare books collection in a university library, or a newly released DVD in a public library.

A Motivated Offender

This is someone that has a motivation to commit the crime. They have rationalized that committing the crime is acceptable and is worth the risk of punishment. For example, a patron that is looking for a way to finance their drug habit. Or, an angry patron that is looking for a way to release their frustration through violence.

Absence of Guardians

This is lack of protection for an item or location due to an absence of a caretaker or security personnel. In libraries, guardians are library managers and security guards.

According to this theory, crime occurs due to a change or an absence in one of the criteria listed above. Therefore, potential criminal activity can be deterred by strengthening one or more of the criteria.

Making a Target Not So Suitable

The first thing libraries should do to lower the risk of victimization is to make themselves less of a target. Low shelving in libraries helps one see past

potential barriers and blind spots. It allows library staff to keep an eye on patrons and to spot criminal activity occurring or about to occur. Putting convex mirrors in corners of the library or in places that are hard to see, also helps in spotting patrons that might be up to no good. Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) is a major deterrent to criminal activity (Lab, 2010), and is a cheaper option for libraries that cannot afford a full time security guard. If your library does not have good lighting, you need to fix it ASAP. Having enough light sources and bright enough bulbs not only improves the mood of the library setting, but also allows you and others to spot suspicious people and activity. Potential criminals will be deterred if they think their actions can be easily spotted by others.

Demotivating Potential Offenders

An easy way to demotivate those who wish to steal library property is through target hardening (Lab, 2010). This involves attaching locks, security strips, alarms, and passwords to items in the library with a high likelihood of being stolen/damaged. A person that is motivated to steal a DVD will become demotivated once they realize that there is an RFID tag attached, or if the DVD is in a locked plastic case that can only be unlocked at the check-out counter. Making it harder for people to carry out criminal activity will increase the chances that they will give up and not even try. The goal is to get potential criminals to believe that the likelihood of getting caught is greater than their chances of getting away with the crime.

Presence of Guardians

Have someone on duty, whether it be a library manager or security guard, that can supervise the library and keep a watchful eye on those entering and exiting. Some libraries might only be able to afford a part-time security guard. That's OK. Identify the times during the day that your library has the most traffic and have them work during that time. If your library has multiple floors, make sure that there is always a staff person on each floor, preferably two.

Libraries Following the Theory

This is a medium-sized library with low shelving, convex mirrors, CCTV, bright lighting, RFID/Tattle-Taped books and CDs/DVDs, and a security guard/library manager on duty.

Libraries Not Following the Theory

This is a medium-sized library with high shelving, no mirrors, no CCTV, low lighting, broken RFID/Tattle-Tape security gates, and no security guard/library manager on duty.

Making small changes to your library can help prevent a multitude of crimes, and prevent the victimization of your patrons. The greatest thing you can do is be vigilant. If someone looks suspicious, call your local police department. Ask them if they can send someone to the library to provide a police presence. As librarians we have to watch out for our patrons and potential threats to their safety. Making a small change such as brighter lightbulbs, can make a big impact. Create a safety committee and meet once a month to discuss how you can make your library safer. Your library will be a safer place, and your community will thank you for it.

Lab, S. (2010). *Crime Prevention: Approaches, Practices and Evaluations*. Matthew Bender & Company: New Providence, NJ



Andrew Hart was the librarian at Ross Correctional Institution in Chillicothe, Ohio when he submitted this article. He now works in the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Library

6 Ada Public Library Shares fundraising tips

By Amanda Bennett, Director
Ada Public Library

1 Who (benefits from donations): Obviously, it's important to share information regarding the program needing support and which of your patrons/community members will most be affected by it when seeking donations, but it's just as important to inform the businesses of how you'll make them famous in your community! Let businesses know exactly which newspapers/websites/library blogs/Facebook pages, etc. you will be appreciating them on. Send donors news clips from the local newspapers; articles featuring the programs that their dollars funded show how their money is being spent.

2 What (donations are you seeking): Before requesting anything from a business/organization, it is best to know what exactly you'll need for the program/project you have in mind. If you're hosting a pool party as part of Summer Reading, you might be requesting a donation of the pool and lifeguard coverage, but not necessarily a financial donation. If your library is hosting a gingerbread house event, you may choose to request candy and other supplies vs. money. Be as specific as possible. Remember, a donation doesn't have to be monetary; it is anything that fills a need.

3 Where (to seek donors): Go big or go home is one of our mantras. Start with your local area businesses, universities, organizations (Kiwanis, Lions, Elks, etc.), then move to other larger businesses within your county. Larger corporations that specialize in something may be more willing to support a venture that aligns with their focus, i.e. Marathon Petroleum may be more likely to sponsor a STEM program—they know the importance of science and math for kids. And if they don't, educate them! We are located in the NW section of the state, and yet we solicited and received donations from Toledo, Columbus, and Cleveland—all locations between 1-2.5 hours away. Corporations are compelled to donate certain monies each year, and it always looks great for businesses to help non-profits, so it's a win-win.

When requesting donations, make sure you not only briefly explain the program, but also, and more importantly, explain why it's important to your target group. Consider adding a couple statistics that show how successful this program was in years past. For example:

"The reason that you are receiving this letter is because we believe that with the support of our local community and businesses, we will not only help children stay on top of their education, but also spread the love of reading to our community. Our program encompasses everyone birth-adult with the goal of spreading a love of reading and a curiosity and hunger for more knowledge.

The numbers speak for themselves. Just look at the FANTASTIC participation numbers we saw in 2014..."

4 Why: Libraries are constantly faced with budget concerns and "tightening our belts," so not only is it prudent to seek outside assistance, but it also looks great when you've been awarded outside monies—it says to your patrons and communities, "see how hard we're working to make our money stretch!" Make sure anytime you are awarded grants, you advertise that fact by getting an article into the local paper or radio and advertise your award on Facebook, Twitter, and the library's website and blog. Not only is this a great time to shine on your success, but it's also an opportunity to share with the community how you're going to use this money, and also another opportunity to thank the donor.

5 When: When finding grants that you're interested in, make sure you mind the deadlines. Set reminders in your calendars that allow plenty of time for you to get your application ready and reviewed before submission. If you are seeking funding/donations for particular programs, i.e. Summer Reading, allow extra time for requests to be reviewed.

6 How: If you're not sure what's out there, take a beginner's grant writing course. (Libraries occasionally offer these free.) Have a grant writing guru on your board or in your community? Ask them if they'd be willing to donate some time to help you get started. Start small and simple. Don't get overwhelmed.

Try these great places to start:

www.scholastic.com/librarians/programs/grants.htm

<http://librarygrants.blogspot.com/>

<http://grants.library.wisc.edu/organizations/libraries.html>

<http://www.grantwrangler.com/librarygrants.html>

<http://www.prattlibrary.org/locations/ssh/?id=3130> ■



SUMMER OF HEROES: 2015 Ohio Summer Reading Program Report



The teen reading challenge at Evergreen Community Library was for the group as a whole to read at least 500 hours. They were successful, and earned the right to "slime" teen librarian Deb Henricks ("Debbie the Dastardly Dog").

By Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Library Consultant
State Library of Ohio

Free summer reading programs, providing fun and enrichment for all ages, are among the most popular core services offered by Ohio public libraries. In 2015, nearly 450,000 people registered for summer reading programs at Ohio libraries. And for the first time on record, attendance at SRP-related events, from storytimes to concerts to STEM programs to Superhero Training Camp, topped a million. This is an enormous increase in attendance, and speaks to librarians' creativity, nimbleness, and tireless efforts to plan and produce excellent summer activities for their communities.

Today's summer reading programs respond to community needs, and to the growing body of evidence that children and teens who read and engage in learning activities during the summer maintain, and even gain, essential academic skills. Librarians recognize that hands-on and participatory learning experiences enhance traditional incentive-based reading challenges. Dena Little reported that the Upper Arlington Public Library "increased the reading hours required to complete the program in order to support national efforts to get kids reading, or be read to, for at least 15 minutes a day; we increased our focus on adult involvement in the program to promote positive modeling

for children; and we added community, virtual, library, and at-home activities to build transliteracy, STEAM, and other 21st century skills."

Librarians also use summer as an opportunity to build beneficial coalitions and to strengthen the library's role in the community by nurturing partnerships with local businesses, schools, recreation departments, and other establishments. Cheilon Preston shared that at the Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library, "in partnership with our local hospital and YMCA, we track the number of healthy living activities children do." Charlotte Cunningham at Huron County Community Library wrote that SRP "allowed us to truly get our communities involved with programs like Touch-A-Truck and Community Helper Story Time." And Penny Johnston at Marion Lawrence Memorial Library reported that their "local fire department and squad brought their vehicles to our library, allowed the children to look at them and explained how they used their equipment. The kids loved this."

In 2015, 442,892* people enrolled in summer reading programs at Ohio libraries, including:

300,455 children
62,714 teens
79,723 adults

SUMMER continued on p. 8

*This is the number of people who registered for a summer reading program at a responding library. 22 Ohio public libraries did not respond to the survey, so their SRP enrollment is not reflected in this number.

**SUMMER** continued

Summer is a great opportunity for libraries to reach out in ways that benefit underserved communities, such as hosting meals and snacks through the USDA's Summer Food Service Program. According to Katie Holahan, Grafton-Midview Public Library "hosted the Summer Food Service Program again this year, and I believe it helped us reach a bigger audience within our community. We hosted the lunch at three different locations and we had staff members take the summer reading program on the road! We have streamlined this program and used mostly volunteers to help, and I believe every year we are going to be more successful and use less prep time. We extended our usual six-week summer reading program to match the eight-weeks of the summer lunch program. During those eight weeks we served 2,132 meals!"

Enrollment ranged from 10-48,368 children, 1-7,502 teens, and 5-12,610 adults, reflecting the wide range of library and community sizes in Ohio. Enrollment was down in all age categories from 2014, when libraries reported a total of 449,586 people registered.

