Interview with a Librarian: Beverly Cain

Federal Depository Library Program

State Library of Ohio Celebrating 200 years of Library Services to Ohio
Several years ago, I read a Library Journal article titled “Learning to Thrive in a Culture of Change.” The article began with this sentence, “The future of libraries is caught up in our ability to change and continually respond to the rapid changes around us.” That article was focused on the rapidly changing technology that continues to have a significant impact on libraries, but I think that first sentence applies to far more than technology. I think it really gets to the heart of what has always made libraries so successful: the ability to embrace and enable change.

The State Library has spent a significant amount of time over the past several months examining many of the changes that have impacted the State Library and library services in general. This issue of Ohio Libraries Quarterly takes a closer look at many of those changes, including many that have impacted the State Library itself, such as moving locations, shifting priorities, and 34 state librarians. This issue also takes a look at the evolution of traveling library services from books delivered by horse-drawn carts to modern bookmobiles, changes in library reference services, the history of library summer reading programs, which originated in Cleveland, OH, the history and importance of the Federal Depository Library Program, and the development of maker spaces in libraries.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of Ohio Libraries Quarterly and I look forward to seeing you on August 4 as we commemorate 200 years of service, and yes, change, at the State Library of Ohio.

Beverly Cain
State Librarian of Ohio

EXPLORE... bicentennial.library.ohio.gov

Our online bicentennial exhibit includes photos of State Library staff then and now. You are invited to explore bicentennial.library.ohio.gov to see photos, read about our past, and engage with comments and discussions.
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Interview with a Librarian: Beverly Cain

In May, State Librarian Beverly Cain sat down with Marsha McDevitt-Stredney for an interview and discussion about her career and the State Library of Ohio. Information about the State Library’s budget was updated in mid June.

Beverly: Well I really did not realize it, although I had spent a lot of time in libraries. I enjoyed research and I had always been an avid reader. It never dawned on me that it could be a career until I taught music in public schools for about three and a half, four years on a part-time basis. I realized that I needed to do something different. I intended to go to law school but then I got interested in libraries when one of my relatives was finishing up her MLS and asked me to proofread and type some papers for her. I was really fascinated by that whole field of library science and I thought, “Well this makes sense for me. It fits in with what I like. I have a degree in music education and I loved research.” and so instead of going to law school I applied for library school, was accepted, and offered an assistantship at Kent State. I have never looked back…I have never regretted doing that.

Marsha: Where did you get your music education degree?

Beverly: At the University of Akron.

Marsha: Did you work with your music education degree prior to applying for the School of Library and Information Science?

Beverly: I did some freelance playing and substituted a little bit with the Akron Symphony and just played at church. I realized that I had not the talent nor the drive to become a professional musician. It is tough. It is a really hard way to learn to earn a living and I really wanted a steady income.

Marsha: Describe your career path in terms of positions you have held in libraries, type of libraries, and where they have been.

Beverly: I began my library career at the Medina County District Library. Fresh out of library school, I was hired as a reference librarian and I loved it. Even when I graduated with my MLS I wasn’t completely sure what I wanted to do. I had considered for a brief time becoming a children’s librarian because of that background in education and teaching. Then, I realized that that is not the path I wanted to take. So, I got this position as a reference librarian and just loved it because I got to learn something new every day. I was not bored. I had the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of people.

I was specializing as a business reference librarian. I had never really intended to do that but there was a real need in the community and I was interested in it. I started doing a business reference newsletter and connecting with businesses, small businesses around the community and finding out what the library could do to help them. After about 18 months, I was promoted to the head of the Reference and Adult Services Department. I had never thought that I wanted to go into management or administration, but I found that I liked having a larger impact on the programs and services the library was offering.

I did that for the rest of my time at Medina; I was there from 1986 to 1992. For four years, after initially starting there and being a reference librarian for 18 months, I was more on the management side. I gained I think a broader perspective of what goes on in libraries.

Marsha: What size was your staff?

Beverly: The entire library at that time was about 75 to 80. The Medina Library was still on the smaller end of a medium-sized library in Ohio and it was growing because the community was growing. It was a great time to be there because I got to do a lot of things that I probably could not have done otherwise if the staff had been bigger.

In the Reference Department, I think we had about eight people including a young adult librarian who fit in with the adult services. But we were responsible for providing reference services to the community, doing adult programs, and then the teen services which was new for the library. After I had been there a little while, the internet started taking off. We were beginning to introduce patrons to public computing in the library before anyone knew how big it was going to be and what the impact would be.

Marsha: Like in the early Netscape and Yahoo days?

Beverly: Yes.

Marsha: Are you originally from Medina?

Beverly: No. I am originally from one county over in Summit County. It’s not too far away but in northeast Ohio. I grew up in Barberton, Ohio and then did my undergraduate and my graduate degrees in northeast Ohio—first at the University of Akron for music school and then on the campus in Kent for my library degree.

Marsha: You are very comfortable with the culture and the environment.

Beverly: Yes. I will say that at the time I arrived in Medina County, it was still a little more rural than what I was used to because I grew up in a very—Barberton was a very industrial, small city and of course Akron is a bigger industrial city. One of my very first reference questions as a brand-new reference librarian at the Medina County District Library was someone came in and asked me, “How do you kill a chicken?” At first I thought it was a joke and I was mortified but then I said, “Well, let’s go find out.” Sure enough, there was a book that included very descriptive information and pictures on how to, or drawings I should say, on how to kill a chicken. Medina County still has some rural areas but it has grown quite a bit and is more suburban than rural now.

Marsha: Where did you go from there?

Beverly: From there I went to the Upper Arlington Public Library, here in the Columbus area. I was the branch...
manager of the Lane Road Branch. By that time, I knew in the back of my mind that someday I wanted to be a library director, but I wasn’t quite there yet in terms of my professional development and my experience. I had experience managing a single department within a large library system. My experience at Upper Arlington gave me the opportunity to manage a facility and have general oversight of all of the programs that take place in a branch library. That was good preparation for becoming a library director. I still did some of the things that I was used to doing—some reference work and managing reference services, and adult programs. The Upper Arlington Library has always had a very robust roster of programs for both adults and children. I had some exposure to children’s programming and doing things out in the community.

One of my favorite things when I worked at that library—WOSU Radio had a radio personality, Fred Anderle, who once a month brought in a panel of librarians to discuss books. I was asked to do that along with Ann Badger from the Worthington Public Library and Mike Robbins from the popular library at Columbus Metropolitan Library. We would talk about the various books that we had read and recommend books. People would call in and we would have discussions with them. It was wonderful, very relaxed. I was very nervous going into it but it was just wonderful.

Marsha: Then on to Portsmouth?

Beverly: Then on to Portsmouth as the Director of the Portsmouth Public Library. At the time, it was a system with 6 branches, a bookmobile, a staff of about 75, a budget of about 3.2 – 3.5 million dollars, and circulation of about 600,000 items a year. I do not think that has changed a whole lot although back in 2009, we had to reduce the staff. I think they have increased it again a little bit. It was an interesting community because Scioto County is very economically challenged and I had just worked in two pretty affluent areas of the state. So, it was an adjustment. It is also remote. It is about two hours south of Columbus, two hours east of Cincinnati, and Ashland, Kentucky is probably the closest city of any size.

It was an adjustment but a great experience and opportunity for me to do a lot. When I got there, the library system had the old OPLIN computers and they were not doing a whole lot with technology. I had the opportunity to hire a technology coordinator, Becky Schultz, who is still there. She came in and just took advantage of everything that OPLIN had to offer and opened up internet services. The staff didn’t have a lot of experience with it, so we did a lot of training at that time for them but also for the public. Still in Scioto County, because broadband accessibility is still such an issue there, the library is one of the few places where people can go to access computers and the internet. I had the opportunity to build a brand-new branch while I was there,
INTERVIEW continued

and renovate a couple of others—I got a lot of really good experience.

I’d been involved in the community some in Medina and in Upper Arlington, but in Portsmouth I became heavily involved in the community—the Rotary Club, I played in the local symphony, Chamber of Commerce, the United Way Board—just all kinds of things. I became enmeshed in the community and I had other staff involved in the community as well. I never intended to stay there as long as I did, but it was a good place, it is still a great place, and so I stayed the 13 years until I came here.

I wasn’t actively looking to leave but this opportunity came up and I decided I would throw my hat in the ring, without really much thought about it and here I am. But Portsmouth was a good learning ground for me.

Marsha: Do you think your background as a reference librarian in business helped with outreach to the community?

Beverly: I think it did. You probably know I am an introvert. When I was in my 20s in Medina, I was painfully introverted and public speaking was just torture for me. My Library Director at the time was Bob Smith, very innovative, and he recognized that. So, he put me in positions where I would have to get out and talk to people and interact with the community. That helped me to grow. I think what I learned in Medina helped me do that radio show when I was in Upper Arlington. Then, it provided a solid foundation for me when I got to Portsmouth and needed to be involved in the community.

Marsha: You have a Public Administration degree. How has that helped you?

Beverly: Yes, I have the Master of Public Administration, also from Kent State University. I had intended for a long time to pursue an MBA, the Business Administration. I was very busy at Portsmouth, working full time and involved in a lot of extra-curricular activities, I guess you would say. I was at a point—around 2007, 2008—that I thought, “You know if I am going to do this I need to do it now.” So, I was exploring programs and I talked to a couple of other library directors and they had either recently completed the Master of Public Administration or were enrolled in it. They advised me to take a look at that program in addition to the MBA because they found it to be a better fit for them.

