



A Collection of
State Librarian Beverly Cain's
Visits to Ohio Libraries

2025

Designed by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney
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Beverly L. Cain
State Librarian 2010 – 2020

As State Librarian, Beverly Cain visited over 100 libraries. She would often be accompanied by at least one State Library staff member to help record notes and take photographs. During these visits she would meet library directors and staff to learn about their collections, programs, services, facilities, and communities. After each visit, Beverly would write a visit log and select photographs for publishing on the State Library website. This book is a compilation of her visit logs and includes some of the photographs that were published on the State Library website.

Beverly Cain led both innovative and needs-based initiatives and positioned the State Library as a leader and exemplary partner in collaborations with Ohio's libraries and library organizations. She implemented a strategic plan with a vision of a Smarter Ohio, focusing on improving access to collections and use of meeting rooms for state government employees, growing statewide library resource sharing and collaboration, and using federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funds for special Ohio Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants to encourage collection development of books by award winning Ohio authors and illustrators and assist libraries with joining an existing library consortium.

Beverly guided the formation of Regional Digitization Hubs and steered the Ohio Digital Library, SEO Consortium, and Statewide Delivery through exponential growth during her State Library leadership service.

Beverly Cain earned a Master of Public Administration degree in 2009 and a Master of Library Science degree in 1986 from Kent State University. She also has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Akron. Beverly received the Diana Vescelius Memorial Award from the Ohio Library Council in 1992, the Friend of the Year Award from the KSU School of Library and Information Science in 2012, and she was a member of the COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies) Legislation Committee and Research and Statistics Committee.

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A Visit to Washington-Centerville Public Library

August 20, 2010

A stack of books, towering 22 feet into the air, greeted Jan Haines and me as we arrived for our visit to the Washington-Centerville Public Library. This sculpture, "The Record," created by artist Michael Frasca, gave us just a hint of what we would see inside this busy, beautifully arranged library. We were greeted by Library Director, Kim Paras and Community Relations Manager, Georgia Mergler, who provided an overview of the library system, which includes the Centerville Library, the Woodbourne Library, and a Cataloging Center located next door to the Woodbourne Library in a building that was formerly occupied by a bank. The Washington-Centerville Public Library circulates more than two-and-a-half million items each year. Just about half of that circulation comes from the Library's large collection of audiovisual materials, which includes Blu-ray discs and video games. The Library has experienced an uptick in the circulation of AV materials since adding Blu-rays to the collection in March 2009 and has increased the size of the Blu-ray collection in response to the growing demand.



A towering stack of books welcomes visitors to the Washington-Centerville Public Library. The 22' tall sculpture, "The Record," was created and installed by Michael Frasca.



L to R: Georgia Mergler, Community Relations Manager, WCPL; Beverly Cain, State Librarian of Ohio; Kim Paras, Director, WCPL; & Jan Haines, Library Consultant, State Library of Ohio

Washington-Centerville *continued next page*

Washington-Centerville *continued*

Kim and Georgia shared some details about the Library's exciting process of strategic planning, being facilitated by Wayne Piper, and about the fun and innovative method they'd just used to involve all staff in identifying the Library's core values. Staff teams will continue to refine the work that has been done to date with the goal of having a draft strategic plan ready to present at the Library's September Board meeting. The Library's administration and board are also engaged in the process of starting a Friends of the Library group as well as a Foundation Board, so it's definitely a busy time of change for the Washington-Centerville Public Library.

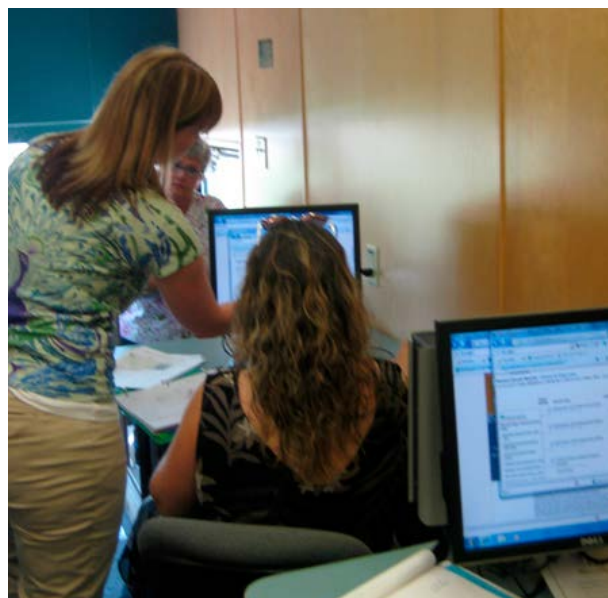
2010 marks the Bicentennial of the Washington-Centerville Public Library and the staff and community have celebrated in several ways. Great Books, Great Libraries is the theme of the year-long celebration, which has included Reading Challenges, Author Visits, and a number of special programs and events. In honor of the Library's Bicentennial, the children's rooms of both the Centerville and Woodbourne Libraries received colorful makeovers thanks to the generosity of the Dorothy R. Yeck Endowment for the Arts and the Yeck Family Foundation. Our tour of the Centerville Library began in the bright and inviting children's room and it was all I could do to keep from running over to the colorful growth chart to measure my height or to play with the toy book return! However, I wasn't able to resist giving one of the interactive learning toys a spin.

The Library is currently working to create more space especially for teens. The Teen Zone was dedicated in June 2010, with the local Panera Bread donating furniture for The Teen Zones in both the Centerville and the Woodbourne Libraries. The Library sponsors a Teen Advisory Board and hosts a number of programs geared toward teens. Each Tuesday is Totally Teen Tuesday, when as many as 80-90 teens come to the Library to hang out, enjoy snacks, play a variety of games, and in general, have a blast!

The Centerville Library has plenty of space, materials and activities for adults to enjoy as well. The Library boasts a beautiful browsing area filled with natural light from skylights, comfortable chairs where patrons can sit and read, quiet study areas, Express Collections featuring multiple copies of new and bestselling materials, public computers, and a broad variety of programs such as Business Start-Up



A donation from the Dorothy R. Yeck Endowment for the Arts helped add bright colors, interactive learning stations, and windows colorfully tinted with words frequently found in picture books in both the Centerville and Woodbourne Libraries.



WCPL staff member Anne Wachs teaches a class on Genealogy Resources using the State Library of Ohio's Mobile Computer Training Lab, which visited the Washington-Centerville Public Library August 17-24, 2010.

Basics, Internet for Beginners, Genealogy Interest Group, Book Discussions, and author visits. The Library also offers Passport, Notary, Voter Registration, and Test Proctoring services for the convenience of the Washington-Centerville community. This year to date, the Library has notarized 1264 documents, an increase of 25% over last year, and processed 802 passport applications, an increase of 32% over last year!

Washington-Centerville *continued next page*



A donation from the Dorothy R. Yeck Endowment for the Arts helped add bright colors, interactive learning stations, and windows colorfully tinted with words frequently found in picture books in both the Centerville and Woodbourne Libraries.

We had just enough time to visit the Woodbourne Library before having lunch and heading back to the Centerville Library and the opportunity to sit in on a Genealogy Resources class being held on the State Library's Mobile Training Lab. The Woodbourne Library is getting a bit of a facelift as the plaza located at the entrance of the Library is undergoing renovations. Chris May, Adult Services Librarian, hopes to hold programs on the plaza once the renovations are complete, weather permitting of course! Chris also pointed out the beautiful sculpture located in the center of the plaza. This sculpture, "Storytime," was created by artist Gary Price and was donated to the Woodbourne Library by Dorothy R. Yeck, who served as President of the Washington Township Public Library from 1974 through 1980 during the period when the Woodbourne Library was designed and built.

The Woodbourne Library also sports a redesigned children's room and offers the same services as the Centerville Library. The Dorothy R. Yeck Endowment for the Arts at Woodbourne Library, established in 2000, generates annual revenue for the Library and has provided funding for many arts-related events including a workshop by award-winning children's book illustrator Pete Catalanotto, music performances, and more.

Jan and I enjoyed meeting the Library's Fiscal Officer, Carol Fischer, over lunch. We learned that the Washington-Centerville Public Library passed a 2.7 mil 10-year levy in 2002, and funds from the levy have helped to offset the reduction in revenue from the PLF. Carol also informed us that several endowments, as well as contributions made to the Washington-Centerville Public Library Foundation, serve to support special library events and activities.

Our last stop of the day was the State Library of Ohio's Mobile Computer Training Lab, which visited the Washington-Centerville Public Library from August 17 to August 24 and provided the staff with the opportunity to host several computer training classes for community residents. Classes included Internet for Beginners, E-mail for Beginners, Google Basics, Genealogy Workshop, Online Investment Information, Online Business Information, What Do I Read Next, and Online Health Information. We enjoyed visiting the Lab while WCPL staff member Anne Wachs conducted a class on Genealogy Resources.

Many thanks to Kim Paras and the staff of the Washington-Centerville Public Library for hosting our visit. We thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to see and learn more about this excellent library system!

Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD)

September 15, 2010



Attendees at the OLBPD Family Fun and Learning Day.

Timothy Diamond, Cleveland Public Library's Special Assistant and Planning Administrator, and I arrived at the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD) on September 15, 2010. I was there to serve as a guest speaker for OLBPD's Family Fun and Learning Day, an annual event that brings patrons and friends to the OLBPD for a full day of programs, an opportunity to learn about and try adaptive technology, and the chance to talk with OLBPD staff about their service. This was the first time the event was held outside and the weather cooperated perfectly.

Tim explained that the facility, located on the shores of Lake Erie at the eastern edge of Cleveland, was once the Villa Angela Academy for Girls. The Cleveland Public Library obtained the facility in 1991 and renovated the space to use for a variety of functions. In addition to the OLBPD, the 15,625 square-foot facility houses the Memorial-Nottingham Branch Library, CPL's Technical Services Department, and off-site book storage.

We had just enough time before the program got underway to take a quick tour of the building. Our first stop was the Memorial-

Nottingham Branch Library, which is the third busiest among the 28 branch libraries in the CPL system. The branch boasts an open floor plan and a display featuring two replacement carousel horses from the old Euclid Beach Amusement Park. We then toured the OLBPD, which works in partnership with the State Library of Ohio to provide eligible Ohio residents with



Books-on-Tape fill the stacks of the Ohio Library of Blind and Physically Disabled. More than 4000 items are shipped to patrons every day.

Ohio Library for the Blind *continued next page*



Entry to Sensory Garden at the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled in Cleveland.

the services of the Talking Book Program. The OLBDP provides free Braille and audio materials to more than 16,000 visually disabled persons all across Ohio, while the State Library of Ohio acts as the machine lending agency, loaning equipment and accessories to eligible participants.

Next, we were treated to a tour of the beautiful Sensory Garden, led by garden designer and caretaker, Ben Zaremba. The Sensory Garden features a wonderful variety of flowers, herbs, and plants specially selected for their bloom, color, fragrance, taste, and texture.

Cleveland Public Library

September 15, 2010



The main entrance to the Cleveland Public Library features a terrestrial globe based on a map by Leonardo da Vinci.

After my portion of the program, Tim and I returned to Cleveland Public Library's historic Main Library in downtown Cleveland, where I had the opportunity to have lunch and talk informally with Library Director Felton Thomas, several CPL administrators, Board member, Alice G. Butts, and Board president, Thomas D. Corrigan. I learned that the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards had been presented the previous evening and that Oprah Winfrey was one of the four honorees. Kamila Shamsie, Elizabeth Alexander, and William Julius were also honored for their literary contributions to the understanding of racism and the importance of diversity.

Cleveland *continued next page*



The Eastman Reading Garden is located between the two buildings that make up the Main Library. The two buildings and the adjoining garden take up an entire city block in downtown Cleveland.

John Skrtic, Assistant Public Services Administrator, was my guide for a tour of the Main Library. Cleveland Public Library's Main Library consists of two buildings: the original Main Library built in 1925 and the Louis Stokes Wing, which was completed in 1997. The Main Library's subject departments are divided between the two buildings. The beautiful Eastman Reading Garden is located between the two buildings. John explained that the public artwork on display in the Reading Garden is part of the See Also program, which "strives to initiate creative, innovative, and thought-provoking works of art that add to the Library's broad range of cultural programming."

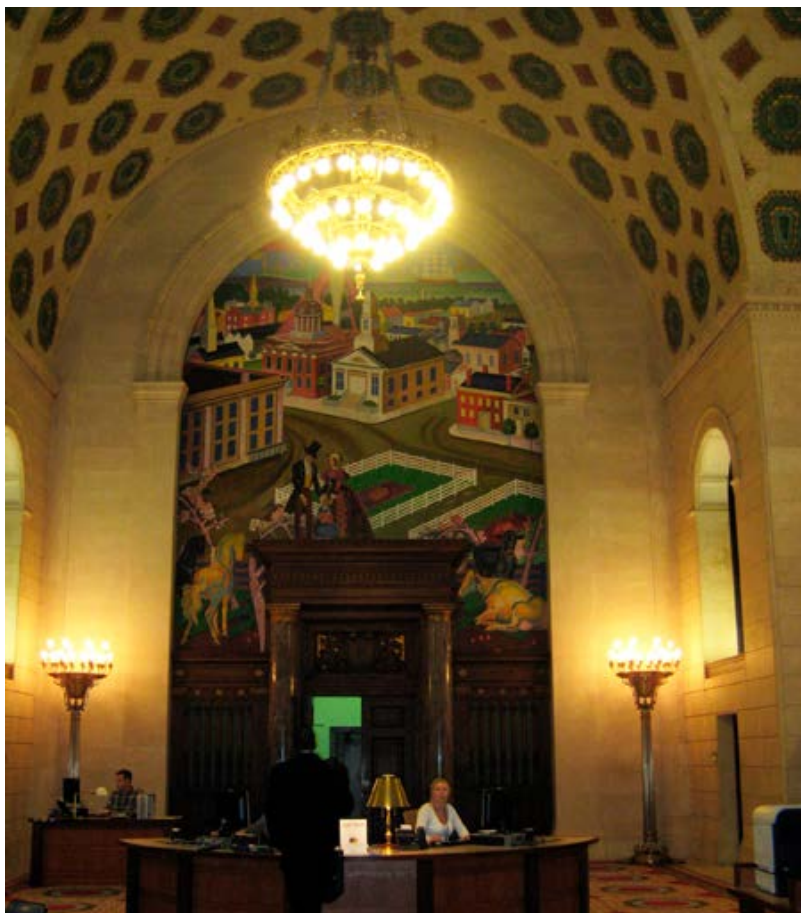
As John and I walked through the Main Library, he provided me with some interesting statistics about the Cleveland Public Library. John noted that as the economy has declined, Library usage has increased. Circulation has increased by 17% and library visits have increased by 12% since the beginning of the national financial crisis. John shared with me that the Library's

public computers are used by over 1 million people each year, over 170,000 children and adults attended a Library program last year, and CPL staff answer more than 1 million reference questions each year.

As we traveled from department to department, I noticed several art displays. One that caught my eye was a display of posters titled, "The Winds and Words of War." This exhibit, on display through December, showcases a collection of vintage World War I posters including one that is captioned, "Books Wanted for Our Men in Camp and Over There. Take Your Gifts to the Public Library."

Although I enjoyed my visits to each of the Library's subject departments, two areas of the Library stood out for me. This first is the Library's grand Reading Room, which houses the reference collection and serves as a reading room and now includes several public computers. The room is stunning and quite large (112 feet long and 38 feet wide) and

Cleveland *continued next page*



The Reading Room features walls filled with murals and a vaulted ceiling adorned with geometric motifs.

has a 44 foot vaulted ceiling adorned with geometric motifs. The walls of this beautiful room are decorated with murals, three of which were selected as part of a public competition held in 1978.

The other department that I especially enjoyed visiting was the John G. White and Special Collections Department. This department houses so many unique and interesting things that I could spend days just browsing the collections. The John G. White Collection of Chess and Checkers was established in 1928 and has continued to grow over the years so that it is currently one of the largest collections in the world.

This department also houses all of Cleveland Public Library's rare books and manuscripts including books printed before 1501, illuminated manuscripts, chapbooks, early children's books, Korans in thirty-eight languages, and

other works. Special Collections is also home to a significant collection of materials related to folklore, gypsies, and Orientalia, including one of the largest collections of The Arabian Nights in the country. Finally, one of the most popular collections in the department is the Miniature Book Collection. I would like to extend a special thank you to Special Collections Librarian, Amy Dawson, for putting together a special display of materials for me to see on my visit. Her display included two beautiful editions of the Koran, miniature books, and a collection of beautiful illuminated manuscripts.

Many thanks to Director Felton Thomas, OLBPD Manager Will Reed, Special Assistant & Planning Administrator Timothy Diamond, and Assistant Public Services Manager John Skrtic for coordinating and hosting my visit to the Cleveland Public Library. I look forward to returning to learn more about this impressive library system.

Belmont, Jefferson, and Harrison Counties

October 13, 2010

St. Clairsville Public Library



Sheila Perkins, Director of the St. Clairsville Public Library and State Librarian Beverly Cain stand in front of the Library Foundation Giving Tree

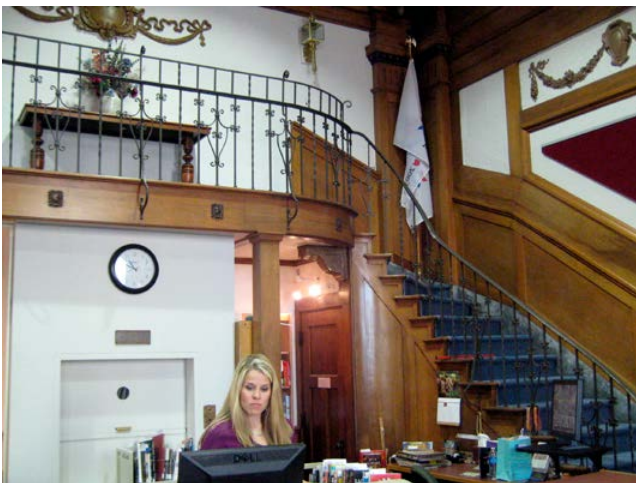
Library Consultant Jan Haines and I visited five libraries in Belmont, Jefferson, and Harrison Counties on October 13-14, 2010. Our first stop was the St. Clairsville Public Library in Belmont County. Sheila Perkins has directed the St. Clairsville Public Library for 30 years and recently announced that she plans to retire at the end of this year. The St. Clairsville Public Library was established in 1938 with the help of the local Rotary Club, which has continued to support the library in a number of ways throughout the years. The library was housed in various locations until 1955, when it moved to the Second National Bank Building.

The community of St. Clairsville is small, with a population of just over 5000, but it is a community that loves and supports its local

public library. The local Wal-Mart provided support for the Library's children's literacy program and the St. Clairsville Sunrise Rotary helped fund the Gaming@Your Library program, provided funding to renovate the Children's Room by donating \$5000 each year for five years, and donates books to the Children's Room. A Library Foundation Giving Tree, adorned with the names of donors, is proudly displayed on a wall in the Library. The Foundation recently purchased ten laptop computers for the Library to help reduce the wait time for patrons wishing to use the Library's public computers. The Library also has Friends and Junior Friends of the Library groups to help support programs.

The Library maintains a close relationship with Belmont Technical College. The two organizations have worked together on a number of projects including the recent renovation of the Library's large front windows. Students enrolled in the college's Building Preservation and Restoration program worked to repair and restore the windows at no cost to the library.

The Library maintains a close relationship with Belmont Technical College. The two organizations have worked together on a number of projects including the recent renovation of the Library's large front windows. Students enrolled in the college's Building Preservation and Restoration program worked to repair and restore the windows at no cost to the library.



A view of the balcony in the St. Clairsville Public Library.

Martins Ferry Public Library

October 13, 2010

The Martins Ferry Public Library was built in 1968 by Robert E. Forsythe, a Martins Ferry native who also designed the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH. The Martins Ferry Public Library consists of a Main Library in Martins Ferry and branches in Bethesda, Bridgeport, Powhatan Point, Shadyside, and Flushing. Yvonne Myers is the library's director.

The library offers programs for all ages including two story times for babies, a strong teen program, and adult programs that include reading groups and book signings. Chris Berthalter, the Belmont County Prosecuting Attorney, recently published his first novel, *Heir to the Throne*, and did a book-signing as a fundraiser for the library.

The library houses the Martins Ferry Hall of Honor. The Hall of Honor was established to acknowledge those citizens whose actions or accomplishments have affected, aided, or brought fame to Martins Ferry. Those eligible for this honor must have been born, lived, or worked in the City of Martins Ferry. The library's architect, Robert E. Forsythe, was inducted into the Hall of Honor in 2008.



Yvonne Myers, Director of the Martins Ferry Public Library and Beverly Cain, State Librarian.

The library has established beneficial partnerships with several community agencies and organizations. One such partnership resulted in having inmates from the local correctional facility paint the lower level of the library with bright colors and characters to brighten the children's area.



Puppets line the shelves of the children's room in the Martins Ferry Public Library.

Bellaire Public Library

October 13, 2010



L to R: John T. Knieser, Director of the Bellaire Public Library from 1986 to 2009; Judy Brown, Head of Technical Services/Cataloger; Mary Roberts, Interim Director; Beverly Cain, State Librarian.

The Bellaire Public Library was established in 1927 and was located in the basement of Bellaire High School. In the 1940s the Mellott Family donated \$450,000 to support the public library and community center. A portion of these funds were used to construct the Mellott Memorial Building, which opened on December 19, 1960. The library underwent a remodeling and expansion in 1998-2000 using Mellott Trust Funds. This expansion allowed the library to double its original size. The Mellott Memorial Mural, honoring the Mellott Family, is prominently displayed in the library.

Mary Roberts is the Interim Director of the Bellaire Public Library, which boasts a collection of nearly 80,000 items, a special collection of materials documenting the history of glass in the area, and a community room that is used by the Bellaire High School Thespians, the Ohio Valley Promenaders, and many other local groups and organizations. While we were visiting, the Bellaire High School Thespians were rehearsing for a production of one-act comedies scheduled to take place that week.



The Mellott Memorial Mural, made of tile, honors the Mellott family, who created a trust to help support the Bellaire Public Library.

Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County

October 14, 2010



Left: Exterior view. Right: State Librarian Beverly Cain chats with Alan Hall, Director of the Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County, in front of the fireplace in the Main Library.

Alan Hall has been the director of the Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County (PLSJC) since June 1, 1983. When we visited on October 14, he was in the midst of the library's first-ever levy campaign (the levy passed) and he'd been busy speaking to local residents, community groups, and media about the library's services and its need for additional funding. Talking about the library's rich history and wealth of services is something Alan is only too happy to do.

A public library serving the residents of Steubenville was founded on October 1, 1899. With the help of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, a building was constructed at the corner of 4th and Slack Streets in downtown Steubenville and has served as the city's public library since it opened on March 12, 1902. The library boasts two reading rooms and displays a portrait of Baron Frederick von Steuben over the south fireplace. Unfortunately, it is often mistaken as a portrait of George Washington. Today, the Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County has a Main Library and six branches (Adena, Brilliant, Dillonvale-Mt. Pleasant, Schiappa, Tiltonsville, and Toronto) to provide a wide variety of services to the residents of the Ohio Valley.

The Main Library is alleged to be haunted and is featured in *Haunted Ohio IV* by Chris Woodyard. According to Alan, the library may be haunted by a friendly ghost that just might be Ellen Summers Wilson, the librarian from

1901 – 1904. He cautions however, that it is also possible that the noises heard in the library have no ghostly origins and could be coming from the building's abandoned air ducts or the wooden trusses, which expand and contract with temperature changes.



A grand archway leads to one of the two reading rooms of the Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County.

Steubenville and Jefferson Co. *continued next page*

Schiappa Memorial Branch Library

October 14, 2010

We also had the opportunity to tour the Schiappa Memorial Branch Library, which is located near the Fort Steuben Mall. Linda Stuller is the manager of this busy branch library, which was built in 1987 and has been renovated twice. Its most recent renovation was completed in 2008. The Schiappa Branch houses the PLSJC's local history and genealogy department, which has the local newspaper dating back to 1806. The library also has a café area, a children's activity room, and a teen area that includes a very popular section devoted to career exploration. The Schiappa Branch offers programs for children of all ages including Babygarten, a program for caregivers and children from birth to 24 months. For adults, the Schiappa Branch hosts a Cooking Club that meets monthly for demonstrations by a local caterer, recipes from her cookbooks, and sample foods.



Schiappa Branch Manager Linda Stuller, State Librarian Beverly Cain, PLSJC Director Alan Hall.



The Teen Area of the Schiappa Memorial Branch Library.

Puskarich Public Library

October 14, 2010



Beverly Cain with Puskarich Public Library Director Sandi Thompson by a Harrison county History of Coal Museum display.

Our last stop on this whirlwind tour of libraries was the Puskarich Public Library in Cadiz. This library was built in 1986 and is truly a focal point in this county of 15,000 residents. Director Sandi Thompson told us that the first free public library in Cadiz was established in 1910 and was located in various rooms of the Harrison County Court House until 1986 when it moved into its newly constructed home. The library board established the Clark Branch Library at Freeport in 1991 and the Scio Branch Library in 2001 to extend library programs and services to the entire county. The Puskarich Public Library System now offers three full service, automated libraries in Harrison County, plus a bookmobile to put library service within fifteen minutes of all Harrison County residents. Circulation exceeds 175,000 annually, and there are over 9000 registered borrowers.

Harrison County was one of the top coal-producing counties in Ohio so it is fitting that the library houses the Harrison County History of Coal Museum. The museum opened in 1994 and documents this history of coal mining in the

area. One display focuses on the Willow Grove Coal Mine Explosion, which claimed the lives of 72 miners on March 16, 1940. Another display showcases items made from coal and coal by-products. The library is also home to the Harrison County Sports Hall of Fame.

The library offers a wide range of programs for children and adults including toddler times, preschool story times and a reading club. To help keep these programs and other library services going strong, the library passed a 1 mill 5-year operating levy in 2009 with 65% of voters voting in support of the library.

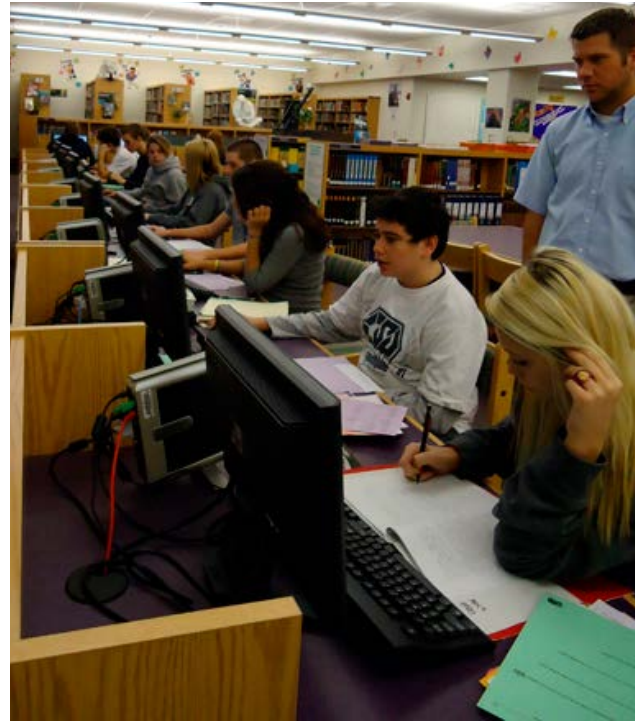
The five libraries we visited on this tour are all different, each offering something unique to its local community. The one thing these libraries clearly have in common is their use of community partnerships to provide enhanced programs and services to local residents. Thank you to the directors, staff, and boards of these libraries for graciously hosting our visits. We look forward to visiting again.

Mt. Gilead Middle & High School Library Media Center

November 18, 2010

On November 18, 2010 Library Consultant Janet Ingraham Dwyer and I traveled to Mt. Gilead Middle and High School to meet with Deb Logan, Librarian/Media Specialist, and observe 7th grade students working on a class assignment designed to help them hone their research skills. The Library/Media Center is located in the center of the middle school and the high school, which have been combined into a single building. Its central location makes it a great gathering spot for students from both the middle school and the high school. The library is well equipped with both print and electronic resources and while we were there, it was filled with the middle school students working on their class assignment as well as a group of high school students using the library during a study hall period. The library features life-size sculptures of readers that were created by students.

Librarian/media specialist Deb Logan and her staff partner with teachers to help students acquire essential research skills including locating, evaluating, using, and citing print and electronic information resources. Deb told us that at Mt. Gilead, "Information skills are



Mt. Gilead student examines a book next to one of the library's "Reader" sculptures.

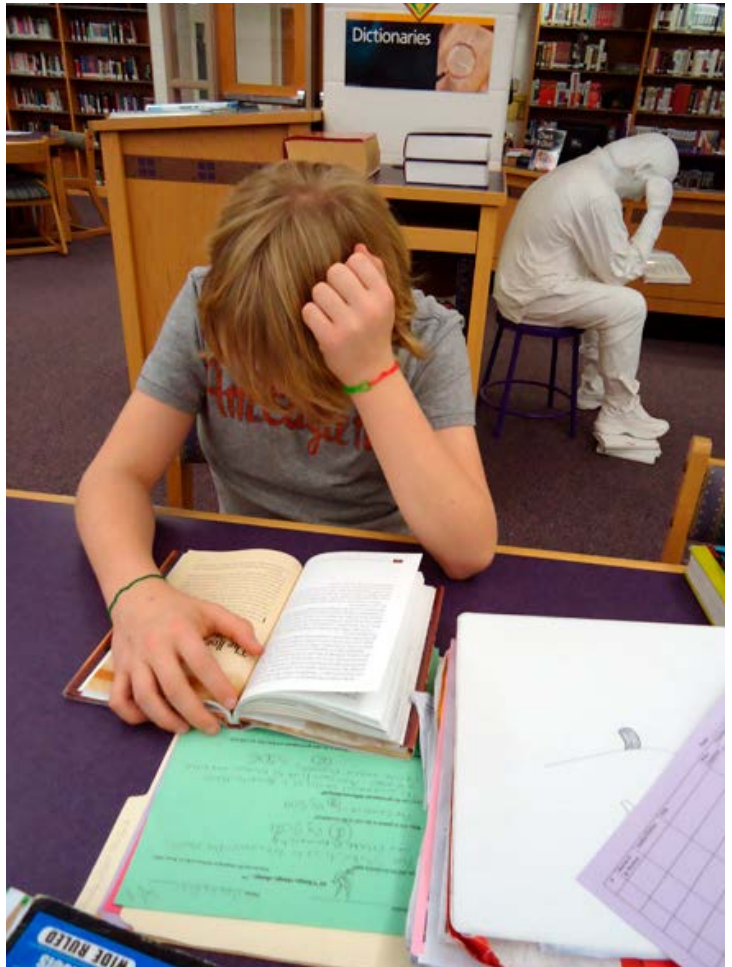
Mt. Gilead continued next page

taught by the librarian/media specialist in context with the rest of the school's curricula," and emphasized that joint planning is key to the success they have achieved. The skills students learn at Mt. Gilead are part of their "Journey to Excellence," preparing them to succeed in college and compete in the 21st Century global economy where strong information literacy skills are critical.

When Janet and I arrived, Deb provided us with an introduction to the library/media center and gave us an overview of what she and the class of 7th grade students would be working on that morning. Deb explained that the students would be using the e-book library to locate and cite information about mythological gods and goddesses. Deb had also set aside a cart of print materials the students could use should they encounter technical difficulties (They were experiencing server problems that day.)

Janet and I were delighted at the prospect of interacting with the students as they conducted their research. We were able to assist a few students with their research and in turn, the students showed us how to navigate the many features of the e-book library. Some students worked independently while others worked in small groups, happily making connections among the gods and goddesses, and talking about the information they'd discovered. Our time with these students was over much too quickly and we were a bit disappointed when the bell signaled that it was time to move to the next period.