Participation in library activities appears to be on the rise despite the lower registration numbers. One explanation is that a small but growing number of libraries are offering SRPs without traditional registration, including Athens County



A photo opportunity with superheroes at the Lorain Public Library System's Summer Reading Kickoff Party.

Public Libraries (ACPL). Amy King reported that "this summer, for the first time, we had no reading challenge at all. We have not recorded quantity of reading for a long time, but we have had reading tasks and prompts that have taken different forms over the past several years. Astonishingly, not a single person inquired about the absence. Our programming is the heart of our summer efforts. We do create book displays for all of our school-age programs, and we are able to document increased circulation of children's materials in the summer months." ACPL's wide range of programming prompts such as awesome community feedback as "That was better than the pool!" overheard after a Book Camp program at Nelsonville Public Library.

Elsewhere, more library users may be opting to participate in programs, events, and other activities, or just spending time in the library, whether or not they sign up for the traditional SRP. Cindy Romick at the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library noted "a significant increase in library visits for children. We also noticed that families and other groups of children spent longer periods of time in the library during those visits. In-house traffic was as a result very busy. We were more an activity destination than just a place to visit."

This is a huge jump from the total statewide event
SUMMER continued on p. 9



A Lake Metroparks animal rescue group representative introduces the children to a raptor during a program at the Kingsville Public Library's Summer Reading Camp.

SUMMER continued

As evidence for the increased participation in library summer activities, total attendance at library programs and events related to the summer reading program was 1,059,438**, including:

686,425 attendees at children's programs
70,887 attendees at teen programs
80,249 attendees at adult programs
221,877 attendees at all-ages programs

attendance of 839,250 reported in 2014 – an increase of over 26%. Jennifer Slone at Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County noticed a marked increase in participation at her library. "We hosted Batman and the Batmobile at all branches of our library, sponsored by a local hospital, and the turnout was overwhelming! We had about 1,000 people show up for that. We were very pleased with our program this year!"

It's notable that summer reading programs for teens and adults have quickly evolved from being an innovative and relatively rare service to being nearly universal. 92% of Ohio libraries offered a teen SRP in 2015, and 82% offered an SRP for adults. Christina Riedel's experience was representative of this. "This year, the Mohawk Community Library had the most successful Adult Summer Reading Program we've ever had. We had more people participate and complete the program than ever before. The theme worked well in bringing out the inner child. We also saw more teens than ever before at the library. This was an excellent theme for us to bring the teens back to the library!"

Most libraries used or adapted the summer library program materials provided by the Collaborative Summer Library Program, which took the theme of heroes—both superheroes and community heroes – in 2015. Heidi Martin at Tipp City Public Library "really liked how the hero theme allowed us to salute and recognize our local community heroes. It also allowed us to get our patrons involved in some local charitable causes—the kids and teens learned to give back to our community and find the 'hero' in themselves." Rachael Barker at Dr. Samuel L. Bossard Memorial Library "loved the 'Every Hero has a Story' program theme! We had tons of parents complimenting this year's programs. It was so much fun! It was pretty cool when the kids called us heroes."

Kingsville Public Library sponsored a camp with special programs every day for a week, according to Bethany Juncker, who wrote that "it really was easy to plan fun and appealing programs that everyone could enjoy. Monday was 'Superhero Training Camp.' We had eight activities for the children to earn superpowers! We hosted a heroic animal rescue group from Lake Metroparks who brought birds. We held a 'Community Hero' Day with a visit to the local fire department and visits from a sheriff's deputy and health department officials speaking on bullying and nutrition. We held a 'Military Hero' Day and hosted veterans who taught the kids about proper care of the flag. The kids

**This is total attendance at responding libraries' SRP-related library programs (storytimes, performers, parties, etc.). It is not expected that this number indicates unique attendees, because of the likelihood that individuals attended multiple programs.



This little astronaut at the Huron County Community Library was very attentive during the Armstrong Air and Space Museum program, and answered a lot of questions even the older kids didn't know.

learned how to sing and sign 'America the Beautiful' and also wrote letters to the troops. It was a very rewarding and fun week for all involved and a good way to incorporate service to community and country to our campers!"

A different interpretation of the Heroes theme brought a wonderful outcome at Bluffton Public Library. Esther Birkey recounted: "During our final week of SRP we invited a local senior community member to unmask their talent and teach a number of 3-7th graders to crochet. Each participant attended with a family member. Participants learned about the history of crochet, then tried a few basic stitches. One mother shared with me that this was a really special program for her. Her grandmother, who had taught her to crochet as a child, had recently passed away, and she wanted to share some of these skills with her daughter but she'd grown rusty. Our program provided a special opportunity for a mother and daughter."

This report describes 2015 Ohio public library summer reading programs. 229 of 251 Ohio public library systems reported their 2015 summer reading program results using the Ohio SRP Evaluation Survey. Evaluative comments and suggestions from the Ohio SRP Evaluation Survey are shared with the Collaborative Summer Library Program, Upstart, Regional Library Systems, Ohio State Fair, and/or Ohio Department of Natural Resources as appropriate. Additional comments or suggestions about Ohio Summer Reading Program resources are welcome at any time. Contact library consultant Janet Ingraham Dwyer at jdwyer@library.ohio.gov or 614-644-6910 to share your feedback, or if you would like a copy of the complete survey results. The results will soon be posted as a video on YouTube. ■

Permission to quote from surveys was granted by each survey respondent quoted. Permission to publish photos was granted by: Evergreen Community Library, Huron County Community Library, Kingsville Public Library, and Lorain Public Library System.



STATEWIDE DELIVERY

By Steve Updegraff, Transport & Facility Services Manager
State Library of Ohio



Statewide Delivery is an affordable and reliable service provided by the State Library of Ohio for public libraries across the entire State of Ohio. The transportation and transfer of items is produced by a delivery contract operated by Priority Dispatch. This is a flat-rate tiered service to afford public libraries the opportunity to transfer items from location to location without additional cost per volume of the shipment. The public libraries pay for each individual agreement per the number of daily stops at the location. The value is realized by when high volume locations are able to ship materials as low as one cent per item and small volume operations may incur costs of forty to fifty cents per item. Considering the typical package postage or common carrier rates, this system provides real value for Ohio public libraries.

The overall volume of the delivery system transfers approximately 8-9 million items per year or roughly 750,000 items per month based upon public library statistics. These figures accurately account for the size and robust quality of the system as well as reflect the value of the low cost for Ohio public libraries.

Communication throughout the system is eased by

an **email listserv** where libraries may request shipping supplies from other locations and receive important operation information from the State Library. Currently, the delivery email membership contains over 400 addresses and is used extensively throughout the entire system.

During the 2015 year, the system underwent changes in service that greatly enhanced the effectiveness and speed of the bulk, line-haul operations by Priority Dispatch. The line-haul operations were contracted to the E.E. Ward Company by Priority Dispatch to further enhance and increase the speed of bulk shipments from the Cincinnati hub to the Columbus hub. This action additionally provided Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) credit for the State Library of Ohio due to the E.E. Ward Company qualifying as an MBE vendor.

The State Library of Ohio continues to refine and streamline this system as a low-cost and effective mode of resource sharing throughout the entire state.

For more information visit our website at: library.ohio.gov/services-for-libraries/statewide-delivery/



By Bill Morris, Governmental Affairs Liaison
State Library of Ohio

The Federal E-Rate program, mandated by the telecommunications act of 1996 and administered by the Federal Communications Commission, provides discounted telecommunications, internet access and internal connections to schools and libraries nationwide. The program has provided more than \$1 billion to Ohio schools and libraries for their telecommunications and Internet services since its inception. Ohio libraries (including OPLIN) have already received over \$4 million in funding commitments this year alone.

The E-Rate program is currently undergoing a modernization effort to help schools and libraries meet the ever increasing demands for bandwidth in their facilities. Modernization is focused on supporting broadband services with additional funds being made available to support Wi-Fi. The modernization order also phases out support for non-broadband services and voice services.

To learn more about efforts to modernize the E-Rate program, go to www.fcc.gov/e-rate-update.

Basic information about the program:

• Eligible schools and libraries may receive discounts on eligible category one services (telecommunications, telecommunications services and Internet access) and category two services (internal connections, managed internal broadband services and basic maintenance of internal connections).

• The discounts range from 20 to 90 percent, with higher discounts for higher poverty and more rural schools and libraries. Schools and libraries are always responsible for paying at least some part of the cost of service.

• A school or library that wishes to participate in the E-Rate program

submits a request for competitive bids for the specific E-Rate supported services it seeks to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). USAC posts those requests on its website for vendors to see. The bid request and competitive bidding process must comply with both FCC rules and state and local procurement requirements.

• After reviewing the bids it has received, the school or library selects its preferred vendor(s) and submits an application to USAC for approval listing its desired purchases.

• USAC issues funding commitments to eligible applicants. Once a vendor provides the selected services to the applicant, either the vendor or the applicant submits requests to USAC for reimbursement of the approved discounts.

For more information and assistance with the E-Rate program please visit:

<https://library.ohio.gov/services-for-libraries/e-rate/>

<http://oplin.org/e-rate-information-and-training>

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/Programs/Educational-Technology/E-Rate-Technical-Assistance-Program>



Guiding Ohio Online

In August we celebrated Guiding Ohio Online AmeriCorps members completing a year of the program in August and recognized for the work in rural libraries.

State Librarian Beverly Cain, Associate State Librarian Missy Lodge, State Library Consultants and GOO project coordinators Mandy Knapp and Evan Struble, and Library Assistant Gregg Gassman are pictured in this photo with the group.



We welcomed a new group of Guiding Ohio Online (GOO) AmeriCorps members and welcomed back others in November. Guiding Ohio Online is a project of the State Library of Ohio through a grant provided by ServeOhio, Ohio's commission on service and volunteerism.