I selected Kent State because they had a totally online program. I was living in Portsmouth so going anywhere would have involved a drive, probably to Columbus or to Athens. It is a fully accredited program and the online course work is the same that you would get if you were in the classroom on campus in Kent. I am glad I selected that program because I loved all of the courses. Bear in mind that I was an undergraduate music major so I had never had a statistics class, I had not had finance or budgeting classes, and had done just a minimal amount of budgeting coursework in library school. I was looking for course work in that area to strengthen what I did as a library director—to help me with
the business side of operating a library. The MPA program put it into a government setting, into a public-sector setting and for me it made a lot of the things that I had already been doing for a number of years make sense. I saw how the public library budget fit into the bigger picture and why we did some of the things that we were required to do. With the MPA program I understood the why and I saw how things fit. For one of my budgeting classes I had to select a comprehensive annual financial report from the state auditor’s website and analyze that and write a paper about. Because I was a librarian, I selected the State Library’s budget to do not ever thinking that one day I might be working at the State Library.

If I had been in the program at an earlier point in my career I think I probably would have continued and worked toward a Ph.D., just because I liked it so much. I had always been interested in government and politics and so it fulfilled that need for me, as well as the whole “this is what you do if you are working in the public sector” and it just made things make sense. I was working full time and was so busy I could only take two classes at a time maximum so it took me a while to complete the program. I finished in December of 2009, and I came here in 2010, June of 2010. It gave me a good understanding and preparation for working in state government.

Marsha: Was the transition from public to State Library a little easier because you were already familiar with the budget? And, what were some of the things that either surprised you, didn’t surprise you, or that you felt especially prepared for?

Beverly: Many things surprised me, and didn’t think it would because I had worked with the State Library in a variety of capacities. I had written LSTA Grants and had worked with Missy Lodge and we were going through changing the Portsmouth Public Library from a municipal library to a county district library on that process. I had also worked with Jay Burton, who was with the State Library while I was in Portsmouth. Jay assisted us with strategic planning. I felt I had a sound understanding of what the State Library was and what it did, but I was surprised when I came here at just how much the State Library does and the variety of programs and services. When I was coming in I thought, “Well I understand the library part so I will not have to focus as much time on that.” But I did because it was much more complex than I anticipated.

I was also a bit surprised by the complexity of state government and how different it is operating as a director within a larger organization. When you are a public library director, a public library is its own political subdivision and you report to your Board of Trustees, and that is it. That is not the way it is here. I report to a five-member Board of Trustees, but there is also the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and they do a lot of policy making for all state agencies. And of course, there is the Governor’s Office that does a whole separate set of policy making. It is very complex and you work with other state agencies in a way that I had not anticipated. That was undoubtedly my biggest challenge.

I had also a solid network of people in the Ohio library community that I could count on and knew that those relationships would help me as State Librarian, and they certainly have.

I have never worked in an academic library prior to coming to the State Library. But, when I was at Portsmouth, Shawnee State University’s library was within walking distance of the public library and we had a very good working relation-
The State Library of Ohio is celebrating 200 years of library service in Ohio this year. As one of the earliest state agencies created, the State Library's history is intricately entwined in the history and legacy of the state of Ohio—its people, cultural heritage, government, education, and libraries. The Bicentennial Celebration marks a significant historical milestone for the State Library of Ohio, libraries of Ohio, and the state and its people. This issue of the Ohio Libraries Quarterly highlights our history and celebration.

The Bicentennial Celebration includes exhibits, publication of a book, and a culminating open house celebration on August 4th at 1:00 p.m. The open house event will feature speakers Dr. Kathryn “Kit” Matthew, Director of IMLS and Mr. Jim Bradley, Deputy Director of the Government Printing Office.

Founded just fourteen years after statehood and one year after the seat of state government moved to Columbus, a state library was conceived by Governor Thomas Worthington as a place to consolidate state and federal government records and documents, maps, and journals that were accumulating in different offices.

Over time the library evolved and expanded. The collections and services grew and became more diverse. A library board was created and assumed responsibility for appointing the State Librarian with a library education in 1845. The library was opened for use by the public in 1853. It moved locations in 1845, 1933, and 2000. It became a congressionally-designated depository for U.S. government publications and a depository of Ohio documents as mandated by ORC 149.11. It was renamed the State Library of Ohio in 1967. Providing access to library services beyond the State Library building began with the establishment of the free traveling library which used horse-drawn vehicles to take books to school children and other gathered groups in 1896, and continued to bookmobiles and now a mobile on-demand technology training service to libraries.

Today, Beverly Cain is the 34th to serve as State Librarian and the library serves three primary groups: state government, libraries, and Ohio residents both directly and indirectly. Outreach services include State Library of Ohio library consultants, traveling to libraries to advise and provide support for continuing education, strategic and space planning, and library programs and services.

Learn more about the State Library’s 200 years of library service to Ohio by exploring our website, visiting the library to view our displays, and browsing the online exhibit at bicentennial.library.ohio.gov.

Left: Traveling Libraries Display. Top right: Bookmobile display; Bottom right: Monitor in gallery displaying the online interactive exhibit. (2017).
During World War I, Camp Sherman’s Major General Glenn wrote to W. H. Brett, a librarian at Cleveland Public Library, to ask him to help change the perception that soldiers don’t have time to read, and to encourage the donations for camp libraries. Glenn emphasized that “there is no one thing that will be of greater value to the men in his cantonment in producing contentment with their surroundings that properly selected reading material.” Libraries across Ohio answered the call. In 1917 the American Library Association authorized the State Library Commissioners to take charge of War Library Service in Ohio. The board created the statewide book drive, called the Book-for-Every-Soldier campaign, which held book drives in every county. Over 250,000 books were donated to this campaign. The State Library of Ohio’s Traveling Library program also loaned 500 volumes to the 7th Regiment of the Ohio National Guard.

Many of the books gathered in Ohio were directed to the camp Library at Camp Sherman, which was located near Chillicothe. A librarian, Burton Egbert Stevenson, from the Chillicothe Library was appointed as the Camp Librarian. Stevenson was a noted novelist and war activist. During the war he was prolific writer in the War Library Bulletin and ALA War Service Library Report for Congress. At Camp Sherman, Stevenson worked to have a comfortable and well-stocked library. Beyond the tables and chairs for about 200 patrons, he successfully advocated for a fireplace in the library.

In addition to the book drives, Stevenson wrote to every newspaper published in Ohio and western Pennsylvania requesting five complimentary copies of each publication for the library. His efforts resulted in over 300 papers delivered to the camp. Along with the fireplace, these newspapers gave the soldiers a reminder of home with the local news coverage from the soldiers’ hometowns.

In the ALA’s War Service of Library Report, Stevenson noted soldiers’ interest in books challenged his expectations. While men often read fiction, he wrote, “When I started this work…I had some very plausible theories about the kinds of the books the men would want; but I soon discarded them. We have requests for every sort of book, from some books by Gene Stratton Porter’s ‘Life of Johnson’ and Bergson’s ‘Creative Evolution.’ We have had requests for Ibsen’s plays, books on sewage disposal and so many requests for ‘A Message to Garcia.’” Stevenson continued to work to have a wide variety of books for the soldiers, and contributions from libraries and parlors across the state helped him achieve this goal.

Some of the books loaned by the State Traveling Library are on display now at the Bicentennial Exhibit at the State Library, such as All about Boxing. The State Library Bicentennial Celebration Open House is August 4, 2017.

Left top: YMCA Camp Sherman postcard (ca. 1914-1918); Left bottom: American Library Association - O through R - Scene in library, Camp Sherman, Ohio - The U.S. National Archives (1917); Right top: Book request slip and Bookplate of War Service Library - State Library of Ohio collection (1918).
Ah, summer—and the summer reading program! This mainstay of public library service has a history that stretches back 120 years, to an 1897 children’s services innovation started right here in Ohio at the Cleveland Public Library. That year, librarian Linda Eastman founded the Cleveland Children’s Library League, and reported on her efforts at the American Library Association’s annual conference in Philadelphia (Bertin, 8-9). The Library League was inspired in part by the Juvenile Street Cleaning League, a community improvement effort in New York. The Library League was as much an effort to promote care of books as reading of books; members were tasked first with keeping library materials clean. In an early peer outreach effort that may sound familiar to children’s and teen librarians today, the members were also encouraged to bring other children, especially non-library users, to the library. And, members were asked to record lists of the books they read (ALA, 151-153).

While the Library League was a year-round effort, it had special resonance in the summer. Announcements were sent to the schools—another strategy that has lasted to this day—and members were urged to extend invitations because “[a] great many boys and girls have to spend their vacations in the city, and often do not know what to do with themselves all day long” (ALA, 152).

From the Library League and other early advances in the development of organized, intentional programs, children’s reading clubs gained in popularity. Based on the professional press, summer programs for children were common in public libraries by the 1920s (Bertin, 19). By the mid-1940s, libraries were actively concerned with countering summer reading loss: the intractable, detrimental out-of-school phenomenon that we now refer to as summer slide.

By 1965, the State Library of Ohio was surveying Ohio public libraries on the results of their summer activities for children. That year, 70,344 Ohio children were members of reading clubs, and 1,569 storytimes took place around Ohio with a total attendance of 41,854. In early forays into outreach storytimes, two Ohio cities held storyhours in community parks, and one special storytelling bookmobile operated during the summer in another area, though, sadly, the names of the communities were not recorded (Round Up, no.6).

In yet another brush with the future, Children’s Consultant Eulalie S. Ross reported in 1965 that librarians around the state were focusing their time and creative energy more on special programs than on reading club membership. Jumping ahead, in 2015 and 2016, registration for and participation in summer reading challenges has decreased in Ohio across community size and geography, while participation in storytimes, programs, and special events has risen dramatically. Everything old is new again, perhaps: State Library children’s services newsletters from the 1960s and 1970s also reveal that hot topics of the day included school standards, services to young adults, and public library/school library cooperation, all of which are still hot topics today.