After the class session, we had the opportunity to talk with Deb, Mt. Gilead High School principal Deb Clauss, and high school social studies teacher Denny West, who shared with us their belief in the importance of having a good school library equipped with current and accurate resources and a well-trained, knowledgeable school librarian. They are committed to the idea that these are essential to student success. They are also strong advocates of partnerships between teachers,



Mt. Gilead student strikes a similar pose to that of the sculpture in the background.

administrators, and librarians to provide students with the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond.

We were happy to have had the opportunity to visit this excellent school library/media center and thank the faculty, administration, and students of Mt. Gilead for hosting our visit.

Findlay-Hancock County Public Library

March 7, 2011



L to R: Findlay-Hancock County Public Library trustee Jerry Casey, State Librarian Beverly Cain, and FHCPL Director Jeff Winkle.

On March 7, traveled to Findlay, where I had the opportunity to speak to the Findlay Rotary Club and visit the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library (FHCPL). Jeff Winkle, Director of FHCPL, is a member of the Findlay Rotary and active in the club's Literacy Committee. The day of my visit, Jeff provided the club with an update on a Literacy Committee project that involves providing local elementary schools with copies of the book, *Be Good to Eddie Lee*, by Virginia M. Fleming. FHCPL trustee Jerry Casey was able to join us for the Rotary meeting as well as the tour of the library.

The week prior to my visit, the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library was closed for four days due to flooding of the lower level. FHCPL sustained heavy damage from a 100 year flood in 2007 and made several modifications to the building including moving administration and technical services from the lower level of the building into space on the upper floors. The Library also developed a Flood Mitigation Plan, which had been put into action very successfully the week of February 28, 2011, to minimize damage to materials, furniture, and equipment and allow FHCPL to reopen as quickly as possible.

FHCPL consists of the Main Library, the Arlington Branch, and a Bookmobile. The Library also offers Homebound Services, Nursing Home Services, Jail Services, and is a sub-lending agency for the Ohio Talking Book Service. FHCPL is a member of the SEO Consortium and circulates approximately 1.3 million items per year.

The Findlay-Hancock County Public Library is currently working with consultant Wayne Piper to develop a new strategic plan to guide library services for the next 3-4 years. FHCPL has used community surveys and focus groups to elicit community input and with Piper's help, has narrowed the plan to five focus areas: ensuring public Internet access; encouraging early literacy; promoting literacy among adults, teens and families; fostering lifelong learning; and stimulating the community's imagination.

I was intrigued by the Career Resource Computers available at FHCPL. These are wifi-enabled netbooks loaded with the resources patrons need to explore careers, prepare resumes, and search for jobs. Patrons check out these computers using their library cards and may use the computers anywhere in

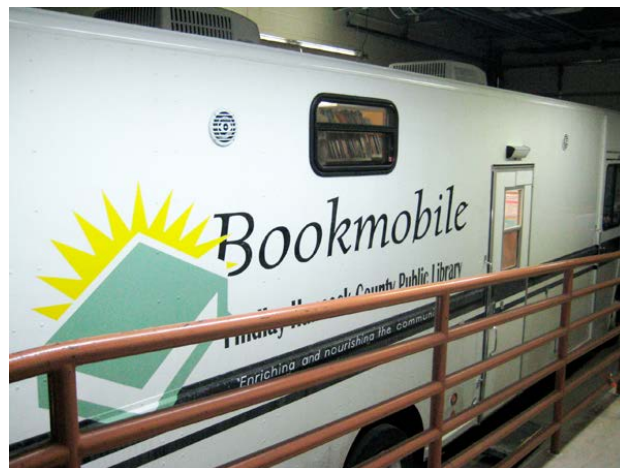
Findlay-Hancock continued next page

Findlay-Hancock *continued*



All of the furniture and shelving on the lower level, including the SEO sorting room, is on wheels so that it can be moved quickly and easily at the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library in case of flooding.

the library. The netbooks may not leave the building. These netbooks have helped staff at FHCPL meet the increased demands for public computers. Currently, the Library has 15 public computers and is in the process of adding 9 laptop computers with assistance from Connect Ohio.



Findlay-Hancock County Public Library bookmobile.

Many thanks to Director Jeff Winkle, trustee Jerry Casey, and the staff of the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library for hosting my visit.

Putnam County District Library

March 12, 2011

Diane Fink and I traveled to Ottawa for the Grand Opening of the new Putnam County District Library. This beautiful new facility was constructed after the Putnam County District Library sustained heavy damage from a 100-year flood that occurred in 2007. While the new library was under construction, library director Kelly Ward, the library staff, board, community, and residents of Putnam County joined together in a number of ways to assure that library services remained available to residents after a devastating flood destroyed their existing library building. Staff provided library services from 2000 square feet of space in the Putnam County Educational Service Center until the new library was completed.

The new library boasts a community room, state of the art technology, colorful spaces for children and teens, a business center for public use, a Local History center, and plenty of room for browsing, studying, and reading. The State Library of Ohio is happy to have played a small role in helping the Putnam County District Library rebuild by donating tall shelving for its use. Congratulations to the Putnam County

District Library on opening this new facility that will serve as a cultural, social, and intellectual gathering place for generations to come!



Putnam County District Library Director Kelly Ward (front, left) and PCDL Board of Trustees.

Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County

March 29, 2011



Associate State Librarian Jim Buchman, State Librarian Beverly Cain, and Garnet A. Wilson Public Library Director Tom Adkins pose in front of a stone wall on the lower level of the library. This is an actual wall of the Ohio-Erie Canal which traversed through the center of downtown Waverly from the 1800's to early 1900's.

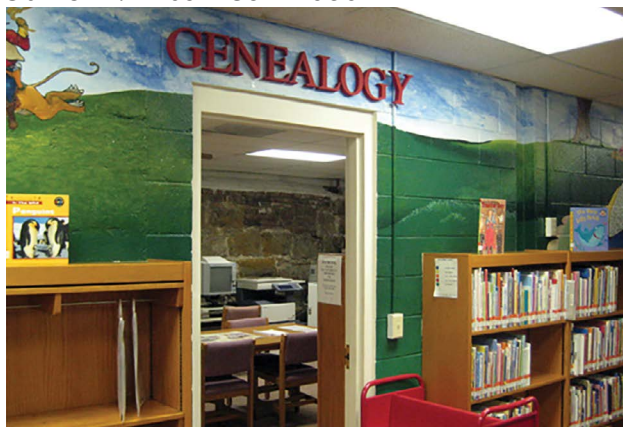
Associate State Librarian Jim Buchman and I traveled to Waverly to visit the Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County and to speak to the Waverly Area Kiwanis Club. While I met with the library's Director, Tom Adkins, Jim took the opportunity to meet with library staff member Jennifer Wright to discuss the Talking Books Program.

The library was founded in 1939 as the Pike County Free Library and until 1978, was located in the Waverly High School building. The library's present location was a gift from Mr. J.B. Wilson, who asked that the library be named the Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County, in honor of his wife. The library has grown considerably over the past two decades and now includes branches in Piketon, Beaver, and Western Pike County. GAWPL has a collection of about 50,000 items with extensive collections of audiovisual materials and local history/genealogy materials.



The walls of the Children's Room are adorned with a mural painted by a Pike County resident.

Garnet A. Wilson *continued next page*



The library houses a large collection of genealogy and local history materials.



A dogwood quilt is currently on display inside the entrance of the library.



State Librarian Beverly Cain speaking to the Waverly Area Kiwanis Club about the many services provided by the State Library and the State Library's partnerships with the Garnet A. Wilson Public Library.

One interesting note about the architecture of the Main Library on Market Street in Waverly is that the lower level incorporates the actual wall of the Ohio-Erie Canal which traversed through the center of downtown Waverly from the 1800s to the early 1900s. The lower level houses a large meeting room, which is also used for technology training, the Pike County Room, housing the library's collection of genealogy and local history materials, and the Children's Room, which boasts colorful murals painted by a local artist.

Library staff are currently preparing to join the SEO Library Consortium, a network of 79 library systems at 176 physical locations across 41

Ohio counties. Once the Library's migration to the consortium is complete, GAWPL patrons will have access to the nearly 7 million items contained in the shared catalog. Director Tom Adkins sees this as a cost-effective solution for providing GAWPL with far greater resources than the GAWPL could provide on its own. In addition to visiting the library, I enjoyed having the opportunity to speak to the Waverly Area Kiwanis Club about the services provided by the State Library of Ohio as well as the partnerships the State Library has with the Garnet A. Wilson Public Library. Thanks to GAWPL and the Waverly Area Kiwanis for being such wonderful hosts!

Akron-Summit County Public Library

April 19, 2011

David Namiotka, the State Library's Director of Information Systems and Technology, and I had the opportunity to visit the Main Library of the Akron-Summit County Public Library (ASCPL). The Main Library is located in downtown Akron and is the anchor of a library system that includes 17 branches and a Mobile Services Department.

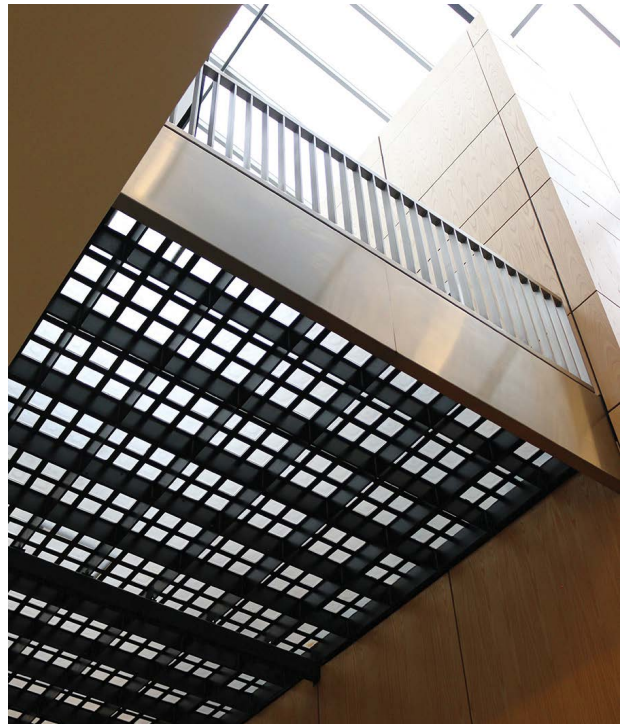
The Main Library underwent a \$57.6 million renovation and expansion project that was completed in 2004. The expansion nearly doubled the size of the Main Library, which now encompasses 270,000 square feet. The entrance to the Children's Room was featured on the cover of the December 2005 issue of Library Journal, which referred to the renovation of the Main Library as, "the jim-dandiest addition/renovation." An \$80 million tax bond issue was approved by Summit County voters in 1997 to finance the construction of the Main Library and 15 of 17 branch libraries.

The Main Library has several outstanding features including a 425-seat auditorium equipped with a 9-foot Steinway concert grand piano made possible by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Hattie's Library Café operated by the Hattie Larlam Foundation, a Friends of the Library bookstore, public meeting rooms and art exhibition spaces featuring art and photography by local artists including Don Drumm, Sr., Evangeline Doyle, Leroy Flint, and Mary Ellen McDermott. An interior glass block walkway leads to a 600-space parking garage owned by the City of Akron. The glass block walkway allows natural light to flow throughout the building, providing very open, airy, well-lighted space. The Children's Room has a colorful marmoleum floor featuring a blimp, just one of the many nods the Library gives to the important role airships played in Akron's history.

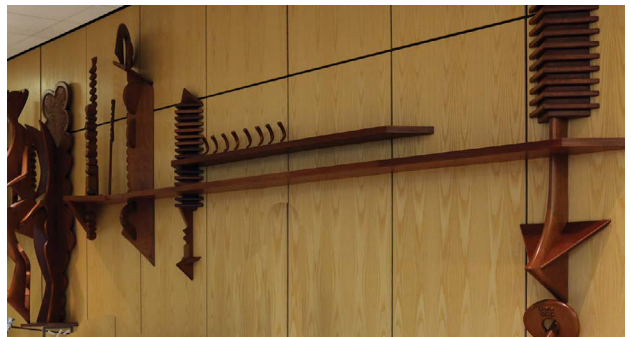
The Main Library also includes a Patent and Trademark Depository Library, one of just three in Ohio. The library offers access to the patent and trademark database and offers classes on how to conduct a patent search. The library also has a Resources Center for Early Childhood Educators. This room houses Ellison dies, a laminator, and supplies that any childhood educator is welcome to use.



State Librarian Beverly Cain and Akron-Summit County Public Library Director David Jennings.



Different views of central glass block stairway providing light through the center of the Main Library.



This teakwood sculpture by Harry Wheeler is one of the artworks featured in the Main Library.

Akron-Summit continued next page



This cast aluminum sculpture, "Floating Sun," by local artist Don Drumm, is prominently feature in the library.



Entrance to Children's Library

According to ASCPL Director David Jennings, the Akron-Summit County Public Library had more than 3.2 million visitors and circulated nearly 6 million items last year. Additionally, library programs were attended by 263,070 people. It is a very busy library that is successfully meeting the demands of a diverse community. Many thanks to David Jennings for hosting our visit to this remarkable facility.

Right: Auditorium featuring a 9-foot Steinway concert grand piano is heavily used, as are the library's meeting rooms.



Northwest Ohio Library Visits

July 7, 2011

Executive Secretary Ashlee Clark and I met State Library Board member John Myles and Liberty Center Library Director Brian Eckel-Hare for a tour of libraries in Northwest Ohio. John Myles initiated this tour as a way of showcasing a few of the different libraries and communities in the area. The visits to each location were short on time but not on substance and it was a great opportunity to view so many different libraries and see the unique needs of each community and how each library is working to meet those needs. During this whirlwind tour, we visited eight locations across Henry and Fulton Counties.

Napoleon Public Library

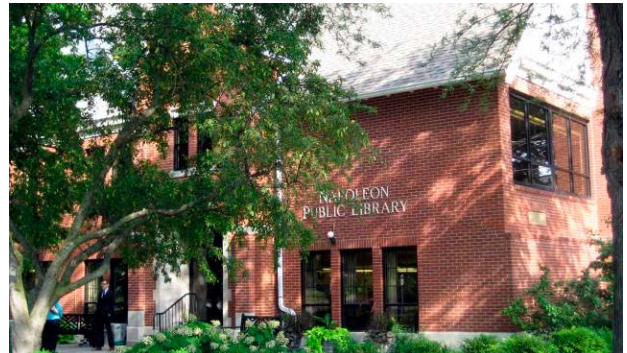


L-R Laurie Norden, Napoleon Public Library Fiscal Officer; Beverly Cain, State Librarian; Brian Eckel-Hare, Director Liberty Center Public Library; John Myles, State Library of Ohio board member.

Library Director Betsy Eggers was on vacation so we were greeted by Fiscal Officer Laurie Norden, who was kind enough to provide us with a tour of the library.

The first permanent home for the Napoleon Public Library, built with funding from Andrew Carnegie, was formally dedicated on July 14, 1913. In 1965, the library moved to its current location, just next door in the former St. Paul Lutheran School. The library continues to use the Carnegie building for storage.

The library has a large children's area on the lower floor. Highlights include the American Girl bookshelf featuring several American Girl dolls, a mural depicting many beloved children's characters, and dozens of stuffed animals. Also featured was a "We Love the Library" banner that had been decorated and signed by several children.



Napoleon Public Library



Right: Children's Area decorated for summer reading.

Northwest continued next page

Defiance Public Library

The Defiance Public Library is located at the confluence of the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers where Fort Defiance once stood. The library is housed in a Carnegie building that was expanded several years ago and is currently undergoing a "renewal."

We were greeted by Director Marilyn Hite, Public Relations Coordinator Stephanie Small, Mayor Bob Armstrong, and Board members Gary Chaney, Ian MacGregor, and Linda Brose who were all standing outside of the library. They were all standing outside of the library because of current renovations, which have temporarily resulted in no air-conditioning! The group quickly whisked us down to a tent they had set up for programming during the library's renovations and I was honored to help lead the Read, Rhyme, and Romp participants in the Perky Bird song. The program is for newborns to three-year olds and features interactive brain-building classes featuring books, music, and rhymes. There were approximately 30-40 youngsters and their parents in attendance.

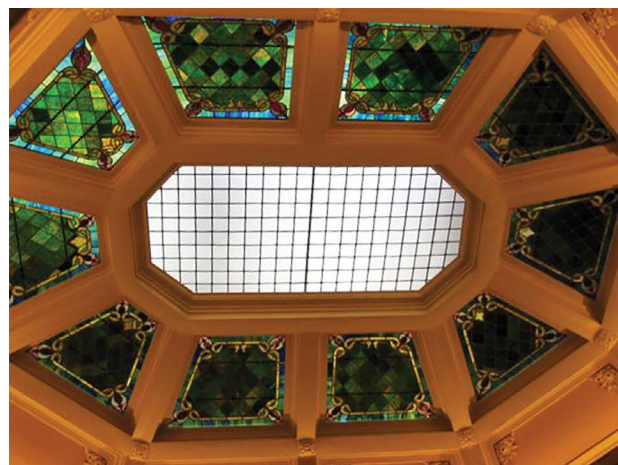
After the song, Marilyn provided us with a presentation on the library's efforts to "learn from the past, understand the present, and prepare for the future". A large part of this is the Crown Jewel Campaign to help with the library renovations and an update to the HVAC systems. The women in the community raised \$600,000 in 6 months, surpassing their \$500,000 goal in a community that has also been impacted economically. Another part of this is the restoration of the Stained Glass Dome featured inside the entrance to the original Carnegie building.

As we toured the library, we noticed that despite the lack of air conditioning, several patrons were happily using the library. Instead of having fixed computer stations using desktop units, the Defiance Library makes laptops available for use anywhere in the library.

The library had displays for the current summer reading programs for children (One World, Many Stories) and adults (Novel Destinations). We also had the opportunity to see staff members preparing items for their outreach service to homebound patrons.



Defiance Public Library



The stained glass dome inside the entrance of the Carnegie building is undergoing renovations.



State Librarian, Beverly Cain (center), helps lead Read, Rhyme, & Romp participants in the Perky Bird song.



The arched entrance to the children's area

Northwest *continued next page*

Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio

Linda Shambarger, Library Director and Manager of Offender Programs, greeted us and after a thorough security check, introduced us to Jim Dennis, Executive Director. Linda then led us to the library, pausing along the way to point out the facility's classrooms for their GED program. Linda oversees the GED program and noted that 24 inmates received their GEDs so far this year and 1,000 have received GEDs since the program was begun. A group of inmates was using the library at the time of our tour. They are allowed to check out four items at a time. The collection includes fiction and non-fiction as well as a small legal reference collection. Women in the facility are the highest users of the library and every one I could see had four books ready to check out. Linda said that the men do use the library



Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio

but prefer easy readers like the Goosebumps books. There are some restrictions to the items the library can collect. For example, true crime books are not allowed. The library is also a member of the SEO Library Consortium and has a policy on getting items for interlibrary loan.

Northwest Ohio Computer Association (NWOCA)



L-R John Myles, State Library of Ohio Board Member; Brian Eckel-Hare, Liberty Center Library Director; Beverly Cain, State Librarian; Judy Swerline, INFOhio/Educational Technologist

Judy Swerline, INFOhio/Educational Technologist, led the tour of the facility. NWOCA is an Information Technology Center (ITC). INFOhio, the school libraries' network, administratively reports to the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network and delivers its services through 23 regional Information Technology Centers (ITCs). It is one of five core services, which must be provided by each ITC, as mandated in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).

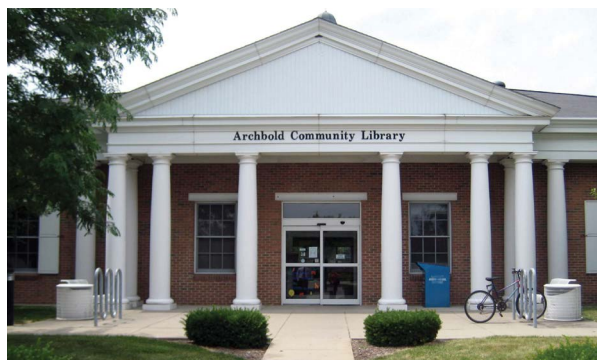
Judy provided us with a tour of the facility and described the many services NWOCA provides, including technology services such as internet access, network security, email, and a rent-a-tech program; fiscal services like accounting and payroll training, support, and reporting functions; educational technology including videoconferencing, streaming video and podcasts, library automation, grant writing, and professional development; and student services such as attendance, grades, and diplomas, scheduling software, and parent and teacher portals.

Northwest *continued next page*

Archbold Public Library



L - R: Brian Eckel-Hare, Liberty Center Library Director; Joyce Klingelsmith, Archbold Public Library Director; Beverly Cain, State Librarian; John Myles, State Library of Ohio Board Member



Archbold Public Library



A Memorial Mural in the Children's Area

Director Joyce Klingelsmith showed off the Archbold Public Library, which was decorated with displays for their children's (One World, Many Stories), teen (You Are Here), and adult (Novel Destinations) summer reading programs. The library was just quieting down after an active morning of summer reading activities. In the children's area, one participant still had on his binoculars (made of toilet paper rolls) from the safari they'd experienced!

The Archbold Public Library is a member of the Ohio eBook Project and has signage around the library promoting the service. They also have an OverDrive download station. Joyce reported that eBooks are very popular in their community.

Wauseon Public Library

July 7, 2011



L-R: Amy Murphy, Wauseon Public Library Director; Brian Eckel-Hare, Liberty Center Public Library Director; Beverly Cain, State Librarian; John Myles, State Library of Ohio Board Member

Director Amy Murphy led us around their Carnegie library during a busy time. The library is short on space and uses every available area. Their Friends group was setting up a book sale in the downstairs hallway and they even use an old closet to house their Ellison die collection. They use signage and special displays to help patrons easily locate items of interest.

The Carnegie library has a stained-glass window celebrating the liberal arts and education. The town was named for Chief Wauseon and the library has a framed puzzle of Chief Wauseon on display in the reading room. The puzzle pieces were signed by community members over the years.



Wauseon Public Library

Delta Public Library



L-R: Patricia Grover, Delta Public Library Director; Brian Eckel-Hare, Liberty Center Public Library Director; John Myles, State Library of Ohio Board Member; Beverly Cain, State Librarian; Candy Baird, Delta Public Library Assistant Director

Director Patricia Grover and Assistant Director Candy Baird led the tour here. The library is currently closed on Thursdays although staff members do come in and work on projects during that time. The library has gone on the ballot to raise funds to move to a larger building but their community members want them to stay where they are – right in the middle of town.

Patricia and her staff have gotten creative at adapting to their space constraints and were able to gain a little space. With the addition they were able to provide space for a genealogy collection, something their community members use heavily. They also moved a desk and created space in the children's area with a Scrabble-esque theme to mask the different colored carpet the move left behind.



"Scrabble-esque" carpet in the children's area



Children's area



Quilt depicting events in Delta's history

Northwest *continued next page*

Liberty Center Public Library

July 7, 2011



L-R: Ashlee Clark, Executive Secretary to the State Librarian of Ohio; Brian Eckel-Hare, Liberty Center Public Library Director; Beverly Cain, State Librarian; John Myles, State Library of Ohio Board Member

After Director Brian Eckel-Hare had accompanied us on the tour all day, it was finally time for him to show off his library. As a way to honor those making donations for building renovation, the library recycled the old card catalog and created hanging plaques recognizing them.

It was great to see some of the READ posters the State Library has created hanging in the library.

Brian is only the third director since the library began in 1929. His first task was to help the library pass a levy. In 2002, before the most recent round of funding problems for public libraries, the library Board purchased the

vacant space next door to the library. Now that the levy has passed and the library's funding has improved somewhat, they can concentrate on developing the space to expand the library.

A plaque in the library states "The Liberty Center Public Library is a gateway to the changing world of knowledge using innovative programming and services to promote a lifetime of learning and personal growth." I think this plaque perfectly sums up our library visits to Northwest Ohio. Each library serves its community members throughout their lives and the dedicated staff that work in these libraries are remarkable in their resourcefulness, commitment, and passion for learning.



The library displays READ posters provided by the State Library of Ohio



A unique way of recognizing donors

Cuyahoga County Public Library

July 12, 2011



L-R: Tracy Strobel, Beverly Cain, Sari Feldman, Susan Adams, Leonard Calabrese in front of one of the CCPL's new Library Media Box machines

David Namiotka and I visited the Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) on July 12, 2011. We began the day at the CCPL Administrative Office Building on Snow Road in Parma. The Administrative Office Building is the headquarters for the CCPL system, which includes 28 branches serving 47 communities across Cuyahoga County. We had the opportunity to meet with CCPL Director Sari Feldman, Deputy Director Tracy Strobel, and several members of the library's administrative team including Scott Morgan, Judy Carey, Martha Reedy, Debbie Ensor, Jim Haprian, Caroline Vicchiarelli, Dan Hauenstein, Rob Rua, and Enda Bracken. They provided us with an overview of some of the exciting programs and services being offered by CCPL, with special emphasis on their ambitious CARE Facilities Master Plan, which entails replacing or renovating several branch facilities.

The administrative team explained that CCPL is a data-driven organization. Data for all programs and services is collected and evaluated on a continual basis. Analysis of that data drives decisions regarding the continuation and expansion of existing services as well as the addition of new services. The system's numbers are impressive. In 2010, the library circulated a record-breaking 20,389,173 items, an average of 26 items for every person

in the service district. Library customers logged 1,205,277 hours on the Library's public access computers in 2010 and Library staff answered 1,756,196 reference questions. The Library's meeting rooms were used 14,239 times with an attendance of 287,288 people and 317,985 people attended Library programs. Additionally, CCPL became a Passport Acceptance Facility in 2010 and offers passport processing and photo services in all branches, seven days per week.

CCPL has made a commitment to invest in the children in the community by offering a broad spectrum of programs and services to help them reach their maximum potential. One such program is the Homework Center Program, which conducted over 14,600 individual student homework sessions in 2010. The ten Homework Centers are open after school Monday through Thursday during the school year. Another program for youth is Camp Cuyahoga, a unique summer educational opportunity at the Warrensville Heights Branch. Camp Cuyahoga is a day camp experience for students completing 4th-6th grades. Youth enrolled in the program spend four days enhancing academic, social, career, and community service skills while having fun.

Cuyahoga *continued next page*

July 12, 2011

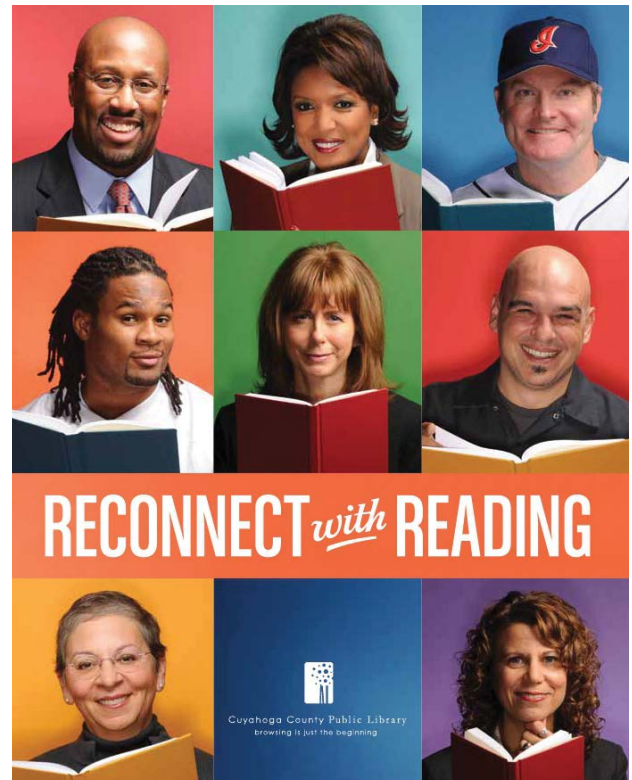
After lunch with Sari Feldman, Tracy Strobel, and Jim Haprian, we were treated to a tour of three branch libraries: Brooklyn, Strongsville, and Brecksville. Although CCPL is a large system, each branch library offers programs and services tailored to meet the needs of the community it serves. Our first stop was the **Brooklyn Branch**, where Branch Manager Mark McKinstry met us and gave us a tour of the busy library. The Brooklyn Branch circulates approximately 600,000 items per year and was opened in 1992. The interior is decorated with several Amish quilts and has vaulted ceilings with high windows that provide a lot of natural light throughout the building. This branch is home to the toy collection that supports CCPL's

Toy Lending Service. The Toy Lending Service was started at the Brooklyn Branch more than 15 years ago and with the help of grant funding, was extended systemwide in 2007. Although the toys are housed at the Brooklyn Branch, library customers can browse and request toys from the collection online.

A poster displayed in the Brooklyn Branch caught my eye. The poster, featuring CCPL Director Sari Feldman, renowned librarian Nancy Pearl, and a host of other celebrities, promotes the Library's highly successful reading initiative, Reconnect with Reading.



Entrance to the Toy Lending Library at the Brooklyn Branch



Poster promoting the Reconnect with Reading initiative



Toy Lending Library at the Brooklyn Branch

July 12, 2011

Our next stop was the **Strongsville Branch**, which is one of the busiest branches in the CCPL system. The 35,000 square foot library was opened in September 2003 and replaced a much smaller building that had been in use since 1971. The building has a very open floor plan with many seating areas for children and adults and makes extensive use of display shelving to showcase the collection for library customers. One unique feature is the World Wall, which introduces global and technological themes with sequenced-colored LED lighting on an etched glass art wall, Geothermal System, daylight harvesting, automatic blind system, and wireless web access. The library also features a meeting room that will accommodate 150 people and an outdoor story garden.



World Wall at the Strongsville Branch



The children's program room at the Strongsville Branch looks out onto the Story Garden

Cuyahoga *continued next page*

July 12, 2011



The Strongsville Branch has a very open, well lit floor plan

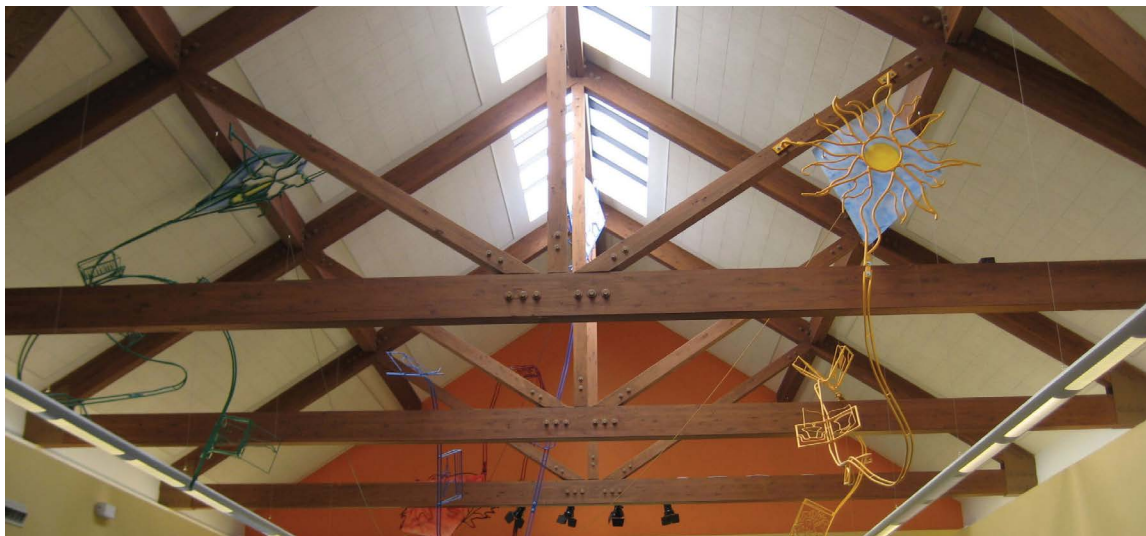


Artwork in Brecksville Branch depicts significant places in Brecksville

We then traveled to the **Brecksville Branch**, which is located in a 15,000 square foot building that was opened in 1990. The library is decorated with a wonderful collection of artwork that includes Frederick Remington bronzes and a kite sculpture. This busy branch has a collection of approximately 107,000 and circulates about 1,500 items each day. Like other branches in the CCPL system, the Brecksville Branch boasts a full roster of programs for all ages. Programs for adults include Travelin' Tuesdays and Wednesday Evening Book Discussions. Teen Programs include a Video Production Camp and Babysitting Basics. Programs for children include a full slate of storytimes for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers as well as programs for older children including Gardening Fun and Book Buddies-Little Buddies.