State Library Consultants and GOO project coordinators Mandy Knapp and Evan Struble, and Library Assistant Gregg Gassman are pictured in this photo with the group.

OUTREACH



A Smarter Ohio

By Judith Cosgray, Library Consultant
Government Outreach, State Library of Ohio

The State Library of Ohio has been a state agency for nearly 200 years. In that time, the role of the State Library has evolved, but one thing has remained constant—the mission to serve state government. The jobs and needs of state employees vary as much as the residents of Ohio they serve. The changing climate of technology and the exploding growth of information available electronically means that experts are needed to find and acquire appropriate and reliable information. The librarians and staff of the State Library are available to guide state employees to the information that will help them do their jobs well.

The hurdle is informing state employees about the services we offer and materials available to them. The State Government Outreach Consultant position was created to better serve the needs of state employees by meeting them where they are, directly in their agency. The ability to present State Library training for new hire orientations and lunch and learn events and attend employee Education and Health

Fairs brings awareness to the vast network of agencies. In addition, customized presentations that fit into a department or agency's needs are created upon request.

The ability to reach employees goes beyond the traditional research methods. New programs have been implemented within agencies such as employee book discussions, and ways to enhance services to correctional librarians. Some agencies have libraries and researchers, and part of outreach is to gather the librarians to collectively discuss how best to assist one another with sharing of resources and information. The involvement of outreach can take on a leadership role as well by being involved with HR and training professionals through serving on the Board of Directors of the State of Ohio Training Association (SOTA) and leading the networking group, Training Partners. By providing specialized services to individuals who are working directly with state employees, the reach of the State Library can serve those who need support.

The employee book clubs and topic discussion groups consist of researching appropriate book and journal article topics for a particular department, finding all available requested formats, and arranging delivery of the materials. The benefits of such a program in the workplace can be seen in the increased employee engagement and positive team building through discussion. The same has been done for state correctional institutions where the prison librarian conducts a book discussion with inmates.

The prison book donation program was implemented last year as a direct result of the needs of correctional institution libraries. The correctional institutions often have difficulty acquiring materials for their libraries, and the public libraries are able to fulfill some of the needs of the institutions through donating discards.

State Library of Ohio Outreach takes on many forms, and some of these forms are different from the traditional ideas of outreach in a library setting. ■



By Missy Lodge, Associate State Librarian for Library Development

State Library of Ohio The Connecting to Collections grant, awarded by IMLS, concluded on September 30, 2015. The three year grant focused on the educational needs of library, archives, museums, and history organizations. Over the course of the project 261 individuals representing 148 cultural heritage institutions of all types and sizes participated in one or more of the project activities.

A "Question of Balance" workshop was held in September at the Hudson Library and Historical Society. Key points that arose from this workshop as well as from the five "Question of Balance" workshops held in November 2014 included: 1) importance of environmental monitoring and how to use data collection tools 2) use of resource lists distributed at the workshops, specifically the Heritage Preservation Disaster Wheel and contact information for disaster recovery providers, and 3) recognizing the need to complete or write a disaster preparedness plan. To

complete grant activities three circulating environmental monitoring kits were developed.

Each kit contains:

- Elsec Environmental Monitor 765 to provide instant readings of UV light, visible light, temperature and relative humidity.
- PEM2 Environmental Monitor to provide long-term environmental readings on temperature and relative humidity (you will need to provide your own USB drive).
- Educational Resources:
 - IPI Guide to Sustainable Preservation Practices
 - Field Guide to Emergency Response
 - Heritage Preservation Disaster Wheel
 - Tip Sheets for use of the Elsec and PEM2

Kits may be borrowed by any cultural heritage organization for a one-month loan period. For information or to reserve a kit, contact Missy Lodge at mlodge@library.ohiol.gov.

Although the grant itself has concluded, the Ohio Heritage Partnership initiative will continue. This project has brought together libraries, archives, museums, and history organizations and has led to a better understanding, communication, and collaboration to achieve the common goal of preserving Ohio's history and cultural heritage. ■

LearningExpressLibrary Database Subscription Cancelled

By Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Marketing & Communications Director
State Library of Ohio

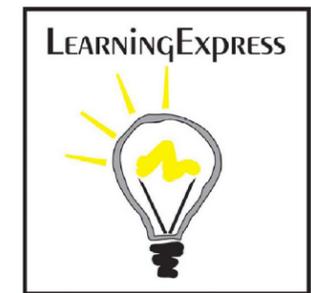
In the summer of 2015 the Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO) partners reviewed their FY 2016-2017 budgets and identified options for necessary cost reductions for the Ohio Web Library—the statewide database package of online resources and publications available to all Ohioans through public, higher education, and K-12 libraries. LCO had to reduce the amount spent on this statewide database package by half a million dollars. After careful consideration of pricing, comparative usage and resources now available through Ohio Means Jobs (www.ohiomeansjobs.com), they decided to cancel the LearningExpress Library (LEL), Job and Career Accelerator, and Workforce Skills for 21st Century Success subscriptions.

The LCO partners work closely with Ohio Means Jobs to raise awareness about the available workforce development, employment, and education resources. Libraries have the option to provide expanded workforce development content by negotiating on an individual basis their own contracts with LearningExpress Library.

Access to LearningExpress Library (LEL), Job and Career Accelerator, and Workforce Skills for 21st Century Success through the LCO statewide database package ended August 9, 2015. Users were encouraged beforehand to finish courses and tutorials, and download and save their resumes, cover letters and other personal content.

Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO) is a partnership of Ohio libraries and library organizations that work together to build and provide the Ohio Web Library core collection of information resources. The State Library of Ohio, OhioLINK (Ohio Library and Information Network), OPLIN (Ohio Public Library Information Network), and INFOhio (Information Network for Ohio Schools) formed Libraries Connect Ohio in 2003 as an initiative to define and deliver a shared set of online resources and publications to all Ohio residents. The partnership exemplifies the value of collaboration as partners contribute in areas such as additional funding, training, technical support, outreach and promotion, and more. Libraries Connect Ohio improves the buying

power and breadth and scope of electronic resources available to all Ohio residents regardless of where they live or go to school. The savings affords libraries and library networks the ability to build on the core collection in Ohio Web Library by purchasing additional resources to meet the needs of their patrons. ■



DPLA IN OHIO

DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA

By Missy Lodge, Associate State Librarian for Library Development
State Library of Ohio

Over the past two decades, Ohio libraries and cultural heritage institutions have built extensive digital collections through projects such as Ohio Memory. Digitization of materials allows greater access to important and unique resources for the benefit of scholarly and personal research. Despite all the various digital collections, Ohio does not have a one-stop place where users can search across all digital collections. The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is an all-digital library that aggregates metadata and thumbnails for millions of photographs, manuscripts, books, sounds, moving images, and more from libraries, archives, and museums around the United States. Through discussions with partners it has been determined that a DPLA Service Hub in Ohio would be advantageous. This led to the development of the DPLA in

Ohio Project. The goal of the DPLA in Ohio Project is to establish a process for Ohio institutions to participate in the DPLA through establishment of a Service Hub.

To begin the process an LSTA planning grant was awarded to Columbus Metropolitan Library (one of the DigiHub Libraries) in April 2015 with matching funds provided by OPLIN. Through the grant, a contract has been awarded to the Bishoff Group to help create roadmap for the establishment of an Ohio Service Hub. A 12-member Steering Committee, representing all types and sizes of institutions was formed and met in July. Following that meeting, Working Groups, co-chaired by Steering Committee members were formed. Monthly Steering Committee calls keep the project moving forward.

Major activities in 2015 were the deployment of a survey to identify current digital activities in Ohio institutions and a DPLA Symposium held in December. Over 100 individuals attended the Symposium where they heard more details about DPLA and the proposed project for Ohio.

The State Library is committed to the DPLA in Ohio project and is also uniquely qualified and positioned to bring together the range of partners needed to make the project successful. The State Library has agreed to take the lead for a three-year prototype project. Specifics are being developed with the State Library Board and the Bishoff Group.

<http://www.dplaohio.org/> ■

State Library Getting Facelift

By Ann M. Watson, Associate State Librarian for Library Services & Katy Klettlinger, Library Consultant for Library Development

Creating spaces that foster community and information sharing has become a strong focus of libraries in recent years. As part of our institution's vision of building a "Smarter Ohio," the State Library has embraced the importance of renovating its public services spaces to better serve state employees and visitors and other library users. Beginning in February 2015, the library has been at work repurposing various areas of our public spaces, most notably the areas of circulation and reference. We are currently redesigning the lobby.

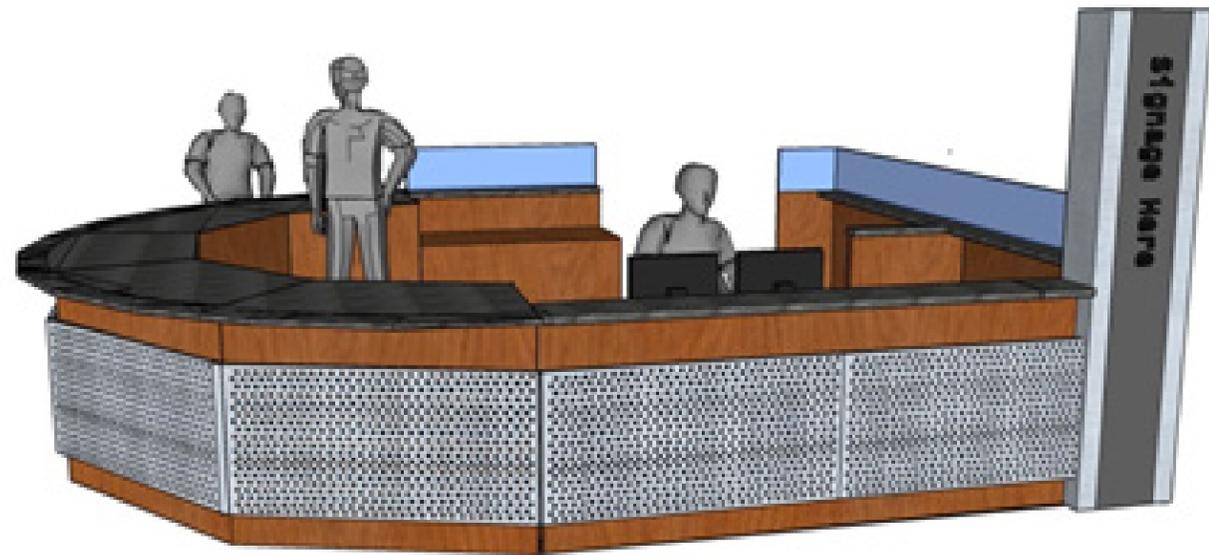
The redesign is being led by Ann Watson, Associate State Librarian for Library Services, who is serving in

the project management role. As the project manager, Ann has set the strategic direction and vision of the renovation, overseen all activities, and reviewed submitted designs. Steve Updegraff, Head of Transport and Facilities Services, is charged with leading the physical aspects of the redesign such as working with vendors and coordinating electricians, movers, and other contract related workers. Finally, Katy Klettlinger, Library Consultant, is serving as the designer. She has created the design for the areas and served as a liaison to furniture vendors and other interior design representatives.