The State Library coordinated a children’s summer reading program for Ohio’s public libraries from 1978 to 2003. Development of materials took place in collaboration first with the Akron Summit County Public Library, then with an editorial board of children’s librarians from around the state. Master packets of materials, including reproducible puzzles and games, booklists, program recipes, and clip art, were compiled and sent to public libraries and regional library systems. The theme in 1978 was “Millions of Cats,” chosen to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the childhood classic written by Wanda Gag.

“Passport to Adventure” was the 1979 theme, chosen to coordinate with the UNICEF-sponsored International Year of the Child.

In 1980, the State Library partnered with Akron Summit County Public Library for the theme “Summer Reading Program Olympics.” Despite the boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games in Russia, Ohio used the program. The
following six years’ themes were:

1981 – “Mythical, Magical, Mystical, Monsters”
1982 – “Reading, Riding, Rodeo”
1983 – “QE’s Quest”
1984 – “Have a Bearable Summer”
1985 – “Reading is Cool”
1986 – “Reading: The Heart of it All”

In 1986, the editorial board was formed to expand the manual, soliciting program ideas from around the state. The manual was divided into age levels from preschool to upper elementary, and included a public relations section in addition to crafts, games, and program ideas.

In 1987, “Summer Splash” was a very popular program which combined detective and water fun themes.

The following slogans were used from 1988 through 1996:

1988 – “A Sendak Celebration: Let the Reading Begin!”
1989 – “Hungry For Books? Check our Menu!”
1990 – “Read For the Fun of It!”
1991 – “Hats Off To Books!”
1992 – “Ticket To Read”
1993 – “Spinning Yarns! Telling Tales!”
1994 – “Step Into the Spotlight: Read!”
1995 – “Rally Round Rugged Readers”
1996 – “Read for the Gold!”

In 1997, the State Library worked with Paul Brett Johnson on a Western theme called “Ride a Wild Book!” Themes for the next six years were:

1998 – “Drop Anchor in a Good Book”
1999 – “The Incredible Library Time Machine”
2000 – “Into Books and Out of This World”
2001 – “Where in the World Are You Reading”
2002 – “Your Library: The Greatest Show in Town”
2003 – “Celebrate Ohio”

In 2004, Ohio joined the Collaborative Summer Library Program or CSLP (www.cslpreads.org), a consortium of states and territories. Its purpose is to provide high-quality, low-cost summer reading program materials for public libraries. CSLP negotiates with national vendors and well-known artists and illustrators. It recruits local librarians around the country to serve on working committees to develop manuals and other content.

CSLP had originally formed in 1987 when ten Minnesota regional library systems developed a summer library program for children—choosing a theme, creating artwork, and selecting incentives that public libraries in the regions could purchase and use. The benefits of combining efforts are many, and CSLP expanded rapidly. Currently, forty-six states and the District of Columbia participate in CSLP, along with American Samoa, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Mariana Islands. Additionally, libraries in California, Illinois, Minnesota, and Virginia are members in part.

General themes are chosen three years in advance, and slogans are chosen two years in advance. Past CSLP slogans for children’s summer reading programs include:

2004 – “Disnover New Trails @ Your Library”
2005 – “Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds”
2006 – “Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales”
2007 – “Get A Clue @ Your Library”
2008 – “Catch the Reading Bug”
2009 – “Be Creative @ Your Library”
2010 – “Make a Splash @ Your Library”
2011 – “One World. Many Stories”
2012 – “Dream Big – Read!”
2013 – “Dig Into Reading”
2014 – “Fizz, Boom, Read”
2015 – “Every Hero Has a Story”
2016 – “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!”

CSLP also offers artwork, manuals, and other resources supporting a teen program, an adult program, and starting in 2011, an early literacy program. The teen and adult programs follow the same general theme as the children’s program (e.g. nighttime, underground, science). Separate slogans were developed for adult and teen programs through 2016. In 2017, for the first time, the CSLP children’s, teen, and adult programs all share a single slogan, “Build a Better World.” In 2018, the CSLP slogan for all age groups will be “Libraries Rock!” in conjunction with a music theme. In 2019, the CSLP slogan for all age groups will be “A Universe of Stories,” with a space theme to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing.

The summer reading program is a great library tradition, but also an opportunity for continual innovation and experimentation in response to community needs, library capacities, and evolving best practices. Even the name “summer reading program” is giving way in many places to “summer library program” or other descriptors that sound more inclusive of additional activities besides reading. Today, libraries are reworking the traditional reading challenge by encouraging participants to participate in events, explore STEM activities, engage with.....
Making and Learning go Hand in Hand

Why Libraries Need Maker Spaces

By Roger A. Donaldson, II, CPLS
Jackson City Library

Making and learning go hand in hand; you must learn to make and you learn while making. Making brings out our natural curiosity to question how things work or why things are the way they are. Making inspires us to continually research and learn new techniques as well as learn about the history and evolution of whatever we are making.

I like to make furniture. Not just any furniture—furniture made from natural looking rough-edge wood that is sustainably sourced and in the same style of George Nakashima. Nakashima was a father of the American Craft movement and earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in architecture. Nakashima, like many Americans with Japanese ancestry, was forced to live in an internment camp during World War II. Not one to have idle hands, he built furniture while there and that is what started the furniture business that is still being run by his daughter. Nakashima thought that every piece of wood was destined for something, and the wood would tell the maker what it was to become. Nakashima’s property which includes his house and workshops is located in New Hope, PA and is designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Did I know all about Japanese joinery and George Nakashima before I picked up a tool and started making a table? No way. I learned all of that and more by being curious about things as I was making. How did I find out information? I went to the library! I searched the internet and found out the names of the craftsmen who made furniture in the style I liked. Then I used the library’s OPAC to find some books on the subject such as George Nakashima’s The soul of a tree and Nira Nakashima’s Nature, form, and spirit: the life and legacy of George Nakashima. After looking through these books and not wanting to give them back I decided to purchase copies for myself and they rest on my bookshelf today.

I grew up in a family of makers and had access to tools and places to work. If my dad didn’t have something, an uncle surely would. I was able to take shop in high school and make some cool things. Unfortunately there are few opportunities for people to make things today. Shop classes and home economics classes are being cut from public schools. There are many single parent families and parents working multiple jobs that leave little time for working with their children. People do not have disposable income to purchase tools and equipment. This is why libraries need to create maker spaces—so people can make, and in turn, learn from doing. These maker spaces can be large or small, and provide a varied selection of items to make. A full woodshop isn’t likely to be placed in any library anytime soon, but we can provide printers, software, robotics, crafts, sewing, and so much more. When the maker thinks about why they are doing something in a particular way and becomes curious, they are in the right place. We have books and digital resources to feed their curiosity, and the staff that can help them.


This article is built on “History of the Ohio Summer Reading Program,” originally compiled by Ruth Metcalf, revised and updated by Janet Ingrahm Dwyer: www.library.ohio.gov/documents/history-of-the-ohio-summer-reading-program.

Works Cited


SUMMER continued

social media, even volunteer in the community, as well as to read. Summertime at the library means music, arts, and makerspace programs; physical activities, festivals, parties, and more. But just as in 1897, summertime at the library basically means providing meaningful activities that respect and appeal to young (and not-so-young) patrons and that, of course, keep them reading.

Photo of a breakfast table being made courtesy of Roger Donaldson.

Roger A. Donaldson


State Library of Ohio
Since 1817, 34 individuals have served as Ohio's State Librarian. For the first 110 years, the position was held by men with little to no experience working in a library. Most of them were appointed as political favors and several served more than one non-consecutive terms. Some of the State Librarians during the early years were scandalous characters. Herbert Hirshberg, appointed in 1927, was the first professionally trained librarian. Our bicentennial exhibits, both online at bicentennial.library.ohio.gov and at the State Library, feature each of the State Librarians that have served Ohio.
By Cindy McLaughlin, Former Deputy State Librarian and Nicole Merriman, Manager, Research & Catalog Services
State Library of Ohio

The process and tools used to answer reference questions have changed in many ways since the State Library of Ohio was organized in 1817. In its very early days, the General Assembly of Ohio recognized that it had no provision for the preservation of regular sets of laws and journals nor any authorized place of deposit for maps, laws, documents or journals which might be sent from other states. It therefore appropriated $3,500 on December 2, 1816, as a contingency fund for Governor Thomas Worthington.

Only members of the Legislature were permitted to use and borrow books from the Library. Over the course of the next seventy-nine years, other individuals—those working in state government, local clergy, judges, ex-members of the General Assembly, and clerks—were permitted free access to the Library’s materials. The time limit for materials to be checked out depended on the size of the book. Later, the general public was allowed to use and borrow books from the Library, a policy still in place today.

Library staff were responsible not only for answering reference questions but also researching and drafting laws for the Legislature.

Reference librarians have always used printed material as a primary tool to answer questions, but the advent of the telephone would prove to be a key tool in increasing the speed of answering reference questions. Not only could patrons with telephone service call the library, but librarians could also call on their colleagues at other libraries for assistance.

Microformats such as microfilm and microfiche would also prove to be invaluable for the sheer amount of material
that could be housed in a small amount of space. Over time, the State Library added on a number of microformat collections in order to make space for an increasing amount of print material. Today, reference librarians at the State Library still use our microformat collections on a regular basis.

In the 1975-1976 annual report, State Librarian Joseph F. Shubert stated, "The application of computer capabilities to traditional library functions is creating new roles for libraries as communicators of information." This would be realized many times over in the coming years.

State Library staff were fortunate to utilize the latest technology available to provide library service to their patrons. These services included dial-up service to databases via modems and later, access to the Internet. Today, the sheer amount of information available to our reference librarians and patrons (both housed in tangible collections and information available online) would likely boggle the first State Librarian’s mind.