At the conclusion of our branch visits, we returned to the CCPL Administrative Office Building for a reception with staff and CCPL Board members including Susan Adams and Board President Leonard Calabrese. We were also treated to a demonstration of CCPL's new Library Media Box, a media dispensing machine that will hold up to 720 DVDs. CCPL plans to install these units at the Strongsville Branch and in their mini-branch inside the MetroHealth Medical Center.

We were happy to have the opportunity to visit this robust library system and look forward to a return visit in the future for the opportunity to visit some of their newly constructed and/or renovated facilities.



The Brecksville Branch has a skylight and beamed ceiling featuring kite sculptures

Northeast Ohio Library Visits

November 15, 2011

On November 15, 2011, David Namiołka and I visited two libraries in Northeast Ohio, the Cuyahoga Falls Library and the Barberton Public Library. This was my first visit to the Cuyahoga Falls Library. However, Barberton is my hometown and I have visited the Barberton Public Library many times and spent many enjoyable hours there as a child.

Cuyahoga Falls Library



The Library's renovations include a redesigned Reference area that eliminated the customary large reference desk and instead uses smaller services points in strategic locations.

We began our day at the Cuyahoga Falls Library where Director Kevin Rosswurm (left) provided us with an overview of the library and its services. We learned that the Cuyahoga Falls Library has a collection of approximately 200,000 items and circulates just under 1 million items per year. The Library has built a very strong collection of fiction to meet the demands of the readers it serves. The Cuyahoga Falls Library relies on its SearchOhio and OhioLINK partners to fulfill patron requests for specialized nonfiction and research materials. The Library has a strong commitment to collaboration and resource sharing and also participates in the Ohio eBook Project as a way of providing digital content to its patrons.

The Cuyahoga Falls Library recently completed a \$2.5 million renovation of its main level. The renovation included energy-saving features such as new lighting and a more efficient heating and cooling system. The renovation also included additional space for books, audio-visual services and public computers; the installation of a quiet computer room that can also be used for training; the relocation of the magazine room from the lower level to

the upper level; and creation of a special area for teen library users. The results are absolutely beautiful in addition to being functional. Plans call for renovations to the children's area and meeting rooms, located on the lower level, in the near future.

The Cuyahoga Falls Library has a very active Friends of the Library group. The Friends recently held a weekend booksale that raised \$4,700 that will be used to help support the Library. Director Rosswurm shared with us that nearly all of the computers in the Cuyahoga Falls Library have been purchased by the Friends.



The redesigned main level features lower stacks that take advantage of the natural light provided by large windows at either end of the area.

Northeast continued next page



Barberton Public Library Director Julianne Bedel and State Librarian Beverly Cain

Barberton Public Library

Our second stop of the day was the Barberton Public Library, where we met with Director Julianne Bedel (left) and Fiscal Officer Ken Cornelius. The Library is located on West Park Avenue, directly across from Lake Anna in the downtown area. The Library has roughly 22,000 square feet of space and houses 140,000 volumes. Through a partnership with Summa Barberton Hospital, the Library also provides access to a wide range of consumer health information at a branch located on the first floor of the hospital.

The Barberton Public Library is a member of CLEVNET, a consortium of 37 libraries across 10 Northeast Ohio counties. The Library's participation in CLEVNET provides patrons with shared access to more than ten million items,

plus several online subscription resources, and a growing collection of downloadable media. The Library's Local History Room is one of the most popular areas of the Library. The Local History Room features displays of items important to Barberton's history, from Sun Rubber toys and Coventry Ware collectibles to personal items that once belonged to industrialist and town founder Ohio C. Barber. The Local History Room also maintains a collection of print resources related to state and local history.

The Library recently purchased a nearby building. Library administrators are currently considering a number of options for utilizing this building to expand public service space for the Library.



Bottles and glassware related to Barberton's history are on display in the Local History Room.



A mural decorates the stairwell leading to the Children's Room.

This was a great opportunity to visit two libraries in Summit County. We look forward to visiting again in the future to see the anticipated renovations to the Cuyahoga Falls Library's children's area and to see how the Barberton Public Library makes use of its recently acquired building.

Euclid Public Library

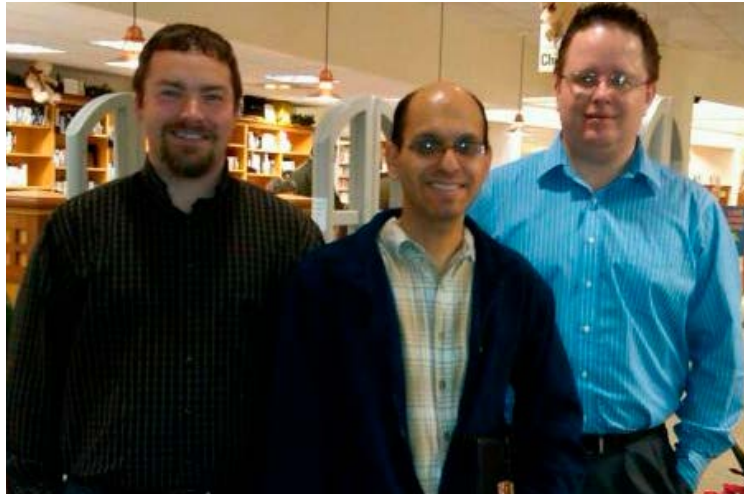
November 29, 2011

In September, Matthew Augustine, Technology Manager for the Euclid Public Library, invited me to visit the Library to learn about some of their technology initiatives. On November 29, David Namiotka and I did just that. We began our visit by meeting the Library's Director, Donna Perdzok, who accompanied us to the Technology Office to take a look at a few projects. Matthew and Network Systems Administrator Jeremy Forsythe explained that they had developed an in-house PC Reservation System to help staff manage public computer use in the Library. The system, which is working very well for them, was developed using the Microsoft Silverlight platform. They are interested in making this application available as Open Source code to other libraries looking for a way to manage public computing.

Matthew and Jeremy also showed us some of their digitization projects. They recently worked with the Internet Archive to digitize 50 years' worth of Euclid High School yearbooks. They sent the yearbooks in small batches to an Internet Archive scanning center in Fort Wayne, IN and for a fee of 10 cents per page, the Archive scanned the yearbooks and added them to the Internet Archive's collection. The Library also partnered with the County Recorder's office to digitize 70 years of microfilmed copies of the Euclid Sun Journal. Plans call for making these archives accessible via the Library's website.

We were then taken on a tour of this beautiful, very busy, 48,000 square foot library. The Library's collection contains just under 280,000 volumes and as a member of CLEVNET, the library is able to provide its patrons with access to the collections of 37 library systems across 10 Northeast Ohio counties. The Library circulates approximately 1.4 million items per year.

The Euclid Public Library places a strong emphasis on early literacy and services to children. In addition to a robust program of storytimes, the Library offers Reading with Rover, a Saturday morning program that gives children in grades 1-4 the opportunity to practice their



Euclid Public Library technology staff L-R: Patrick Gutbod, Matthew Augustine, Jeremy Forsythe

reading skills by reading aloud to a licensed therapy dog. The Library is equipped with computers for children that feature colorful, specially designed keyboards to help children learn. Sparkle Spot is the Library's educational learning center designed to give children 5 years old and younger the chance to develop social, academic and fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination and more through a wide range of fun activities.

We enjoyed our visit to the Euclid Public Library and appreciate the time Donna Perdzok, Matthew Augustine, and Jeremy Forsythe took to provide us with the opportunity to learn about the exciting initiatives taking place there.



Children's computers sport colorful kid-friendly keyboards

Bexley Public Library

December 1, 2011



L-R: State Librarian Beverly Cain; Library Director Rachel Rubin; Associate State Librarian for Library Development Missy Lodge.

Missy Lodge and I had the opportunity to visit the Bexley Public Library on December 1, 2011. It was the first visit for both of us and we were excited about seeing the library and meeting with Library Director Rachel Rubin and Community Relations Coordinator Mackenzie Betts. Rachel has been the Director at Bexley for just a little less than two years. Mackenzie joined the Bexley staff in January 2010. They have accomplished quite a lot in a relatively short period of time.

The Bexley Library is undergoing many changes, all geared toward keeping the library at the forefront of the community as an information source and community hub. There have been many cosmetic changes including new flooring in the lobby, new carpet, new paint, and some new display furniture. There have been other changes as well. The website and library catalog were updated to make them more user-friendly. The library created a space just for teens, added a collection of graphic novels, and began offering rotating displays of artwork by local artists.

A new Homework Help Center was opened in January 2011 with support from the Adam's Legacy Foundation and the Bexley Women's Club. The Homework Help Center has proven to be very popular, with 829 visits between January and June 2011. The Homework Help Center is open Monday-Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. during the school year.

New programs have been added for children and adults. Programs have included E-Reader Basics and Gadget Gallery, Books to Movie Club, Get Your Child Ready to Read, and more! Of course, the Library continues to offer its signature programs such as Tea@Three.

The Friends of the Bexley Library is once again thriving and helping to support the Library with book sales and the sale of t-shirts and book bags. A display in the lobby provides information about the Friends and upcoming activities. Information can also be located at www.friendsofbexleypubliclibrary.org.

Bexley continued next page



The new teen area

The Bexley Library is busier than ever. Circulation for 2011 increased by approximately 10% over 2010 and eBook circulation increased by 162% during the same period! The Library also experienced an increase in the number of children participating in the Summer Reading Program. In 2011, more than 1000 children registered for the program, compared to 325 in 2009.

Rachel explained that the Library staff have been working hard to develop a new strategic plan to guide library services for the period 2012-2013. They are also developing the Library's first communications plan to help keep the community informed of the activities, programs, and services being provided by the Library.

The Bexley Public Library is certainly an exciting place to be and if you haven't visited, I encourage you to stop by and see what this library has to offer.



The new Homework Help Center.



The Children's Room.



The Reading Room with its traditional look and feel, is a great place to read.

Worthington Libraries

February 15, 2012



Beverly Cain and Worthington Library Director Chuck Gibson

David Namiotka and I found ourselves at two Worthington Libraries locations on February 15. Our first stop was the Old Worthington Library, where Director Chuck Gibson and Assistant Director Monica Baughman took time to meet with us and give us a tour of this fantastic library. The Old Worthington Library, at 820 High Street, encompasses 42,446 square feet on two floors. It is a visually engaging library that provides a broad array of programs and services for the community.

One of the first things we noticed upon entering the library was the absence of a large circulation desk. The standard circulation desk has been replaced with a small desk on wheels that can, and has been, moved very quickly and easily. Several self-check stations are near the staffed circulation desk and we learned that the majority of items are circulated via these self-check stations. They have worked to streamline the circulation process as much as possible since the Old Worthington Library circulates approximately 1.6 million items per year. One feature of the circulation area is a bank of secure lockers that allow patrons to pick up materials outside of library hours.

The Old Worthington Library provides patrons with several quiet/group study rooms, reading areas throughout the building, a meeting room for large groups, and vending machines in the library's lobby. Technology resources being offered to the community include 69 computers for public use, wireless Internet access throughout the building, as well as areas designed to be used by patrons with laptops. One area in the building of special interest is the Worthington Room, which contains resources by and about the history, government, organizations, and citizens of the Worthington area.

Furniture and shelving throughout the library is on wheels so that it can be rearranged easily. Chuck and Monica reported that they are in constant motion, always striving to improve the collections and services to meet the needs of the community. The library has been renovated and expanded several times throughout its history and staff are currently planning to add Homework Help Centers to each building, so being able to move things easily is a real plus! The library makes extensive use of displays to make it easy for patrons to

Worthington Libraries *continued next page*

Worthington Libraries *continued*



Murals depicting the founding of Worthington are on display in the Old Worthington Library. The murals originally hung in the Worthington Office of Bank One. The artwork was created by Louis P. Szanto and Andrew Karoly.



This sculpture, *Family Outing*, by artist Alfred Tibor, was purchased for the Old Worthington Library in 1983 by the Friends of Worthington Libraries.

find what they want quickly and easily. Displays include "Quick Picks," which are bundles of books or AV materials chosen by library staff. The library also uses Power Wall displays to highlight different areas of their collections.

One of our favorite places in the Old Worthington Library was Buckingham Forest, also known as the children's department.



The entrance to Buckingham Forest, the children's department at the Old Worthington Library.



Furniture and carpet in bright colors create a vibrant space for teens in the Old Worthington Library. The teen space in the Northwest Library makes use of similar furniture and carpet.

Buckingham Forest uses characters from children's books such as Winnie-the-Pooh and Benjamin Bunny to create the look and feel of the enchanted forest found in so many nursery rhymes and picture books. The library also features a large colorful space dedicated to teens.

Worthington Libraries *continued next page*



The Story Garden at the Northwest Library features characters from classic children's literature.

Northwest Library

Our next stop was the Northwest Library, located on Hard Road. The Northwest Library was built as a collaborative project between Worthington Libraries and the Columbus Metropolitan Library. The two libraries shared in the start-up costs for the new library and now share the ongoing operational costs. The Northwest Library is managed by Jeff Regensburger.

The Northwest Library opened on April 16, 1996 and was the first OPLIN library in Ohio. The library was expanded to 25,481 square feet on one floor in 2008. This library is also very busy and circulates just over 1.6 million items per year. The day we visited, a group of 80 children had just enjoyed a story time in the Story Garden, the attractive and inviting children's area of the library. The Story Garden features several characters from children's classics such as Cinderella, Corduroy, Humpty Dumpty, and Jack and the Beanstalk. The Three Bears Cottage is a place where children

and parents can find just the right chair for reading.

The Northwest Library also strives to make borrowing and returning library materials as easy as possible for library patrons. Services include a drive-through pick-up window for reserves and lockers for after-hours pick-up. Like the Old Worthington Library, the Northwest Library features quiet/group study rooms, meeting rooms for public use, a colorful teen area, wireless Internet access, and vending machines. Additionally, the library provides 58 computers for public use. One unique feature is an outdoor performance space where the library hosts programs and concerts in the summer months.

We were unable to visit the Worthington Park Library on this visit but hope to make a stop there soon! Many thanks to Chuck Gibson, Monica Baughman, and the Worthington Libraries staff for hosting our visit.

Westerville Public Library

February 27, 2012

On February 27, Director Don Barlow provided David Namiotka and me with a tour of the Westerville Public Library, which has provided the Westerville community with outstanding library services for more than 75 years. Don has been at the helm of the Westerville Public Library since 1988 and has guided the Library through two major renovation and expansion projects. The first, completed in 1998, added 27,000 square feet to the facility. A second project, completed in 2006, added 2,350 square feet for the growing collections in Media, 3,425 square feet in Youth Services for a picture book room and a computer lab, and 3,011 square feet for the relocation of the library's administration offices, to permit utilization of more space by the local history and temperance collections. Library staff are currently planning to renovate the Youth Services area to make it more kid-friendly.



State Librarian Beverly Cain & Westerville Public Library Director Don Barlow

The facility is not the only thing that has grown over the past 75 years; library use has also grown. When the Library opened in 1930, it had a collection of 3,062 volumes and 885 registered borrowers. In 2011, the Westerville Public Library had 98,350 library cardholders and a collection of nearly 300,000 items. The Library circulated 2,000,000 million items last year and hosted 1,497 library programs.

The Westerville Public Library is home to the Anti-Saloon League Museum, which traces the history of the Anti-Saloon League through exhibits and a collection of materials. Last year, items from the Museum's collection were used in the PBS documentary, "Prohibition" produced by Ken Burns. The Museum was also visited by Mo Rocca, correspondent for CBS Sunday Morning, who filmed an interview with staff and photographed examples from the Museum's collection.

Exhibits and information related to the history of Westerville can be found in the library's Local History Department. The Local History Department includes a large collection of photographs related to the history of Westerville as well as information about Westerville families, homes, businesses, government, schools and more.

The Westerville Public Library is proud to serve as the location of the John R. Kasich Congressional Collection. In 2004 John Kasich, a

Westerville resident, transferred his State Senate and U.S. Congressional papers to the Westerville Public Library. This website provides a guide to the collection.

The Westerville Public Library houses the data center for SearchOhio, a consortium of public libraries around the state that are committed to sharing resources. This year, the SearchOhio libraries entered into a partnership with OhioLINK, providing an opportunity for Ohio's college and university libraries to share materials with public libraries around the state.

The Westerville Public Library provides a robust roster of services to the community including an Outreach Program that delivers library materials to seniors and homebound patrons. Outreach Services staff currently delivers library materials to 19 Westerville area facilities and more than 40 private homes. The Library also offers a service called Library Link, which delivers library materials to students, faculty, and staff in any school in the Westerville District.

There is obviously a lot going on inside – and outside – the walls of the Westerville Public Library. Many thanks to Director Don Barlow and his staff for hosting our visit.

Westerville continued next page

Westerville continued



The Westerville Public Library has a number of Local History displays that attract the attention of visitors. Pictured here is a display titled, "200 Years of Transportation."



This WWI uniform is another of the Westerville Public Library's Local History displays.



John R. Kasich's Congressional desk is on display at the Westerville Public Library.



This desk, used to sign the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, is on display in the Anti-Saloon League Museum at the Westerville Public Library. Above the desk hangs a picture of Ernest Cherrington, a leader in the Temperance Movement. The bust sitting on the desk is of Wayne Wheeler, who was also active in the Anti-Saloon League.



Display of a collection of arrow heads

Scioto County Visit

April 11, 2012

Clark Memorial Library

Associate State Librarian Missy Lodge and I traveled to Portsmouth for a visit to the Clark Memorial Library at Shawnee State University and the Portsmouth Public Library. This was very familiar territory for me because I was Director of the Portsmouth Public Library from 1997 to 2010. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the changes both libraries have made and to visit former co-workers and associates!

Our first stop was Clark Memorial Library, where we had the opportunity to meet with Director Connie Salyers Stoner and her management team including Ann Marie Short, Suzanne Johnson-Varney, Janet Stewart, Michael Johnson, and Mary Elizabeth Cummings. They shared information about the university, which has a student population of approximately 4200, with 1000 of those students living on campus. Having residential students is fairly new to the University and this change has had a big impact on the library because on-campus students want to use the library as a place to study and as a place to gather.

They also provided us with information about the library. The library is staffed by 6 professional librarians, 7 clerical staff, and 26 student employees. Although the university has changed and grown tremendously since 1997, the number of library staff has not increased. Connie and her staff shared that the databases the State Library provides in partnership with OPLIN, OhioLINK, and INFOhio are very important to the Clark Memorial Library and



L-R: Missy Lodge, Connie Salyers Stoner, Beverly Cain at Clark Memorial Library at Shawnee State University (SSU)

the community it serves. Mango Languages has become very popular with the university's international students and LearningExpress Library is used extensively by students preparing for graduate school entrance exams, ASVAB, and vocational testing. We were also treated to a tour of the Library and were delighted to hear about some of the changes that are being planned for the near future.

We did not realize that Connie would be retiring shortly after our visit. Connie retired at the end of April after 24 years with the Clark Memorial Library. We wish her well as she begins this new chapter of her life and we wish the Clark Memorial Library continued success.



The Clark Memorial Library at Shawnee State University (SSU) displays flags representing the home countries of international students.



The Alcove at the Clark Memorial Library is used for instructional programs as well as author visits, lectures, and other special programs.

Scioto continued next page

Portsmouth Public Library



L-R: Beverly Cain, Paige Williams, Missy Lodge

Our next stop was the Portsmouth Public Library, where Director Paige Williams provided us with a tour and told us about some upcoming programs. The library was hosting two displays at the time of our visit. The first display, located in the Children's Room, was Wild About Eyes, an interactive educational exhibit whose purpose is to increase awareness among young children, ages 4-10 and their adult companion about how to keep their eyes healthy and safe for a lifetime. It educates families in four key areas: eye safety, common vision problems and diseases, how our eyes work, and the effects of vision loss. The display was created by Prevent Blindness Ohio. The second display was the annual Quilt Show, hosted in cooperation with the Down by the River Quilt Guild. On display on both floors of the library were beautiful handcrafted quilts, including one made by former Children's Librarian Helen Olsen.

The Library is in the process of renovating an under-used area for use as a Children's Program Room. The Portsmouth Public Library has a robust schedule of programs for children so this room will be a very welcome addition. They are also evaluating the possibility of joining a consortium that would provide a shared catalog and a broad range of resource-sharing opportunities for patrons.

It was a wonderful visit and Missy and I are both grateful to Connie and her staff as well as Paige and the PPL staff for taking the time to meet with us and share information about their programs and services.

Bluffton Public Library



State Librarian Beverly Cain with Director Cindi Chasse and staff of the Bluffton Public Library

Our first stop was the Bluffton Public Library, where we met with Cindi Chasse, who has been the Director since 2009. When the Bluffton Public Library opened in 1933, it was located inside Bluffton High School. It remained there until it moved to a new, separate facility in 1986. The library doubled its space in 2005 with a renovation and expansion.

The Bluffton Public Library circulates over 80,000 items each year with a collection of 38,681. Voters approved a 1-mil, 10 year levy in 2006 to help support the library. The library has a very active Friends of the Library group that operates a bookstore called The Apple Shed and assists the library with several fundraisers each year, such as the Birdies for Bookworms Golf Scramble.

The Bluffton Public Library has a robust local history department that has added 812 digitized items to the Ohio Memory Online Collection. Items were digitized in cooperation with NORWELD and the aid of an LSTA grant from the State Library. Staff are in the ongoing process of organizing the materials in this area. The children's area is home to Winifred the degu, a furry little creature that is very popular with visitors of all ages.

Staff and patrons of the Bluffton Public Library are looking forward to July 18, the date when the library is scheduled to go-live with the SEO Library Consortium. The library is migrating to SEO with the help of an LSTA grant. Joining the SEO Library Consortium will allow the Bluffton Public Library to share resources with libraries around the state and provide patrons with access to eBooks and other materials.

The Ohio State University Lima Campus Library

Our visit to the OSU Lima Campus Library began with a meeting with Director Tina Schneider and Librarian Rena Hunter. They described a project that has allowed them to collaborate more closely with students and faculty by providing outreach to classrooms. The project, which has focused on assisting students with the development of good research skills, has been funded with a grant from University Libraries. In this same vein, Rena and Tina teach two for-credit online courses on research and library

instruction. The courses, while not required, are consistently full.

The Ohio State University at Lima is a public university founded in 1960. Its 565-acre campus is located in Lima, 80 miles south of Toledo. The campus includes the Tecumseh Natural Area, the largest and most pristine wooded area in Ohio's Allen County with approximately 200 acres of forest.

Northwest continued next page

Northwest *continued*

During our visit, the library was displaying posters created by students participating in the 2012 Denman Undergraduate Research Forum. The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum was created in 1996 and is a cooperative effort of The Ohio State University's Honors & Scholars Center, The Undergraduate Research Office, and The Office of Research. The Forum is an opportunity to showcase outstanding student research and encourage all undergraduates to participate in research as a value-added element of their education.

The OSU Lima Campus Library houses approximately 80,000 volumes and 400+ journal subscriptions and provides students with access to items from other Ohio State University campuses using the OSU Library Catalog. Students can also request items from other colleges and universities around the state by using the OhioLINK statewide catalog. The Library also houses a collection of popular materials from the Lima Public Library. Additionally, the library has a collection of children's books to support students enrolled in education classes. They're also popular with children attending the campus preschool.

Of particular note is a large collection of hymnals housed in the library. Some of these hymnals are quite old and undoubtedly rare. Library Director Tina Schneider is the author of Hymnal Collections of North America and the general editor of the Dictionary of American Hymnology and has been involved in an NEH-



State Librarian Beverly Cain and OSU Lima Campus Library Director Tina Schneider

funded project involving scanning and indexing 2000 hymnals from the Princeton Theological Seminary Library.

The campus of Rhodes State Community College is adjacent to the OSU Lima Campus. Rhodes State contracts with the OSU Lima Campus for library services, providing Rhodes students with access to collections housed in the library and access to OhioLINK.

Lima Public Library

Gary Fraser has been Director of the Lima Public Library since May 2011. Before assuming the role of Director, Gary was the library's Systems Administrator. When we visited, the library was just finishing up a \$1.5 million behind-the-scenes renovation of lighting, roofing, HVAC, and mechanical systems. The renovation was part of a major energy-saving capital project funded by the Lima Library Association. The library hopes to recoup the cost of the construction through savings realized from a more energy-efficient building. The library is working with Johnson Controls using a process called performance contracting, which means Johnson guarantees the board can use savings generated by energy improvements to finance the work. If the savings don't cover the bill, Johnson will pay the library.



Lima Public Library Director Gary Fraser and State Librarian Beverly Cain

Northwest *continued next page*

May 9, 2012

The library is undergoing a number of other changes in addition to the construction. Fraser is working with OPLIN to redesign the library's website featuring a new library logo. The library ceased its bookmobile services in January and has started delivering large bins of books to local daycares and other organizations. The library also recently purchased new tables and chairs for the teen area. The purchase was funded with money raised through a charity weight loss challenge.

The Lima Public Library circulates almost 600,000 items annually and boasts a collection of more than 365,000 items. Unique features of the collection include the Rabbi Dorfman Memorial Collection of Judaica and the Easter Straker Memorial Book Room, which houses memorial books that have been purchased and donated by library patrons.



The growing Teen Area recently added new tables and chairs as well as some guitar-themed wall art.

Auglaize County District Library

May 10, 2012

We began Day 2 of our visits at the Auglaize County District Library, where we were joined by State Library Board member Krista Taracuk. Beth Steiner assumed her role as Director in January. Prior to becoming Director, Beth had served as the library's Youth Services Coordinator for 5 years.

There are six libraries included in the Auglaize County District Library system. The main branch is in Wapakoneta, and the other five libraries are located in Minster, Cridersville, New Knoxville, New Bremen and Waynesfield.

Beth was happy to share with us that the library would be increasing hours at all locations effective May 24. The increase in hours would return the Auglaize County District Library to the same number of hours open as 2 ½ years ago when a significant reduction in state funding required cutbacks. Steiner hopes the hours will be more consistent and easier for patrons to remember. In addition to new hours, the library will also be hiring new staff.

The library recently sold its bookmobile to a radio station in Seattle where it will have new life as a mobile bookstore. The Auglaize County Library's board and staff are considering how to best use the funds and space resulting from the sale of the bookmobile. They have a number of ideas but no definite plans as yet. The library also plans to embark on a strategic planning process beginning in September.



L-R: David Namiotka, Auglaize County District Library Director Beth Steiner, and Beverly Cain

A few notable features of the library include a colorful mural on the walls of the story time area. The mural was painted by members of the high school art club. The library has a substantial and very popular collection of Large Print materials. The Genealogy Room houses a five generation Index of Names, which is very helpful to the many people who visit the library to research their family histories. Finally, a large area in the basement, complete with a stage will provide the setting for many of the library's Summer Reading programs, which often draw more than 300 people.

St. Marys Community Public Library



Front: Trustee Doris Lawler; Back: Paula Drummon, State Library Board Member Krista Taracuk, St. Marys Director Susan Pittman, David Namiotka, Beverly Cain, St. Marys Board President Bill Angel, and Beth Kueneker

Director Susan Pittman notified us the day before our visit to St. Marys that the library was closing for at least one day due to flooding and an as-yet-unknown amount of damage to the library. It turned out that the library had to be closed for two days but we were still able to visit the library and meet with staff. We appreciate that they took the time to meet with us during what was a busy and undoubtedly stressful time.

The St. Marys Community Public Library is a school district library that serves a population of 13,635 in Auglaize County. The library was started in 1921, when it was located in one room of the Community House in Memorial Park. The library moved to a new location in 1931 and then in 1936, it moved to larger quarters in the Municipal Building, where it remained for 45 years. The library's current home was opened in 1981 after voters approved a bond issue to build a new library. Voters approved another issue to renovate and expand the library in 2000. The library was rededicated on April 14, 2002.

The library prides itself on its many active community partnerships that help the library provide more services and resources to patrons. Examples include the partnership with the St. Marys Rotary Club, which resulted in the library receiving a Health & Wellness Grant to purchase materials focused on health and fitness as well as offering programs on these topics. The library also worked with the St. Marys Rotary Club to acquire a set of books for the local

Hospice Library as well as a set for the St. Marys Community Public Library. Other community partners include area schools, the Auglaize County Council on Aging, the Evening Leader newspaper, the Chamber of Commerce, the College Community Arts Council, and many more.

One outstanding feature of the library is a display of original artwork from children's books on the walls of the Children's Room. The collection was begun in the 1980s and includes local artists Mary Coons and Floyd Cooper. The children's room also features a collection of signed posters, making the area very bright and colorful.

The library also features a large Local History and Genealogy Room. The room includes a wide variety of materials related to the history of St. Marys. Of particular note are the Ray Zunk Collection, featuring information about St. Marys and the Miami-Erie Canal, and a collection of materials by and about local author Jim Tully.

We are grateful to St. Marys Community Public Library trustee, Doris Lawler, for providing lunch during our visit. We were happy for the opportunity to talk with Director Susan Pittman, several staff, and trustees Bill Angel and Doris Lawler in an informal setting. Lawler has been a trustee of the St. Mary's Community Public Library for over 50 years and has contributed significantly to the success of the library. She has also been a very active member of the community.

Delphos Public Library

May 10, 2012

Our last stop in northwest Ohio was the Delphos Public Library, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. Director Nancy Mericle shared with us that this Carnegie library was built in 1912 in the center of a city park surrounded by 45 maple trees. The library has undergone two expansions since that time. The first expansion occurred in 1960, when voters approved a bond issue to add 8,300 square feet to the library. A second expansion, adding another 3,683 square feet to the library, was undertaken in 2005. Just three years ago, the library purchased a building located immediately behind it. The building was remodeled and is now used for library board meetings as well as meetings by local civic organizations.

The Delphos Public Library is a school district library that serves 9,788 residents of Allen County with a collection of 80,485 items. The library's annual circulation is 279,000. The library provides a number of services to the community including programs for all ages, meeting rooms, hosting immunization clinics for the Allen County Health Department, voter registration for residents of Allen and Van Wert counties, and GED classes. A major focus for Nancy and her staff over the next few months is migrating to the SEO Library Consortium. By joining the SEO Library Consortium, the Delphos Public Library will be sharing an integrated library system (ILS) with over 80 public libraries in Ohio and providing easy access to 7 million items to their patrons. The library is joining the SEO Library Consortium with assistance from an LSTA grant.



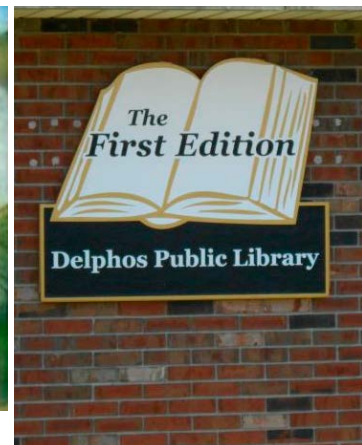
State Library of Ohio Board Member Krista Taracuk, Delphos Director Nancy Mericle, Beverly Cain



Story time area



Mural depicting important places/events in Delphos' history



Ashtabula County

June 13 - 14, 2012



Bill Morris, David Namiotka, and I traveled to Ashtabula County on June 13-14 to visit four of the eight public libraries in the county. It was a long drive (over 400 miles in total) but the visit was well worth the trip!