As a part of her duties, Katy provides

public and school libraries in the state with free space planning services to determine how a space can be more effectively used for projects of all budget levels. This service was identified by public libraries as a need and was placed in the State Library's latest strategic plan. Services include creating 3D renderings of spaces for design and gaining community input and support for projects; evaluating spaces for customer flow and creating more flexibility so a space can be used for more than one purpose; and assisting with furniture, shelving, flooring, and lighting selections. All of these services were utilized by the State Library when working on its redesign "Facelift" project.

FACELIFT continued on p. 15



1



2



3



4



5



6



In the spirit of collaboration and recognizing the value of having staff buy-in, the staff members from the reference and circulation departments were asked about what could be changed in the public areas to better serve patrons and what aspects of the space work well for this purpose. Customer flow, staff work areas, and existing furniture were evaluated. It was determined that splitting circulation and reference staff into two separate work areas was needed. Also, soft seating needed updated, a lounge area was desired to draw users into the space, and photocopy patron areas needed to be reconsidered. A design had to be created that not only achieved these needs, but also worked within budget constraints such as not being able to move the location of public computers or changing lighting.

A 3-D design was created in-house along with three proposed designs for circulation and reference service desks. Staff provided input on the layout of the public areas and selected the desk configurations for their work areas. Once the designs were finalized, the library secured its budget.

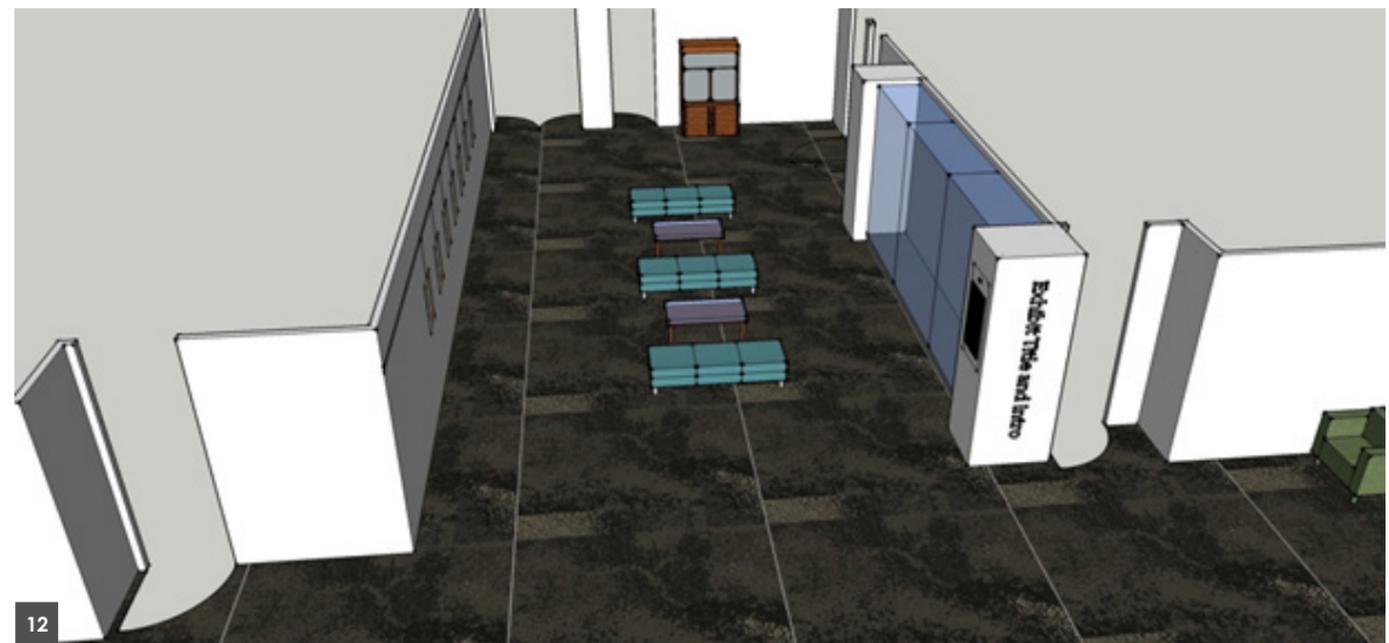
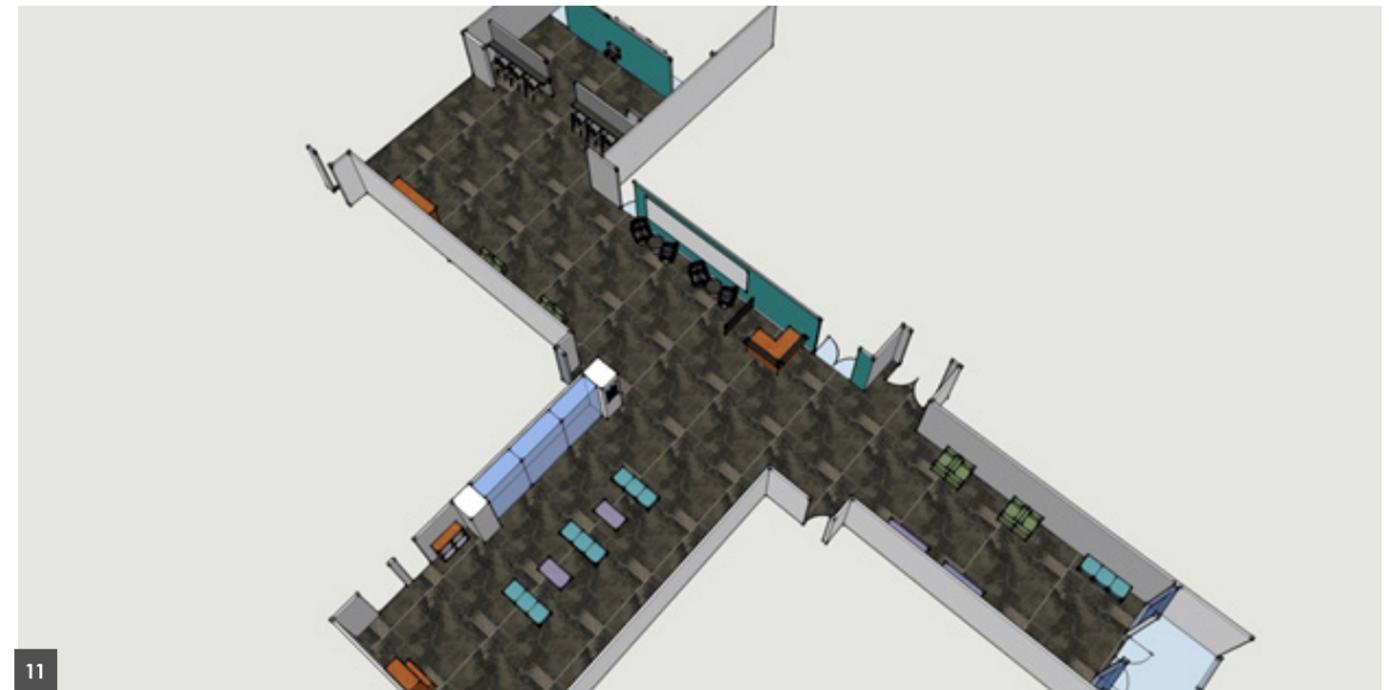
The large desk was disassembled and reconfigured into two separate service desks over two days in mid-August. As with any project, some small changes to the configuration of the desk were made during the reassembly process to better accommodate staff needs. During this time, the stacks were closed to patrons and a temporary service desk was placed in the entrance to the library. Staff remained at the temporary location for four weeks because custom work to the "new" service desks took longer than expected. Everyone was very happy when the job was complete!

A color scheme and textiles were selected for soft furniture in conjunction with the desk reconfiguration. In order to match the industrial feel of the building, soft greens and blues were selected to compliment the metal grates placed on the façade of the service desks. Soft furniture is in the process of being purchased, which will create additional soft seating located by new shelving that now separates the public area from microforms.

Currently, the library has worked to finalize a design for the lobby and meeting spaces. The area will feature a central exhibition space, cafe seating, and soft seating. The final stage of the project is expected to begin within the next six weeks.