Over time, reference services have been housed under variously named departments and are currently housed within the Research & Catalog Services Department. At one time, reference services were offered at several in-person service points within the State Library (general reference, government documents reference, genealogy services) and remotely at the Rhodes and Riffe Towers. Today, there is one reference desk but most reference questions arrive virtually (via phone, email and chat).

While new tools have been added over time, the primary goal of the State Library’s reference services remains the same as it has been from the beginning: to provide reference library services to state government officials and their departments.
Q & A with Cindy McLaughlin, former State Library of Ohio Deputy State Librarian for Library Services

Introduction by Missy Lodge
Associate State Librarian for Library Programs and Development

“The State Library at 200: A Celebration of Library Services in Ohio” illustrates and describes the State Library’s evolution from 1817 to 2017. But it does not describe the journey of the book itself from idea to publication.

In late 2015 it was decided that a commemorative volume celebrating the State Library’s 200th anniversary would be a fitting tribute for our bicentennial. Not only would the volume provide a historical record of the State Library, but it would also serve to raise awareness of who we are and the important role we play in the history of state government and the history of libraries.

Donning Company was selected as the publisher and Kent State University School of Library and Information Science (KSU-SLIS) graciously agreed to financially support the publication. Someone from the State Library staff was needed to act as project manager—make sure all deadlines were met, work with the author and facilitate communication with the editors and publisher. I volunteered for this role when the author was selected, in large part because Cindy McLaughlin and I worked together for many years. For a time, Cindy was my supervisor and I looked forward to working with her again.

We had a great team supporting Cindy, doing research, locating pictures, and scanning documents and photos. Since Cindy was only at the State Library an average of two days a week, I channeled requests between her and the team: Nicole Merriman, Kirstin Krumsee, Shannon Kupfer, Jen Johnson, and Katy Klettlinger. It took about six months for the research and writing to be completed.

We then started to work with the editor and publications team at Donning with me acting as intermediary, including making sure files were submitted as required by Donning. Although we were slightly behind schedule in submitting the text files, the editing process went very quickly. We are librarians so very little editing was required! Sample layouts came next and then the final proof. Approximately four months later, Donning delivered the final product.

State Library staff and KSU-SLIS staff worked together to decide upon a distribution list. As project manager, I worked with our mailroom to get volumes sent out in March and April. Remaining copies of the book will be sold at the Open House on August 4, with proceeds benefiting the Mary T. Kim Scholarship Fund at KSU-SLIS.

It is hard to believe that it has been almost a year since the text files for “The State Library at 200: A Celebration of Library Services in Ohio” were submitted to our editor. Working on this project was an educational experience, and at times more work than I anticipated. However, I think I speak for both Cindy and me when I say that working on the book was truly a labor of love for libraries and specifically, the State Library.

State Librarian Beverly Cain states in her introduction, “Resources for this book, including most of the photographs, were selected from the State Library’s collections. Key information was discovered in minutes of the State Library Board meetings, annual reports, newsletters and other historical documents contained in the State Library’s Rare Books and Special Collections.” What was your process for collecting and reviewing the vast amount of material spanning 200 years?

Thank you for this opportunity to relive last year’s book project. I thoroughly enjoyed it. The best part of the process was having a support staff that provided everything I asked for and quickly. This staff (State Library staff) also provides materials to all State Library clients.

I knew before I started that a great deal of information about the library’s history was located in the board minutes and annual reports. I had spent a great deal of time during my career at the library researching the old board minutes for specific information. We (I’ve now become part of the Library again!) have the State Librarians’ reports for nearly all of the past 200 years. I read a great deal and took many notes. If I had it to do over, I would have been a bit more organized with my note taking, but there was so much that I wanted to cover that it got a bit hectic at times.

How did your library services career at the State Library, and position advancements that culminated in your role as Deputy Director prior to your retirement, serve you in this process?

As I mentioned, I had used the board minutes and annual reports in research and was familiar with some of the information. I was usually looking for a specific fact and had not read everything in context. Having worked at the Library gave me the background to put the information into context.

The book is organized chronologically; were there specific time periods where it was challenging to locate original source materials in the collections?

I knew the State Library’s mission and how it fit in the larger library community and in state government. This time I was able to get a view of each year. Unfortunately, I had a much better view of some years than others. The detail recorded in the board minutes is at the discretion of the board secretary who is either a board member or the state librarian. The amount of information I was able to use in the book was sometimes limited by what was available. Also, during some years, the board only met quarterly and few specifics, if any, were recorded. Some minutes consisted only of a paragraph indicating the time and place of the meeting, and those present. The rules governing the State Library Board have expanded as the State Library and the state as a whole have evolved and much more is recorded.

During the 1920s, the Board only met quarterly and had three members. Board minutes and reports were sketchy or missing entirely. Annual reports gave little more than
statistics of books bought, loaned, and lost. It was during
the late 20s that the Governor cut the entire budget which
resulted in the library closing for a time. There was much
turmoil among the board members, state librarian, and
other members of state government. There is not enough
information to determine the reason or reasons for it all.

200 years spans many changes in libraries and librarian-
ship, cultural trends, state and federal government, politics,
education, and access to information. How did you decide
on the information and photos to include in the book?

In spite of the limited information available for some peri-
ods, there was more than enough to fill a book and I ended
having to cut text. I was limited in both the number of words
and the number of photographs. Photography at the li-
brary ebbed and flowed over the years and it was difficult
to get a balanced number of photographs representing all
the periods. We used as many photographs as we could
find to represent staff and programs.

Was there a time, service, or program that you enjoyed re-
searching and writing about the most?

It was fun to read and find photographs for all the periods
but my favorite was the 1960s and early 1970s. When Joe
Shubert became state librarian in 1969, things really took
off. The board minutes and the annual reports were books
themselves. More detail than ever before could be found
in those documents. Programs exploded as well. Part of
this was the result of the expanded federal funding, but
the leadership really drove this expansion. I came to the
State Library in 1972 so from then through 2005 when I re-
tired was the easiest to write about. During that time pe-
riod, I had the pleasure of knowing or working with seven
State Librarians. After I left, there was another explosion,
this time with technology. This happened fast and dramati-
cally changed how I knew library service was provided. It
was a bit of a challenge just to keep up with the changes
that had taken place in library services and programming
in the eleven years that I had been gone.

Were you able to confer with former colleagues about staff,
programs, and services while working on the book?

I really enjoyed working with several of my former col-
leagues at the Library and across the state. Unfortunately,
we had lost several really great people that I had worked
with for twenty or more years—Floyd Dickman, John Philip,
Roger Verny, Richard Palmer, and Richard Cheski, who had
initially hired me at the State Library. I would have loved to
have talked with each one of them about our work. Going
through the old reports and photographs was sometimes
bittersweet. In spite of that, it was a true joy to write this
book.

Looking back, how did the research and writing process
and book publication compare to what you envisioned at
the onset?

It wasn’t quite what I envisioned. I thought there would
be more involvement from the publisher during the writ-
ing. There was much more freedom. When the writing was
done, the editor and publishing staff took over the text and
produced the completed book. I think they did a great
job in putting it together and placing the photographs to
match the text. The editor was a retired English teacher
starting a new career and I think he did an outstanding job.
Of course, I couldn’t have done it at all without Missy Lodge
managing the whole project and all of the other State Li-
brary staff who helped. Everyone was very supportive.

What advice would you give a library for creating a book
celebrating a significant anniversary?

I would hope any library planning a book about its history
would have as good a staff as I had to help. Anything
written about the library—board minutes, reports,
The Federal Depository Library Program:
Getting Free U.S. Government Information Resources into the Hands of the Public

By Scott Pauley, Writer/Editor for the Office of Library Services and Content Management at the U.S. Government Publishing Office

Since the Act of 1813, where Congress first authorized legislation to ensure the provision of one copy of the House and Senate Journals and other Congressional documents to certain universities, historical societies, state libraries, etc., there has been a need for an agency that can ensure the dissemination of Government documents to the public.

Throughout the next few decades, that responsibility and who managed it would shift and evolve while moving from the State Department to the Department of the Interior.

The Printing Act of 1860 authorized the Superintendent of Public Printing to publish Government documents himself, and then in 1861, on the same day that President Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated, the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) opened its doors.

In 1869, an appropriations act established a Superintendent of Documents within the Department of the Interior. This position was the forerunner of the current Superintendent of Documents.

The Printing Act of 1895 and its direct antecedent, Title 44 of the U.S. Code of Regulations, clarified that responsibility, and helped to organize the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) into its current state.

In 1895 there were 420 depository libraries. Each designated depository needed to contain at least 1,000 books other than those issued by the Government to qualify, and the Government publications forwarded to them were required to be made available for the free use of the general public.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to GPO’s rich history of providing the public with free access to the documents of their democracy. More historical information about the agency can be found in two publications:

- **Picturing the Big Shop: Photos of the U.S. Government Publishing Office, 1900 - 1980**, is a collection of 200 photos, including many that have never before been published, comprising the historical record of everyday life at GPO from 1900 to 1980. This GPO “family album” provides, in black and white and sepia, a revealing look at the equipment, the buildings, and the working lives of the men and women of GPO over the years who helped carry out the agency’s mission of Keeping America Informed.

- **Keeping America Informed: The U.S. Government Publishing Office, A Legacy of Service to the Nation, 1861 – 2016**, describes GPO’s transition from traditional monotype and linotype printing to the digital technology of the 21st Century. Highlights include the role the agency has played in the production and dissemination of Federal Government information, from the Emancipation Proclamation, to the Warren Commission and 9/11 Commission Reports, to the latest in secure passport and smart card technologies.

Today, GPO and the FDLP have been linked for more than 120 years, and there are currently 1,147 Federal depository libraries (FDLs). These libraries are dispersed throughout the United States and its territories, and anyone can visit a FDL, access their Government information resources, and receive expert assistance in their use. Find the FDL nearest you using the Federal Depository Library Directory.