Andover Public Library

Our first stop was the Andover Public Library, where we met with Director Susan Hill and Fiscal Officer Linda Weston before taking a tour of the library. The Andover Public Library was organized as a school district library in June 1935. The library was housed in a variety of locations until 1967, when it moved to a new 2000 square foot building near the Public Square. In 1983, the library received LSCA Title II Funds through the State Library of Ohio to add

to the existing building. A nearly 2000 square foot addition was added to the north side of the building and was formally dedicated in the spring of 1985. In 1990, the library was awarded additional LSCA Title II Funds through the State Library to remodel and expand the existing facility.

This expansion, completed in 1992, added 6431 square feet of additional space to the building and provided space for quiet study rooms, a room for tutoring, and additional space for materials and computer workstations.

The Andover Public Library joined the Ohio eBook Project on June 1 with support from the Friends of the Library and library patrons are very happy with the new service. The library has also worked with Connect Ohio to provide new computers and training for library patrons. Nancy Logan, who teaches at the Kent State University-Ashtabula Campus, is working with the library to develop and present free computer classes once a month.

The Summer Reading Program was in full-swing and the library staff were especially excited to be hosting the Own the Night Summer Reading Contest for Teens. The Andover Library, as well



Front Row L-R: Beverly Cain, Lynn Peskora, Mariana Branch, Linda Weston; Back Row L-R: David Namiotka, Ed Worso, and Susan Hill

Ashtabula Co. *continued next page*

Ashtabula Co. *continued...*

as other libraries in the county, is hosting the Summer Science Academy for children 8-14. This program, sponsored by OSU Extension and the Morrison Foundation, features two programs, Science of Motion and Robotics, and allows children to have fun and learn about science through hands-on experiments.

The library was also hosting a Scholastic Book Fair during our visit. The Book Fair was sponsored by the Friends of the Andover Library and proceeds from the event will help the Friends earn books from Scholastic for the Library's shelves.

The Summer Reading Program was in full-swing and the library staff were especially excited to be hosting the Own the Night Summer Reading Contest for Teens. The Andover Library, as well as other libraries in the county, is hosting the Summer Science Academy for children 8-14. This program, sponsored by OSU Extension and the Morrison Foundation, features two programs, Science of Motion and Robotics, allows children to have fun and learn about science through hands-on experiments.

The library was also hosting a Scholastic Book Fair during our visit. The Book Fair was sponsored by the Friends of the Andover Library and proceeds from the event will help the Friends earn books from Scholastic for the Library's shelves.



Dioramas, made by children during a library program, are on display.



The Local History Section features a collection of plates, Japanese Hakata dolls, and books and materials related to the history of Andover and Ashtabula County.

Henderson Memorial Library

We then traveled about 17 miles to Jefferson, the seat of Ashtabula County, to visit the Henderson Memorial Library. Director Ed Worso introduced us to his staff and took us on a tour of the library. The library's staff and patrons are very excited about a renovation project that is slated to begin in the near future. The project is being funded by a bequest from the estate of local resident John Buzza and is projected to cost about \$235,000. The renovation will make the library more accessible to the handicapped by remodeling the parking lot entry door and creating a family restroom. The primary focus of the renovation will be technology with service areas throughout the library being designated for computers and other electronic equipment. Several new desktop computers will be added and the public meeting room will get technology



A beautiful hand-crafted quilt hangs near the entrance.

Ashtabula Co. *continued next page*



Beverly Cain and David Namiotka with Henderson Memorial Library Director Ed Worso and Board members

upgrades including video projection and enhanced audio for the hearing impaired. Plans call for the project to be completed by October 5, 2012.

The library was founded as the Citizen's Library of Jefferson in 1883 by the Women's Christian Temperance Union and was housed in several locations before moving to the new library building, built with money bequeathed by the Henderson family, in 1972. The library is an Association Library, one of just 19 in Ohio. It operates with staff of 4 part-time employees and 4 full time employees with 2 degreed librarians, the director and the adult reference librarian. The library has 9 board members who are elected to four year terms by members of the Henderson Library Association. The Henderson Library Association is composed of local residents who pay a small annual fee to

support the library and participate in the board election.

After touring the library and learning a bit about its history as well as its plans for the future, David, Bill, and I had the opportunity to meet with several of the library's Board members for a discussion that focused on the library omnibus legislation, or S.B. 321, which will impact public libraries in a number of ways. The Board was specifically interested in learning more about the portion of the legislation having to do with public library boundaries.

We are grateful to Ed Worso, his staff, and Board, for taking time away from their busy schedules to meet with us and share information about the Henderson Memorial Library.

Rock Creek Public Library

June 14, 2012

Thursday, June 14 took us to Rock Creek, to visit the Rock Creek Public Library, which calls itself, "The smallest, friendliest library in Ashtabula County." The library plays a big role in its community, in spite of its small size, and was named a Top 10 Library for libraries serving a population of 1,000 by Hennen's American Public Library Ratings, also known as the HAPLR Index. The library was also honored with Library Journal 5-Star Ratings in 2009 and 2010. These honors certainly lend truth to the old adage about good things coming in small packages.



A view of the library's collections

Ashtabula Co. continued next page



Rock Creek library staff with Board member Carol O'Donnell, Director Hannah Laing, Beverly Cain and Bill Morris

We were greeted by the library's relatively new Director, Hannah Laing, Board President Gordon Emerson, Board member Carol O'Donnell, and Fiscal Officer Leann Hollis. They provided us with a tour of the library and shared information about the library's history and some of its current programs and services.

The library's Summer Reading Program is keeping staff busy and an aquarium filled with goldfish, which will be given to children who successfully complete the program, was sitting on a bookshelf near the front of the library. If the goldfish alone were not enough incentive, bulletin boards around the library were decorated to encourage children to sign up for the program.

The Rock Creek Library works closely with local schools, including the Rock Creek Elementary School and the Redstone Schoolhouse, which houses day care and preschool classes as well as a special program for autistic children. Both schools are within walking distance of the library and classes visit the library on a regular basis. As we were leaving the library that day, children from the Redstone Schoolhouse were arriving for a visit to the library.

The library's meeting room is constantly in use for library programs as well as meetings of local organizations and clubs, including two book clubs. The Friends of the Library supports the library with funds for programs and supplies.

Rock Creek's first library was opened in the back room of a barbershop in 1929. The Rock Creek Public Library was recognized by the State in 1937 and began receiving public funding in 1939. A building which had formerly housed the Rock Creek Jail, Town Hall and Council, served as the library's home from 1948 until 1965. In 1965, the library moved to its current location on High Street. The library was built with funds bequeathed to it by Frederick A. Swan. The village donated the land for the new library, which was built next to what was then the Village Hall. In 1992, the library nearly doubled in size when the 1,440 square foot addition was completed.

Thanks very much to Hannah Laing, her board, and staff for graciously hosting our visit to the Rock Creek Library!



The 100-volume memorial art reference collection of Ruth Ladygo Smik

Grand Valley Public Library

June 14, 2012

The last stop on our journey through southern Ashtabula County was the Grand Valley Public Library in Orwell. The library was recognized in 2010 as a HAPLR Top 10 Library in the 2,500 population category and has been recognized as a 5-Star Library by Library Journal. The Grand Valley Public Library was incorporated as the Orwell Library Association in 1903. Its founder and first librarian was Calvin Reeves. Andrew Davis has been the library's director since 2007. The library's current building is 22 years old and is still furnished with the original carpet, furniture, and lighting. The library is in the process of updating ballasts and fixtures to improve lighting throughout the building, particularly in the stack areas.

The library obtained ten public computers through the third and final round of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Opportunity for All Online Hardware grants. These grants, awarded through the State Library of Ohio, placed new computers in 60 Ohio public library systems. On the morning of our visit, the computers were all in use and a few people were waiting. Andrew told us that type of usage is typical and occurs throughout the day.

Andrew and his staff have devoted considerable time to rearranging and reorganizing the library's collections to make them more accessible to patrons. Popular segments of the collection include Books on CD, Playaway and Playaway View preloaded audio and video players on loan from NEO-Regional Library System, and Book Bundles for kids, which are bags of books and other materials on a particular subject such as pirates, dogs, cats, and more. Book Bundles have proved to be very popular among the library's young patrons and have also served to increase circulation for some sections of the library's collection.

Our visit included the opportunity to meet two of the library's board members, Laura Strazinsky and Doris Cook, who was also covering our visit for the local newspaper. We also had the opportunity to meet Cheryl Selby, the library's new Children's Librarian and Program Coordinator, who provided us with updates on the library's Summer Reading Program and told us about their partnership with Country



Beverly Cain with Grand Valley Public Library Director Andrew Davis



Part of the library's reference and non-fiction collection

Ashtabula Co. *continued*

Neighbors, a nearby social services agency. Country Neighbors provides lunches for children through the USDA free summer lunch program and then takes the children to the library for programs. Cheryl told us that 17 children had participated in the most recent after-lunch program. Cheryl, Andrew, and Doris also shared information about their many other community partnerships.

During our visit, the library was sponsoring a new logo contest. Several local artists had submitted entries and David, Bill, and I were each asked to vote for our top three. All of the entries were excellent and we had a very difficult time making our choices! We can't wait to learn the results of the contest and see the new logo in use.

Thanks very much to Andrew, his board, and staff for taking the time to provide us with information about the Grand Valley Public Library.

We enjoyed having this opportunity to visit and learn about four of the libraries in Ashtabula County and look forward to returning to the area next fall to visit the four we missed on this visit.



Display of prizes for the Adult Summer Reading Program

Champaign County

August 14, 2012

St. Paris Public Library

Our first stop was the St. Paris Public Library, where we had the opportunity to meet with Director, Nancy McAlpin, several board members, and several members of the Friends of the Library before taking a tour of the library. The St. Paris Library was started in 1936 in what was a Christian Science Church. The library has 3 full-time staff and a dedicated group of volunteers. The library also has a very active Friends group that helps to support the library's focus on reading readiness as well as many other programs.

At the time of our visit, the library was just concluding its summer reading programs for all ages: Children, Teens, and Adults. 176 children completed the program this summer. The library houses large collections of genealogy and local history materials, children's books, circulating toys and games, and inspirational fiction for adults. To provide patrons with access to e-books, the library circulates pre-loaded Nook and Kindle e-readers. The library circulates audiobooks, DVDs, and VHS tapes.

The St. Paris Public Library provides 6 computers for public use as well as 2 computers that are dedicated to educational games for children. The library is equipped with WiFi throughout the building and loans iPads for use in the building.



Krista Taracuk, Beverly Cain, and St. Paris Public Library Director Nancy McAlpin



Statue of Willie the Clown on display in the library

Champaign County Public Library

Our next stop was the Champaign County Public Library, where we met with Director, Ty Henderson and Board President, Lilli Johnson. Ty has been with the library for over 7 years but has been its Director for just 1 year. The library has 9 full-time and 8 part-time staff and circulates just under 300,000 items per year. The library's main branch is located in Urbana, approximately two miles from Urbana University, and there is a small branch library in North Lewisburg.

The Champaign County Library was started in 1890 with 450 books in the home of a local doctor. The library moved to the city building in 1891, then to a Presbyterian Church in 1896 before moving to the Mohrlite building in 1932.



Teen reading corner

Champaign Co. continued next page



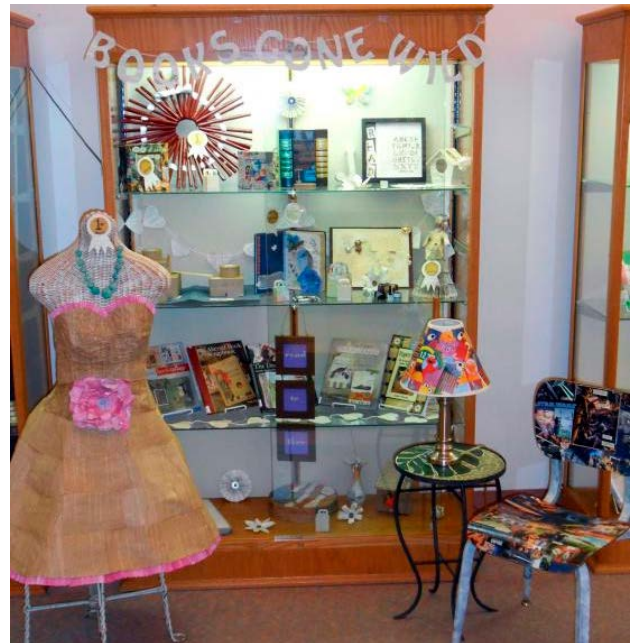
L-R David Namiotka, Krista Taracuk, Lilli Johnson, Beverly Cain & Ty Henderson in front of the Rock & Roll Diner, next door to the library

The library has been in its current location since 1996, when it moved into what had formerly been a grocery store. The move quadrupled the size of the library to 20,000 square feet.

On the day of our visit, the library was celebrating the end of the Summer Reading Program with a back-to-school bash. We did not get a final count of the attendance for the event but it was roughly 150. 600 children and teens and 120 adults participated in the library's summer reading programs this summer.

As might be expected with a change in leadership, the library is currently undergoing some changes. They have recently weeded the Reference collection and are working to update the collection of Juvenile Non-Fiction. They hope to revitalize the children's play area and add another AWE children's literacy workstation. They started a LEGO Club this summer, which proved to be very popular with 40 children participating. Some of the Club's creations were on display during our visit. The library has also recently moved to a paperless library card application system and it is working very well for them. There are plans to update the HVAC system and create a computer lab in the near future.

The library offers 2 study rooms, a large public meeting space, 2 public copiers, and 14 public Internet accessible computers. In cooperation with Connect Ohio, a variety of technology classes are made available to the community. The library's collection of materials features over 80,000 books, DVDs, audiobooks and PlayAways, in addition to a Parent-Teacher



The Books Gone Wild display features items made from repurposed books

Collection that is heavily used by area homeschoolers. The library also houses a very popular Local History/Genealogy Room where they are in the process of digitizing records currently stored on microfilm. Display cases in the lobby are being used to showcase local businesses and are currently booked through January 2013. Friends of the Library help deliver materials to area nursing homes and other facilities.

Mechanicsburg Public Library



Front left, Valerie Hartzler, Director, with Shirley Kizer of the library's board, library staff, and Krista Taracuk, David Namiotka, and Beverly Cain of the State Library of Ohio

Our last stop of the day was the Mechanicsburg Public Library, where we were given a tour of the library by Director Valerie Hartzler and her staff. We also had the opportunity to meet Shirley Kizer, a member of the library board. The library was in the midst of an interior facelift that was to include painting, carpeting in some areas, as well as some new furniture.

The Mechanicsburg Public Library was founded in 1938 as the Jos. E. Wing Memorial Library and was expanded in 1953 with the addition of the Henry Clay Rogers Room. A new main wing was dedicated in 1993. The library offers a broad array of programs and services for its community including Homebound delivery service, free meeting room space, weekly story times, Internet accessible public computers, free WiFi throughout the library, collections of Ohio, local, and family history, Genealogy research and assistance, collections of materials for all ages, downloadable

audiobooks, e-books, music, and video through the Ohio eBook Project, summer reading and other programs for all ages, and more.



Mechanicsburg Public Library

We appreciated this opportunity to meet some of the staff, board, and community members who support these libraries as well as the opportunity to tour the libraries and learn about the programs and services they provide.

Southwest Ohio Libraries

September 5-6, 2012

On September 5-6, 2012 Ashlee Clark and I visited a sampling of libraries in Southwest Ohio. Our stops included the MidPointe Library System, Lane Libraries, and Miami University Libraries, all located in Butler County, as well as a stop at the New Carlisle Public Library in Clark County. It was a wonderful visit that afforded us with the opportunity to see everything ranging from the 150-year-old Hamilton Library to the high-tech offerings of the Miami University Libraries and everything in between.

MidPointe Library System

We began our visit with the MidPointe Library System, directed by Anita Carroll. This library system boasts an annual circulation of 2,171,190 items and has 165,491 registered borrowers. In 2011, the system had 951 children's programs with 37,392 participants, 67 YA programs with 1,899 participants, and 243 adult programs with 1,022 participants. These numbers add up to one very busy library system. The library is part of SearchOhio, a resource sharing consortium of 22 public library systems across 15 counties providing 18.7 million items to a total service area of nearly 3.9 million residents. The MidPointe Library System has locations in Middletown, Trenton, and West Chester. We were able to see two of these on our visit: West Chester and Middletown.

Middletown Library

Our first stop was the Middletown Library, which was built in 1983. We were honored to be greeted by the library mascot, Shakespurr the Library Lion, who came in on his day off just to meet with us! One thing we noticed very quickly was that this library has a lot of space and Anita attributes that to the planning and care that were taken to make sure the library was built right the first time. The next thing we noticed was the artwork. The library is filled with artwork, much of which has been purchased by the Friends of the Library. The Local history room features several pieces by local artist Herbert Fall.

The library is very busy with high circulation and high program attendance. Typically, 100 people show up for the end of the Summer Reading Program event each year. We had the chance to meet Children's Librarian, Stefani Leming, who told us that children in the Middletown, Edgewood, Madison, or Monroe School Districts can obtain a free book each month from birth to age five through the library's participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Anita shared that the library system has recently started using



Beverly Cain and Shakespurr, official mascot of the MidPointe Library System



A rendering of the original Middletown (Carnegie) Library

floating collections and centralized collection development to help get books into the hands of patrons even faster. She also explained that they have also received a grant to digitize 2500 yearbooks.

Southwest continued next page



Beverly Cain (far right) with Library Director Anita Carroll (back) and staff of the MidPointe Library System

West Chester Library

We then proceeded to the West Chester Library, which was dedicated on November 15, 2009. The library is located across from a high school and boasts a circulation of 1.2 million. Mike Lagano, Jill Beitz, and Cathy Hal joined Anita Carroll in providing us with a tour of this beautiful 40,000 square foot facility. As its circulation indicates, this is a very busy library. Children's programs are exceptionally popular and it is not unusual to have 200 people in attendance for a story time. Each week, the staff presents 8 sessions of Rock-a-Bye Readers for babies 6 months to 23 months old. Although the library appears to have ample seating, Anita shared with us that the seating is often full.

To help keep pace with the demand, the library has instituted centralized collection development, has one staff member dedicated to dealing with overdue materials, uses rotating collections, has roving reference librarians, and has what I was most interested in seeing: a 9-bin self-sorting automated return system. The entire collection is RFID-tagged and the automated return uses those tags to allow patrons to return their items via what looks very much like an ATM machine on the front end and then automatically sorts returned materials according to parameters developed by library staff on the back end. Checked-in items are immediately removed from the patron's account and the system provides the patron with a receipt. According to Anita, the



Reference desks at the West Chester Library

system is working very well and has drastically reduced the time needed to check-in returned materials and get them back on the library's shelves, ready for the next borrower. Ashlee and I could have happily spent considerable time watching this system in action but it was time to have lunch before traveling to the Lane Libraries.

Lane Libraries

The Lane Libraries, with locations in Hamilton, Fairfield, and Oxford, are directed by Joe Greenward.

Fairfield Library

We started our visit at the Fairfield Library, which was opened in 2001. The library is adjacent to a city park known as the Village Green, providing the library with the opportunity to collaborate on program offerings in the outdoor amphitheater. Programs include Groovin' on the Green, a summer concert series, and Movies in the Park. According to the library's website, the Fairfield Library opened its doors to the public on September 1, 2001, and is the result of support from the Fairfield community, a growth in technology, and a previous lack of space for new materials and programs. The building project was a joint effort between the city of Fairfield and Lane Public Library. The 25,000 square foot building is three times the size of the old library.

Fairfield Branch Manager Stephanie Spurlock and Public Relations Manager Carrie Mancuso



A fireplace in the reading area at Fairfield Library



Lane Library staff with Beverly Cain and Joe Greenward, Director

joined Joe Greenward in providing us with a tour of the Fairfield Library. The library features a drive-up window, Curbside Express, a bank of after-hours lockers that make it possible for patrons to pick up library materials when the library isn't open, and a robust schedule of programs for children, teens, and adults. A unique feature of the library is the Millennium Wall 2000: Celebrate the Present, Imagine the Future, which features the handprints of over 800 school children from the Fairfield area.

Hamilton Library

Our last stop of the day was the historic Hamilton Library, managed by Carol Bowling. According to the library's website, the library was built in 1866 by local philanthropist Clark Lane, and has the distinction of being the oldest public library west of the Alleghenies. The building is nearly 150 years old and has weathered floods, fires and at least six separate renovations or expansion projects but continues to endure today as a focal point of the Hamilton community.

The 25,000 square foot building currently houses several library administration Departments as well as the Circulation, Information, Local History, Teen, and Children's, which provide direct service to the community. The library's original front doors are in the historic reading room, which is octagonal in shape and has been renovated to look much as it would have when it was built in 1866. The building may be old, but it boasts state-of-the-art technology, including laptops that can be checked out for use in the building. The laptops were purchased by the Friends of the Library. The

Southwest *continued*

library's circulation averages 50,000 – 60,000 checkouts per month. The library's circulation has continued to increase, with 2011 being its busiest year to date.



AWE Early Literacy Stations at the Fairfield Library

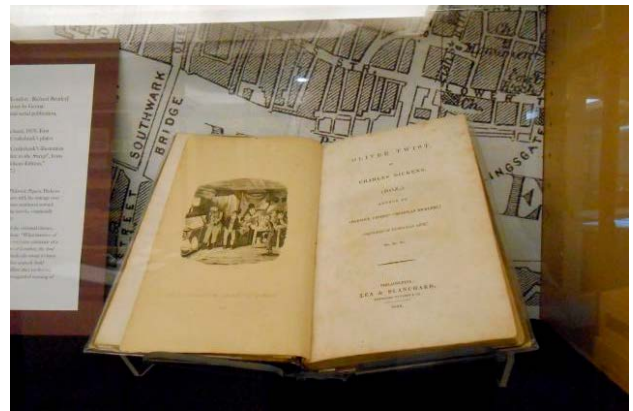
Miami University Libraries

September 6, 2012

King Library

Ashlee and I met Dean Judith Sessions for a tour of some of the Miami University Libraries on September 6. Our visit began at the King Library, which is the main library on campus, and is open 24 hours a day, with few exceptions. MUL also includes the Amos Music Library, the BEST Library, the Wertz Art & Architecture Library, the University Archives, Western College Memorial Archives, Rentschler Library on the Hamilton Campus, and the Gardner-Harvey Library on the Middletown Campus. Dean Sessions provided us with a few facts and figures about Miami University Libraries (MUL) at the start of our visit. For example, in 2011 Miami University Libraries staff answered 45,684 research questions, provided library instruction to 19,821 participants, and checked out 403,998 books. MUL has a collection of over 4 million items.

Elizabeth Brice, Assistant Dean for Technical and Digital Services, provided us with a tour of the Walter Havighurst Special Collections. An 1839 *Oliver Twist* was on display during our visit. There are several collections of postcards in the Walter Havighurst Special Collections, including the Charles Shields Postcard and Trade Card Collections, the Clyde N. Bowden Postcard Collection, and the Charles Murphy Collection featuring postcards on public conveyances and railroads from around the world. Among the subjects depicted in the estimated 500,000 postcards in these combined collections are geographic locations and architectural landmarks throughout the US and the world and the traditional greeting card images of people, animals, flowers, and holiday



An early edition of *Oliver Twist*, part of the The Heart of London: Charles Dickens and Social Reform display in the King Library's Special Collections Department

and seasonal images. Special Collections also houses a digitized collection of Victorian Trade Cards. We were very interested in seeing the collection of historical children's literature that includes one of the most extensive collections of McGuffey Eclectic Readers. We also had the opportunity to see an Ethiopian Prayer book that is over 600 years old, along with several books in the climate-controlled storage environment, including books that were made of vellum, or pig skin, and one that had a binding from 1491. Special Collections staff provides classes on special collections and students often use materials in the collection as primary resources.

Southwest *continued next page*

Southwest *continued*

MUL supports students and faculty with a vast array of state-of-the-art technology resources. The library circulates iPads, Macs, PCs, camcorders, headphones, tripods, voice recorders, tripod dollies, DVD players, cameras, card readers, and projectors to students and faculty. The Center for Digital Scholarship is a space where faculty and graduate students can receive assistance with projects related to digital content. Librarians work with faculty to digitize and create born-digital items for research and classes.

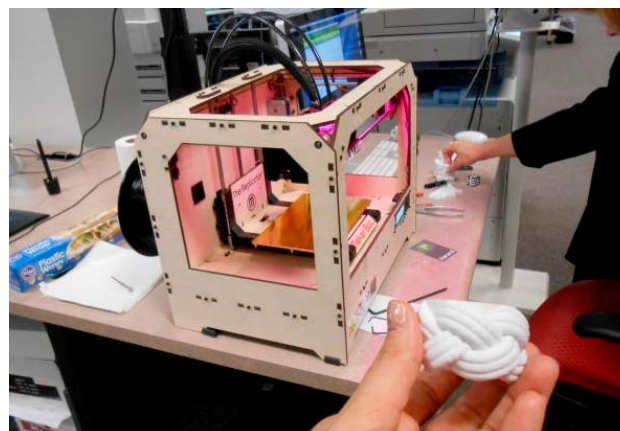
Lisa Santucci, Assistant Dean for Instruction and Emerging Technologies, showed us their Thunder Room, which is real-time collaborative instruction room. It is basically an electronic flipchart that enables users to brainstorm, instantly share information with anyone, anywhere in the world, and capture it. It is the only one of its kind in Ohio. The cost for the entire room including the furniture, tables and technology was \$120,000. The library's Center for Information Management is the only public computing center left on campus. It has Macs and PCs, graphic tablets, scanners (flatbed, wide format, and slide), VHS converters, faxes, audio and video conversion stations (CD/DVD duplication, vinyl and audio cassettes to digital formats), and a 3-D printer! Librarians and student assistants are available to help students with questions about Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign, video editing, Adobe Premier, iMovie, Final Cut Pro, Podcasting, web design, scanning, printing, and more. Students wishing to locate an available computer can easily do so by consulting the Computer Availability Map.

Business, Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) Library

A short walk across campus took us to the Business, Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) Library, located in Laws Hall, which housed the Miami University's School of Business from 1959-2009. The space was renovated and the library was opened in 2011. Jerome Conley, Coordinating Head of Special Libraries and Assistant Dean, led our tour of the library. The library features a glass sculpture, "The Screens of Afflatus" by Giancarlo Calicchia. A help desk is available for students needing help with statistics and students can determine the availability of study rooms by checking a monitor. They are in the early stages of converting a traditional theater-style classroom into a 3-D augmented reality space. We're hoping to go back for a look at this once it's completed!



Models sit atop book/journal displays in the Art & Architecture Library



An example of a 3-D model created using the 3-D modeling and printing unit

We were able to walk to a nearby restaurant for lunch with Judith, Jerome, Elizabeth, Aaron Shrimplin, Assistant Dean, Reference and Collection Services, and Belinda Barr, Assistant Dean, Access Services and Assessment. During lunch, we learned that Jerome was the Mayor of Oxford while working at Miami University Libraries as well as other interesting information about the University and its libraries.

After lunch, we made a quick visit to the Wertz Art and Architecture Library in Alumni Hall for a tour led by Stacy Brinkman, Art/Architecture Librarian. It includes holdings for art, architecture, landscape architecture, photography, and interior design. The library holds more than 400 bound periodical titles, a full complement of reference materials, approximately 60,000 books in an open stack storage system, and a valuable collection of rare books in secured storage.

Southwest *continued next page*

New Carlisle Public Library

September 6th



L-R Director Ted Allison, Beverly Cain, NCPL Board President Richard Zsambok

Our last stop on this trip was the New Carlisle Public Library, where we met with Director Ted Allison, Kelly Palma, Circulation Manager/Reference Librarian, and Maggie Bollar, Children's Librarian before taking a tour of the library. We also had the opportunity to meet Board President Richard Zsambok, who is also a City of New Carlisle Council Member. I wanted to visit this library because I follow it on Facebook and have been impressed by how well they use Facebook to tell their story. Maggie does their Facebook page.

The library places a large emphasis in serving the community through outreach and programs for all ages. Just one example of the library's programming efforts is the Books Build Brighter Babies program, which gives a free literacy kit to parents with a baby one year of age or younger. The literacy kit consists of a roomy fabric totebag, two free children's books, information on how to share books with your child, a growth chart, and a magnet for baby's photo. Additionally, Maggie regularly visits local schools to give programs and presentations. Some of her more popular programs include Christmas Around the World, Tropical Islands, and Pizza Stories!

Ashlee and I appreciate the time the directors and staff of each of these libraries took to provide us with tours and information, answer our questions, and act as gracious hosts. I would like say a special thank you and congratulations to Dean Judith Sessions of Miami University Libraries, who has announced her retirement effective at the end of the year. She has been dean and university librarian at Miami since 1988.



The Children's Room

Northern Ashtabula County

October 2-3, 2012

Bill Morris, David Namiotka, and I visited the four libraries located in Northern Ashtabula County on October 2-3, 2012. The libraries in this part of Ashtabula County include the Ashtabula County District Library, Conneaut Public Library, Harbor-Topky Memorial Library, and the Kingsville Public Library. In the span of those two days, we traveled more than 500 miles and saw libraries, seahorses, covered bridges, and beautiful Lake Erie.



L-R: Ed Worso, Hannah Lang, Mariana Branch, Christine Stevens, Susan Hill, Lynn Peskoran, Kathy Pape, Beverly Cain, David Namiotka, Bill Morris

Conneaut Public Library

We began our visit at the Conneaut Public Library, where we had the opportunity to meet with Director Kathy Pape and Board member Jean Fields. We also had the opportunity to meet Conneaut City Manager Timothy Eggleston, who is a regular library user. The current Conneaut Public Library was opened in 1998. Prior to that, the library was housed in a Carnegie building that was built in 1909. The old Carnegie library is currently owned by a local resident and is once again up for sale.

Because of its close proximity to Lake Erie, the library engages in a lot of cooperative programming with the local Parks Department. Many of those programs, such as a sand sculpting contest, take place right on the beach. The library also partners with the Community Center for the Arts to show movies during the summer months. This summer, over 300 people attended a total of 3 movies.

Kathy hosts a show, Library Line, for the local cable tv station. She typically hosts two shows



Covered Bridge Pizza in Ashtabula County

each month in addition to specials. Kathy told us that she believes increases in library visitors, circulation, and program attendance can be attributed to community outreach efforts, such as the Library Line show.

Northern Ashtabula Co. continued next page

Northern Ashtabula Co. *continued*

Kathy explained that she and Susan Hill, Director of the Andover Public Library, recently appeared on Library Line to promote the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. All of the libraries in Ashtabula County are working in partnership with the United Way of Ashtabula County to make the Imagination Library available to 500 local children.

Kathy and Jean treated us to a tour of the library, which still looks and feels very new. It is very open with a lot of natural lighting and features many decorative items paying homage to nearby Lake Erie. These items include a prize-winning Rainbow Trout, stained glass with a lighthouse motif, and a model sailing ship. Highlights of the tour included Gallery 304, an art gallery featuring rotating works by local artists; the local history room; and the Children's Room with its saltwater aquarium



State Librarian Beverly Cain, Conneaut Public Library Director Kathy Pape and Board member Jean Fields

occupied by three beautiful seahorses. Youth Services Coordinator Stephanie Gildone provided us with information about the aquarium and its inhabitants.

Kingsville Public Library

After lunch, we accompanied Director Mariana Branch to the Kingsville Public Library.