FACELIFT continued on p. 17

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



Photos and graphics

1. *Before*: 3-D rendering created by Katy Klettlinger of new configuration for the reference desk.
2. *Before*: Large circulation & reference combination desk
3. *During*: Ann Watson and Katy Klettlinger on the first day discussing progress of dismantling the big desk.
4. *During*: Steve Updegraff (right) stops to think about a new plan that develops while assembling the new design for the circulation desk. Team leader of moving crew from E.E. Ward
5. *During*: Dismantling the big desk and moving sections to the new location for the reference desk.
6. *After*: The re-configured circulation desk completed.
7. *Before*: area of library where the reference desk will be moved to for the new design,
8. *After*: The re-configured reference desk completed.
9. *Before*: A view of the library seating area and desk pods for public computers & laptop connections.
10. *After*: The new arrangement for the public computers completed.
11. *Next*: 3-D rendering created by Katy Klettlinger of design for updating the entry, lobby, and exhibit (gallery) space.
12. *Next*: Another 3-D rendering created by Katy Klettlinger of design for the gallery.

All photos by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney ■

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Developing Future Library Leaders at ILEAD USA Ohio 2015



Front row (L to R): Tamara Murray, Astrid Olfenbuttel Huber, Beth Hatch, Mandy Simon, Shannon Kupfer, Emily Glenn
Back row (L to R): Elizabeth Allen, Cindy Boyden, Kristin Anderson, Gabriel Venditti, Nathan Tallman, and Jillian Carney

By Evan Struble, Library Consultant for Library Development
State Library of Ohio

Thirteen future library leaders from across Ohio were selected and participated in ILEAD USA - Ohio 2015. ILEAD USA is an immersive multi-state continuing education program that develops library leaders through projects based on community needs using technology. Ohio participants joined others from Wisconsin, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Delaware, North Dakota, New York, Maine, Illinois, and Utah in this national initiative. Evan Struble, State Library of Ohio Library Consultant for Library Development coordinated the program for Ohio.

Sessions kicked off in March and reconvened in June and October at Mohican State Park & Lodge in Perrysville, Ohio.

Sessions were held simultaneously in each of the 10 states, with plenary sessions on streaming video. In-person sessions, virtual meetings and activities enabled participants to hone their skills, experiment with participatory technology tools and engage with their ILEAD USA cohorts. ILEAD USA Ohio 2015 participants applied to the program as a group and were assigned a mentor. Mentors kept participants motivated; offered expertise; and provided guidance and advice. Each team worked on a single group project.

The ILEAD USA - Ohio 2015 program is made possible by a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant to the State Library of Illinois from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Additional support is provided by the State Library of Ohio and the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science.



Shannon Kupfer
State Library of Ohio



Mandy Simon

FACELIFT continued p. 19

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



ILEAD USA Ohio 2015 Participants & Teams

Team Hub

Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library
Emily Glenn, Association of College & University Housing Officers
Beth Hatch, CLEVNET/Cleveland Public Library
Astrid Olfenbuttel Huber, Worthington Libraries
Tamara Murray, Westerville Public Library

Preserve Digital Ohio

Elizabeth Allen, Bexley Public Library
Jillian Carney, Ohio History Connection
Shannon Kupfer, State Library of Ohio
Nathan Tallman, University of Cincinnati Libraries

Librarians for Equal Opportunity Marketing

Cindy Boyden, State Library of Ohio
Terra Rogerson, Wagnalls Memorial Library
Mandy Simon, Bexley Public Library
Gabriel Venditti, Lorain County Community College—Bass Library

Mentors

Chad Boeninger, Ohio University Libraries
Karen Miller, Bradbury Associates/Gossage Sager Associates
Christine Morris, OHIONET

Ohio Steering Committee

Matthew Dyer, State Library of Ohio (Head of Instruction through June)
Beverly Cain, State Librarian of Ohio
Mandy Knapp, State Library of Ohio
Missy Lodge, State Library of Ohio
Shelly Miller, OHIONET
George Needham, Delaware County Public Library
Rachel Rubin, Bexley Public Library
Evan Struble, State Library of Ohio
Ann Watson, State Library of Ohio

Keynote Speakers

Sina Bahram, Prime Access Consulting
David Bendekovic, B.A. David Company
John Emerson, backspace.com
David Lankes, Syracuse University School of Information Studies
Eli Neiburger, Ann Arbor District Library

ILEAD USA Ohio 2105 photos provided by Catherine Murray, of Photo Kitchen

Evan Struble Recognized as Leader of Tomorrow



Evan with his parents Michael and Patricia Struble following the 2015 OLC Awards and Honors Luncheon in Cincinnati Ohio.

Photo by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney

State Library of Ohio Library Consultant Evan Struble received the Ohio Library Council Diana Vescelius Memorial Award in October at the 2015 OLC Awards and Honors Luncheon.

The Diana Vescelius Memorial Award recognizes Ohio's library leaders of tomorrow. This award was created as an acknowledgement of Diana's enthusiasm, and active and creative contributions to the library profession.

Requirements: OLC member; MLIS or library school student; 35 years or younger or worked 5 years or less in libraries.

Criteria: Individual career demonstrates future leadership potential by demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the profession, including advocacy in special areas such as intellectual freedom, library innovation, outreach, and/or expansion of library services. ■

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

CHOOSE TO Read OHIO

2015 & 2016

Read Together

Read Ohio

Read for Life!

Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) spotlights Ohio authors and promotes reading across Ohio. The State Library of Ohio, Ohioana Library Association and Ohio Center for the Book encourage Ohioans of all ages to read and enjoy books together.

library.ohio.gov/ctro

Poster design by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney



A Look Back at 2015

By Gregg Gassman, Library Assistant State Library of Ohio

A partnership among the State Library of Ohio, Ohioana Library, and the Ohio Center for the Book, Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) is ultimately a single initiative with a single focus: to build up communities of readers with an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. But there's incredible diversity hidden within that overarching vision. To see what I mean, let's take a look at the CTRO program, starting at the artistic source.

The authors and illustrators featured in CTRO share three common bonds. First, they are all affiliated with the Buckeye State, whether through birth (Jacqueline Woodson), a lifetime (Louise Borden), or something in between (Cynthia Rylant). Second, they have all combined their vision with their talents and created something remarkable, whether a novel (What Happens Next by Colleen Clayton), vibrant illustrations (Tiger in My Soup by Jeffrey Ebbeler), or something marrying the two (Bone by Jeff Smith). Third, they have all been selected for CTRO. This third bond may seem as obvious as saying the authors are all human (to my knowledge they are, unlike a number of the individuals they introduce us to, from Rin Tin Tin to Otis the tractor). But with hundreds (Ohio is abounding in literary talent

past and present; ask the staff of the Ohioana Library!) to choose among, it's impossible to feature all Ohio-connected authors and artists.

So how does an author become a CTRO author? The selection process begins with the CTRO advisory team. Meeting in the hallowed halls of the Ohioana Library Association this past September, the advisory team for the 2017 & 2018 cycle worked diligently to transform a list of over 80 proposed titles into something more manageable, considering availability, accessibility, diversity, and how to ensure that the final list includes something for everyone. In October and November, the advisory team recruits educators, librarians, and other book-lovers and readers' advocates to serve as reader-electors and have a vote in which proposed titles will appear on the 2017 & 2018 booklist. The reader-electors are given a list of candidate titles for the category (or categories) they have volunteered to review. The categories are framed according to the age range of the anticipated audience—Young Children, Middle Grades/Tweens, Middle & High School/Teens, and Adults. Depending on various factors, there are 10-15 titles in each category presented to the electors. In January, the advisory team meets again to review the results of the online polling set up for the reader-electors to express their thoughts and to finalize the booklist based on the reader-electors' votes.

After the CTRO titles have been selected, the marketing work begins. Authors and publishers are contacted. Posters are printed and mailed. Every cycle, more resources are designed to connect Ohioans to

the featured titles and to authors and illustrators that created them. For the 2015 & 2016 cycle, there were several exciting developments at this stage of the process, including tipsheets for the featured children's titles (designed to quickly connect the reading experience to the Five Practices of Every Child Ready to Read), and a sleek new format for the ever-handy online toolkits designed for each title (toolkits and tipsheets may be found at library.ohio.gov/ctro).

The toolkits are where much of the true value of CTRO lies, and I'm not just saying that because I'm honored to have had a hand in putting together several for 2015 & 2016 featured books (though I am). I'm saying it because they enhance the reading experience in a wonderful way, complete with author biographies and photos, book summaries, discussion questions, related projects and activities, and links to entertaining, educational texts and websites. I've seen more than one featured author link to CTRO toolkits on their own websites. Though CTRO titles and authors are varied (poetry anthology, fantasy novel, Nobel laureate, felon...) the toolkits are united in their utility and accessibility.

Accessible. There's that word again. It's on my mind in part because it's a common thread in the CTRO program. Accessibility is one of the criteria that helps a book make a CTRO list. Titles available in a variety of formats—including eBooks and audiobooks—are favored, and titles are excluded if there aren't enough copies across Ohio library consortia. Accessibility is certainly part of the CTRO marketing plan: CTRO materials are available at no cost, both online and in print. The variety of featured titles and resources

CTRO continued p. 23

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration
by Jacqueline Woodson (author) and James Ransome (illustrator)

About the Book
When a little girl in South Carolina finds a rope under a tree, she discovers it will be the start of her family's history. But for three generations, that rope is passed down, used for everything from jump rope games to tying someone's car for the big move north to New York City, and even for a family reunion, where that first little girl now a grandmother, happens before the rope gets its journey north during the time of the Great Migration, when millions of African American families fled from the South, seeking better opportunities.

Get Ready to Read!
Introducing early literacy skills to young children. Writing or drawing and labeling helps children learn to read. Parents can share these practices with children of all ages. For more information, visit www.ohio.gov/ctro.

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Just Ella
By Margaret Peterson Haddix

About the Book
Ella dreams of going to the royal ball and meeting Prince Charming and his ever-compassionate in the kingdom of Hiddis. But after she is chosen to marry the prince—the magic involved—she with the royal family is not the happily ever after that Ella imagines. Princess and prince, Ella's life becomes a meaningless schedule of protocol, which she feels she will never grasp. And Prince Charming's beautiful face hides a violent soul.