Across the state of Ohio, there are 51 Federal depository libraries, all led by the regional Federal depository, the State Library of Ohio, which has been part of the FDLP since the early 1800s! The State Library is also serving in another important role—an official GPO partnership role called a Preservation Steward. In this new role, the State Library pledges to permanently preserve a complete print Bound Congressional Record collection, beginning with Vol. 1, 43rd Congress (1873), ensuring free public access to these historic materials for future generations. Ohio’s Federal depository libraries have a long history of excellent collaborative service, helping patrons throughout the state navigate the waters of U.S. Government information. Their Regional Depository System disperses copies of Government documents throughout the state in various locations, greatly increasing the reach and availability of these resources.

Aside from disseminating Government
documents to FDLs across Ohio and the entire country, the FDLP is also involved in free electronic dissemination of Government information too. What’s more, these electronic resources are freely-available to all libraries, not just Federal depositories.

- **GPO’s** [govinfo.gov](http://govinfo.gov) provides free public access to more than a million official publications from all three branches of the Federal Government. GPO launched govinfo in February 2016 as a beta website which will eventually replace its predecessor, GPO’s [Federal Digital System (FDsys)](http://fdsys.gov). Using govinfo, users can perform basic, advanced, and citation searches, or browse for U.S. Government information.

- **Ben’s Guide to the U.S. Government** provides a child-friendly website that offers a unique insight into how our Government is structured and works. It also offers fun games and learning adventures that make learning fun. Lessons are broken into three different age levels, and the site’s content has been reviewed and vetted by the American Association of School Librarians.

- **The Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP)** is a finding tool for Federal publications that includes descriptive information for historical and current publications as well as direct links to the full document, when available. Users can search by authoring agency, title, subject, and general keywords, or click on “Advanced Search” for more options.

  o The CGP also offers a federated search engine, [MetaLib](http://met lib), to retrieve reports, articles, and citations by simultaneously searching across multiple U.S. Federal Government databases.

As information changes in the digital age, the FDLP evolves along with it, providing the American public with free access to Government information in a wide variety of ways. It’s all part of GPO’s ongoing effort in Keeping America Informed.

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**BOOK continued**

correspondence, PR materials—it all has information that may be used. As I said, it was very helpful that I had a background about the library. Anyone considering a book should also consider finding someone with background about the library to do the research and writing. They should allow plenty of time to do the research and writing. I would have liked to have researched for another six months but then I would have only had to cut more text!

**What’s next for you? Are you working, or planning to work, on another book or history project?**

I learned more about researching and writing than I anticipated. I just completed helping put together an exhibit for the Columbus Jewish Historical Society as guest curator. The exhibit is about Jewish women’s benevolent organizations in Columbus. The research and writing were very interesting for this as well. Basic practices for researching can be useful no matter the topic. I began work on the exhibit as soon as I had completed the Library’s book so I’m taking a little break. I don’t know what I’ll do next—we’ll see what opportunity comes along. ■
By Shannon Kupfer  
Digital Initiatives Librarian, State Library of Ohio  

On December 2, 1816, the General Assembly of Ohio appropriated $3,500 to Governor Thomas Worthington as a contingency fund. Early the following year, Governor Worthington traveled to Pennsylvania to investigate the new practices for state penitentiaries and other state institutions that had been put into practice. While in Harrisburg, he purchased 509 books from the Mathew Carey & Son Publishing Company. This would be the beginning of the State Library collection, which Worthington presented to the Legislature on December 2, 1817.

The books selected by Governor Worthington were geared towards the needs of the Ohio General Assembly’s members and reflected Enlightenment philosophies that were still popular in America at the time. The Enlightenment period—or the Age of Reason—had begun in Europe in the late 17th century and focused on science, logic, and the laws of nature. Enlightenment philosophy argued that, through rational change, humanity could be improved upon. The French and American revolutions were, in fact, reflective of this belief system, with revolutionaries from both nations espousing notions of equality that were inherent in Enlightenment philosophy. Thus, important philosophers of the time, such as John Locke and Adam Smith—who wrote *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* and *Wealth of Nations*, respectively—were included in the original collection purchased by Worthington. Also purchased as part of the original collection were a six-volume biography of George Washington; histories of Ireland, Rome, and the young United States; a 1795 mathematical and philosophical dictionary; a history of the African slave trade; and many other volumes of interest.

Much like we did two hundred years ago, today we select materials that focus on the needs and interests of the communities we serve. We provide services to state government agencies and Ohio’s libraries and residents—virtually every Ohioan is counted as a potential patron—and our collections reflect the diversity of our constituencies’ needs. Thus, we provide access to government information in both print and electronic formats; we offer popular materials through the Ohio Web Library and through interlibrary loans; we coordinate the Ohio Talking Book Program; we purchase subscriptions to magazines and journals—both print and digital—for the use of our patrons; and offer a variety of other materials.
With standard inflation, the $3,500 appropriation that Governor Worthington used to establish the State Library would be worth over $61,000 today, but as our patron base has grown, so has our budget for materials. Again, whereas the State Library of Ohio initially just served members of the Ohio General Assembly, we now count each and every Ohioan as patrons. The material types listed in the previous paragraph reflect just some of the advancements made in information services since 1817, and our annual budget—which, at nearly $300,000, is almost ten times the original books budget—reflects those advancements.

The advent of the internet and electronic publishing gives our patrons access the likes of which our original patrons could not have imagined. Our goal, however, remains the same: provide the best quality materials possible and make every attempt to meet the needs of the communities we serve. After two hundred years, we’re proud to have the opportunity to continue serving Ohioans, and we look forward to many more years of service.

Shannon Kupfer

State Library of Ohio Annual Report 1990
Shortly after Governor Thomas Worthington was appropriated a contingency fund of $3,500 by the Ohio Legislature on December 2, 1816, he left for a trip to Pennsylvania. The governor’s mission was to investigate management practices for penitentiaries and other state institutions. His excursion also included a visit to bookseller Mathew Carey and Son which resulted in the purchase of 509 books with money from the contingency fund. These books turned out to be the beginning collection of the State Library of Ohio. Worthington presented the collection to the Legislature on December 2, 1817.

A resolution was passed by the General Assembly on January 17, 1818, accepting the Library and appointing a joint committee from the House of Representatives and the Senate to report rules and regulations. On January 29, 1818, Governor Worthington was charged with the care of the Library.

The first State Library was actually a room over the auditor’s office where the books were located in rooms on the south end of the second floor of the first State Office Building. This first State Office Building was located on High Street in front of the west grounds of the current State Capitol. According to Rob Hunter, author of A Historical Guidebook to Old Columbus, “The first State Office Building, a plain, two-story brick structure 150 feet long and 25 feet deep, was constructed in 1816, a little over a year after the construction of the first Statehouse. The office building had a rough stone foundation, a common comb roof of joint shingles, and four front doors. It housed the offices of the governor, auditor, treasurer, and secretary on the first floor and the state library, quartermaster, and adjutant general on the second.”

Several times over the course of the next forty-one years, the Library was renovated and expanded in the State Office Building. In 1841 the legislature authorized the State Librarian to enlarge the Library by attaching an adjoining room to the north for a cost of $133.32. This continuing need for more space challenged the Library’s leadership for the next 159 years.

In 1857, the Library moved to two temporary rooms in the State House opposite the Treasury. A decimal system was used to form a thorough classification of the books and a working catalogue was produced in 1857. That same year brought more changes as the creation of formal grounds for the Statehouse was undertaken and the State Office Building was torn down.

In 1858 the Library moved to the Library Room in the new State House on the second story, north wing, opposite the senate chambers. At this same time, the law books moved to rooms near those assigned for use by the Supreme Court.
Portions of the Library’s collection were now located in opposite wings of the State House.

On April 22, 1896, the legislature passed what became known as The Garfield Library Law. The enactment of the Garfield Library Law (SB 299) opened the State Library to everyone. While the citizens of Ohio were always welcome to tour the Library before, now they could actually use it.

By 1925, the State Office Building Commission was discussing site selection for a new state office building. It was anticipated that the State Library would move to the new building upon completion.

In early July 1927, the State Library Board of Commissioners learned that there were no funds available to continue the operations of the State Library. Various options were considered to cover the deficit and disburse the contents of the Library to other state facilities. State Librarian Herbert S. Hirshberg was discharged. The Library was closed for a short time and when it reopened, Charles B. Galbreath was directing the work of the staff. Galbreath and the staff volunteered their time to keep the library open. The main library was reopened to the public August 1, 1927.

In early 1934, after several years of uncertainty and decreased budgets, the State Library moved into new quarters in the new Ohio Departments Building at 65 South Front Street. The building, designed by Harry Hake of Cincinnati, was one of the finest state office buildings in the country. The State Library had custom painted murals about literature and Ohio history along with mosaic floors, rich woodwork and bronze doors. At the time of the move, no books or periodical subscriptions had been purchased since 1930. The number of staff had dropped from forty-three in 1929 to eighteen in 1934.

The new library space at 65 South Front Street in downtown Columbus allowed the library to expand in all areas. By 1939, the staff had grown to twenty-six full time and four part-time positions. Periodical subscriptions had grown to 400 and newspapers to 500. Requests for books had gone from 36,243 in 1933 to 86,371 in 1939. Attendance figures for the Reading Room had grown from 54,441 to 93,596 over the same period. According to the pamphlet Some facts about the Ohio Departments Building published by the State Department of Education, “One of the most frequently visited places in the Ohio Departments Building is the Ohio State Library. The circulation desk, reference room, genealogy, interlibrary loan and technical services sections are located on the 11th floor. Government documents, general offices and talking book services occupy additional levels on the 12 and 14th floors.”