The Kingsville Public Library is made up of two buildings: the Simak Welcome Center and the library itself, located just across the street from each other. Library service in Kingsville has a very long history, dating back to at least 1872. It wasn't until 1894 that the Kingsville Library Association had enough funds to build the community's first library building, known as the Kingsville Free Reading Room. The original building is still in use as the meeting room of the current library. The library building has been expanded several times over the years and today, it consists of approximately 2,945 sq. ft. devoted to public use and houses a collection of approximately 40,000 titles.

The Simak Welcome Center is located in an historic brick school house, built in 1908. The building is used for library meetings and events, including meetings and programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The Welcome Center can also be rented by residents and organizations for meetings and special events.

The library offers a number of programs including computer instruction for adults. Computer classes include Computer Basics, Internet Basics, Introduction to Microsoft applications, Resume Writing & Job Searching,



Kingsville Public Library entrance

and Internet Security. There are also a number of programs for children including Teddy Bear Time for ages Birth – Three and Story Time for ages 3-6.

In addition to receiving a tour of the library, we had the opportunity to meet the Kingsville Library's fiscal officer, Christine Stevens and Board members Jim Booth, Carol Brunell, and Dennis Kortyka. We were able to share information about the State Library's programs and services and learn about the Kingsville Library's plans for the future.

Northern Ashtabula Co. *continued next page*



L-R: Ron Pristera, Bill Tocarczyk, Beverly Cain, Martha Shippy, David Namiołka

Ashtabula County District Library

Day two of our trip took us to the Ashtabula County District Library, where we toured the Main Library and had the opportunity to meet with Director Bill Tocarczyk, several staff, and members of the Library Board including Tom Westlake, Ron Pristera, and Martha Shippy. The Ashtabula County District Library (ACDL) is housed in a Carnegie Library that was built in 1903. In addition to the Main Library, ACDL has a branch in Geneva and a bookmobile. ACDL has provided bookmobile service for more than 50 years. The bookmobile currently makes between 10-17 stops per week at various locations throughout Ashtabula County.

The 109-year-old Main Library is in need of repairs that will cost an estimated \$600,000, and library officials are struggling with the decision of making the repairs to the existing facility or building a new library. Land is available next door to the library where, on the day of our visit, the old high school was being demolished. The library's Board and administration will weigh all of the options before making a decision.

ACDL offers a broad array of services and programs for all ages, including craft programs for adults and children, story times, and movies. ACDL is also a sub-lending library for the Ohio Talking Book Program.

Harbor-Topky Memorial Library

Our last stop on this visit was the Harbor-Topky Memorial Library, located on the shores of Lake Erie. Unfortunately, Director Joe Zapitello was sick and unable to meet us as planned.



Exterior of the Ashtabula County District Library's Main Library, built in 1903.

However, Head of Adult Services/Reference Andy Pochatko provided us with a tour of the library and gave us an overview of its programs and services.

The Harbor Free Public Library was established in May of 1924 by the Harbor School District Board of Education and a room was allocated for it on the first floor of Harbor High School. In 1926, it was determined that the library needed more space and the Harbor Library was divided into an Adults' Library located in the High School and the Children's Library housed in the first floor of a building located next door to Harbor High. The current library was opened in August 1959 and has been expanded and updated several times over the years to keep pace with technology and the library's growth.

Northern Ashtabula Co. *continued next page*



L-R: David Namiotka, Andy Pochatko, Beverly Cain

Harbor-Topky Memorial Library *continued...*

The Harbor-Topky Library provides a full range of services to the community, including a wide variety of programming throughout the year.

The directors and fiscal officers of the eight public library systems in Ashtabula County meet

on a regular basis and work together as often as possible to provide a consistently high level of service to residents in all areas of the county. We enjoyed both of our visits to Ashtabula County and appreciate the time the directors, staff, and trustees took to meet with us to share information about their libraries.



Head of Adult Services/Reference Andy Pochatko in the Children's Program Room



Local History Collection

Upper Arlington Public Library

February 13, 2013



L-R David Namiotka, Missy Lodge, Beverly Cain, Kate Porter, Chris Taylor

On February 13, 2013, I had the opportunity to visit the Upper Arlington Public Library (UAPL). I was accompanied by Missy Lodge, David Namiotka, and Jonathan Campbell. Those of you who are familiar with my background might wonder why I was visiting UAPL since I worked there from 1992-1997. The answer is that the library world changes quickly and I suspected UAPL had made quite a few changes since 1997, especially with a new director. I was not disappointed.

We were met by UAPL Director Chris Taylor and Assistant Director Kate Porter. We began with a tour of the Main Library, which was undergoing some cosmetic changes during our visit. The circulation desk has been downsized and reconfigured to better match the way patrons and staff interact at the desk, new carpet was being installed, and furniture was being moved to create a more inviting space for browsing popular materials and reading. Chris and Kate also told us about some of the other changes taking place, which might not be as visible and shared some information about plans for the future.

The Library has recently changed the way materials are purchased by moving to a system of centralized selection. Along with that, the Library has begun using CollectionHQ to help select, manage, and promote their collections.



Upper Arlington Public Library acquired a collection of materials and artifacts from the Upper Arlington Historical Society. Staff are sorting and organizing items in the collection.

They are still getting used to this tool but see great potential for using it to operate more efficiently. UAPL also recently launched Zinio, a digital collection of 50 popular and specialty magazines that can be downloaded to a wide variety of mobile devices. Although UAPL had only made Zinio available for a very short time, it had already proven to be very popular.

Upper Arlington *continued next page*

Upper Arlington *continued*

We also learned that Alexander McCall Smith, bestselling author of over 50 books, will visit Upper Arlington on Sunday, April 7. Tickets are available now at the Adult Services Desk of the Main Library. The Upper Arlington Community Foundation (UACF) is currently selling tickets to an intimate luncheon and book signing to be held at the Amelita Mirolo Barn from 12-1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 each with all proceeds benefiting the Ann Royce Moore Fund at the UACF.

Lane Road Library

From the Main Library, we traveled to the Lane Road Library, which was my "home" when I worked for UAPL. We were greeted by Interim Manager Pam Cole and given a tour of the library. We were told that this branch had been slated for a complete remodel in 2009 but unfortunately, those plans had to be put on hold when state funding was reduced. The Lane Road Library is a very busy neighborhood library, offering a full slate of

services. Computers have been added to meet public demand and the Youth Services Department, located on the lower level of the library, recently received new carpet and some new furniture due to some water damage.

Miller Park Library

Our last stop was the Miller Park Library, which has changed so dramatically, I almost didn't recognize it. The Miller Park Branch is located in Old Arlington in an historic building, which has been expanded and remodeled. Miller Park is the smallest branch in the UAPL system, but it is a full-service library. On the day of our visit, Branch Manager Kate Albers and her staff were just wrapping up a very successful Valentine's Day Craft Program for children.

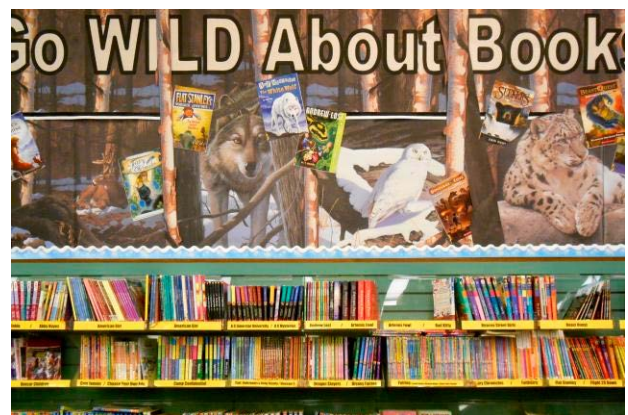
I enjoyed having the opportunity to see and learn about all of the changes and upcoming plans for UAPL. Many thanks to Chris Taylor, Kate Porter, and the entire staff for being such gracious hosts.

Southwest Public Libraries

February 21, 2013

I visited the Southwest Public Libraries, accompanied by Missy Lodge and David Namiotka. Mark Shaw, Director of the library since 2002, met with us and provided us with some background information about SPL, which is the 2nd largest public library system in Franklin County. The library serves a 127 square mile area of Franklin County as well as a very small portion of Pickaway County. SPL has two full-service locations: the Grove City Library and the Westland Area Library. The community served by the Grove City Library is much like other suburban communities in Franklin County. The Westland Area Library serves a much different community, which is more urban in character and includes significant Latino, Somali, and Russian immigrant populations. Mark explained that the library had reduced staff and services due to budget reductions. They were able to pass an operating levy in 2010 that has allowed them to expand hours and reintroduce services.

SPL has some very exciting projects on the horizon. First of all, SPL is partnering with the Columbus Metropolitan Library and Worthington Libraries to join CLC, a consortium of eight member libraries with a shared catalog of more than 1 million items. Joining CLC will



A display of books in the children's area

provide patrons of SPL will access to many more materials and services than could be provided locally and will help promote greater collaboration and cooperation among Central Ohio libraries. During our visit, staff were busy making necessary changes to computer equipment software in preparation for the migration to CLC.

Mark was also happy to tell us about a tentative agreement between the Library and Grove City that will result in the construction

Southwest Public *continued next page*

Southwest Public *continued*

of a new Grove City Library. The new library would be located in the downtown area and would be larger to provide increased space for technology, programs, meeting rooms, and quiet study space. Construction of a new library would be part of a larger downtown revitalization project.

Southwest Public Libraries support services to blind and physically handicapped Ohioans as a machine sub-lending agency for the State Library's Talking Books program. Representatives from Southwest Public Libraries attended training for this program at the State Library in June 2012. During this visit, they had an opportunity to discuss the challenges and future efforts of the program with David Namiotka, who oversees the program at the State Library.

A tour of the Grove City Library revealed what Mark had already indicated: the library is short on public space. It also revealed that the library is very busy. I was very surprised by the number of people who were using the library's WiFi with their own devices as well as the number of people who were utilizing the library's public computers. Southwest Public Libraries has a collection totaling 300,000 items and circulates approximately 1.2 million items per year.

We traveled to the Westland Area Library, a 21,000 square foot facility located in the Lincoln Village Plaza. This library is very open, with a



Entrance to the Westland Area Library

lot of natural light for reading and browsing. Because public computer access and training is very important in this community, the Westland Area Library is equipped with more public computers than the larger Grove City Library. To meet the needs of the community, story times in Spanish are offered on a regular basis. As a bit of a side note, we were happy to see Emily Bright, a graduate of Library Leadership Ohio 2012, working in the public computer center at the Westland Area Library!

Many thanks to Director Mark Shaw and his staff for taking the time to meet with us and provide us with a wonderful look at Southwest Public Libraries.

Tuscarawas County Libraries

May 1, 2013

On May 1st, Bill Morris and I visited two libraries in Tuscarawas County: the Dover Public Library and the Tuscarawas County Public Library. I had learned quite a bit about the programs and services being provided by these libraries by following them on Facebook and I was excited to visit them in person to learn more.

Dover Public Library

Our first stop was the Dover Public Library, where we were met by Director Jim Gill. Jim has been the Director of the library since January, 2010. Shortly after he began his new position, he told a local reporter, "I want to make sure the community knows about the Dover Public Library and the resources that are available and allow it to be a constant reminder to the public that the library is a cornerstone of quality life in the community." He seems to be doing just that. During our visit, Jim pointed out that the library had made the front page of The Times Reporter, with an article about a partnership between the library and local schools to make Kindle eBook readers available to students. We also learned about a number of recent programs that had been very well received by the community. Jim cited "An Evening with Olympic Gold Medalist Dominique Moceanu" as an example. The library is immersed in the life of the community and at the time of our visit, library staff were also preparing to participate in a local Relay for Life event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Jim provided us with a tour of the library, which was opened in 1955. Jim told us that although all areas of the library are very busy, one of the busiest spots is the Technology Room, which integrates all computers, printers, and microfilm machines into one efficient and comfortable electronic access area. Library staff are always on hand to help patrons with Internet usage, database searches, and software applications. Computer classes are also offered.

We had the opportunity to meet a number of library staff and we learned that the library's colorful logo was designed by Dover resident Joel Herman. The winning design was one of 84 logos submitted in a contest to develop a fresh new logo for the library. Herman has said that his design depicts "diverse individuals, all growing from books." Jim told us he thought it was the perfect logo for the Dover Public Library. Bill and I agree!

The highlight of the tour was learning about the upcoming renovation of the Children's Library. Jim told us that the work will be done



Beverly Cain and Dover Public Library Director, Jim Gill



The designs and color palette being used for renovations to the Children's Library

this summer at the end of the Summer Reading Program and showed us the plans, color and furniture selections, and carpet samples. The wall of the Children's Library is currently painted with a mural depicting a medieval castle and that theme will play a large role in the renovation. We can't wait to see the results!

Jim, Bill, and I had lunch with Michelle McMorrow Ramsell, Director and Debbie Tristano, Assistant Director/Adult Services Manager of the Tuscarawas County Public Library. During lunch, we took the opportunity to discuss some library boundary resolutions that will soon be presented to the State Library Board.

Tuscarawas Co. *continued next page*

Tuscarawas County Public Library System - New Philadelphia

After lunch, we said goodbye to Jim and traveled to New Philadelphia for a tour of the main library of the Tuscarawas County Public Library System (TCPL). In addition to the New Philadelphia Library, TCPL has locations in Bolivar, Strasburg, Sugarcreek, and Tuscarawas.

Our guides for the tour, Michelle Ramsell and Debbie Tristano, told us that although the library in New Philadelphia has many of the features often associated with Carnegie libraries such as beautiful woodwork, arched doorways, and a stained glass panel in the ceiling, it is not a Carnegie Library. The New Philadelphia Library was built in the 1930s as a WPA project. It was designed to look like the New Philadelphia Post Office, which is located just next door. The Post Office was patterned after the post office in Philadelphia, PA.

The New Philadelphia Library is a wonderful mix of the old and the new. The building manages to retain its stately 1930 architectural details and display its history while incorporating state-of-the art technology, modern furniture, and collections including print, eBooks, and everything in between. For example, the library boasts a wonderful Children's Room that was renovated in 2008. Not too far away hang several photographs of chalk murals that once graced the walls of the West Reading Room. The murals were done by Vilma Pikkoja, who



The library has beautiful woodwork and arched doorways

was the Children's Librarian for the Tuscarawas County Public Library from 1953-1958.

At the time of our visit, library staff were preparing for the Summer Reading Program as well as a host of other programs that would take place during the summer months. We learned that several authors would be presenting programs beginning on June 12 when local author Jim Grant was set to speak about Untold Stories related to his book, *The Gradall: A Story of American Ingenuity*. Other authors being featured over the summer include Jay Asher, author of *Thirteen Reasons Why*, and Pulitzer Prize winner Julia Keller, author of *A Killing in the Hills*.

Tuscarawas County Public Library System - Tuscarawas Branch

After our tour of the New Philadelphia Library, we traveled to the library's Tuscarawas Branch, where we met Branch Manager Renee Poland and learned about this busy library. The Tuscarawas Branch is located in a former fire station that at one time, also served as the town jail. Today, the building houses a full-service library with books, programs, and more for children and adults of all ages. One feature (also available at the New Philadelphia Library) is a large screen TV in the program area, which is used for a variety of library programs, including Skype sessions with authors and a program that allows area teens to connect with teens around the world.

Bill and I enjoyed our visit to these libraries and appreciate the time Jim, Michelle, and their staff took out of their busy day to host our visit. We look forward to returning to Tuscarawas County to visit the other libraries in the county.



(L-R) Michelle McMorrow Ramsell, Director; Renee Poland, Tuscarawas Library Manager; Beverly Cain; Andrea Legg, Extension & Technical Services Manager.

Licking County Libraries

July 12, 2013

On Friday, July 12 Tracy Grimm and I traveled to Licking County to visit two of the county's libraries: the Licking County Library and the Granville Public Library. The first stop on our visit was the Newark Library, the central library for the Licking County Library System, which has six library locations plus a bookmobile that provides outreach services throughout Licking County.

The Licking County Library serves as a sublending agency for the Ohio Talking Books program. Tracy, whose work at the State Library includes coordinating the Ohio Talking Books Program, took the opportunity to meet with Linda Wilkins, manager of the Talking Books service for the Licking County Library, to make sure that everything was running smoothly and that they have everything they need.

Babette Woffter, who has been the Director of the Licking County Library since August 2010, provided us with information about the library system as well as a tour of the Newark Library, which was opened in 1999 and still looks very new. One of the first things we noticed was the Seed, Sprout, and Share Library, which is housed in an old card catalog close to the main entrance. The Newark Library is the first public library in Ohio to start a seed library and although it just launched on May 10, it's already been quite successful. Patrons are encouraged to borrow seeds, learn how to save them, and then return some of the saved seeds to the library to help sustain the Seed Library.

The Licking County Library has recently begun placing greater emphasis on the areas of emerging technologies and digital content. In addition to a full roster of computer classes, the library now offers Tech Time sessions that provide patrons with the opportunity to meet with Emerging Technologies staff to learn how to access the library's digital content offerings and the basics of using devices such as eReaders and tablets. The library also recently receive a grant from Target that will be used to implement the Tablets for Tots program, which will allow the library to provide Nook Tablets and iPad Minis for checkout to parents or guardians of your children for use as early literacy aides.

The Newark Library is also placing a renewed emphasis on Teens, with a new Teen Zone



Babette Woffter, Director of the Licking County Library and State Librarian Beverly Cain



The Licking County Library is a sublending agency for the Ohio Talking Books program. Linda Wilkins shows Tracy Grimm where the library stores its supply of Talking Books Machines.

just for youth in grades 6-12. The new space features a mural by local artist Mary Skrenta. The Teen Zone features computers and space for programs such as Teen Gaming Night, Teen Movie Club, Teen Creative Writing Club, and Teen Crafts.

Babette shared with us that the library has recently contracted with a vendor to take care of the library's information technology needs. This has worked out so well for the Licking County Library that the Granville Library is also in the process of following suit. The two libraries communicate on a regular basis and frequently work together. For example, both libraries are

Licking Co. *continued next page*



Brock Hutchison shows us the library's Seed Library. Packets of seeds are housed in an old card catalog.



The Teen Area features a mural painted by local artist, Mary Skrenta.

now using a company called LibriLoop for recycling. The libraries are also members of the SEO Library Consortium so they routinely share resources.

We also had the opportunity to visit the newly renovated and expanded Emerson R. Miller Library. The renovation included a 300-square-foot addition to house new ADA-compliant

public restrooms and the entire interior was refurbished and supplied with new furniture. The beautifully renovated library offers group study rooms, a castle portal leading into the children's area, an early literacy/toddler room, teen space enclosed by an interior glass garage door, a game room and café. A drive up materials return is available 24/7.



Newly renovated Emerson R. Miller Branch Library

Licking Co. *continued*

After lunch, Tracy and I traveled to Granville to meet with Charlie Hansen, Director of the Granville Public Library. Charlie has been Director of the Granville Library for two years and is continually working to bring new services and programs to the Granville community. From the outside, the library is a picturesque small library but on the inside, it is a bustling community library that is larger than it looks and manages to seamlessly merge the old with the new.

At the time of our visit, the library was in the process of using a donation from the Friends of the Library to install a 24/7 curbside book drop at nearby Ross' Market. Parking is at a premium in downtown Granville, and it is sometimes difficult for library patrons to park just long enough to return their materials. This community partnership will help solve that problem! The library was also gearing up for the unveiling of a new mural on a wall in the recently renovated Children's Area. The library received a grant from the Granville Foundation to fund the mural, which was painted by local artist Paul Hamilton. Tracy and I will have to make a trip back to Granville to take a look at this mural.

During our tour of the library, we had the opportunity to meet new children's librarian Sarah Simpson, who joined the Granville Library just a little earlier this summer. It's been a busy summer for Sarah with a host of children's programs including the Space Painter, Camp Dinosaur, the Bugman, Dave Lehman's Magic Show, and more.

Tracy and I enjoyed our trip to Licking County and appreciate the time Babette, Charlie, and staff from both libraries spent providing us with information and tours of their libraries. They're very proud of their libraries and with good reason!



The Teen Scene



L to R: Granville Public Library Director Charlie Hansen; Tracy Grimm, Manager, Circulation & Special Services at the State Library of Ohio; and State Librarian Beverly Cain



The State Librarian signs up for the Adult Summer Reading Program.



The recently renovated Children's Room

Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County (PLYMC)

July 24, 2013

Bill Morris and I visited the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County (PLYMC) on July 24, 2013. Director Heidi Daniel, who has been in her position for just about one year, and members of her staff greeted us at our first stop, the new **Tri-Lakes Library**. This beautiful new library had just opened two days before our visit and it was already very busy. The new \$2 million building is located in North Jackson on land donated by the local schools and replaces smaller libraries in Lake Milton and North Jackson.

The library, built by Faniro Architects of Youngstown, features very calm colors and a nautical theme that includes children's book bins made from kayaks and a sail boat table. According to Ms. Daniel, the library has received wonderful feedback from the community about the new library, which is part of a facilities plan that also calls for building a new library in Canfield sometime next year as well as a future renovation of the Main Library.

From North Jackson, we traveled to Poland to visit the 35,619 square foot Poland Library, which was opened in 2001. In an article appearing in the State Library's newsletter in July 2009, Janet Loew, Communications/Public Relations Director, Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County, wrote "From every angle, inside and out, the Poland Library in Mahoning County, Ohio speaks of elegance - with a flair for Earth-friendliness. Classic Greek revival architecture with fluted columns. Walls of windows bringing in sunlight and a view of the library's natural surroundings. Floors of hardwood beams from old New England barns. A roof that looks like slate - but is made largely from recycled rubber."

The library is all of that and more. When the **Poland Library** opened, it received broad recognition for its use of green building materials. Recycled materials were used for the building's roof, siding, windows & door frames, flooring, parking lot, decorative surrounds, carpeting, landscape stone walls, and trim. Additionally, the library is built around an entire historic building, the Poland Union Seminary Dormitory, which was built in 1846. Rather than demolishing the historic structure to build the new library, architects kept it intact and made it part of the new library.

The lower level of the Poland Library features



Beverly Cain, Director Heidi Daniel, and Janet Loew, Communications/Public Relations Director



Kayaks have been turned into bins for children's books at the Tri-Lakes Library



The Poland Library

Youngstown and Mahoning continued next page

Youngstown and Mahoning *continued*

meeting space, the 2900 square foot bookstore, operated by the Friends of the Library, and the Kravitz Deli, where we had a wonderful lunch. The Friends Bookstore has an income of anywhere from \$35,000 to \$65,000 per year and they have plans to open a separate gift shop on the same level.

Our last stop of the day was the **Main Library**. The Youngstown Library Association was established on October 27, 1880. The name was changed to the Reuben McMillan Free Library Association on March 5, 1898 in memory of the former Superintendent of Schools. The Main Library, a Carnegie building opened in 1910, carries the name, Reuben McMillan Free Library, above the original front entrance. The historic building underwent extensive remodeling in 1954, and a major renovation and expansion in 1994-96. The building features several outstanding architectural details including the Parthenon Frieze, a fireplace, and a skylight. In spite of its rich history, the library is anything but stuck in the past. The Main Library offers a robust schedule of programs for adults and children ranging from Baby Brilliant, Teen Xtreme, Get Smart With Your Money, and Special Delivery Library by Mail for patrons who



The roof of the Poland Union Seminary is inside the Poland Library and can be seen clearly from the mezzanine.

are unable to visit a library location. These and many more programs are available at all 16 PLYMC locations.

Bill and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet Heidi Daniel and some of her staff as well as visiting three PLYMC libraries, from the newest to the oldest!

Westlake Porter Public Library and Rocky River Public Library

August 20 2013



L-R: Westlake Porter Public Library Board President Bob Plantz, Director Andrew Mangels, State Librarian Beverly Cain, Board Member Duane Van Dyke

David Namiotka, Missy Lodge, and I traveled to Cuyahoga County to visit the Westlake Porter Public Library and the Rocky River Public Library. These two independent libraries are located approximately six miles apart and have several similarities: close to the same number of staff, roughly the same number of registered borrowers, same ILS system, both libraries have been in existence in one form or another since the 1800s, both libraries have recently joined the SearchOhio resource sharing network, and both are very well supported libraries that play large roles in their communities.

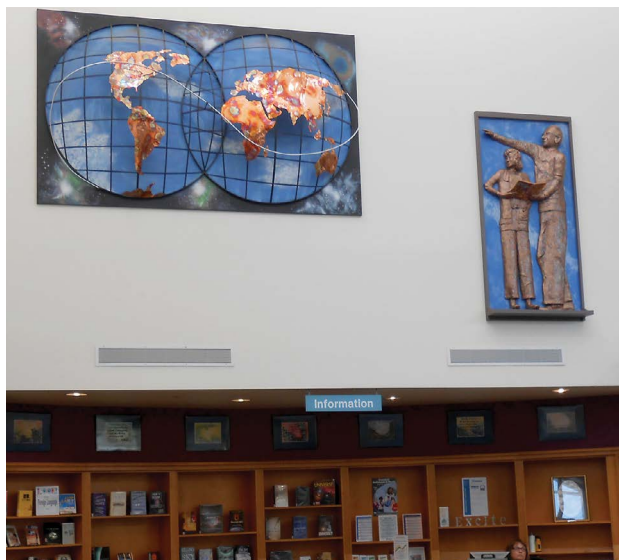
There are also some differences, especially when it comes to the library buildings. The Westlake Porter Public Library is a large 77,000 square foot building built in 2002. The building features modern art, including a sculpture entitled, "The Sky's the Limit" by artist Don Lundstrom. The sculpture honors the late NASA engineer Allan Bishop. In contrast, the Rocky River Public Library is celebrating its 85th anniversary in a stately building that first opened its doors in 1928. The building has been renovated and modernized but still maintains its classic feel, especially in the Reading Room. The Rocky River Public Library has been the home of the Cowan Pottery Museum since 1978.

Our visit began at the **Westlake Porter Public Library**, where we had the opportunity to meet with Director Andrew Mangels and Trustees Bob Plantz and Duane Van Dyke. They told us about some of the library's current initiatives including a focus on STEM programming for youth. For the past three summers, the library has hosted a Science Week, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Andrew shared with us that Science Week is intended to emphasize the importance of science and technology in today's economy while encouraging people of all ages to expand their knowledge of scientific concepts and ideas. Programs planned cover some of the S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) objectives included in the Westlake City Schools' curriculum. In partnership with Westlake Schools, the library also hosts Summer Brain Games, an interactive summer learning series for students in grades 1-6. This series is designed to help students keep their skills up over the summer break, reversing the trend known as "the summer slide."

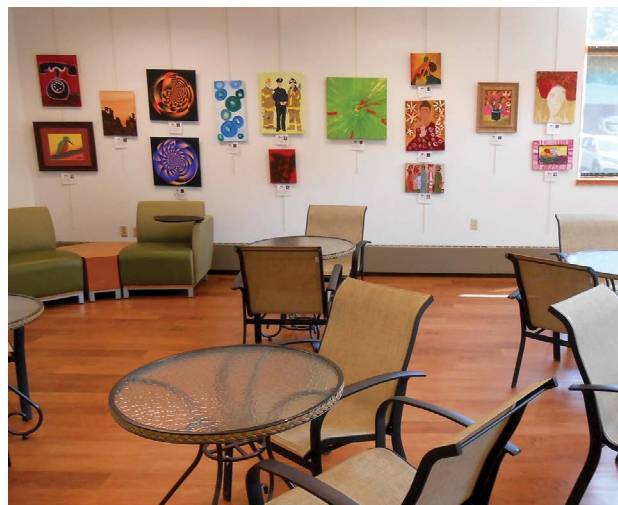
In addition to innovative programming for adults and children, the library is circulating more materials than ever. According to Andrew, the library's circulation has increased this year, especially over the summer. He attributes at least part of the increase to a

Westlake and Rocky River *continued next page*

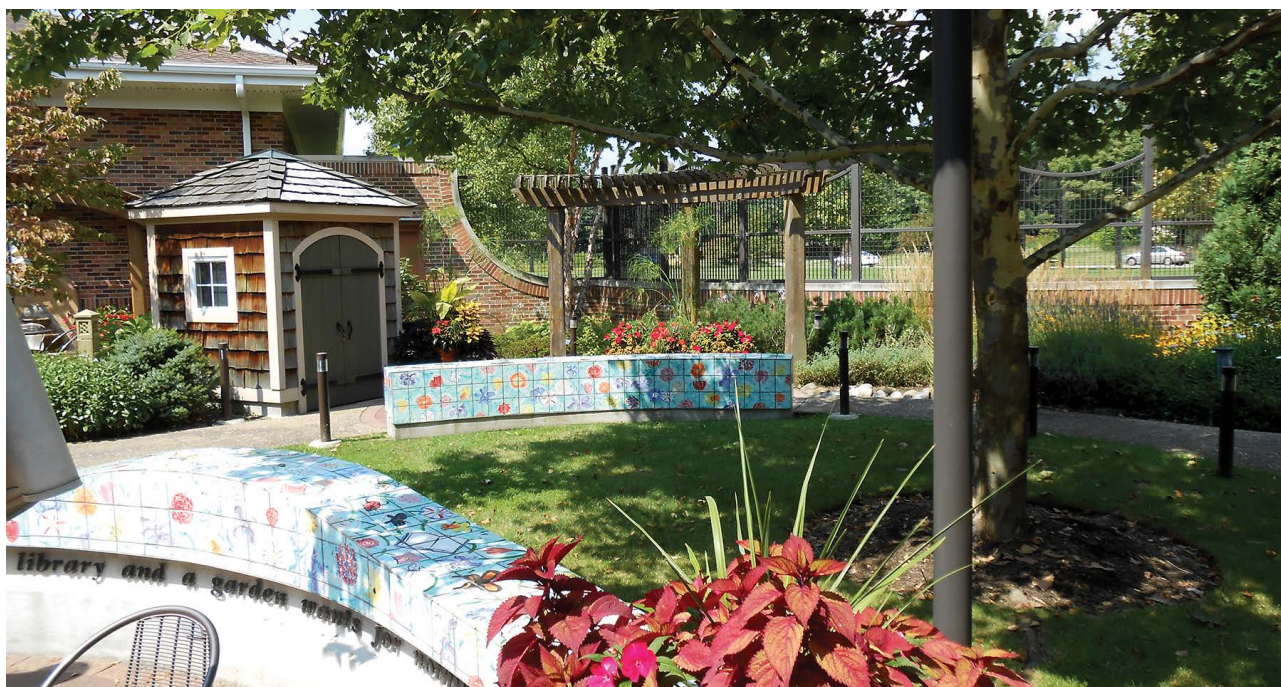
Westlake Porter & Rocky River *continued*



The Sky's the Limit by artist Don Lundstrom.



SAW, Inc., one of Ohio's largest employers of persons with disabilities, is now operating the café located in the library. The artwork is also done by clients of SAW, Inc.



The Reading Garden was funded by a bequest from the estate of Bernice Yates.

bounce the library received after passing an operating levy by a margin of about 70%. The library has also extended its hours so that it is now open on Sunday all year and stays open until 6:00 on Friday and Saturday. The Westlake Porter Library has a very active Friends of the Library group and a wonderful gift shop. Additionally, the library benefits from the support of 200 volunteers who contribute over 10,000 volunteer hours each year.



Portables is a gift shop operated by the Friends of the Library.

Westlake and Rocky River *continued next page*



Rocky River Public Library Director Nick Cronin & State Librarian Beverly Cain

The **Rocky River Public Library** is also a very busy place with an annual circulation of 878,589; 383,986 customer visits; and program attendance of 20,984. According to Director Nick Cronin, the library is a unique blend of the traditional and the modern. The Grand Reading Room, the Cowan Pottery Museum, and the Schlather Quiet Study Room all contribute to the library's traditional atmosphere while the 45 public Internet computers, wireless network, self-check machines, early literacy computers in the Children's Room, the new indieflix online movie service, and the RRPL mobile app leave no

doubt that this is a very modern library. The Rocky River Public Library offers a very robust roster of programs for all age groups, from Baby & Me Story times for babies as young as 6 months to Minecrafters for children in grades 2-5 to Teen Yoga to Adult Book Discussions, Lunch and a Movie, and Opera Per Tutti for adults. RRPL also offers a broad range of computer training including the popular Computer Breakfast Series.