Behind the Book
Margaret Peterson Haddix recalls how she got the idea for *Just Ella*.

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Not a Drop to Drink
By Mindy McGinnis

About the Book
Regret was for people with nothing to defend, people who had no water.

Book Details
Not a Drop to Drink by Mindy McGinnis. HarperCollins, 2013. ISBN 9780061985157. Ages 14-17. #E2020 Levels. <http://www.harpercollins.com/books/NotADropToDrink>. Mindy McGinnis (@mcmcginnis) <https://twitter.com/mcmcginnis>

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

State Library Awards \$197,978 in Federal Funds for Grants

In June the State Library Board awarded \$39,916 in federal IMLS LSTA funding to the **Columbus Metropolitan Library** to conduct a Digital Public Library of America Planning Project from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The project will develop a plan for Ohio libraries and cultural heritage institutions to participate in the Digital Public Library of America through creation of an Ohio Service Hub. In 2014, the State Library used LSTA funds, matched by OPLIN funds, to develop Digitization Hubs at four metropolitan libraries.

In December the State Library Board awarded \$158,062 in federal Institute of Museum and Library Services Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants to seven libraries.

Three libraries were awarded Ohio LSTA Outreach and Partnership Grants: **Ashland Public Library, Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County, and Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.** The purpose of the Outreach and Partnership Grant is to assist libraries in providing new and innovative ways of providing services to users and potential users and in reaching individuals at a range of locations and through a variety of methods.

Two libraries were awarded Ohio LSTA Data Management Grants: **The Ohio State University Libraries and Stark County District Library.** The purpose Data Management Grant is to create strong libraries and communities by defining outcomes, developing assessments, drawing conclusions from data, data visualizations, and/or managing and using data to make better decisions.

Two libraries were awarded Ohio LSTA Literacy and Other Topics Grants: **Cuyahoga County Public Library and Mansfield/Richland County Public Library.** The purpose of the Literacy and Other Topics Grant is to support the library role in the learning experience where literacy is defined as the ability to read, write and interact across a range of platforms and tools, and it encompasses early literacy, digi-



tal literacy, functional literacy, and others.

Ashland Public Library was awarded an Outreach & Partnership grant in the amount of \$13,245, to purchase 15 laptops as well as software and reference materials to provide outreach services, such as reference and research, to local business. Strengthening the economic capacity of the community and the role of the library as a core component of the broader community learning and service infrastructure is key to project success.

Cuyahoga County Public Library was awarded a Literacy grant in the amount of \$7,538, to underwrite the cost of a two-day training on media and early literacy to 15 Cuyahoga County Public Library librarians, 1 State Library staff member and 12 librarians from around the state of Ohio. All those trained will commit to implement the new knowledge within their respective systems, and train other librarians across the state.

Mansfield/Richland County Public Library was awarded a Literacy grant in the amount of \$9,281, to increase access to digital technology, through the purchase of 34 digital devices (eReaders). These devices will circulate, narrowing the digital divide among many low income patrons, as well as older adults with vision or physical impairments.

The Ohio State University Libraries was awarded a Data Management grant in the amount of \$11,398, to purchase training courses for Tableau, a rapidly emerging data analytics and data visualiza-

tion software. OSU librarians will be trained via the software, and subsequently provide training other librarians within the state of Ohio on Tableau.

Stark County District Library was awarded a Data Management grant in the amount of \$16,500, to obtain consulting services in order to better develop their strategic planning and performance dashboard with individualized Branch business plans. These consulting services will improve the customer experience and should increase library use through data-informed branch-specific business plans.

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library was awarded an Outreach & Partnerships grant in the amount of \$50,000, to purchase 100 iPad Air 2 tablets, and portable charging units. The iPads will be used to introduce thousands of at-risk children and their parents to the digital resources that strengthen children's pre- and early-literacy skills, as well as their interest in books and reading.

Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County was awarded an Outreach & Partnerships grant in the amount of \$50,000, to purchase a book hauler that will be devoted to hauling materials for the well-received Pop-Up Library service that was initiated in 2013. The library will buy a dedicated vehicle to support mobile services including providing library materials for check out, card registration, and instruction on digital resources, will enable staff to increase the number and frequency of offsite visits. ■

What happens When State Librarians Get Together?

By Beverly Cain, State Librarian
State Library of Ohio



COSLA stands for Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and it meets three times each year. The group meets for one day in conjunction with ALA Midwinter, one day in conjunction with National Library Legislative Day, and three days in October. The October meeting is in a different state every year.

COSLA meetings are not like library association conferences where you choose from a broad selection of sessions. COSLA has a membership of just 52 and we stay together from dawn to dusk throughout the meeting, with the exception of some breakouts for committee meetings.

At our October, 2015 meeting, Monday was a day of continuing education for state librarians. We began our day with breakfast at 8:00 and spent the rest of the day learning about data and evaluation from experts from the Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL). Our presenters were:

- Linda Hofschire, Research Analyst, Library Research Service, Colorado State Library
- Sharon Morris, Director, Library Development, Colorado State Library
- James LaRue, CEO, LaRue & Associates

When 5:00 came and we were adjourned for the day, we had a short break and then traveled to the Lobster House for dinner. Dinner typically includes a presentation by a vendor or partner, providing members with another educational opportunity.

Tuesday was another full day, beginning again with breakfast at 8:00. The morning was devoted to presentations on three separate topics. First we heard from Micah May, Director of Strategy for the New York Public Library, whose topic was E-Books: Innovations & State Library Roles. Micah shared information

about Library Simplified, which makes it easier for library patrons to discover and borrow ebooks. Next we heard from Dan Cohen, Executive Director, Digital Public Library of America, who provided us with a status report on the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). Before lunch, a panel of state librarians from Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont provided information about a collaborative STEM initiative they are doing with support from an IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant. This exciting project is called Empowering Public Libraries to be Science Resource Centers for Their Communities.

After lunch, we had time for committee meetings. I am on the Legislation Committee, which just changed its name to the Public Policy Committee, and the Research and Statistics Committee. The Research and Statistics Committee is working with COSLA on the proposed Data Summit as well as working with COSLA and IMLS on changing data elements, which is a very cumbersome process. We finished our day with a discussion centered on the National Policy Agenda for libraries led by Larra Clark and Alan Inouye from ALA. The purpose of the National Policy Agenda is to help decision-makers and influencers gain a better understanding of the capacities and contributions of modern libraries. After a short break, we gathered again for a group dinner

Wednesday was just a half day, from 8:00 – 12:00. It consisted of the 2015 COSLA Business Meeting and updates from the field including: Institute of Museum & Library Services; OCLC; and National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

It was a very busy 2 ½ days and I came back with some great information and ideas. Out of 52 state librarians (the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are included) 43 were present at this meeting. It is always great to talk with people from other states to share information and ideas. ■

is designed to make the CTRO program accessible and engaging for the full range of Ohioans. All toolkits and materials remain available after each program cycle; after all, a book that was great in 2009 is still great today. I am proud to be associated with such a program, and I encourage you to take full advantage of the resources available to you through the efforts of many wonderful people with a passion for reading and a passion for Ohio.

CTRO is a collaborative effort by the State Library of Ohio, Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book. Explore all the CTRO books to date at library.ohio.gov/ctro. For

more information or to participate as a CTRO reader-elect in the future, please contact Janet Ingraham Dwyer, jdwyer@library.ohio.gov. Please note that the reader-electors for the 2017 & 2018 cycle have already begun their work; you are welcome and encouraged to offer your services as a reader-elect for the 2019 & 2020 program cycle.

Gregg Gassman, Library Assistant II for Library Programs and Development, serves on the Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) advisory team. ■

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan book discussion groups or library programs.

Meet the featured contributing authors with Ohio roots.

Select from a range of discussion questions and extension activities to deepen the experience of reading and sharing **Good Roots**.

Discover additional books, films, and websites to explore topics and themes in depth.

Good Roots: Writers Reflect on Growing Up in Ohio
Edited by Lisa Watts

About the Book

"A good place to be from." That's how some people might characterize the Buckeye State, the writings in **Good Roots: Writers Reflect on Growing Up in Ohio** are testimony to the truth of that statement. By prominent writers such as P. J. Chabon, Susan Orlean, and Aie Kates Dushman, these contributions are alternately nostalgic, revealing, and sincere, and offer a personal sense of place. The contributors—children of Ohio towns that typify the Midwest and all others in the countryside. Yet what they have to tell us about their roots resonates with a shared heritage, a sense of what is universal and enduring about growing up in the heartland.

Their collective shared reads like a literary Who's Who, including four Pulitzer Prizes, several National Book Awards, and many prestigious fellowships. **Good Roots** is also plain good reading from some of our country's most accomplished contemporary writers.

Book Details

Good Roots: Writers Reflect on Growing Up in Ohio edited by Lisa Watts.
Ohio University Press, 2015. ISBN 978029447724.
<http://www.ohio.edu/press/books/GoodRoots>

Contributor Snapshots

Lisa Watts, born in Cleveland, is an editor and writer who returned to Ohio to raise her family in Wooster.

Jill Bialosky (Baker Heights) has authored poetry collections and novels. She is an editor at W. W. Norton and Company and lives in New York City.

Dan Coyle (Findlay) served as a book critic of *Nevada* for twenty-five years. He has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize as a critic.

Michael Deids (Lorain) is a memoirist and longtime columnist for the *Washington Post Book World*. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for criticism in 1993.