The State Library continued to thrive for several decades. In 1964 the board proposed a new State Library building. The board minutes of December 8, 1964, reported, “All present expressed pleasure at the idea of having the library in a permanent location.” But nothing would come of this for many years.

In 1966, the State Library was reorganized under the direction...
of a new State Librarian. The State Library was reorganized to make it more efficient in its services. Emphasis was placed on the role of the State Library as a special library striving to meet the reference and information needs of State government.

Until 1970, the Catalog Center, a State Library department which performed cataloging services for many libraries throughout the state, was located at a separate location from the rest of the State Library operations at 65 South Front Street; however, early that year the Board learned that the building housing the Catalog Center was to be sold and space was made available at 65 South Front Street to accommodate the department. All of the Library Development Division was moved to the fourteenth floor.

In early 1975, the State Library extended library service to state government and Tower Library opened in the new James A. Rhodes State Office Tower. A small collection of periodicals was held in a reading room. The librarian had a direct phone line to Information Resources to help with answering questions and requesting materials. Daily delivery was provided between the Tower Library and the main library.

An additional branch library at the new state office building, the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, opened in 1989. A collection of periodicals, an online catalog connection and access to 300 online databases were made available. A librarian was stationed at this location and daily delivery was provided from the main library.

By the mid-1990s, the State Library occupied 85,444 square feet of the Ohio Departments Building with library offices and collections occupying the 3rd, 5th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th floors. In 1996, after sixty-eight years at 65 South Front Street, the 85,444 square feet State Library was notified that it would need to move to a new location. The Supreme Court of Ohio would take over the entire building. At first, it was suggested that the State Library move to the former Supreme Court library in the Rhodes Office Tower. But that idea was quickly nixed because the State Library’s collections were three times the size of the Supreme Court Library.

It took three years of searching for a space that would house the two million plus volumes and bear the weight of the shelving and half-ton microform cases. Finally, a location was found to rent and a former Jeffrey Manufacturing Company building at 274 E. 1st Avenue was selected to become the new home of the State Library. It was hard to imagine the building being renovated into a library when staff first saw it. But a Philadelphia company who specialized in converting abandoned industrial and warehouse buildings into office space accomplished the task.

In December 2000, a successful move took place to the new building with space all on one floor in the Jeffrey Mining Corporate Center. Included in the physical move were: 2,431,000 books; 30 map cases; 3 CD-ROM cabinets; 500 films/videos; 270 periodical bookcases; network computers, servers and equipment; in addition to all the desks, tables, index tables, chairs, modular furniture, file cabinets, magazine racks, book trucks, storage cabinets, card catalogs, copiers, microfilm reader machines and a safe. The collection was moved in just under six weeks. Nearly one hundred staff were moved in one day. The State Library reopened for business after the start of the New Year in 2001.

The State Library facility was actually several buildings, built over time and then connected. The east side of the Library was built in 1904. The high bay area, where most of the collection is housed, was built in 1906. The area housing the compact shelving was built in 1930. A narrow bay, between the high bay area and the Circulation Desk, was built in 1936. The Navy Bay, which houses the Administration, Technical Services, and Talking Books areas, was built in 1941 for the construction of materials for World War II.

Once settled in to the new building, the State Library was free to develop an infrastructure of its own that would better support its mission. An entire computer room with voice and data networks included a backup system with uninterrupted service. A new training lab at the facility included twelve computers to accommodate twenty-four people.
A videoconferencing center, added to the large meeting room, included two 35" monitors and connections to a large projector screen, VCR, digital overhead projector, and full PC and internet functionality to support a wide range of video presentations, distance learning, and information sharing. The large meeting room and three smaller meeting rooms were made available to other state agencies and library-related organizations when not in use by State Library staff.

As a result of mandatory budget cuts in 2008, the State Library reduced its staff and space. The office and bookstack areas in the northeast corner of the rented space were vacated and returned to the landlord. Approximately 16,000 square feet of space housing offices, cubicles, metal shelving and 65,000 books were shifted by State Library staff.

The State Library of Ohio remains at 274 East 1st Avenue and will do so in the foreseeable future. Recently the public spaces received a facelift including new paint, carpet, signage and furniture. The Library will continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of the library visitors while remaining true to the vision statement, A Smarter Ohio where every Ohioan can access the necessary resources to be engaged citizens, excel at their jobs, participate in the workforce, and pursue their passions and interests.

References


Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Library Center

A branch of the State Library, the Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Library Center is located in Caldwell. SEO was established by the State Library of Ohio with the intent of augmenting the services of 12 libraries in 8 counties of Ohio. When recommendations were made to close extension centers, the southeast center (SEO) remained operational and formed a multicounty cooperative. Today, SEO supports a consortium of 92 Library systems at 224 physical locations throughout 46 counties across Ohio using the OPLIN network.

SEO Library Center houses, maintains, and supports a centralized shared catalog database that includes over 8 million items with a patron database of 930,000+ borrowers.

The SEO staff provides technical support as well as software help desk support for all consortium members, alleviating the burden of specialized IT functions on small libraries.

SEO also provides and maintains training through the On Demand Technology Training and the F. Ward Murrey Annex facility (located next to SEO library Center) to state agencies and public libraries across Ohio.
By Mandy R. Simon  
Library Consultant  
State Library of Ohio

While the State Library of Ohio celebrates its 200th Anniversary, many other libraries and library supportive organizations around the state are also celebrating notable milestones.

The Henderson Memorial Public Library in the Village of Jefferson, Ohio (Ashtabula County) is also celebrating a bicentennial this year. They will also be celebrating on August 4, 2017 with a Birthday Bash. Library Director DeeAnna Culbertson shared some of the history of Henderson Memorial Public Library, which serves about 5,500 people in rural townships around Jefferson. The first written record of the library was listed as The Jefferson Public Library and later because the Citizen's Library of Jefferson in 1880 by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Situated in the Town Hall, the library was supported with book donations and financial contributions from several local organizations. The library outgrew its space in Town Hall and moved to the new Fire Hall Building in 1898. In 1966 the library began seeking out other locations to move into its own separate building. "When Lloyd C. Henderson died in 1968 he bequeathed his estate of nearly 1/4 million in investments, securities and real estate to his sister Ora. His will provided that should Miss Henderson refuse the assets, they were to go to the Citizen's Public Library Association of Jefferson for the construction and maintenance of a new library building." The new building was dedicated on November 1, 1972 and an interior renovation of the building was completed in 2012 for the library’s 40th anniversary.

The Upper Arlington Public Library (UAPL) is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Though UAPL began as a branch of the Grandview Heights Public Library, “in the mid-1960s the Upper Arlington Mayor John Dunkel challenged an existing law that prohibited the creation of new library systems in Ohio. His efforts were successful, and on December 11, 1967, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 494 and the Upper Arlington Public Library system was established.” UAPL is celebrating with activities and events throughout the calendar year, including story walls encouraging patron collaborative input to gather community memories of the library. Youth are invited to create birthday cards for the library, and on December 11, there will be a casual reception with refreshments, displays and other pertinent historical information for guests to view and enjoy. The library also has introduced a “50 for 50” campaign with the goal of raising $50,000 to contribute to the creation of a new work and study space in the library, a top request of Upper Arlington library patrons.

The Canal Fulton Public Library is also celebrating its 80th anniversary this year on July 16, 2017. The library began in a room of a Canal Fulton school while the local

State Agencies & Others in Ohio Timeline  
Compiled by Bill Morris,  
Governmental Affairs Coordinator, State Library of Ohio

Ohio Statehood:  
Ohio Adjutant General, Ohio Secretary of State, Ohio State Treasurer  
1803

Ohio State Library  
1817  
(State renamed State Library of Ohio)

Ohio Department of Education  
1843

Ohio Statehouse  
1837

Ohio State University  
1870

Ohio Agriculture, Research and Development Center  
1882

Ohio Board  
1886

Ohio Attorney General  
1846

Cleveland Public Library  
1869

Ohio Department of Insurance  
1872

Ohio History Connection (Ohio Historical Society)  
1866

Henderson Memorial Public Library

Upper Arlington Public Library

The Canal Fulton Public Library is also celebrating its 80th anniversary this year on July 16, 2017. The library began in a room of a Canal Fulton school while the local
superintendents and school Board of Trustees worked in earnest to find a permanent home for the collection and library. “Finally in 1948 Mr. and Mrs. George Muhlhauser financed the purchase and remodeling of a residence on the corner of Liberty and High Streets. Their initial contribution of $8,500 for the purchase of the home was followed by many contributions throughout the years, eventually totaling more than $45,000.” The 1870s era farmhouse that was dedicated in 1949 with a collection of over 5,000 volumes has grown tremendously through the decades, requiring expansions and renovations in 1958 and again in 1992. The existing library still serves its growing community as a school district library with 11,360 square feet of space. To celebrate the library’s rich history, the library’s Friends organization held an antique car show and anniversary celebration in June to commemorate the date. Director David Brown shared the Canal Fulton Public Library Board’s first meeting minutes, taken in 1937.

The Wayne County Public Library in Wooster, Ohio is celebrating several significant anniversaries this year including: 120th anniversary of the Wayne County Public Library system; 50th anniversary of the Operations Center (former Main Library); 10th anniversary of the “new” Main Library in Wooster; and the 5th anniversary of the Hybrid Bookmobile. The library will celebrate these milestones with a special author series featuring local, national and international authors including Debbie Macomber and Jessica Fellowes (Downton Abbey) who will both be in Wooster in October 2017.