We enjoyed visiting both of these busy public libraries and hope to have the opportunity to visit them again in the future!



The carpet in the Children's Room is designed to look like the Rocky River.



The Schlachter Room, named for Leonard and Sophia Schlachter, provides a quiet place to read or study.

Westlake and Rocky River *continued next page*



The Grand Reading Room



The Rocky River Public Library is home to the Cowan Pottery Museum.

A Visit to the Springboro Jr. High Library & the Greene County Public Library

September 25, 2013



L-R: State Library Board Member Krista Taracuk; Springboro Jr. High Teacher/Librarian Sarah Thornbery; State Librarian Beverly Cain

In late September I traveled to Southwest Ohio to visit the Springboro Jr. High Library and the Greene County Public Library. I was accompanied by Associate State Librarian David Namiotka and State Library Board member, Krista Taracuk.

At **Springboro Jr. High**, we were greeted by Teacher-Librarian Sarah Thornbery. I had met Sarah through her participation in Library Leadership Ohio 2012 and I was anxious to see her library and learn about some of the things she is doing there. I quickly learned that Sarah's library is one of just nine school libraries in Ohio to have earned the Library of Distinction Award from OELMA. This award recognizes Ohio's exemplary building-level school libraries, which are staffed by a full-time, certified school library/media specialist.

The Springboro Jr. High Library is automated through INFOhio and has 8500 books and 32 computers serving nearly 1000 students in grades 7 and 8. Our visit coincided with Banned Books Week and while we were there, a class of 7th grade students visited the library to do the research necessary to write position papers on the issue of Banned Books. It was a great opportunity for us to see how the students used the library and interacted with Sarah and their teacher.



A Banned Books Week display features books that have been challenged or banned.

Springboro and Greene continued next page



The library has 8500 books, 32 computers for student use, and plenty of seating for reading and study.



Sarah is an integral part of a team engaged in supporting student learning. We had the opportunity to meet and talk with a few members of Sarah's team including Social Studies teacher Scott Meaney, Building Principal Jeff Blakley, and Superintendent Todd Petrey.

Many thanks to Sarah and the Administration of Springboro Schools for hosting our visit. We learned a lot from our visit to this Library of Distinction!

Springboro and Greene *continued next page*



Greene County Public Library Director Karl Colón and State Librarian Beverly Cain

From Springboro, we traveled to Xenia, where we met with Karl Colón, who has been Director of the **Greene County Public Library** for the past seven years. The Greene County Public Library serves Greene County with locations in Beavercreek, Bellbrook, Cedarville, Fairborn, Jamestown, Xenia and Yellow Springs. By the numbers, the library has approximately 110,000 cardholders, a staff of 220, and it circulates nearly 3.3 million items each year. The library is part of the SearchOhio/OhioLINK resource sharing partnership, which allows library users to borrow materials from the collections of over 100 public and academic libraries across the state.

Karl shared some interesting facts with us as we toured library facilities in Xenia and Beavercreek:

- The only library facility that is actually owned by the Greene County Public Library is the building located in Xenia. The other six facilities are leased from the local communities.
- The Greene County Public Library has been named to the list of "100 Libraries to Follow on Facebook." The Library currently has more than 12,000 Facebook Friends.
- American Libraries included the Greene County Public Library on a list of 20 libraries having The Smartest Readers – those who make the heaviest use of their tax-supported libraries.

- At the time of our visit, Karl was working with the Greene County Public Library Foundation to launch Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for children in the county. Children under age 5 who are residents of Greene County are eligible to receive a free book every month.

Our thanks to Karl for taking time to meet with us and show off his library system!



The Beavercreek Library provides laptops for use in the library.

Springboro and Greene *continued next page*



Displays are used throughout the library to draw attention to new materials and materials on selected topics.



Reader Beaver by artist Jaime Ferguson



The Teen Area at the Beaver Creek Library



This computer training lab is used for a broad range of technology training classes.

Delaware County District Library

November 14, 2013



L-R: Don Yarman, Beverly Cain, Mary Jane Santos, David Namiotka, Pam Taylor

Back in November, David Namiotka and I had the opportunity to visit the Delaware County District Library (DCDL). I normally try to write up the notes from my library visits while they're still fresh in my mind but in this case, that just didn't happen. Fortunately, several things about DCDL left a big impression on me so I think I can still do a pretty good job of describing my visit.

We began our visit at the Main Library, which was built in 1992. Director Mary Jane Santos, Assistant Director Don Yarman, and Circulation Manager Pam Taylor provided us with a tour and information about the library. The DCDL system has a total of 98 staff and circulates about 1.6 million items per year. At the time of our visit, they were planning for a renovation project intended to improve functionality, enhance customer service, and create a more welcoming and people-friendly atmosphere. The project has now been completed and an Open House was held in January to showcase the changes.

The 44,000 square foot Main Library has many unique features including murals depicting scenes of historic Delaware, stained glass art based on Shel Silverstein's book *The Giving Tree*, and a life-like tree in the children's room.

There's also the library's mascot, Dewey the Chipmunk. Portraits of Dewey and his family are very cleverly displayed in the Children's Story Room.

DCDL is placing new emphasis on programming for teens. The library has a recently created Teen Librarian position to help plan and promote programs designed just for teens and a new space for teens to call their own. The library has a computer center that was added in 2004 and it houses 24 computers for public use. In addition to these computers, the library plans to begin circulating laptops inside the library in 2014.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Orange Branch Library, which opened in 2011 and is DCDL's newest facility. It is located in Orange Township in the North Orange business development. The 33,000 square foot library sits on five acres and has many green building features including rain chains, chilled beams, and energy-saving lights. The library will soon have enhanced outdoor features including pavers, benches, and flowers in a reading garden area. The library houses a collection of about 85,000 items and has a capacity of 103,000.

Delaware continued next page



A life-like tree is located in the Children's Room.



The Teen Area



The Local History Room features a Harness Racing collection.

Comfortable seating is located throughout the library and there is reading area featuring a beautiful fireplace near the library's Quiet Room. The Teen Zone features computers and chairs made from recycled seat belts.



The Orange Branch Teen Zone

The **Orange Branch** is a family-centered library and offers a wealth of programs for children of all ages including Baby Time Storytime, Toddler Time Storytime, and Preschool Storytime. There is also programming for 'tweens and teens. Between 6000-7000 people visit the Orange Branch each week. About 50% of the library's circulation is handled through self-checkout. The library also has a drive-up window for the convenience of patrons.

The Orange Branch has recently opened a Homework Help Center to assist youth in grades K-8 with completing homework assignments in Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Technology and more. Volunteers are on hand to help students tackle even the toughest assignments.

DCDL has one of the largest, busiest Outreach Departments I have seen. The Outreach Department is located at the Orange Branch and provides services that include a Bookmobile, Discovery Bags & Kidz Kratez for in-home daycare providers, Drop Collections for daycare centers and nursing homes, and Homebound Services for individuals who are unable to visit the library because of physical limitations. DCDL is a subgranting agency for the Ohio Talking Books Program and serves patrons of the program via the Outreach Department.

We had a great time visiting the Delaware County District Library and learning about the ways the library keeps evolving to meet the demands of its busy, growing community. Many thanks to Mary Jane and her staff for taking the time to host our visit!



A cozy reading area features a fireplace.



One of the vans used to deliver materials to daycares, nursing homes, and homebound individuals by the library's Outreach Department

Wilson Hill and Brookside Elementary School Libraries

March 5, 2014



Librarian Mychal Pittman helps a group of kindergartners get ready for their library visit with a song based on the book *The Library Doors*.

On March 5, 2014, I traveled to Worthington to visit two elementary school libraries. I was accompanied by State Library Board member Krista Taracuk, OELMA President Susan Yutzey, and Associate State Librarian David Namiotka. Krista is active in the 2nd and 7 Foundation and she used this opportunity to deliver hardcover sets of Hog Mollies books to both libraries.

We began our day at Wilson Hill Elementary School, where we observed librarian Mychal Pittman lead a class of kindergartners through a series of activities designed to reinforce their classroom lessons about rhyming words. The class got ready for their library visit by singing a song based on the book *The Library Doors* by Tony Buzzeo, then had a storytime using an eBook from INFOhio's BookFlix collection. The children were engaged in the story and had fun listening for the rhyming words used throughout Marc Brown's book *Wild About Books*.

The class then split into small groups to work on a variety of projects set up at six different



Wilson Hill Elementary School Library

learning stations. Children had the opportunity to build words, complete puzzles, find rhyming words on a worksheet, read and checkout books, work on word and math games at a smartboard, and use interactive educational software on computers.

Worthington Schools continued next page

Worthington Schools *continued*

We said goodbye to the kindergarteners and made our way to **Brookside Elementary School** to meet with librarian Nellie Schmidt. At Brookside, we had the opportunity to meet Principal Dan Girard and Ms. Schmidt before the sixth grade class arrived for their time in the library. We were very happy to learn that they are planning to revamp the library space over the summer months. Brookside was built in 1964 and while the size of the library is good, there are a few workflow and functional areas that could be changed to improve the space for students.

We were then able to observe a class of sixth graders who were finishing a project using Meograph, software that allows users to create multimedia presentations. The class project involved researching important events from 2013 and using Meograph to organize and present the information in an engaging multimedia format. With this project, students learned to use the Meograph program, practiced research skills, and learned how to write and read a narration to be used with a podcast.

We enjoyed visiting these two very active school libraries to see how school librarians in Worthington City Schools are successfully partnering with teachers and school administrators to support student learning.



L-R: Krista Taracuk, Mychal Pittman, and State Librarian Beverly Cain



L-R: Susan Yutzey, Nellie Schmidt, Krista Taracuk, and Beverly Cain



Books are displayed on top of shelves to make it easy for students to find books they might be interested in reading.

Lakewood Public Library

May 21, 2014

In May, Matthew Dyer, Head of Employee Services, and I traveled to the Lakewood Public Library to meet with Director James Crawford and Madison Branch Manager Judy Grzybowski.

Before taking us on a tour of the libraries, they provided us with some information about the Lakewood Public Library's buildings, programs, services, staff and community.

Lakewood is located approximately 5 ½ miles west of downtown Cleveland and is known as the "City of Homes" due to its tree-lined streets graced with turn-of-the-century homes. The city's population of 51,385 is socio-economically and ethnically diverse. Lakewood is known for its excellent schools, parks, and of course, its excellent public library, which currently enjoys a Four-Star Rating from Library Journal.

The Main Library was opened in 1916 with a grant from Andrew Carnegie. The original 11,000 sf building has undergone several additions, including the most recent expansion

that was completed in 2008. The renovation was designed by Architect Robert A.M. Stern and took the library from 55,000 sf to 93,000. The library is stunning and includes a beautiful grand reading room and plenty of space for programming, which is one of the library's hallmarks.

The Main Library's collection includes more than 420,000 items and for me, one of the most notable areas is the collection of film and music. This collection is large and diverse and I would have no trouble spending a couple of hours browsing in this area. The children's area was also notable due to its use of a lakeside theme, interactive play areas, and puppets of all sizes.

I've mentioned that programming for all ages is one of the library's hallmarks. The library's 2014 Spring and Summer Program Guide lists 16 Sunday with the Friends programs, 12 Meet the Author programs, 7 programs celebrating April as National Poetry Month, 4 programs in a series titled Judaism in Focus, 24 programs in the Lakewood Public Cinema series, and a



Lakewood continued next page



Quilt in the Mother Goose Collection, Original Designs, 1998

whole lot more including Computer Learning Lab Classes, Story Times for Children, After School Programs, Computer Programs for Kids, Family Programs, Teen Programs, and Weekend Programs. There is always something to do and learn at the library! A few days before our visit, musicians from the Cleveland Orchestra performed a concert on the front steps of the Main Library on a Sunday afternoon. More than 500 people attended! The programs are presented with generous support from the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library, a robust group that has been active for more than 30 years. The Friends support the library in a number of ways, including providing support for the library's Homebound Service, which delivers library items to the homes of Lakewood residents who are unable to leave their homes.

After lunch at Pier W, we traveled to the Madison Branch, a small 6,100 sf community library located next to Madison Park. This library is busy and is very much a part of the neighborhood it serves. The area around the Madison Park Branch is home to a very diverse population that includes immigrants from Somalia, Turkey, Albania, and the Middle East. The library supports these immigrant populations with a variety of ESL materials, a Homework Help Center that has been in existence for many years, and by presenting programs in partnership with other agencies and organizations. Children are a large focus

of this branch, with its proximity to local schools and a large park. The children's room features a collection of quilts titled *Mother Goose Collection, Original Designs, 1998*. The quilts were hand appliqued and hand quilted by Alice Bader, a Trustee and Distinguished Friend of the library. The quilts feature Mother Goose characters such as Humpty Dumpty, Wee Willie Winkie, and Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary.

Library Director James Crawford described the Madison Branch as a "gem of a library" and it truly is. The library's current building was designed by architects Walker and Weeks, known for designing many prominent Cleveland-area buildings including Severance Hall, the Cleveland Public Library, and Public Auditorium, and was built in 1929. The branch was remodeled in 1956 and includes a collection geared toward the surrounding community, a computer center, a community garden, and meeting rooms. Discussions are currently taking place regarding a possible facelift for the library that would modernize it a bit while still retaining the charm and character of the 1929 original.

Matthew and I enjoyed our visit very much and are grateful to Jim and Judy for taking the time to provide us with tours of the libraries and share with us the many ways in which these libraries are serving the residents of Lakewood and surrounding community.

Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library

May 29, 2014

On Thursday, May 29 I had the honor of speaking to the Chillicothe Sunrise Rotary Club and watching as Nick Tepe, Director of the Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library (CRCPL) was welcomed as a new member of the Rotary Club by State Library Board member and former CRCPL Director Jennifer McKell. At the conclusion of the meeting, David Namiotka, Associate State Librarian for Library Services, and I met Nick at the Northside Branch of CRCPL for a tour.

When the Northside Branch Library was opened in 1996, it was not only a busy branch library, was also home to many of CRCPL's back room functions including Cataloging and Information Technology. The Main Library was overcrowded and landlocked and the new library offered the space necessary to house growing technology services and other non-public functions that had taken up precious space at the Main Library. It remained that way until August 2009 when the Northside Library had to be closed due to significant budget reductions. At that time, all of those back room functions that were integral to supporting the entire library system were moved back to the Main Library.

Since then, several developments have occurred which have not only provided for the reopening of the Northside Branch Library but also for the expansion of public space at the library. First, the library successfully passed an operating levy in May 2010 to support reopening the Northside Branch. Additionally, CRCPL was able to purchase a vacant school and land adjacent to the Main Library to

provide much needed space to relieve some of the pressure on that overcrowded facility.

Nick has been the Director of CRCPL since 2011 and he has been busy getting the library system running up to full speed again, expanding library services in the community, fostering community partnerships, and planning for the future.

At the Northside Branch, what was once space for technology, cataloging, and other library support services has been turned into public space, including space for meetings, programs, and technology training. The Northside Branch also has a Business Services Center with a variety of resources and equipment for use by small business owners and entrepreneurs. There is also plenty of room to browse new materials and to sit and read. Self-checkout and self-pickup of holds have been successfully implemented, streamlining the process for library patrons and maximizing the use of library staff time.

The Main Library is a Carnegie Library that was constructed in 1907. Near the entrance to the library is an Ohio Historical Marker commemorating Burton Egbert Stevenson, who, among many other things, was Chillicothe's librarian for 58 years and was instrumental in securing the Carnegie grant to build the library. There have been many recent space changes at the Main Library due to the purchase and renovation of the former school, which now serves as the Library Annex. Administrative offices have been relocated to the Annex to provide needed space for public



The Northside Branch Library provides self checkout stations and plenty of space for browsing new materials.



A stone on the Memorial Walk honors State Library Board member Jennifer McKell who directed the Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library from 1980 - 2011.

Chillicothe continued next page



The Northside Branch Library provides self checkout stations and plenty of space for browsing new materials.



The entry of the Main Library

functions. The Library Annex doesn't just provide space for library functions, it provides space for several community programs as well.

The Library Annex houses the Discovery Tree Family Resources Program, a community program of South Central Ohio Job and Family Services. On the day of our visit, Project Coordinator Maryjo Flamm-Miller was hosting the Discovery Garden Family Play Group, a special time every week for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers to play and learn with their parents or caregivers. There was a large turnout for the program and it was obvious that everyone was having fun.

The Library Annex also provides space for the Children's Clothing Bank sponsored by First

Presbyterian Church. On each visit, parents or caregivers may select three outfits per child at no cost. Another section of the Annex provides space for the Pickaway Ross ABLE/GED Center. The library-community partnerships making use of this facility are impressive.

Before our visit ended, Nick shared with us that plans call for connecting the two buildings in the future to bring the spaces together for seamless access between the Main Library and the Annex.

We enjoyed the opportunity to see and learn more about the Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library and appreciate the time Nick and his staff spent with us.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights and Shaker Heights Public Libraries

June 18, 2014



L-R: Luren Dickinson, Director of SHPL; Beverly Cain; Nancy Levin, Director of CHUHPL; Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Deputy Director of CHUHPL

Matthew Dyer and I visited the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library and the Shaker Heights Public Library, neighboring libraries serving communities in eastern Cuyahoga County.

Our first stop was the **Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library**, where we were greeted by Director Nancy Levin and Deputy Director Kim DeNero-Ackroyd.

The history of CHUHPL dates back to 1921 when the first Cleveland Heights Public Library was opened in the basement of Coventry Elementary School. The library has changed, moved, and expanded multiple times since then. The Main Library on Lee Road was built in 1968 and has been renovated and expanded several times to continue meeting the increasing demand for library services. The most recent renovation was completed in 2006. That renovation included building a bridge across Lee Road to connect the Main Library with the Library Activities Center located across the street. Nancy Levin has been Director of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library since October 2008.

CHUHPL is very busy with more than 600,000 people visiting the Main Library each year.

The library has much to see and do for visitors of all ages. There are public computers located throughout the building, quiet rooms for studying or reading, meeting space, and collections that include a Home Repair Resource Center, music scores, and of course popular books, magazines, and multimedia materials.

The library also has some interesting artwork. In 2012, The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library was dedicated a Literary Landmark in honor of Harvey Pekar (1939-2010). Pekar's widow, Joyce Brabner donated a statue of Pekar to the library, which is on display near the Harvey and Friends Bookshop, operated by the Friends of the Library. Other artwork on display in the library includes several watercolors and a Jazz Bowl by Viktor Scheckengost, a resident of Cleveland Heights who taught at the Cleveland Institute of Art for many years.

There is also artwork in the Children's Room, where there is a colorful and engaging mural of children's book covers. The covers are made of vinyl and can be changed. The Children's Room includes a story time area known as "The Egg" and a puppet stage. There is a separate Teen Space that includes a performance

Heights continued next page

Heights *continued*

space which is used for programs such as the Teen Poetry Slam. It also includes a Little Free Library for Teens built on the concept of take one/leave one.

One of the most unique things about the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library is its Book Bike Service. The Book Bike, a gift from the Friends of the Heights Libraries, makes appearances at festivals, parades and school events in the community, giving away free donated books and canceled library books. The library's Book Bike was featured in an article, "Custom Library Book Bikes Roll Out Across US," in the June 2014 issue of American Libraries.

Once you cross the bridge over Lee Road from the library to the Library Activities Center, things get really interesting. First of all, there is the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center, or HKIC is a flexible 4,000-square-foot space designed to support the technological and workspace needs of local businesses, nonprofits, and individuals. The area offers facilities for programs and collaborative spaces designed for small group meetings. The HKIC also features:

- A computer lab with 26 computers featuring Microsoft Office software
- Expanded wireless access in the HKIC Wi-Fi lounge area
- iPad lending
- A special collection of business- and technology-related books and magazines
- A production work area and office supplies such as a copier, printer, scanner, and fax machine
- A Digital Media Lab

The Library Activities Center also houses the Small Business Development Center, which provides no-cost, one-on-one counseling for businesses that will, or currently do, employ under 500 employees. Additional services include training, e-counseling, quality-based assessments, technical assistance, loan packaging guidance, and information on federal, state, and local regulations and programs. At the time of our visit, Director Katie Van Dyke had been there just nine weeks and had already counseled 70 people.

Also located in this building is Little Heights, a family literacy playroom sponsored by CHUHPL and Family Connections, an organization devoted to providing early literacy, parenting



The Harvey Pekar Statue, which was dedicated during the 2012 Literary Landmarks event



An iPad dispensing machine in the HKIC

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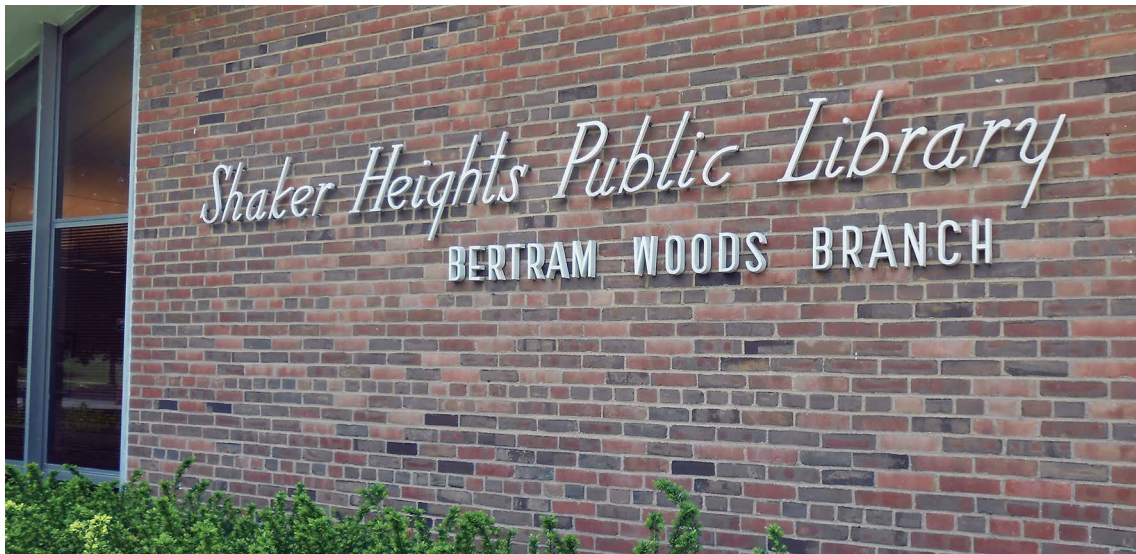
support and school readiness services. Little Heights provides play materials that help parents and their children prepare for school by learning the art of counting, sorting, matching and much more.

The historic Dobama Theater resides on the lower level of the building. The Dobama, founded in 1959, is known for premiering contemporary plays by established and emerging playwrights.

Before we left CHUHPL, we had the opportunity to meet and have lunch with some of the library's managers. Also joining us for lunch was Luren Dickinson, Director of the Shaker Heights Public Library, which was to be the next stop on our visit.



A mural featuring children's book covers decorates the walls of the Children's Room at CHUHPL



Our next stop was the 12,000 square-foot **Bertram Woods Branch of the Shaker Heights Public Library**. Located near a middle school, the library sits on two acres and is surrounded by green, outdoor space. It was built in 1960 and was on ALA's tour of libraries when the ALA Annual Conference was held in Cleveland in 1961. A children's room and basement were added to the library in 1991, and a Reading Garden was added in 1993. The library was expanded in 1997 and renovated in 2003 and today, it is a busy, modern, full-service library serving residents in the northeast corner of Shaker Heights.

From there, we traveled to the **Main Library**, which is located in the former Moreland School, built in 1926. A playground and an athletic

field are located next to the library. The library moved into the building owned by the city, in 1993. Renovation of the approximately 65,000 square-foot building has been gradual. Primary public spaces were given first priority. Offices and meeting rooms were renovated later.

In addition to the adult, teen, and children's areas of the library, which provide comprehensive collections and robust services, the library also offers multiple meeting spaces that vary in size to accommodate large and small community groups and organizations. The library's rooms are used for SHARP (Student Health Advocates Reaching Peers), a local health education program, in addition to GED classes and many other community offerings.

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Heights continued



The Main Library occupies the former Moreland Elementary School.

The library also offers a Silent Study Room for patrons needing a quiet environment for reading or studying.

Two particularly interesting features are the Play and Learn Station and the Community Entrepreneurial Office (CEO). The Play and Learn Station, sponsored in partnership with Family Connections, is an imaginative, hands-on, parent/child literacy learning center that helps prepare children (ages birth to five) for kindergarten. Initial funding for this program was provided in part by an LSTA grant through the State Library of Ohio. The CEO was made possible with an LSTA entrepreneurial grant through the State Library of Ohio and provides users with access to the business equipment and services they need, along with ready access to Shaker Library's reference and information resources. The CEO also offers office space that CLEVNET library cardholders can reserve to meet with clients and to carry out business. Each work area has a computer workstation equipped with software. The CEO is connected to the library's new computer center and training lab, which offers training on a wide array of technology topics.

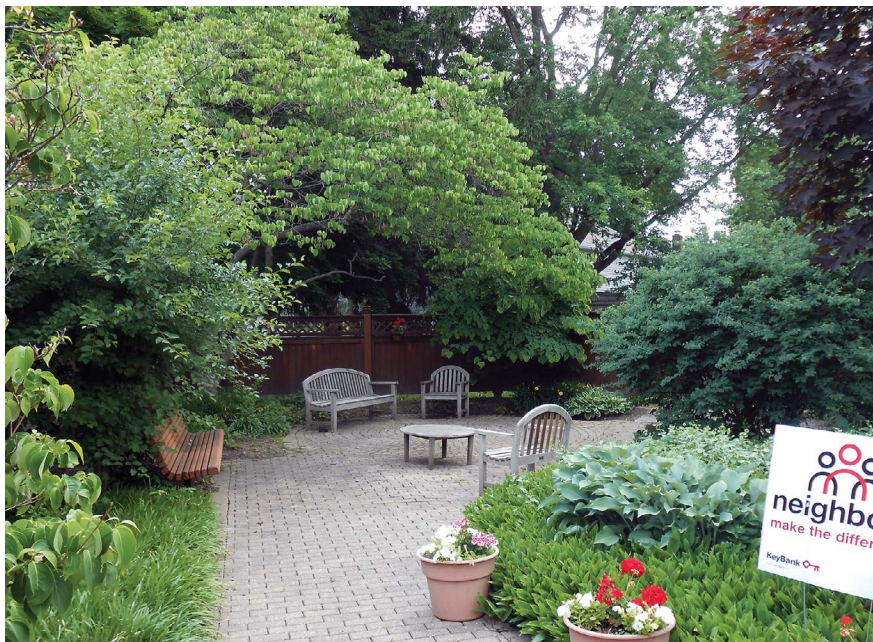
Before wrapping up our visit, we had the opportunity to



The Play and Learn Station was initially funded with an LSTA grant from the State Library of Ohio.

hear about the library's plans for the future. The library board recently commissioned a feasibility study that examined its current facilities and offered some options for the future. The library's administration and board will be reviewing and discussing these options as well as gathering input from the community over the next few months.

We had a great time visiting libraries in Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights and we'd like to thank Nancy and her staff at CHUHL and Luren and his staff at SHPL for their hospitality!



The Bertram Woods Reading Garden

Marysville Public Library and Richwood-North Union Public Library

July 2, 2014

In July, I had the opportunity to visit two libraries in nearby Union County, the Marysville Public Library and the Richwood-North Union Public Library. Sarah Moore has been the Director at Richwood-North Union for four years and Randy Matlow has been the Director at Marysville since September 2013. It was my first visit to both of these libraries.

The **Marysville Public Library** serves the residents of the Marysville Exempted Village School District through the Main Library in Marysville and branch library located in Raymond. From 1910 until 1988, the Main Library was located in a Carnegie Library built with funds from the Carnegie Corporation. In 1988, the library moved into the present location on Plum Street in uptown Marysville. The library is an anchor for the city's current efforts to enhance and revitalize the uptown area.

At the time of my visit, the library was being impacted by the construction of a new park next door. Partners Park will be equipped with Wi-Fi and will include a large open air pavilion. The library has lost some parking space due the construction but will gain a wonderful space for holding outdoor programs including story times, craft programs, movies, and more. Director Randy Matlow is hopeful that the city's efforts



Director at Richwood-North Union Randy Matlow and State Librarian Beverly Cain

to secure more parking space for the uptown area are successful.

The Marysville Public Library is a member of the Central Library Consortium (CLC), a computerized library network that promotes resource sharing among its 14 member libraries. The library circulates approximately 600,000 items per year. Library staff and the Board are currently in the process of developing a new strategic plan for the library. One of the issues Randy hopes to address in the strategic plan is the shortage of space in the Main Library.



Main Library of Marysville Public Library

Marysville and Richwood-North *continued next page*



A mural depicting historic Marysville graces the wall of a meeting room.

Library staff are in the process of shifting collections to make the most effective use of the space they have available but like parking, space is at a premium.

The main level of the library provides space for Reference, Adult Services, Youth Services, Genealogy & Local History, and Circulation. The lower level of the library houses the Teen Area, meeting rooms, media collections, public computers, and Technical Services. The booth seating on the lower level is very popular among library patrons who bring laptops or mobile devices for use in the library.

The library offers a large variety of programs for patrons of all ages. Many of the programs, such as the library's annual Author Series, are supported by the Friends of the Library. Last spring, the library offered a Cooperative Tree Seedling Giveaway program to support the city's effort to get more residents to plant trees. The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, which is headquartered in Marysville, assisted with this program. The program was immensely popular and will be offered again next year.

As a new director, Randy is in the process of learning about the library and the community it serves and is working to take the library's programs and services to the next level in order to continuing meeting the needs of the growing community.



The Teen Space on the lower level



Booth seating is a popular spot for laptop users.

The **Richwood-North Union Public Library** is located about 15 miles north of Marysville and serves the residents of the North Union Local School District. The library is a member of the SEO Library Consortium, a resource sharing network of 89 Library systems at nearly 201 physical locations throughout 46 counties across Ohio. Participation in the SEO Library Consortium provides patrons of the Richwood-North Union Public Library with access to 8 million items located in member libraries.

The library's summer reading programs were in full swing at the time of my visit. The display cases, which are usually used to showcase works by local artists, were displaying summer reading program prizes. Gift baskets for adult participants were filled with items donated by local businesses.

The library was built in 1978. An addition was added in 2006 to provide more space for the growing library. The library includes space for reference, adult, teen, A-V, and children's materials. There is also a Local History & Genealogy Room that is organized by the local genealogy group. A computer lab, established with an LSTA grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio, is used to provide training, assistance to job seekers, and an open lab for public use. The library also has a Reading Lounge, meeting rooms, a children's program area, a Quiet Study Room, and a public information center.

Director Sarah Moore is currently focusing on increasing training opportunities for staff and reorganizing collections, furniture, and equipment to maximize the available space. She is also investigating the possibility of establishing a Friends of the Library, which would increase volunteer opportunities for community members and provide additional support for the library.

I enjoyed having the opportunity to learn more about these libraries and I am grateful to Randy and Sarah for taking the time to host my visit.



Richwood-North Union Public Library Director Sarah Moore and State Librarian Beverly Cain



Early Readers section of the Children's Room



A display case filled with summer reading prizes, many donated by local businesses

Orrville Public Library and the Wadsworth Public Library

July 30, 2014



At the end of July, Tracy Grimm, Manager of Circulation and Special Services, and I traveled to northeast Ohio to visit two neighboring libraries: the Orrville Public Library in Wayne County and the Wadsworth Public Library in Medina County. The communities served by these libraries are located about 13 miles from each other and both are celebrating anniversaries this year. Orrville is celebrating its 150th anniversary and Wadsworth is celebrating its bicentennial.