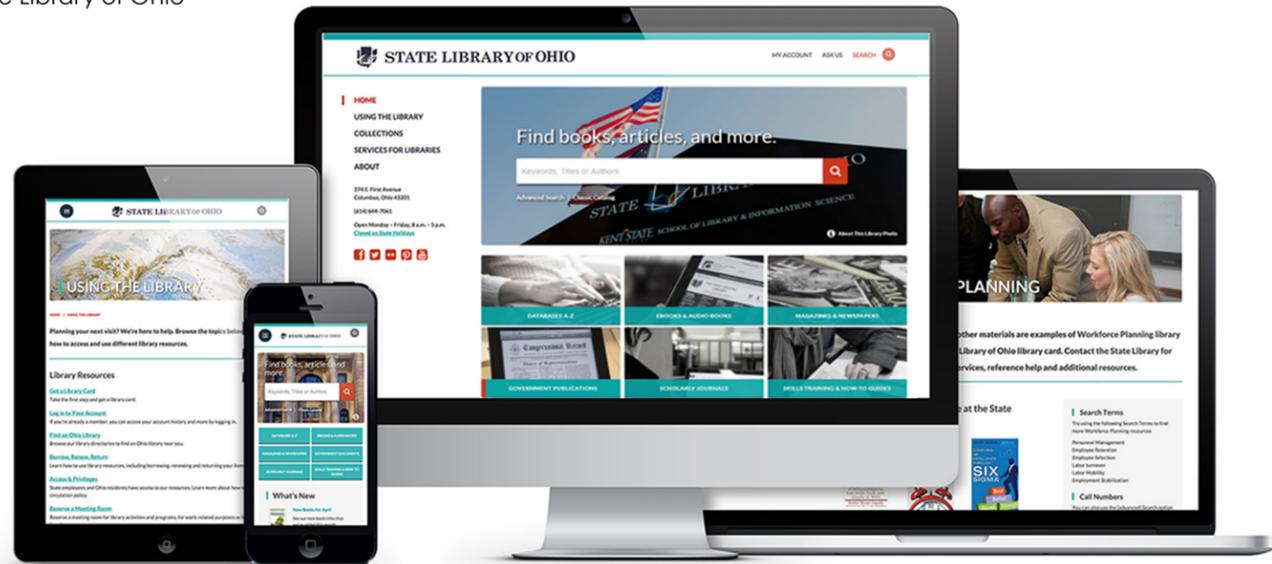
Elizabeth Dodd (Athens) grew up in southeast Ohio. She is a professor, a creative writing program director, a poet, a critic, an editor, and an award-winning essayist.

STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

New and Improved Website

By Marsha McDevitt-Stredney
 Director, Marketing & Communications
 State Library of Ohio



The State Library of Ohio launched its new website in May 2015. The website, 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 previous website was based on a shared-responsibility content management system organized to provide access for representatives from each department to add and edit content. Over time, everyone agreed the website was not working. The content, style, and branding became inconsistent, some content was longer relevant, and its structure was based on the needs and workflow of staff, not our users.

To get a fresh perspective, obtain unbiased feedback, and an objective needs analysis from current and potential users, we decided an outside website design and marketing group would be the best solution. The use of an outside group meant the site would be created by experts on user-experience and design, as well as IT experience in customizing open source code, to meet the needs of our customers. Our website users knew we would not know their individual feedback and openly participated in surveys and focus groups. Every decision about the website design was based on usability research, visual design expertise, and feedback from our users.

A priority for our library users was a responsive web design that automatically adjusts to any screen size from large monitors to small mobile devices. Another priority was to reduce the amount of library lingo to improve communication and navigation. Managers and staff had input on the organizational structure of the site while keeping in mind the priority was to make it as easy as possible for our patrons and other website users to navigate.

Before the website was finalized, usability studies were conducted with a sample of library users and members of the Ohio library community. Each participant performed the same series of tasks, one at a time, to find content on the website. Their website navigation strategies were observed and they were asked questions about their thinking and decision making processes using the new website. It was an eye-opening experience to actually see how differently they thought about where content would be located compared to us. After the studies, changes were made in areas where customers consistently had difficulty finding content. The usability studies were key to the positive feedback we received once the website launched.

The website now has a scalable interface that adjusts to any device, allowing users to fully engage the website from both mobile devices and desktop computers. 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. Although content is still provided by all of the departments at the State Library, in order to ensure a consistent design, tone, and brand, for now only Marketing and Communications edits the website.

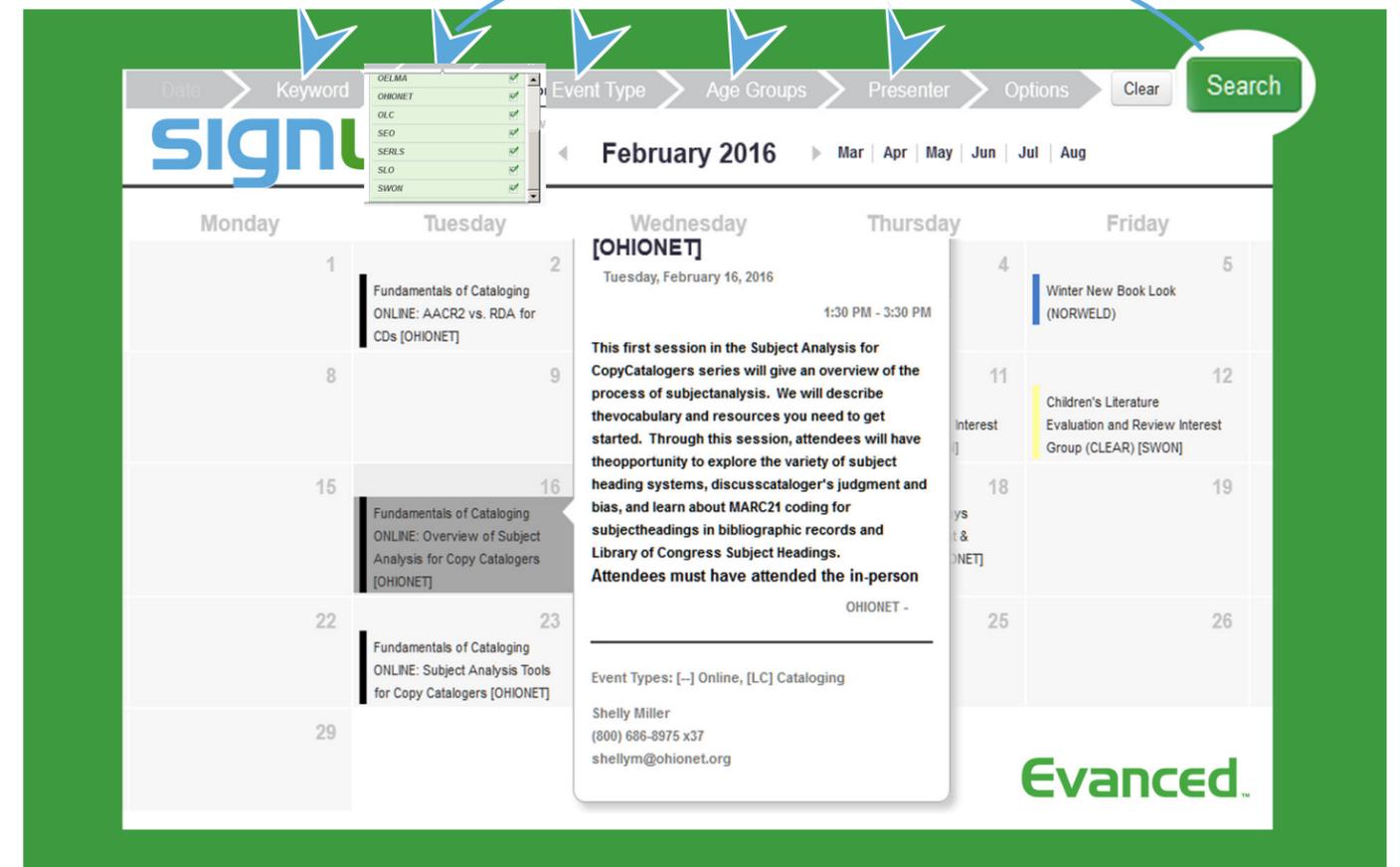
From the State Library Eric Maynard, Information Systems & Technology Infrastructure Specialist and Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Marketing & Communications Director and Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Youth Services Library Consultant worked together on the project and were liaisons with IdeaBase. Eric's work focussed on the technical aspects of the project and he continues to develop enhancements to the website. Marsha McDevitt-Stredney focussed on the content, organization, and visual design aspects with IdeaBase. Janet provided input from both our internal and external website users' perspectives.

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. ■

Statewide Shared CE Calendar

Ohio Library Organizations Collaborate to Provide a One-Stop Shop for CE Opportunities

By Marsha McDevitt-Stredney
 Director, Marketing & Communications
 State Library of Ohio



In concurrence with its new website, the State Library also launched a statewide Shared CE Calendar in May 2015. Library professionals across Ohio can now go to one place to browse, search, and register for continuing education and other events hosted by Shared CE Calendar collaborators. The Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO), Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA), OHIONET, Ohio Library Council (OLC), State Library of Ohio and Serving Every Ohioan (SEO), and the four regional library systems (SERLS, SWON, NEO-RLS, & NORWELD) each add their events to the shared calendar. Or, events are automatically imported from their respective websites.

Browsing options for the Shared CE Calendar include viewing events in the traditional month or week calendar format, or as a list. The list option displays a portion of the summary about the event with a link to expand it. The traditional calendar option view features a small pop-up window that is

activated when the user's cursor hovers over the event. The number of events displayed can be limited using pull down menus such as the search by location option. This option allows the user to select events by one or more of the collaborators. Another option is to search by event type. All CE and other events are tagged with a topic identifier within four main categories which include: Information Technology (IT), Library Collections (LC), Library Management (LM), and Patron Services (PS) and available to select in a pull down menu. In addition, users may search by keyword and presenter.

Where the user registers for events varies among the collaborators. For some, registration takes place in the calendar system and for others the register link goes to the hosting organization's website. Although the Shared CE Calendar system is still relatively new, usage numbers are steady and feedback has been positive. ■



Welcome, Congratulations, and Farewell

We welcomed a new board member and staff members, and with sadness said goodbye to others in 2015.