Aside from libraries, other library supportive organizations are celebrating anniversaries in 2017. The Ashland Public Library’s Friends of the Library board is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. OhioNET is celebrating 40 years of connecting libraries and promoting collaboration this year as well. Christine Morris shared that “while OhioNET began as a local support and training entity for OCLC services, it also grew in other aspects of service. OhioNET worked with members to bring internet services to Ohio libraries before the days of OPLIN, and it partnered with member libraries to develop an early ILS system called The Library Machine, which was used for eight years. OhioNET also partnered with libraries and other organizations to produce resources such as the Statewide Union List of Serials, the Encyclopedia of Ohio Associations, and Ohio’s Public Information Utility (Ohio PI). OhioNET continues to connect and collaborate through working with Ohio Private Academic Libraries, Consortium of Ohio Libraries, and Library Leadership Ohio (LLO)”

Congratulations to all of these libraries and library supportive organizations on these notable anniversaries and milestones in 2017. Best wishes for future successes and celebrations!

Mandy R. Simon
The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) & Ohio

Contributed by Cindy Boyden
Library Consultant – LSTA
State Library of Ohio

For more than 50 years, the Library Services and Technology Act has supported the delivery of library services in the U.S. Although the legislation has undergone numerous reauthorizations, the basic function of the program, which merges federal priorities with state-defined needs, continues to this day. Legislative highlights include:

- **1956:** Congress passed the Library Services Act (LSA), authorizing $7.5 million annually for 5 years for the extension and improvement of public library service in rural areas.

- **1962:** LSA was reauthorized as the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), removing restrictions that limited funding to rural libraries and adding Title II, which contained funds for remodeling or construction of library buildings.

- **1996:** Congress shifted LSCA to the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as Subchapter II of the Museum and Library Services Act, ending federal funding for library construction and replacing it with a focus on new information technologies.

Using a population-based formula, more than $150 million is distributed among the State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs) every year. SLAAs are official agencies charged by law with the extension and development of library services, and they are located in:

- Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia;

- The Territories (Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands); and


Each year, over 1,500 Grants to States projects support the purposes and priorities outlined in the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). SLAAs may use the funds to support statewide initiatives and services, and they may also distribute the funds through competitive sub-awards to, or cooperative agreements with, public, academic, research, school, or special libraries or consortia (for-profit and federal libraries are not eligible). Grants to States funds have been used to meet the needs of children, parents, teenagers, adult learners, senior citizens, the unemployed, and the business community. One of the program’s statutory priorities is to address underserved communities.

Photo: Library Consultants Floyd Dickman and Missy Lodge review library blueprints (1990-1996).
In Ohio, LSTA funds support grant initiatives (varying in amount from $1500 - $50,000) as well as statewide initiatives, such as the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled. The Grants to States program allocates a base amount to each of the SLAAs plus a supplemental amount based on population. For each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, the base amount is $680,000 each, and for the U.S. Territories the base amount is $60,000 each. In 2015, Ohio received $4,974 million in LSTA funds.

Information about the federal IMLS is from their website at: www.imls.gov/grants/grants-states.
Marsha: Speaking of other State Librarians, is that your primary peer group?

Beverly: Right. There is an organized – a formally organized group called the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, COSLA for short. It is called the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies because not everyone is termed a State Librarian. In some states, it is a commissioner of libraries. In Illinois, the Secretary of State is their State Librarian. They hire a State Library director who then reports to the Secretary of State—who is the State Librarian but not a librarian.

Marsha: You learn how different State Libraries’ environments are too.

Beverly: Yes. Just like the library profession in general, State Librarians are undergoing a huge turnover right now after having people in place for long tenures. In many states, there have been numerous retirements, and just in the last week there have been three who have announced retirements.

It is a great networking group. It is a support group in many ways, too, especially when you are new. COSLA works to support libraries on the federal level and to initiate change. They did work for years with the public library program of the Gates Foundation. The foundation has retired their global libraries program but they are still involved with COSLA behind the scenes to support libraries in a different way. COSLA works very closely with ALA and so they are very involved in legislative issues that would impact libraries on a national level.

Marsha: I understand that you were involved in ALA and OLC?

Beverly: Yes, I was. I am still a member of both organizations but I was on ALA committees for quite a long time including the Trends Awareness Committee, which was interesting because we were involved in tracking things that we thought were going to impact libraries in the future. It is difficult to do that. But, you know that some things are going to come about and have some impact on libraries but other things just come out of left field and you have no idea they are coming.

I have been a member of OLC since I started my first job at Medina, and in fact when I was offered the position of State Librarian I was president of the OLC Board of Directors. I had to step down from that role to assume this position. I had a good working relationship with OLC staff and that has served me well in this position as well.

Marsha: The State Library serves three different groups—libraries, state government, and residents—either directly or indirectly. How do you balance three different and very distinct groups along with staffing and budgets and so on?

Beverly: It is difficult. The one thing that I keep going back and reminding myself of, especially right now when we are in one of the most challenging budget development cycles that I have experienced in my seven years here is, “Okay, what are our mandates?” We have a mandate to serve state government. That is our number one priority—keeping our libraries staffed and well stocked with current collections as well as the historical information that we have here, and the technology needed so that we are able to satisfy the information needs of Ohio State Government. Which is why we were initially founded 200 years ago and we still play an important role. Then, we have a mandate to be both the depository for state documents and federal documents. When I am looking at programs that is an important one because we need to keep that going.

Then on the other side of things, we have a mandate as long as we are receiving LSTA funds from IMLS to assist libraries with development. We have a whole division here, Library Programs and Development, and they manage the LSTA funds and assist libraries with developing new programs or introducing new technologies to their communities.

All areas that we serve have different needs and they are competing with each other. We can serve some better than others. We recently were looking at trying to assist prison libraries a little more, but because their organiza-
tional structure is so complex, it is difficult even to get grant money to them. So, we are looking at what else we can do.

It is a balancing act. We are always looking at statistics and seeing how well programs are being used and do we need to put more resources here in the collection or where can we shift things.

Marsha: While at the same time balancing those policy changes from the state government?

Beverly: Yes. Things change frequently. With every administration change, there are new priorities. I have worked under two governors. Governor Kasich came to office with a new set of priorities—workforce development and education—and so we are working to do what we can to help him address those issues.

Public libraries are working to help address the opioid crisis. We have not done a lot of that yet, other than to partner with the OSU Health Sciences Libraries in doing some training for public library staff.

Marsha: The State Library has a partnership with Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO) to provide statewide access to a core set of databases. As budgets change, how does LCO prioritize which databases to purchase?

Beverly: Sure. The partners meet on a regular basis. Our partners in the LCO database purchases are Stephen Hedges from OPLIN, Terri Fredericka from INFOhio and Gwen Evans from OhioLINK. The four of us get together at least on a quarterly basis, and sometimes monthly, to talk about changes having an impact or might potentially have an impact on the databases, and funding is always a part of the conversation. The State Library contributes $1.6 million every year in the form of LSTA funds to the projects and the partners put in—it was always supposed to be an equitable amount of funding but due to budget cuts and shifting priorities it is never or at least has not been for many years completely equal. OPLIN puts in about a million dollars, OhioLINK is just under a million dollars but INFOhio as you know has had budget cut after budget cut and they have not been able to contribute that level for quite some time. So, the other partners do what we can to sustain the content but an RFP is done every five years to solicit content for the program.

Before that RFP is ever released, Stephen Hedges puts together a committee to talk about the content and review the usage data on number of searches, what is being searched, and how is it being used.

But looking at the data and then pulling people from the field who use these databases daily with their customers to determine what do they need now, and are the needs the same today as they were five years ago. They develop a list of wants and then we try to match it with the funding and the pricing we get back from vendors. It is tough. The last time we wanted to keep Mango Languages in because it was heavily used and everyone loved it, but the price had increased so much that we could not afford to put a language database back in the core set. So now a lot of libraries, including the State Library, have purchased it on their own. We will be doing an RFP next year and convening a committee to look again at the data and look to people from the field to say, “This is being used a lot in my library or no. But what we really need is this.”

Marsha: It is difficult to get reliable usage data. It can be misleading at times or not inclusive enough.

Beverly: It is. We are dependent upon those vendors to provide us with the data we need. The reporting function just was not working for a long time for one particular vendor and it was inaccurate and we thought, “We know the usage is higher than this,” but it is difficult to assess how well used something actually is.

Marsha: In what other areas in the State Library do you use data for analysis or assessment?

Beverly: For every program that we do here we collect data. We should be collecting more and doing more with the data. But, we are constantly looking at data for programs to determine whether it is being used enough to continue it because sometimes programs outlive their usefulness. That is not to say that the programs were not wonderful. A clear example of that is KnowItNow24X7, which was a groundbreaking service when it was implemented and provided a wonderful service for Ohioans and Ohio libraries for years. Even though the cost came down because of new developments in technology, the service just was not being used because of changes in the way that people accessed information.

We looked at that data and made the very difficult decision to sunset that program and we recently did the same.
thing with the MORE [Moving Ohio Resources Everywhere] Service. We have been looking at data for an extended time period and circulation had declined by 71% and from a peak of about 140 public libraries participating to less than 50. With the threats to funding it just is not feasible to continue a service that is not heavily used.

Marsha: You mentioned SEO earlier. What are the challenges of managing an offsite center like SEO with their unique services? For example, they had another service recently discontinued with their mobile technology lab.

Beverly: You know the mobile technology lab was another service where a few things came together that made us realize it was time to sunset it. The first was that it was no longer being used quite the way that it was intended when they initially established the service—to retrofit and equip a bookmobile with 10 or 12 computers and take it to a library, park it, and bring library patrons on and train them. While that was successful for a number of years, it evolved to taking that bus to a library and parking it and then training people on mobile devices. The cost of doing that was much higher than it would have been to take those items out in a car or a van rather than a large bus.

I mentioned earlier the Department of Administrative Services and some of the constraints we have with policies that we do not set but we must abide by as part of state government. That bus had some age on it and had been for the last couple of years experiencing various mechanical problems. The repairs were getting more and more costly and we were not allowed to repair it anymore.