Our first stop was the **Orrville Public Library**, where director Daphne Silchuck-Ashcraft led us on a tour of the library and provided us with information about the library's programs and services. Daphne has been the director of the Orrville Public Library for about a year and has been busy learning about the library and its role in the community and making plans for the future. The 25,000 square foot library was renovated in 2006 and Daphne and her staff are currently making plans to make even better use of the existing space by rearranging collections and seating.

Most Ohioans know that Orrville is the home of Smucker's and the company certainly has an impact on the town. It is currently having an impact on the library too because a call center employing 100 people has been moved into a building next door to the library. Library staff are working to reach out to the employees to let them know the library provides many services that could benefit them.

The library is also engaging in activities to tie in with Orrville's 150th Anniversary. Tracy and I participated in one of these activities during our visit by posing for a WE READ poster. The

library is striving to create 150 of these posters featuring library patrons and their favorite children's books. Famed basketball coach Bobby Knight hails from Orrville and volunteered to pose for the library's first WE READ poster.

The library was filled with children at the time of our visit. The library has a partnership with the local YMCA and children from the Y visit the library on a regular basis for programs and storytimes. While we were there, several older children/teens were reading to younger children in several areas of the library.

After our tour of the library, we walked next door to have lunch at the Heartland Point Café, part of the Heartland Education Community, Inc., which has the mission of creating a community-based learning environment relevant and accessible to all Orrville area residents of every age and cultural background.



Daphne Silchuck-Ashcraft and Beverly Cain

Orrville and Wadsworth *continued next page*



L to R: Wadsworth Public Library Director Daniel Slife, Tracy Grimm, and State Librarian Beverly Cain.



The children's room at the Wadsworth Public Library

We then made our way to the **Wadsworth Public Library** to meet with library director Daniel Slife. We were barely able to make it into the front lobby due to the long line of children and parents who were arriving to take part in the library's Ice Cream Social, being held to celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Program. We learned that 215 children and adults participated in the program.

Before taking a tour of the library, we had the opportunity to talk with Daniel and WPL Board President Amy Lyon-Galvin about some of the projects and activities currently taking place at the library. At the time of our visit, Daniel had been director of the library for less than a year and had spent much of his time learning about the library and the Wadsworth Community. He and the Board were beginning the process of developing a new strategic plan to guide the library through the next few years. They're being assisted in this process by Ken Warren, former director of the Lakewood Public Library.

They reported to us that a real focal point of the library is service to children. The library has experienced a great deal of growth in children's programming and set a record for participation in the Summer Reading Program this year with 1700 children participating. They hope to develop more programs and services focused on early literacy to assist



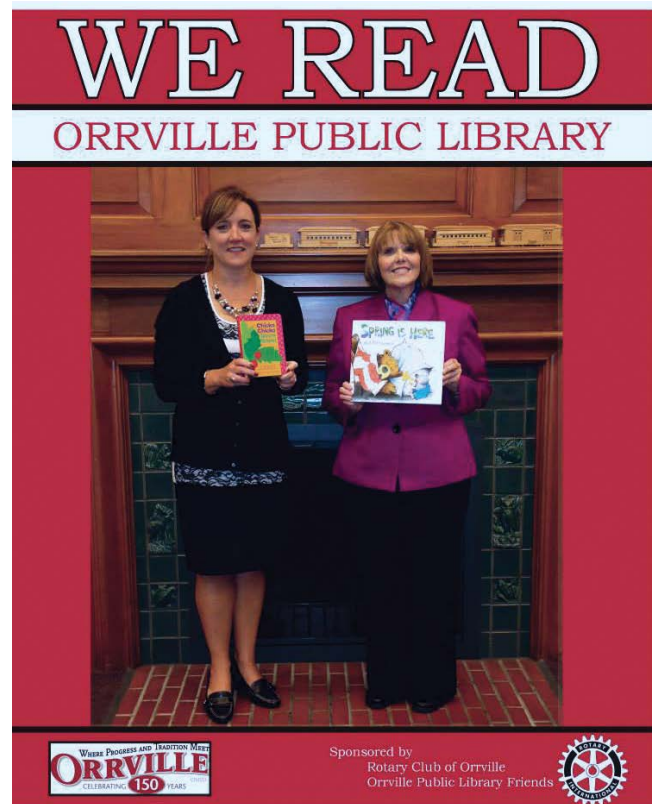
A display promoting the record-setting Summer Reading Program, Blast Off with Books, at the Wadsworth Public Library

children with reading and school readiness. They would also like to make the library experience more interactive for all children.

One of the first things Daniel did upon arriving at the Wadsworth Public Library was to create a New Book browsing area. Making the new books more visible and accessible helped increase circulation by 3% in just a short time.

The Wadsworth Public Library was renovated in 2003 and today, it is bursting at the seams. Daniel and his staff have been working hard to reorganize many areas to improve workflow and efficiency and also to increase public space. They are continuing to seek ways to maximize the space they have available to them by using it more creatively. They are also working to develop a collaborative technology center. The library's foundation has raised about \$250,000 for this project.

Tracy and I had a wonderful time visiting these two very busy libraries and having the opportunity to meet the directors, board members, and staff who work hard to provide the best possible library service to their communities.



The Alden Library at Ohio University and Athens County Public Libraries

September 24, 2014

In September I traveled to Athens, Ohio along with Missy Lodge and Bill Morris. Our day was spent visiting the Alden Library on the campus of Ohio University and two branches of the Athens County Public Libraries: Athens and Chauncey.

At the Alden Library, we were greeted by Scott Seaman, Dean of the University Libraries. He provided us with a brief overview of the library and then took us on a tour of the facility. At the time of our visit, the library was in the very early stages of a renovation that would upgrade the elevators and HVAC system and allow for some reorganization of collections and space within the library.

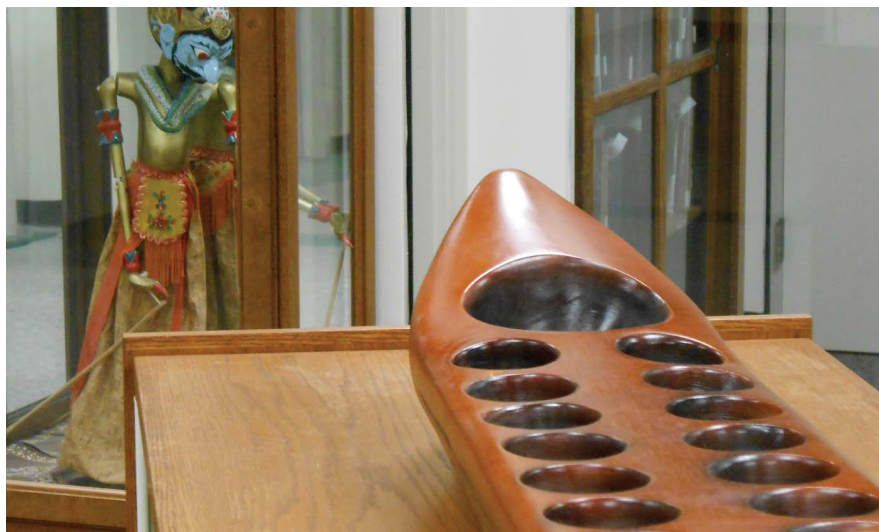
The Ohio University Library was founded in 1814 and is celebrating its bicentennial this year. In honor of this occasion, the library published a bicentennial publication titled *200 Years of Shared Discovery: The Bicentennial of Ohio University Libraries*. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), an international association of educational institutions, selected this publication as a silver award winner for the 2014 Circle of Excellence Awards Program In-house Print Publication category, a division that recognizes the "best individual print publications, produced for any institutional purpose, in which all writing, photography, artwork and design were done in-house." A bicentennial video was also produced as a companion piece to the book.



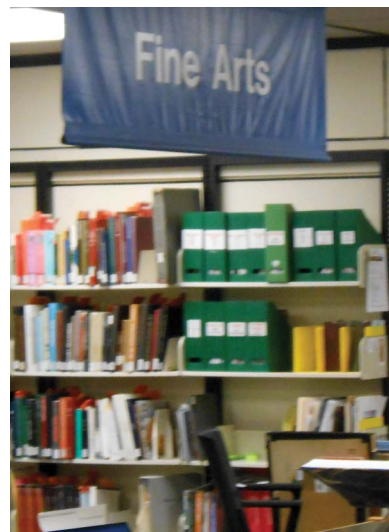
Dean of Ohio University Libraries Scott Seaman and Beverly Cain

The library at Ohio University has been housed in four different buildings during its 200 years. I found it very interesting that one of those buildings was a Carnegie Library, which opened in 1905 to serve the University and the people of Athens. The Carnegie Library remained in operation until 1930. The building, next door to the Alden Library, is now home to the Scripps School of Journalism.

Ohio University Libraries provides state-of-the-art technology and collections of print and electronic resources to support the learning,



The Southeast Asia Collection in the Alden Library houses many interesting artifacts.



OU and Athens continued next page



The Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections

teaching, and research activities of students and faculty. The Libraries' collections include more than 3 million volumes; a significant number of non-print items such as maps, DVDs, photographs and CDs; and more than 800,000 electronic resources, including e-books, e-journals, databases, and image collections.

A highlight of our tour was visiting the Archives and Special Collections areas. The Mahn Center, located on the 5th floor of the Alden Library, is the principal repository for rare books, manuscripts, and Ohio University archives material. Included here are several manuscript collections including the Cornelius Ryan Collection of World War II Papers. Ryan, a war correspondent during World War II, authored the bestselling books *The Longest Day* and *A Bridge Too Far*. The collection includes correspondence, documents, photographs, diaries, accounts, manuscripts, audio tapes, interviews, journal articles, screenplays, scrapbooks, memorabilia, and books detailing Ryan's career as a journalist and author of several books.

Also of note is the Southeast Asia Collection, located on the first floor of the Alden Library.

The collection was established in 1967 and is one of the oldest and largest collections of research materials on Southeast Asia in North America. Near the end of our tour, we caught up with Olivia Morris, Bill's daughter, who is a student at Ohio University and is employed in the Alden Library. Olivia gave us a tour of the pcirc (patron-initiated circulation) area, which processes and delivers materials going to and coming from other OhioLINK libraries.

After our tour, we joined Scott Seaman, Kelly Broughton, Assistant Dean for Research & Instruction, Janet Hulm, Assistant Dean for Collections & Digital Initiatives, and Lauren Miller, Director of the Athens County Public Libraries for lunch at the Baker Center. This gave us an opportunity to hear about how the public and university libraries work together as well as some of the current projects being undertaken by both libraries.



L to R: Bill Morris, Athens County Public Libraries (ACPL) Assistant Director James Hill, Beverly Cain, ACPL Director Lauren Miller, and Missy Lodge

We then traveled to the Athens Branch of the **Athens County Public Libraries**. Lauren Miller, Director, James Hill, Assistant Director and additional staff provided us with information about the library as well as a tour. We were joined by State Representative Debbie Phillips for a Question & Answer session about the State Library, public libraries in general, and some general information about the Athens County Libraries.

The Athens County Public Library system consists of seven library facilities located in the communities of Nelsonville, Athens, The Plains, Glouster, Chauncey, Coolville, and Albany. We had the opportunity to visit Athens and Chauncey as part of this trip.

The Athens county public library system was created in 1935 and the first Athens Branch was located on W. Union St. The library has been in its current location on Home St. since 1993. The branch doubled in size in 2005 when an expansion was completed. The library is open Tuesday – Saturday and offers a broad range of materials and services, with a large emphasis on programming for all age groups.

The Friends of the Athens Public Library supports a number of weekly programs including lectures, yoga, dancing, musical concerts,

Spanish conversation, and book clubs. For children, the Athens Library has a large play area outfitted with several toys and puppets and regular programming is offered for children throughout the year.

When we visited in September, the library had recently hosted the Steampunk Spectacle in partnership with ARTS/WEST. The library had been the site of several “presentations, workshops, and social amusements” as well as a wonderful display, which we were able to see. This was the second year for the Steampunk Spectacle and odds are that it will be back for a third year due to its popularity.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Chauncey Branch Library. Chauncey is a small branch library open Monday – Friday from 2:00 until 6:00. The Chauncey Public Library began as an independent library in 1937 and became part of the county-wide Nelsonville Public Library system in 1959. In 1997 the library moved to its present location in the former home of the Chauncey Village Post office. The library is a popular spot for children in the community. We were able to walk up the street to see the Chauncey Youth Garden, a community garden planted, tended, and cultivated by “library kids.” This was the second year for the garden and it has been very popular. The Chauncey

OU and Athens *continued*



Bill Morris and Missy Lodge tested some of the bikes that patrons can borrow from the Athens Library.



This bicycle was part of the Athens Library's Steampunk Display.



Lee Branner, Manager of the Chauncey Branch Library, displays photos of library programs and events.

Branch Library also plays an important role in the community by providing free high-speed Internet access.

At the time of our visit, the Athens County Public Libraries were in the middle of their first levy campaign and they were working hard to provide everyone in the community with information about the many benefits the library provides to area residents. I am happy to now report that the library's campaign was successful and they are positioned to continue providing a full slate of materials, programs, and services to Athens County residents.

We enjoyed our visit and would like to thank Scott Seaman and his staff at the Alden Library and Lauren Miller and her staff at the Athens County Public Libraries for hosting us.



Garden at the Chauncey Branch Library

Akron-Summit County Public Library 2015 State Library Board Retreat

April 16 & 17



L-R: Laurie Gemmill Arp, Melissa Deters, John Myles, Beverly Cain, Krista Taracuk, Jennifer McKell, and ASCPL Director David Jennings

The State Library Board held its annual retreat at the Akron-Summit County Public Library (ASCPL) on April 16-17, 2015. The retreat provided the Board with the opportunity to learn about the programs and services being offered by the ASCPL, hear about emerging technology applications in public libraries, gain awareness of a new service NEO-RLS is offering to assist librarians with developing public speaking and advocacy skills, and hear how an LSTA grant was used to help expand services to Amish populations in a rural county.

ASCPL Director David Jennings welcomed State Library Board members and staff and later provided a tour of the Main Library. The Main Library is located in downtown Akron and is the anchor of a library system that includes 17 branches and a Mobile Services Department. The Main Library underwent a \$57.6 million

renovation and expansion project that was completed in 2004. The expansion nearly doubled the size of the Main Library, which now encompasses 270,000 square feet. The entrance to the Children's Room was featured on the cover of the December 2005 issue of Library Journal, which referred to the renovation of the Main Library as, "the jim-dandiest addition/renovation."

One highlight of our tour of the Main Library was Special Collections, where librarian Judy James shared information about some of the unique items in the collection. Special Collections houses the library's genealogy and local history materials, including information about the history of the rubber industry, early aviation in Akron, the Soap Box Derby, and much, much more.



Board members Krista Taracuk, John Myles, and Melissa Deters review and discuss information being shared with them.



Holly Klingler, Emerging Technologies Librarian at NEO-RLS, demonstrates low-cost technologies that schools and libraries can use to incorporate STEM learning in to programming.

Akron-Summit continued next page



A small, inexpensive drone



Bill Martino, Director of the Holmes County District Public Library, explains how the library used an LSTA grant awarded by the State Library to expand services to rural populations.



ASCPL's Children's Room. The flooring is marmoleum



Melissa Lattanzi, Senior Continuing Education Specialist at NEO-RLS, shares information about Toastmasters and a short speech any library could use to promote its programs and services.

The Main Library has a number of wonderful features including a 425-seat auditorium that is used for a large number of library and community events, a Friends of the Library bookstore, public meeting rooms and art exhibition spaces featuring art and photography by local artists including Don Drumm, Sr., Evangeline Doyle, Leroy Flint, and Mary Ellen McDermott. An interior glass block walkway leads to a 600-space parking garage owned by the City of Akron. The glass block walkway allows natural light to flow throughout the building, providing very open, airy, well-lighted space. The Children's Room has a colorful marmoleum floor featuring a blimp, just one of the many ways the Library acknowledges the important role airships played in Akron's history.

Many thanks to David Jennings and his staff for accommodating our visit. Our meetings were very productive and enjoyable and the setting was just first-rate.



A variety of artwork is displayed throughout the Main Library.

The Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County

July 13, 2015



L-R: Beverly Cain, Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County Director John Chidester, Lisa Blaisdell, Mary McGavick

Bill Morris and I had the pleasure of visiting the Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County in July. Our visit began with lunch at The Alcove Restaurant, which was established as a candy and ice cream shop in 1911. The walls of the historic restaurant are filled with murals depicting people and places important to the history of the city. Lunch gave us the opportunity to meet two of the library's board members and gain some background information about the library and the community it serves.

After lunch, we were treated to a driving tour of Mount Vernon, with the highlight being the recently opened Ariel Foundation Park. The park is a 250 acre green space built on the site of the former Pittsburgh Plate Glass Manufacturing Plant. Park developers opted to retain some of the ruins of the former factory, giving the park a unique look while paying homage to the city's industrial history.

We then visited the Book Warehouse, a very large used book store operated by the Friends of the Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County. It's more than just a book store because the Friends also give away a substantial number of books to children, libraries, including some in developing countries, schools, military bases, and more. Former uses of this building included a meat processing facility and a pie factory. The Book Warehouse is maintained and operated by Friends President Roy Glaser, 32 hardworking

volunteers, and two cats. Yes, two cats aptly named Hemingway and Agatha Christie. The Book Warehouse is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and they generally raise between \$25,000 - \$30,000 per year to support the four libraries in the Mount Vernon/Knox County community including the Main Library in Mount Vernon and branches in Fredericktown, Danville, and Gambier.

We then headed back to the Main Library for a tour and the opportunity to drop in for a bit of the Maker Monday program. The Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2013 and is very obviously a vital part of the community. Programs for all ages are a big draw for the library, with program attendance numbering about 10,000 each year. One of the programs they have offered this summer is Maker Mondays. This program is open to everyone and provides the opportunity for adults and children to build, make, craft, and play. Offerings include Little Bits, LEGO, an Ellison Shape Cutter, a button maker, Strawbees, and more. I made a SpongeBob button during my visit!

The Children's Room boasts a Maker Collection, a Parent-Teacher Collection, a learning playroom for children 6 and under, and a large well-quipped story time room. Children's staff have had training in developing and offering sensory storytimes and although response has been slow, they are committed to trying to

Mount Vernon and Knox *continued next page*

Mount Vernon and Knox *continued*



The interior of the Book Warehouse



The Maker Collection in the Children's Room is growing and very popular.



Bags ready for delivery by the Outreach Services Department



The Storytime Room

build interest and attendance. The picture books are shelved by subject and library staff created small dividers featuring pictures or letters to help organize the books, making them easy to find. Murals on the walls of the Children's Room were created by a former library staff person. Space for teens has been created using the office formerly used as the library director's office.

Materials for adults include a robust print collection, including a strong reference department that includes a large collection of genealogy resources, housed in a separate room. Although digital magazine services such as Hoopla and Zinio are very popular, print magazines are still popular as well and several people were sitting in the magazine area reading popular magazines at the time of our visit. The adult collection also boasts a large donated collection of high-quality art books. One of the library's special features is

the Williams Memorial Room, a reading room located in space that once was the entryway to the library.

The Outreach Services Department delivers library materials and services to residents of the Knox County Library District who would otherwise have severely limited or no access to them. Staff from the Outreach Services Department regularly visit 11 Amish schools, the Knox County Jail, a variety of preschool and daycare centers, retirement centers and nursing homes, and a number of homebound individuals.

Bill and I enjoyed touring the library and the community and having the opportunity to meet and talk with a large number of the library's staff, board members, and volunteers. We are grateful to Director John Chidester, Mary McGavick, and Linette Porter-Metler for hosting our visit.

Libraries in Meigs, Gallia, and Jackson Counties

September 15, 2015



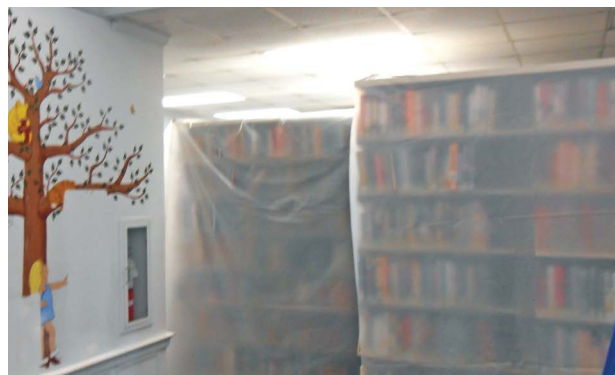
Beverly Cain and Meigs County District Library Director Kristi Eblin on the front steps of the library

On September 15, 2015, I headed to Southeast Ohio to visit libraries located in Meigs, Gallia, and Jackson Counties. I was accompanied by Bill Morris and Julia Ward from the State Librarian's Office.

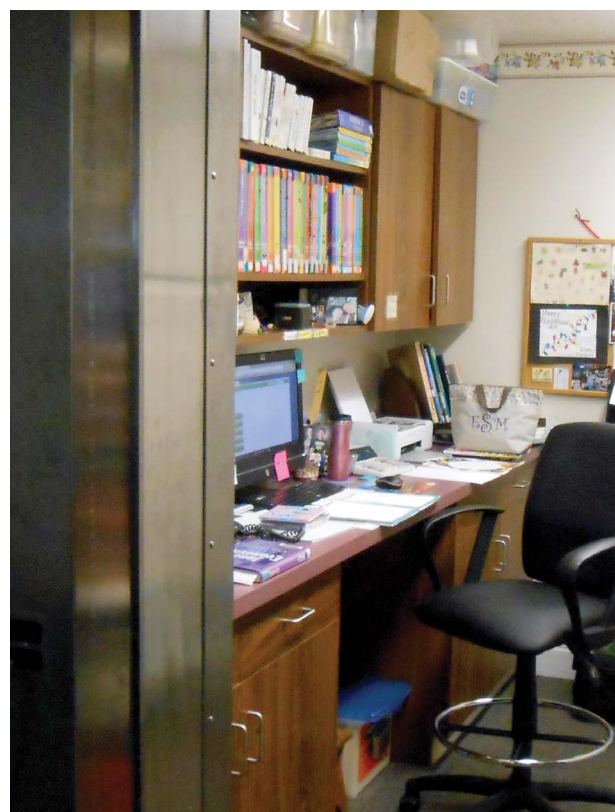
Our first stop was in Meigs County, where we visited the **Pomeroy Library**, which is part of the Meigs County District Library. Library Director Kristi Eblin led us on a tour of the library, which is currently undergoing renovations. The renovations, the library's first since 2002, are expected to be completed in Spring 2016 and include expanding the children's area, providing more seating space throughout the library, and expanding meeting room space. This building, which was formerly a bank, has been home to the library since 1989.

We learned that the libraries in Pomeroy and Middleport started offering the Book a Bike program in August. Each of these libraries has 5 bikes that are available for library patrons to check-out and explore local bike paths. The service is made possible through a partnership with the Meigs County Health Department.

Kristi Eblin has been Director of the Meigs County District Library since 1997. The library system has a total of 23 staff and serves all of Meigs County through four locations in Pomeroy, Racine, Middleport, and the Eastern Library in Reedsville. The Meigs County District Library is a founding member of the Ohio Valley



Books are covered for protection and some furniture is in storage while the Pomeroy Library undergoes renovations



The office of the children's librarian is located in what was once the bank vault.

Library Consortium, a shared automation system providing library patrons with access to materials held in seven library systems.

We appreciated having the opportunity to meet with Kristi and her staff and learn about the changes that are taking place at the library. We look forward to visiting again to see the Pomeroy Library once renovations are complete.

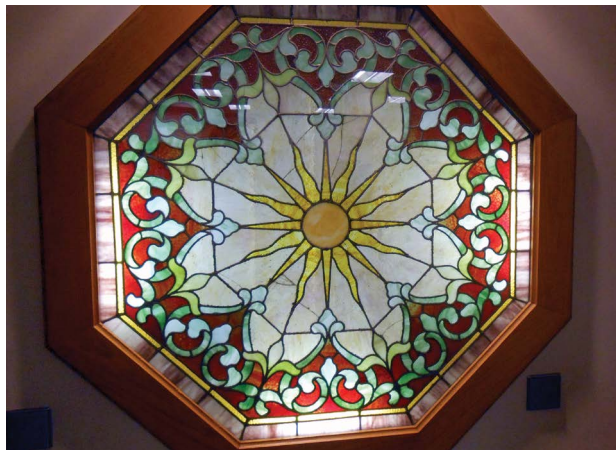
Meigs, Gallia, and Jackson continued next page



Beverly Cain, Julia Ward, and Dr. Samuel L. Bossard Memorial Library Director Debbie Saunders

The From Pomeroy we traveled to Gallipolis to visit the **Dr. Samuel L. Bossard Memorial Library**. The first thing we noticed upon arrival was the large LED sign at the corner of the parking lot, welcoming us to the library. The second thing we noticed was the activity taking place outside the library as a large landscaping project was underway. The project began on Labor Day and was being done cooperatively between Oakland Nursery in Columbus and a local landscaping company. Oakland Nursery designed the plan and the local company is implementing the design by providing the plants and doing the actual planting. The library's goal is to make its exterior space just as inviting as its interior space. In addition to the beautiful new landscaping, the library's exterior space includes a seating area that provides Wi-Fi access as well as P-dock stations that allow patrons to plug in laptops, phones, and other mobile devices.

The inside of the library is very open and inviting and offers collections for all ages including a robust Local History Room, which has local newspapers on microfilm dating back to 1819, as well as many other materials related to the people and history of Gallia County. The 17,000+ square foot library also boasts a quiet reading room, a meeting room, the O. O. McIntyre Reading Room, and a beautiful children's area. The newest addition to the library, just opened in March, is the Riverside Room, which provides a wonderful space for the library's program offerings such as the Breakfast with Snoopy Program, which was attended by 200 people. Music programs, plays, and many other activities have also taken place in the Riverside Room. The library also has a very active outreach program featuring many offsite programs and delivery to approximately 36 homebound individuals.



This stained glass window was donated to the library by the Thursday Club in 1898 and once hung in the rotunda of the old Carnegie library. It was moved to the new library in 1978.



The library's lobby contains a cart filled with booksale items, a display case promoting library programs, a table with information about the patron survey that was underway, and a view into to WiFi/Quiet Study area.



Welcome sign

Bossard Library participates in the Ohio Digital Library and patrons are very happy with the service, especially the new magazine offerings. The library began offering Gale Courses earlier this year using grant funding. These courses have been so successful that the library plans to fund the service on its own after the grant expires.

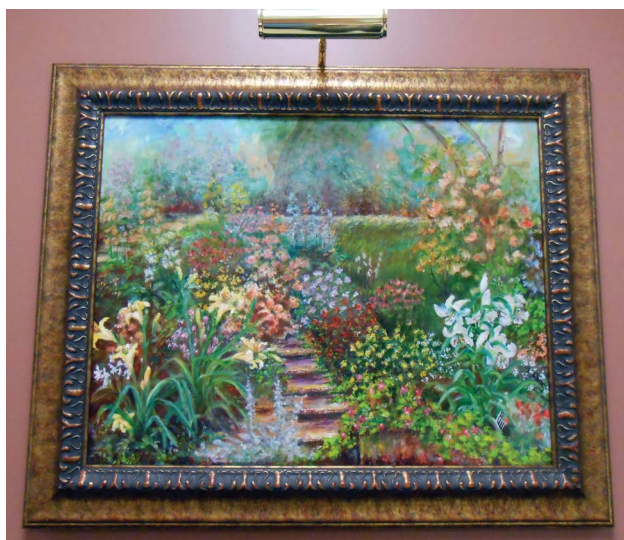


The Riverside Room features a mural depicting important people and events in the history of the Bossard Memorial Library. It was inspired by a mural Debbie Saunders viewed at the State Library of Ohio.

Library service in Gallipolis has a rich history beginning when the Thursday Club, a "group of women bound together for study and literary reviews," founded and sponsored the first library in Gallipolis. The Gallipolis Public Library first opened its doors on November 1, 1898. The Gallipolis Public Library moved into a new Carnegie Library in 1905. The library moved to its current location in 1978. Dr. Samuel L. Bossard, an Army physician, donated the building, a former warehouse, to the library and the library was named in his honor. The library was renovated in 1991 and was renovated again this year.

Debbie Saunders has directed the library since 2008, although her history with the library goes back much farther than that. She started working at the library as a Page when she was in high school. After earning her accounting degree, she joined the library's fiscal services department and worked in several positions before becoming Director.

Bill, Julia, and I are very grateful to Debbie and her staff for taking the time to help us learn more about the Dr. Samuel L. Bossard Memorial Library and the programs and services it provides to the community.



The walls are filled with works by local artists at the Oak Hill Library.

We spent the night in Gallipolis and headed to Jackson County the next morning. Our first visit of the day was at the Oak Hill Public Library. I had visited the Oak Hill Library when I was the Director of the Portsmouth Public Library but this was my first visit to the new Oak Hill Public Library. This beautiful 4800 square foot library was built in 2004 and provides residents of the Oak Hill community with significantly more space for seating, computers, programs and materials. The library has a staff of 7. Computer tech support is provided by staff from the local schools.

Peggy Johnson, who has directed the Oak Hill Library since 2005, provided us a tour of the library, which is currently beautifully decorated with fall items. The library provides seating and space for adult materials, and a Kid's Corner to house the children's collections as well as providing space for programs. There is also a Genealogy Room, which is very popular with patrons who are researching their

Meigs, Gallia, and Jackson continued



Bill Morris, Beverly Cain, Oak Hill Library Director Peggy Johnson, Lois Dunn, and Sharon Needham

family histories. The library is also home to Squirtle, a Peninsula Cooter Turtle.

At the conclusion of our tour, we had the opportunity to talk with Peggy and two of her Board members: Lois Dunn, President and Sharon Needham, Vice President. Lois is the former director of the Oak Hill Public Library. They kindly provided us with refreshments and more information about the library.

We learned that joining the Ohio Valley Library Consortium has been very beneficial to the library because it allows them to provide their patrons with access to many more materials than they could purchase on their own. The library has also benefitted from its membership in the Southeast Ohio Regional Library System (SERLS) in many ways such as utilizing the SERLS laptop lab for computer training, continuing education for library staff, and the opportunity to network with other library directors in the region.

We also learned that the Oak Hill Public Library has a very active Teen Advisory Board consisting of about 18 teen and pre-teen students from the area. Members of the Teen Advisory Board earn community service hours to help meet school requirements and help the library in a variety of ways. One way is helping the library prepare for and host its annual Haunted Library Program that will take place in October.

We appreciate the time Peggy, Lois, Sharon and the library staff spent with us and we enjoyed the opportunity to see and learn more about the Oak Hill Public Library.



The library, which is currently decorated for fall, features tall, arched windows that provide a lot of natural light throughout the library



The Kid's Corner of the Oak Hill Library

Meigs, Gallia, and Jackson continued next page

Our next destination was the **Jackson City Library**, directed by Laura Thorne. The Jackson City Library provides library programs and services to the residents of the Jackson City School District through the library, located near downtown, and a robust outreach program. Our visit began with lunch at the Tea Caddy, a tea room and gift shop just a short walk from the library. We were accompanied by library director Laura Thorne, youth services librarian Sharon Leali, and Chucky, a 10-month-old puppy that is training to be a service dog. Conversation over lunch provided us with a lot of information about the library.

The library provides a number of programs each month for library patrons of all ages. There are regular storytime programs for toddlers and preschoolers, a book club for adults, and a Teen Advisory Board for teens. The library is working to expand its roster of adult programs and recently hosted a program by Karen Harper, bestselling author of historical fiction and contemporary fiction including several contemporary suspense novels based in Ohio's Amish country.