Laurie Gemmill Arp joined the State Library Board and was sworn in at the March 19, 2015 State Library Board meeting. Laurie is the Director of Digital & Preservation Services at Lyrasis and its former Digitization Collaborative Program Manager. Her earlier work includes program implementation management at OCLC and archival, preservation, and online cultural heritage repository management at the Ohio Historical Society.



Board President John Myles left the board at the end of his term in December. John helped lead the State Library of Ohio through a period of ongoing change, including shifting legislative priorities, making major strides forward in the digitization and preservation of information related to Ohio's cultural heritage, and redefining the boundaries of 34 public libraries in order to eliminate double taxation for library services.



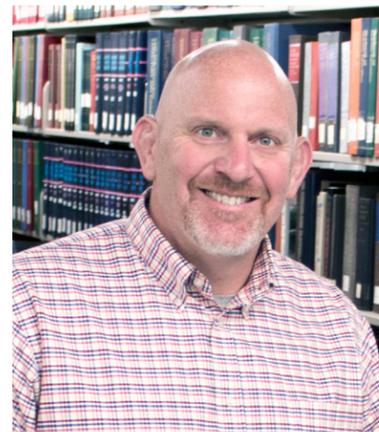
Administrative Professional Paula Buco retired at the end of December after 30 years with the State Library at its Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) location in Caldwell, Ohio. The State Library Board recognized Paula for her dedication and service during its December board meeting.



Gregory Gassman joined the State Library staff as a Library Assistant within the Library Programs and Development (LPD) Department in May, 2015. Gregg provides administrative assistance and clerical support to the consultant staff. This was a newly created position and Gregg has had the opportunity to design it with the input of the LPD consultants.

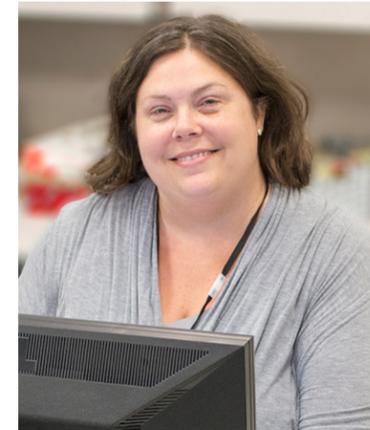


Stephanie Herriott joined the staff as Manager, Employee Services in July, 2015. Stephanie's primary focus is the coordination of personnel activities which includes the recruitment, selection, orientation and retention of employees. She is the agency's point person for benefits, collective bargaining/labor relations, disability/workers compensation, EEO, ADA, FMLA and agency/state policies and how these impact State Library staff.



David Daiber joined as Library Assistant in Circulation & Special Services in October, 2015. He is responsible for helping to provide resources to state employees and Ohio residents.

Welcome, Congratulations, and Farewell continued...



Cindy Boyden was promoted to Library Consultant within the Library Programs and Development Department in September, 2015. She is in charge of day-to-day operations and activities associated with Ohio's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program, including assisting libraries in developing proposals, coordinating the review process and monitoring funded projects.



Andy Ingraham Dwyer was promoted to Chief Information Officer in July, 2015. As Chief Information Officer, Andy is the Supervisor for the Information Systems & Technology Department. He is responsible for advising and setting the technology direction for the agency and directing and coordinating operation of all State Library IT services and projects.



Julia Ward was promoted to Executive Secretary to the State Librarian's Office in June, 2015. Julia manages the office of the State Librarian and provides organizational support for special programs and projects. Julia has been with the State Library for 15 years.



Former State Librarian Richard M. Cheski passed away on November 20, 2015. Mr. Cheski retired in 1995 after 17 years serving as the State Librarian of Ohio. Mr. Cheski led the State Library during times of major reductions in funding but successfully managed resources to improve services and access to vital resources for state government, libraries, and Ohio's residents.



Floyd Dickman, former Library Consultant with the State Library passed in June, 2015. Floyd retired in 1999 after 23 years of service. His retirement resolution recognized Floyd, "as a leader in library services, children's literature and family literacy, as evidenced by such awards as the Ohio Library Council Librarian of the Year and Outstanding Friend from the Ohio Family Literacy Task Force."



Deputy State Librarian Roger VERNY died unexpectedly in 2015. Roger passed away on Monday, August 4th. He retired from the State Library in December 2008 after 15 years of dedicated service to the State Library of Ohio and the Ohio library community. He is remembered fondly for his kind nature, open door approach to everyone, and radiate smile when he talked about his love of ice hockey.

Statewide Virtual Reference Service Signs Off.....

By Marsha McDevitt-Stredney
Director, Marketing & Communications
State Library of Ohio

The State Library of Ohio Board voted to cease federal LSTA funding for KnowItNow24x7, the statewide virtual reference library service, at its September meeting. The decision to end the service was based on cost analysis and declining usage. The board did not arrive at this decision lightly and expressed their sincere gratitude to the many Ohio librarians, libraries, and library organizations for their help developing, implementing, and operating one of the first, and for many years the most successful, statewide 24 hours a day, 7 days a week virtual reference services in the country.

When the Ohio LSTA Advisory Council drafted the first LSTA Five-Year Plan for 1998-2002, they had a vision for a virtual reference program. KnowItNow24x7 began in 2004 with a \$936,000 federal LSTA grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio to Cuyahoga County Public Library in partnership with Cleveland Public Library and NOLA Regional Library System (NEO-RLS). Ohio's first statewide virtual reference library service launched that year with KnowItNow, ReadItNow, HomeworkNow, and an evening tutoring service through tutor.com. The Cleveland Public Library was responsible for the platform and technical support and daytime reference staff and subject specialists. The NOLA Regional Library System was responsible for after-hours coverage, training and evaluation, and Cuyahoga County Public Library managed marketing and fiscal administration. Reference librarians from Ohio libraries were recruited and provided after-hours service.

After just eight months, there were 101,000 virtual reference sessions and the State Library Board continued their commitment to the project by awarding federal funds each year since. In 2007 the tutoring service from tutor.com was eliminated. Cleveland Public Library was administering the program and subcontracting with Northeast Ohio Regional Library System (NEO-RLS) for after-hours services.

OhioLINK began a partnership which led to KnowItNow Academic in 2007 which continued through 2013. Other partnerships included INFOhio and the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science. A national partnership with L-Net, the Oregon virtual reference service, was in place for several years. Cleveland Public Library, the State Library of Ohio, and librarians from public and academic libraries across Ohio provided statewide reference services during day and evening hours. In 2013, after-hours services moved from NEO-RLS to a national contract service provider.

Don Boozer was hired in 2008 as the KnowItNow24x7 Statewide Coordinator when administration of the project moved to Cleveland Public Library, the Quality Assurance Committee was formed, and software upgrades to improve services were implemented. Working from the IT department offices at the Cleveland Public Library, Don led KnowItNow24x7 through significant advances in online and mobile technologies. He left to take a new position at the Cleveland Public Library in March 2015.

In 2004 statewide virtual reference service was a visionary endeavor. The service expanded awareness and access for all Ohioans to high quality reference resources online and on the go. Since that time advances in mobile devices



and network technologies have soared. Reliable information on the web has improved and some libraries have instituted their own local virtual reference services. As a result, the need for KnowItNow24x7 and its usage declined dramatically.

Efforts are underway to preserve information about the service and recognize its unique contribution in the history of librarianship in Ohio. ■

Promotional poster. circa 2007



By Cindy Boyden, Library Consultant-LSTA
State Library of Ohio

One of the most integral parts of librarianship is continuing education. Lifelong learning is foundational to libraries and librarians alike. State Library of Ohio staff, including those at SEO and OPLIN, have traveled throughout the state and beyond in order to learn from colleagues. Some have even offered their time to teach and inform other library professionals. A list of conferences attended and topics presented by staff is below.

Attended:

- ALA Annual Conference;
- OLC Annual Convention & Expo;
- National Library Legislation Day;
- COSLA Spring Meeting;
- COSLA Fall Meeting;
- Dive into Data;
- ILEAD;
- IMLS-LSTA State Conference;
- OLSSI;
- Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting & Conference;
- Depository Library Council Annual Meeting;
- ALAO;
- All for Un - Ohio's Interlibrary Unconference;
- Electronic Resources & Libraries (ER&L) Annual Conference;
- The Charleston Conference;
- OLC Southwest Chapter;
- Collaborative Summer Library Program Annual Meeting;
- OLC Central/Southeast Chapter;
- Take 5;
- OLC North Chapter;
- SEO User Group meeting;
- ASCD Whole Child Symposium;
- Mazza Summer Conference;
- OLC Children's/Teen Services Conference;
- Cleveland Public Libraries Staff Development Day;
- Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting;
- American Association of School Librarians;
- Digipalooza

Topics presented by staff:

- Key note speaker: "Inputs, Outputs, Outcomes, Oh My, Understanding Your ILEAD Grant";
- "Creating Teen Spaces on a Limited Budget? It's Possible";
- "Local History Collections: How to Promote an Underutilized Resource to Benefit Your Community";
- "Heading in the Right Direction: Creating a Strategic Plan for Your Library";
- "Let the Sunshine In: How to Comply with Ohio's Records Law";
- SLO Resources for State Employees;
- "The Common Corps: Public Libraries Supporting Parents & Educators";
- "Summer Reading RE-Program";
- "What the State Library Can Do For You";
- "Choose to Read Ohio";
- "Hungry Kids Don't Read";
- "The Whole Library Supports the Whole Child";
- "Creating 2D exhibits";
- Outcomes; Performance Measures;
- eRate;
- ODL/ebooks;
- About the State Library;
- Troubleshooting Devices;
- Software & services currently available to SEO Consortia;
- Cloud Computing;
- Mobile Circulation;
- Circulation;
- Database clean-up;
- "Absolutely Free (And Practically Unknown) Online Tools You Didn't Know You Needed", extensive topics for library consortia