SEO developed a new service called Technology Training On Demand. They have a van and take devices out to the libraries and SEO provides the training. It’s more flexible than the previous mobile technology lab program. It served a great purpose for many years but the new Technology Training On Demand is already very popular and filling a need in the library community and for Ohioans. What the next thing will be I do not know, but we will keep an eye on that and they will continue to collect data on this new program and evaluate that as time goes by.

SEO is not quite two hours from here. In many ways, it’s like being a library director and managing multiple locations or branches but this one is in a different part of the state. I can’t just hop in the car and drive over there in a few minutes. It requires communication either by phone or email and I do go there and they are usually present for meetings here. We do a lot of video conferencing with the SEO managers so they don’t need to drive to Columbus for a one or two-hour meeting. You must make a very concerted effort to keep that communication flowing in both directions.

Marsha: I imagine keeping staff feeling like they are all part of one organization could be a challenge?

Beverly: Yes. We have required all staff meetings once a month and video conference with the SEO staff. It’s not quite like being in the same room but they still have a chance to see the faces of their colleagues in Columbus and vice versa. Various staff from Columbus, including me, visit SEO a few times a year. We’ve had a couple—I would like to consider doing some more of this—of training sessions when we bring everybody together and staff have enjoyed it.

Marsha: You mentioned earlier that the State Library is celebrating 200 years of library service in Ohio. You’re the 34th person to serve as State Librarian. Looking back at each of them, what do you see as significant changes in the role and qualifications of State Librarians?

Beverly: Well, certainly the scope of what the State Library does today is much broader than it was when it was first established. We are still dedicated to serving state government but our focus has expanded to serving Ohio libraries of all kinds as well as, more often indirectly, but all Ohioans. Anyone in the state can get a library card and we will provide services to them. That was not the case in the beginning. The State Library has a higher profile than it did for many years.

One of the biggest and most welcome changes over the years is moving the State Librarian from being a purely political appointment to having a knowledgeable engaged board that selects a State Librarian who is a professionally trained librarian. Many, the first 25 State Librarians were not professional librarians and nine of them were newspaper men; they worked in newspapers. It wasn’t until 1921 when Herbert Hirshberg was appointed, that we had a professional librarian in my position. It was a long time in coming, but I am glad to see that we now have

INTERVIEW continued

On November 15, 2011 Beverly visited the Barberton Public and met with Library Director Julianne Bedel.

On January 25, 2017, Beverly visited East Cleveland Public Library to meet with Library Director Sheba Marcus-Bey.
had two females who officially have been State Librarians. I am only the second and the first one was not until just my immediate predecessor. Although Ruth Hess was an interim State Librarian for three years.

Marsha: The library is more steadfast in achieving its mission than perhaps it was when its leadership changed with the gubernatorial party.

Beverly: Right. I think it is much more stable and we are clearly able to define a mission and then go about that rather than having things, as you said, just change all the time.

Marsha: Since the early 1900s the State Library’s services to libraries have probably helped the most in rural communities and with libraries that don’t have the resources for programming or starting new services. The Traveling Library Program and services by Library Consultants are just two examples.

Beverly: I thought about that a lot when I was just looking at the Traveling Library display in our bicentennial exhibit today. I was talking with someone about what an important service that would have been at a time when there were not many libraries in Ohio. It took books to people who otherwise would have gone without. Where would they have gone to get books especially if they could not afford to buy them? Then, after that the bookmobile service that the State Library offered for so many years. Just getting into those rural communities without library branches. It could have been miles to get to a public library to access books. I’ve heard many stories about what that bookmobile service meant to people, especially children.

Back in the days of the Library Services and Construction Act, LSCA, before it became LSTA, the State Library used those federal funds to help libraries build or expand existing buildings. Every now and then, while traveling around the state I will see those plaques saying “This library was constructed with the assistance of LSCA funds.” It has been several years since that was possible. We still get asked if there are funds available for construction but they aren’t within the parameters of the LSTA program. Some states do have library construction programs but they are using state funds that have been allotted for them but we don’t have that in Ohio. But I think even today, with the consulting that we provide libraries—strategic planning, space planning, the children’s youth services consulting, what we do has been very beneficial to small libraries.

Just a couple of weeks ago at our library board conference in Dayton, we had two public librarians and two staff from the State Library talk to the board and to us about how public libraries are embracing the USDA Summer Food Service Program, and the role that the State Library is playing in helping libraries adopt that and learn about it, and what an important role that is playing. If you think back a hundred years ago the State Library couldn’t do something like that.

Marsha: The State Library’s role in the Summer Food Service Program started with a library science graduate student from Kent State during his culminating experience for a practicum project. What are some of the other opportunities or collaborations that have happened since Kent State moved its library science Columbus program into the same building?

Beverly: It’s a unique and excellent partnership to have the library school right here in our building. Our staff go in and do special presentations. For example, we have an expert here in government documents so it is a wonderful opportunity for students to hear from her in their classes. We benefit in a number of ways but one of the greatest is by being able to take advantage of practicum students who join us for a semester and help us carry out our mission with a number of programs. And yes, we did have a student, Ryan Bowling, who was very passionate about the Summer Food Service Program and worked with our Youth Services Library Consultant Janet Ingraham Dwyer on developing a pathway for getting libraries involved. If you look at the number of libraries who were involved in 2012 and the number of libraries that are involved today it has grown significantly and I believe the State Library and its efforts have had a significant impact on that.

Marsha: I know there is no typical day but is there a typical week or a month or time of year for you?

Beverly: I guess in a typical week will find me engaged in

INTERVIEW continued on p. 32

State Library of Ohio
meetings with staff here in the State Library or out in the library community. OPLIN is an independent agency within the State Library. The State Library collaborates with many library organizations. The executive directors of many of those library organizations attend one another’s board meetings to keep in touch and to share information. I might be at an OPLIN board meeting, I might be in an OLC board meeting and they attend our board meetings.

One of my favorite things to do, and I do not get to do this nearly as often, is to visit libraries. It is just wonderful. We were at the Dayton Metro Library a couple of weeks ago and had the opportunity to see their new Vandalia Branch and the work in progress in their new main library. Being able to get out and see those things and then share that information with other librarians is very rewarding.

I also interact with state government, especially right now. We are in a challenging budget time and I’ve been in communication with several legislative offices, and I’ve given budget testimony on three separate occasions.

When I am not doing that, I am working with the State Library Board, or I am working with other staff here either in small groups or sometimes just one on one about developing priorities. This last half-year we’ve been looking at the LSTA program. First, working on the LSTA five-year evaluation which was done by an outside consulting firm as required by IMLS. And now, getting ready to use that as a springboard into the plan for the next five years with what we hope to accomplish with those LSTA funds for libraries around the state during that time. Missy Lodge [Associate State Librarian for Library Development] and I have been talking about it a lot.

Marsha: I imagine some of that is driven by what IMLS at the national level has as their goals and priorities?
Beverly: Yes. IMLS develops their priorities and then anything that we do with LSTA funds must be within the parameters they set. We have some latitude but not a whole lot. We must be able to tie everything to those parameters.

One thing I do every year is go to Washington, DC for National Library Legislative Day and lead a number of meetings, sometimes with the legislators themselves but most often with the legislative aides who are then responsible for conveying that information to the legislators. It’s always very exciting and rewarding because each year we hear how much they appreciate Ohio’s libraries and how wonderful Ohio’s libraries are. We know that here in the state, but we tend to take it for granted sometimes I think. But when you get out and you talk to other librarians from other states around the county, then it makes you appreciate what we have here in Ohio.

Marsha: We’ve talked about big picture work that you do. Today you were helping take a refrigerator from the building, so there is a wide range in areas of responsibility.
Beverly: Well you know at the heart of it the State Librarian is still a library director. It is a very different library. It is a special library and it has very broad responsibilities but I am still library director and a library director on any day may be mopping water off the floor, sweeping something up, or getting a refrigerator hauled out of the building. You do what you need to do.

Marsha: One last question, what brings you the greatest satisfaction both here in your work and throughout your library career?
Beverly: Right now, seeing the State Library staff be successful in what they are doing. We have a tremendous team here. I couldn’t ask for a better group of people. When the staff does good things that are recognized by individuals and by other libraries, that brings me great satisfaction. Also, seeing Ohio’s libraries succeed so much. I love libraries and I love Ohio libraries and the passion and the dedication that everyone in the field brings to their job every day to make Ohio a better place to live and I am just deeply touched and proud to be a part of that.

Marsha: Is there anything else you would like to share?
Beverly: You know, I think you just go where opportunity leads you and as long as you are doing what you enjoy doing, and what you love then, just be ready to take that next step and take advantage of an opportunity.
The Library History Mural was created and mounted in 2001 following the State Library's move to the Jeffrey Mining Corporate Center.

1. Ohio State Library Traveling Library program: Franklin County Free Traveling Library School Libraries, at the organization of the system – Judge Galloway, county school examiners, and teachers of Franklin County (1896).

2. Law Library of the Supreme Court of Ohio, Judiciary Building, State Capitol (circa 1890s).


4. Unknown location (circa late—1930s - early—1940s).

5. Ohio State Library; interior view of library in the State Office Building (1852).

6. Interior view with murals in the State Library in the Ohio Departments Building (circa late—1900s).


8. Ohio flag (date unknown).

9. State Library media center in the Ohio Departments Building (circa late—1900s).

10. Youngstown and Mahoning County Public Library bookmobile service (1957).

11. Ohio Statehouse (circa late—1900s).

12. Laws and Regulations of the Western Library Association, Founded at Ames (1804).

13. State Library government documents collections in the Ohio Departments Building (circa late—1900s).


15. Public computers, State Library of Ohio, Jeffrey Mining Corporate Center (circa early—2000s).


17. Ohio Departments Building (circa late—1900s).

18. Ohio Governor Thomas Worthington, portrait (1815).