American sculptor and painter Fletcher Benton was born in Jackson and the Jackson Library maintains a comprehensive collection of books by and about the artist. The library is also home to one of Benton's bronze sculptures, *Folded Circle Ring for Mary*. If you are a Benton enthusiast, you can see more of his work in the Lillian E. Jones Museum, located just up the street from the library.

The Jackson City Library is a two-year participant of Guiding Ohio Online and it's been very successful for them. We were able to meet Jackson's Guiding Ohio Online instructor, Americorps member Jim Whisler, during our visit.



Beverly Cain and Jackson City Library Director Laura Thorne with the Fletcher Benton sculpture, *Folded Circle Ring for Mary*



Adults have multiple seating options available in the library



Flints and arrowheads, donated by a board member, are on display in the library's lobby



Children's librarian, Sharon Leali, and Chucky, the service puppy-in-training

Meigs, Gallia, and Jackson continued

We left Jackson and headed to Wellston for our last visit of the day: the **Sylvester Memorial Wellston Public Library**. The library was founded in 1928 by school superintendent W.G. Scarberry and the current library's namesake, John E. Sylvester, publisher and editor of the Wellston Telegram. The original library was located in the high school and remained there until 1936, when it moved to the City Building. Heirs of the Sylvester family made the land at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Second Street, the former John E. Sylvester residence, available for the library to purchase. The library purchased the site in 1966 and was awarded an LSCA grant from the State Library of Ohio to construct a new library in 1967. The new library was dedicated as the Sylvester Memorial Library on October 27, 1968. The library has stood in the same location since then although it has been expanded and renovated several times over the years.

Karen Davis has been Director of the Sylvester Memorial Wellston Public Library since 2010, although she's been with the library much longer than that and served as Assistant Director prior to her appointment as Director.

In addition to collections of print and AV materials for adults, teens, and children, the library offers a Genealogy Room for those who are interested in tracing their family histories or learning more about the history of Wellston. The library also has a reference room that is used for quiet reading and studying. It is also used for homeschool testing.

The library found that its meeting room was underutilized while the children's area was bursting at the seams. The meeting room was eliminated to provide much needed space for the children's department, which is now a larger, inviting space where children can read, learn, and play. The children's librarian, Vickie Stephenson, was honored this past summer by the Wellston Chamber of Commerce as its Person of the Year.

The library has a very active teen group that currently has about 20 members. The teens make holiday cards that they deliver to residents of area nursing homes. The teens also help plan and host a Spring Tea Party with an Alice in Wonderland theme for 6 to 9 year-olds. They also participate in a clean-up initiative called Making Wellston Beautiful.

Bill, Julia, and I appreciated the opportunity to chat with Karen and two of her library board members, David Massie and Donna Summers, over refreshments so that we could learn more about the library and the community.



Sylvester Memorial Wellston Public Library Board member David Massie, Director Karen Davis, and Beverly Cain



The children's room now provides expanded room for materials, seating, activities, and play



Antique wedding clothes on display near the local history area

Jonathan Alder High School Library

December 16, 2015



L to R: District Librarian, Dana Wright State Library board member, Krista Taracuk; State Library Youth Services Consultant, Janet Ingraham-Dwyer; OELMA past-president, Susan Yutzey; State Librarian Beverly Cain; and Assistant Superintendent, Misty Swanger.

Back in December, I had the opportunity to visit the Jonathan Alder High School Library, along with State Library colleague, Janet Ingraham-Dwyer, State Library board member, Krista Taracuk, and OELMA past-president, Susan Yutzey.

We met with District Librarian, Dana Wright, who provided a tour of the library shared information about the success she has had in using inquiry based learning at Jonathan Alder. She is joined and supported in her efforts by Assistant Superintendent, Misty Swanger. With the support of the District's administrators, Dana has teamed with other teachers to teach and lead several inquiry based papers and projects and has helped teachers create essential and guiding questions in order to facilitate research. Examples include an inquiry research paper on the topic of deviance and social impact of crime in the United States for Social Studies classes. She is also in the process of developing a "What is the Truth?" project for the eighth grade junior high social studies team.

She has collaborated with the English Department Chair, Jennifer Danner, on several projects, including an inquiry project covering *To Kill a Mockingbird*. They are currently working out the details of establishing a writing lab based in the library. She has worked with other teachers to develop inquiry based projects in geometry and ecology and with a multi-disciplinary team to develop a project that will be required for all freshmen students. They will be reading Steve Sheinkin's awarding winning non-fiction book, *Bomb*. This project will begin in the Spring of 2016.

Additionally, Dana has co-written an article on teaming and inquiry that is being published in "School Library Connection." She has also written a chapter on math and inquiry for Leslie Maniote's upcoming book *Guided Inquiry for High School Teachers*. She and Jennifer Danner co-write an inquiry blog on a regular basis.

One interesting aspect of the Jonathan Alder High School Library is the Teacher Inquiry Playhouse, a positive, collaborative workspace for teachers. Another interesting and equally exciting aspect of the library is that it was designed by students as an inquiry project. Students came up with ideas for redesigning the library space, selected paint colors, carpet, and furniture and were responsible for contacting vendors and contractors to get the work done. It is a design in progress but it looks great and it's obviously a place the students have made their own. There were large groups of students in the library at the time of our visit. Some were working in groups to practice presentations, others were working in small groups or on their own to complete assignments, and others were reading. All were engaged in some form of learning.

Great things are happening in the Jonathan Alder High School Library and in the school itself. We appreciated the time Librarian Dana Wright, Assistant Superintendent Misty Swanger, and Superintendent Gary Chapman spent with us to share information about the outstanding teaching and learning that are taking place at Jonathan Alder.

MidPointe Library –Trenton

August 11, 2016

On August 11, I had the opportunity to attend a reception honoring the opening of the new Trenton Library, part of the MidPointe Public Library System. Library Director Travis Bautz, explained that the former Trenton Library, located in a storefront at 21 E. State Street, had grown too small for the amount of activity taking place at the library. The community needed more space, additional parking, a community room, and more public computers.

The new library at 200 Edgewood Drive, offers all of that and more. Library leaders were able to purchase a vacant daycare facility and renovate it to provide over 10,000 square feet of public library space. The new library has an open floor plan with plenty of natural light and features dedicated spaces for kids, teens, and adults, attractive, functional furniture, computers for children and adults, a study room, a large community room with a kitchen, and ample parking. Library staff have taken advantage of additional shelving space available in the new library to add a large variety of new materials too.

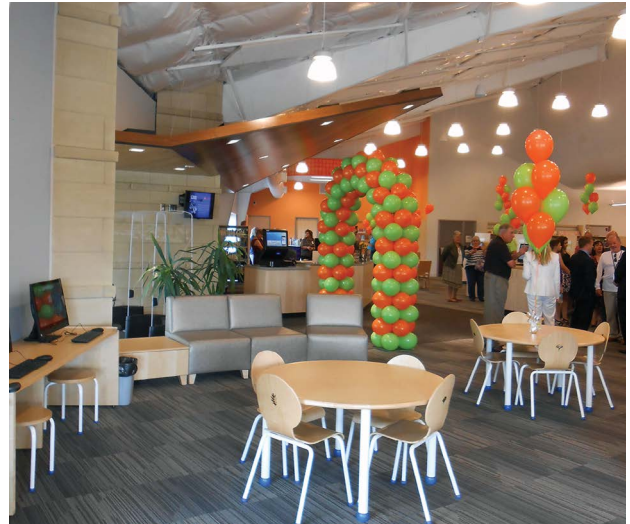
Congratulations to Trenton and the MidPointe Library System for making this wonderful investment in the community.



Exterior of the new Trenton Library



The children's area is very inviting



High ceilings help provide the library with a very open and spacious look.



The area for Teens offers a broad array of materials as well as several seating options



There are plenty of toys, puzzles, books, and games available in the children's area

New Grove City Library

October 16, 2016

I had the privilege of speaking at the Dedication and Grand Opening of the new Grove City Library on Sunday, October 16. This beautiful new facility is part of Southwest Public Libraries (SPL), serving the more than 130,000 residents of the South-Western City School District. The new library replaces a building that was built in 1954 and expanded in 1974 and was no longer adequate to meet the library's needs.

The **Grove City Library** has two floors and is 48,000 square feet in size. The building is as functional as it is beautiful, providing an increased number of public computers with internet access, large meeting rooms and quiet study rooms, an area dedicated to the Friends of the Library book sale, a wonderful children's area that includes an early literacy center, and plenty of space to browse the library's collections and sit and read, work, or study. Some highlights of the new library include:

Harper's Grove Early Literacy Section – this area is equipped with games and activities to help children learn skills that will provide a good foundation for learning to read. Harper's Grove was made possible by a \$100,000 donation from Laura Harper, president emeritus of the Friends of the Southwest Public Libraries Board of Trustees.

The Women's Civic Club of Grove City Reading Room – this room on the second floor of the library offers a cozy spot to sit and read a good book. The Civic Club has been a strong supporter of the library since 1917, when it helped create the public library in Grove City. The room includes comfortable seating and a working fireplace. A portrait of Irene Harper, the first librarian of Southwest Public Libraries, hangs above the fireplace.

Entryway Artwork – the sculpture in the vestibule of the Broadway entrance was designed and built by local artist, Roger Burkett. The design pays homage to the history of the Grove City Library, depicting all of the library's locations since its establishment in 1917. The piece also includes a variation of the Southwest Public Libraries logo.



Exterior view of the new Grove City Library



Meeting and Study Rooms – large meeting room on the first floor can accommodate up to 388 people and can be divided into two separate, smaller meeting rooms. The SPL Board Room is also available for public use as a conference room when the Board of Trustees is not in session. Quiet Study rooms are available for individuals or small groups seeking quiet study space.

The new library was made possible by a partnership between the Southwest Public Libraries and the City of Grove City. The city purchased the property on which the Grove City Library sits. After a term of 30 years, ownership will transfer to SPL. 86 off-street parking spaces are available for library use.

Grove City continued next page

Grove City continue



Flag raising ceremony at the opening of the new Grove City Library



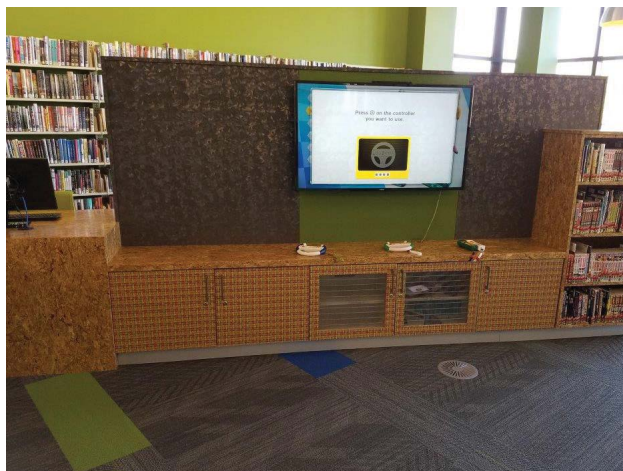
Outside Harper's Grover Early Literacy Section



Looking down on Harper's Grove from the second floor



Inside Harper's Grover Early Literacy Section



Gaming console in the teen area



Children's area

East Cleveland Public Library

January 25, 2017



ECPL Director Sheba Marcus-Bey and State Librarian Beverly Cain

On January 25, Bill Morris and I traveled to East Cleveland to meet with Sheba Marcus-Bey, Director of the East Cleveland Public Library. Ms. Marcus-Bey provided us with information about many of the library's programs and services and provided us with a tour of the 50,000 square foot library.

The East Cleveland Public Library (ECPL) was built using funds provided by Andrew Carnegie and was opened to the public in 1916. It has been renovated and expanded a number of times throughout its 100 year history, including the 2005 renovation, which included the addition of the Debra Ann November Learning Center and the Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center. ECPL is a school district library, serving the residents of the East Cleveland School District.

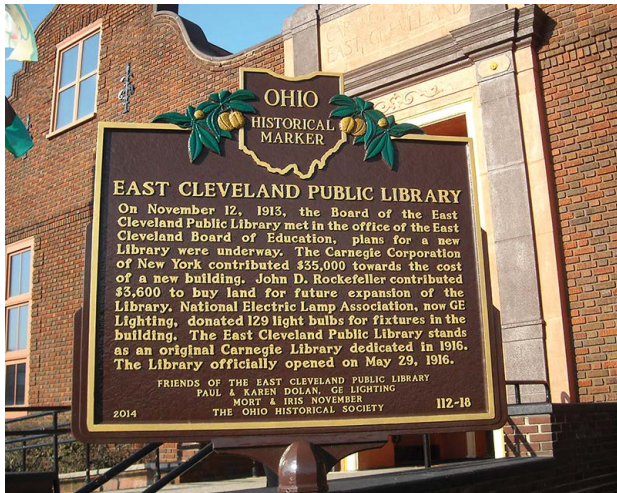
ECPL is currently engaged in making several improvements to the facility. Carpeting has already been replaced in some areas of the library and many areas have been repainted. Worn carpeting in the Auditorium was replaced with Nature Stone flooring, which is easy to clean and maintain. Lighting has been updated in several areas of the building and there are plans to continue updating the lighting throughout the library. The largest focus right now is to replace the library's 40-year-old roof, which has multiple leaks in many areas of the library. The library has retained an architect to begin work on the project.

ECPL fosters partnerships with several community organizations in order to enhance the services they are able to provide to the community. They have formed an excellent relationship with East Cleveland City Schools to provide literacy support to children. ECPL's Literacy Specialist, Heidi Cohen, visits the district's elementary schools each morning to provide literacy support and instruction for students in grades K-3. Ms. Cohen spends each afternoon working with students whose classes visit the library for programs, activities, and study.

Additionally, ECPL is engaged in a partnership with the Cleveland Public Library for a Bold Beginning Early Literacy pilot program. The libraries received a grant from the Ohio Department of Education to help advance childhood literacy and assist families. Grants were provided through the Family and Community Engagement program as part of Ohio's Early Learning Challenge Grant program.

ECPL also has a wonderful partnership with the East Cleveland Neighborhood Center (ECNC), which rents space in the library. The Center is primarily focused on drug and alcohol prevention and intervention, but is also involved in providing education and literacy support for youth. The Center's programs include the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, a summer enrichment program for youth ages 5-18 that supports reading and learning,

East Cleveland *continued next page*



An Ohio Historical Marker recognizing the East Cleveland Public Library as a Carnegie Library, which officially opened in 1916.

cultivates self-esteem and connects the needs of families to local resources. Additionally, ECNC is a distribution site for Shoes and Clothes for Kids for the most vulnerable populations. ECNC distributes clothing items five times per year.

The library is also working to expand its services for older adults living in the community. Adult Services Librarian, Leah Schmidt, is focused on reaching out to older adults in the community to learn more about their needs and to let them know what services and programs are available to them from the library. Ms. Schmidt is also working to build and enhance the library's collections.

The local ABLE program has space in the library where they provide GED preparation classes for adults. The program helps adults prepare for the high school equivalency certificate with instructional support and practice tests. The ABLE office is currently seeking a new instructor and hopes to offer classes again very soon.

The library building is an interesting blend of the old and new. The library features several areas where public programs and meetings take place. The Lower Auditorium has undergone recent improvements that include new flooring and lighting. The space is currently home to an art exhibit created in collaboration with Cleveland organization, Shooting without Bullets, an arts education and youth advocacy program created in response to police violence against youth across the country, especially in Cleveland. The exhibit was curated by



The exterior and front entrance of the library



The Shooting Without Bullets art exhibition in the Lower Auditorium.



The storytime area with bright yellow tables and large windows, that provide a lot of natural light in the area.

East Cleveland *continued*



The fireplace in the Reference Room features tiles with a Robin Hood theme



Part of the unique collection in the Local History Room



The Icabod Flewellen Collection consists of books, correspondence, photographs, audiovisual material, framed pictures and portraits pertaining to Afro-American history and culture.



The Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center has a seating capacity of 230 seats and is home to a Steinway Grand Piano

Amanda King, a J.D. candidate at Case Western Reserve University. The works of art were created by local youth. The exhibit runs through March 31.

The children's room, located near the Auditorium on the lower level of the library, has also recently benefitted from some updates. The area has new carpet, fresh paint, and many hands-on learning toys to engage young hands and minds. Next to the children's room is the Debra Ann November Learning Center, which provides space for a great variety of children's programming.

The main floor of the library is home to the Local History Room, containing information pertinent to the history of East Cleveland and Cleveland, the Adult Services Department, a large Teen Room, a Reference Room with a collection of

workforce development materials known as The Job Shop, and a beautiful fireplace framed with tiles decorated with a Robin Hood theme, and a robust collection of Russian language materials to help the library serve the local Russian community.

The beautiful Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center was built in 2005 and named in honor of the former library director. The Center has a seating capacity of 230 seats and is home to a Steinway Grand Piano. The Performing Arts Center is used for programs sponsored by the library and is also available for use by other groups.

Bill and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the East Cleveland Public Library and appreciated the opportunity to learn more about its many programs and services.

Toledo Lucas County Public Library

July 27, 2017



L to R: Rhonda Sewell, Jason Kucsma, Meg Delaney, Bill Morris, Beverly Cain, Nancy Eames, Nikki Naylor, and Clyde Scoles

Bill Morris and I had the pleasure of visiting the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) on July 27. It was our first visit to the library since 2013. We were not surprised to see that some changes had taken place in the four-year interim.

Our visit began with a lunch meeting that included Director Clyde Scoles, Deputy Director Jason Kucsma, Main Library Manager Meg Delaney, Youth Services Manager Nancy Eames, Manager of External & Government Affairs Rhonda Sewell, Assistant Administrator of Branch Services Nikki Naylor, and Board member, Jesus Salas. This gave us the opportunity to hear about the many things that have been taking place in Toledo and I was able to talk with Mr. Salas about his passion for libraries and his ideas for serving migrant families in Northwest Ohio.

We then returned to the library for a tour. There are two things that immediately come to mind whenever I visit TLCPL's Main Library. The first is that when approached from the outside, the building is huge, spanning a full city block. The second is that although the Main Library is 77 years old, having first opened in 1940, everything about it manages to look fresh and new. Even the beautiful vitrolite murals

throughout the library look astonishingly new. This is a library that has been maintained with care and diligence throughout its history. It has also been continually updated to meet the ever changing needs of its community.

Highlights from our tour included the Rogowski-Kaptur Labor History Room, home to a collection of books and memorabilia pertaining to the history of labor in the Northwest Ohio and Detroit areas. The room is named for Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's mother. The Library's Local History Department, featuring the Blade Rare Book Room, is a treasure trove of yearbooks, rare documents, books, memorabilia, photographs and maps that document the history of the area. (TLCPL) had a difficult time getting Bill and me to move past the display case that featured a handwritten letter from Babe Ruth. There are also a number of digital collections related to the history of Northwest Ohio. As a Digitization Hub for Ohio's Public Libraries and a partner in the Ohio Digital Network, TLCPL is working hard to ensure that its unique collections are preserved and accessible for future generations.

Just one outstanding feature of the library is the vitrolite that can be seen throughout the building, including the Central Court and the

Toledo Lucas *continued next page*



The grand Central Court

Children's Library. The Main Library is home to a remarkable display of glass mosaic murals called Vitrolite. Vitrolite was produced by the Libbey Owens Ford Company in the 1930s and 1940s. The murals have been beautifully preserved and add to the character and beauty of the library while showcasing some of the work of the Libbey Owens Ford Company, which was headquartered in Toledo for many years.

The Main Library has served Toledo and Lucas County for more than 175 years and the building is a marvelous blend of the old and new. In fact, the Library's website says the Main Library is an outstanding mix of "Art Deco design paired with cutting edge modern architecture." The stunning Central Court, with its tall ceiling, skylight, and Vitrolite murals, is an excellent example of the old. The Susan M. Savage Family Place Creativity Lab is just one example of the new. Located in the Children's Library, the 2,300 square foot Creativity Lab includes colorful, interactive panels, a full kitchen, and room for 80 children to sit at tables while they work on crafts, science projects, and

other educational activities. On the day of our visit, a children's librarian was helping children learn to code after they had lunch as part of the Library's Connecting Kids to Meals program, which is designed to keep children well-fed and engaged in learning over the summer. Another example of the new is the beautiful three level glass atrium that connects the old building to the new building that was added in the Main Library's 2001 renovation.

The Main Library is also home to a Passport Acceptance Agency, a beautiful Children's Library, multiple meeting rooms and a large auditorium, the Library Café, the Classics Gift Shop, 125 public computers and technology training, and a wealth of programs, books, and other resources to serve people of all ages throughout the community.

Bill and I enjoyed our visit and appreciate the time Director Clyde Scoles and his staff spent with us. We look forward to seeing what they do next!



Toledo Lucas County Public Library three-level glass atrium



The Auditorium



The Local History Department



Vitrolite mural in the Children's Library



Display case with letter written by Babe Ruth

Summer 2018 Library Visits

In July and August 2018, I had the opportunity to visit several Ohio libraries. Many, but not all, of these libraries have undergone recent renovations and expansions and other have introduced new programs and services. It was nice to see how they have continued to change and grow to meet the needs of their communities.



L-R Bill Morris, Krista Taracuk, Pam Jankowski, Literacy & Learning Center Director for CCPL, Beverly Cain, CCPL Deputy Director Tracy Stroble, and CCPL Executive Director Sari Feldman

Cuyahoga County Public Library

In July and August 2018, I had the opportunity to visit several Ohio libraries. Many, but not all, of these libraries have undergone recent renovations and expansions and other have introduced new programs and services. It was nice to see how they have continued to change and grow to meet the needs of their communities.

July 2018 – Cuyahoga County Public Library

In July, State Library Board President Krista Taracuk, Bill Morris, and I visited the Cuyahoga County Public Library. We were able to see the Parma-Snow Branch, Middleburg Heights Branch, and the Maple Heights Branch on this visit.

We began at the **Parma-Snow Branch**, which underwent a \$15.2 million renovation and expansion in 2013 as part of the library system's facilities masterplan. The project doubled the size of the library to about 41,000 square feet. The branch is joined to the Cuyahoga County Public Library's Administration Building via a single story expansion.



Exterior of the Parma-Snow Branch

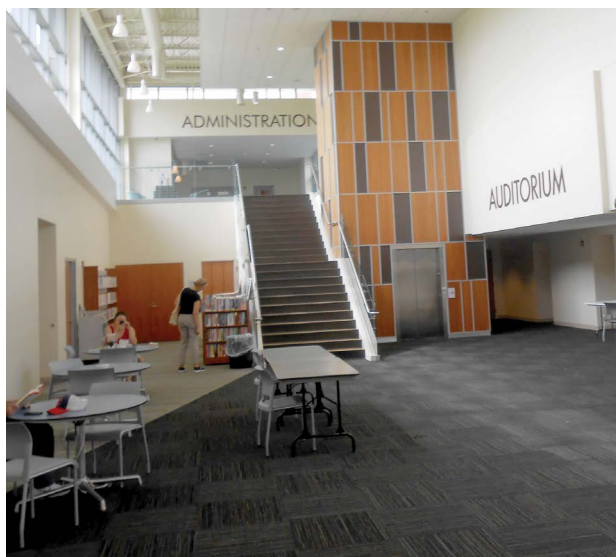
The Parma-Snow Branch Library features a 400-seat auditorium with state-of-the-art equipment and flexible seating. The auditorium can be used for special events and programs such as the library's popular Beyond the Book Jacket Author Series, which in 2017 included 70 events that were attended by almost 8,000 people.

Summer / Cuyahoga continued next page

Summer/ Cuyahoga continued



Display of items created in the Innovation Center at Parma-Snow Branch



Interior of the Parma-Snow Branch, near the Auditorium entrance

Other features of the library include an Innovation Center, which provides access to software, cutting-edge technology, and production equipment. This Innovation Center and others in the Cuyahoga County Public Library system are helping local entrepreneurs and small business owners bring their ideas and designs to life in addition to developing promotional materials to help their ventures grow and thrive.

The Parma-Snow Branch also offers 55 public computing stations, several community meeting rooms, study rooms, a teen space, and an expanded children's area that includes an interactive play and learn area.

Our next stop was the new **Middleburg Heights Branch**, which was officially opened in June 2018. The new 16,500 square foot library was built on land donated by the city of Middleburg Heights and replaced an existing branch, which had been built in 1969. A nice surprise for me was seeing Branch Manager Holly Camino, who was a page at the Medina County District Library when I worked there early in my career. I am very proud of her career progression and the great work she is doing!

This beautiful new library includes sensory features in soothing colors, a story/craft room, community meeting rooms, public computer stations, and a café. The Middleburg Heights Branch, like all Cuyahoga County Public Library branches, is an official Passport Acceptance Facility for the U.S. Department of State.



Exterior of the Middleburg Heights Branch



Interior of Middleburg Heights Branch

Summer / Cuyahoga continued next page



Middleburg Heights Sensory Pod



Makerspace at Maple Heights Branch

Our final stop on this visit was the **Maple Heights Branch**, which was under construction at that time. The branch library's new meeting rooms have now been completed and are available for public use. The library boasts a Debra Ann November Early Learning Center, which helps young children acquire the language and literacy skills they need to be successful in school. The center is funded by Early Head Start, Head Start, and Universal Pre-Kindergarten. It is the first learning center in the state to be located in a public library.

The Maple Heights Branch is also home to Cuyahoga Works: Job & Career Services,

an award-winning adult career planning and resource center. Adults can make appointments with a Career Counselor, attend workshops, and access thousands of print and online career resources.

The Maple Heights Branch is also the central hub for ASPIRE Greater Cleveland, which is a partnership of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cleveland Public Library, and Cuyahoga County Job & Family Services that offers adult education and social services through the Library, including GED and ESOL classes.



Interior of the Maple Heights Branch

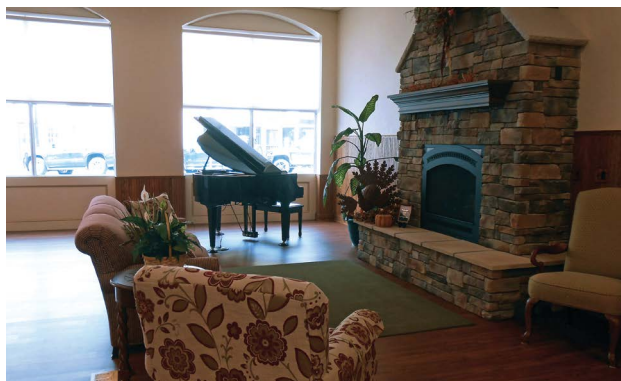


Entrance to Cuyahoga Works at the Maple Heights Branch

Northwest Ohio Libraries (and a Museum)

August 2018

Julia Ward, Bill Morris, and I traveled to Northwest Ohio in August to meet former State Library Board Member, John Myles, for a tour of four public libraries and the **Museum of Fulton County**, where John volunteers. I had visited the Liberty Center and Wauseon public libraries in 2011 but both have undergone recent renovations and both have had changes in directors since my earlier visit. It was my first visit to the Museum, Waterville Branch of Toledo Lucas County Public Library, and Way Public Library.



Fireplace located in the new reading area at Liberty Center Public Library



The adult collection and study tables at Liberty Center Public Library

The **Liberty Center Public Library** had many uses prior to becoming a library including housing a pharmacy, a bar, and a hotel. The library has a staff of 8 and the current director is Arla Fry. In 2002 the library Board purchased the vacant space next door to the library but due to financial constraints was unable to utilize the space until recently. A year ago, the library completed renovating the vacant space and has used to create a large reading area, complete with easy chairs and a fireplace, room for the collection of adult materials, and meeting rooms. There are plans to create a local history/genealogy area in the expanded space. The renovations allowed the library to open up the children's area, creating more appealing space for the library's youngest users.

Our next stop was the **Wauseon Public Library**, directed by Maricela DeLeon. The Wauseon Public Library got its start as a Carnegie Library, which was completed and opened in 1906. It underwent a renovation in 2017. The \$1 million renovation included making the library more handicap accessible by moving the elevator to the front of the building and making the restrooms accessible. The library also now has new stairways and windows, which provide the library with more natural light. The project was paid for in part by a \$200,000 Community Development Block Grant received through the federal Targets of Opportunity Program. The library staff continues to fine tune the renovations by relocating furniture and collections.



Children's room in the Wauseon Public Library



Wauseon Public Library Director Maricela DeLeon and Beverly Cain

Summer / Northwest continued next page

State Librarian Beverly Cain - Library Visits Journal

Summer / Northwest *continued*

The **Museum of Fulton County** opened in May of 2018 and is a recreation of the county's first courthouse. The Museum is a joint-use facility and in addition to the Museum, houses the Fulton County Visitor's Bureau, and Fulton County offices including the command center of the Emergency Management Agency. The Museum's mission is to collect, preserve, and interpret artifacts and written records pertaining to Fulton County and it provides an opportunity for visitors to explore and discover Fulton County's rich history through permanent and special exhibits, many of which are interactive. It tells the story of the pioneer families of the area and includes an exhibit honoring racecar driver, Barney Oldfield. The county motto, "Find a way or make your own," is threaded throughout the stories told through the Museum's well-done exhibits.

The Museum is home to the Spiess Research Center, which includes many written family histories, local and county histories, and obituaries, making it a rich resource for researchers. The Museum also has a display case that can be used for displays from local history and genealogical societies.



Entrance to the museum



Museum exhibit featuring race car driver, Barney Oldfield



Beverly and Bill could not resist a photo op



A sample of the exhibits

Summer / Northwest *continued next page*



L-R: John Myles, Julia Ward, Beverly Cain, Will Harbauer, Bill Morris

The **Waterville Branch Library** is part of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library system. The current building, managed by Will Harbauer, was built in 1965 and was last renovated in 2005. The land for the library was donated by the City of Waterville, which has a population of about 5,500 residents. The library partners with the city on programs, such as using a nearby gazebo to provide music in the part programs during the summer months. The library is also engaged in collaborative efforts with the local schools. A library staff person has taught teachers how to use the library's equipment, including 3-D printers and they regularly provide in-service training for teachers in the district. Children's materials account for the largest percentage of the library's overall circulation. The library features two meeting rooms, with the larger one being able to accommodate 47 people. The meeting rooms feature panels sculpted by George Carruth. A highlight of the Waterville Library is the Make the Mosaic tile art displayed at the front of the library, facilitated by artist Gail Christofferson in 2013. The artwork is a 13 ft x 6 ft mosaic, created by community members from an illustration by local Waterville community member Alison Quinn.



The community mosaic



Children's play area

Summer / Northwest *continued*

Our last stop on this trip was the Way Public Library in Perrysburg. The library has stood in its current location since 1892. The current 45,855 square foot library was renovated and expanded in 2001 and holds a collection of more than 120,000 items. During the 2001 renovation, the library was closed for a year and library services were provided from an off-site location. Janel Haas is the director of the Way Public Library.

The library's Beyond Books collection caught my eye almost immediately. This collection includes equipment and electronics such as a metal detector and a portable scanner, home tools including an air quality meter and a thermal leak detector, musical instruments, games, sports equipment, and science and educational resources such as binoculars and a telescope. All items are available to be checked out for 1-2 weeks and can be renewed once. It is really an amazing collection of items that you don't necessarily expect to find at your local public library. The library also offers a Party Express collection that includes games such as Giant Connect Four and badminton and a karaoke system. These items can be checked out for four days and cannot be renewed.

The Way Public Library does a significant amount of programming for children, adults, and teens. The library normally offers about 800 programs per year and last summer, there were 200 children's programs offered as part of the library's Summer Reader Program. Programs are funded by the Way Public Library Foundation and Friends, which merged into one group in 2013.

The library also features meeting rooms, quiet study areas, public computers, and attractive spaces for children, teens, and adults.



Entrance to Way Public Library



Beyond Books Collection