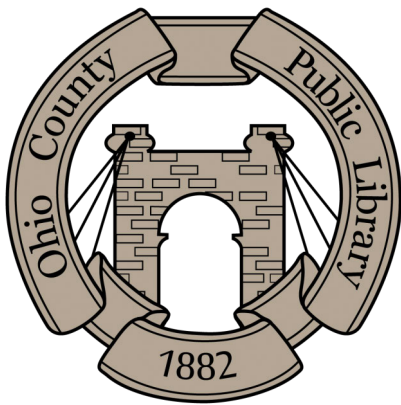


PROFILE OF THE OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



AS the oldest established public library in West Virginia, the Ohio County Public Library has long been in the forefront of library services in the state.

OCPL was the first public library in West Virginia to begin professionally archiving and digitizing local history and has the most extensive collection of historical information and photographs on its website of any public library in the state. It was also the first public library to deliver library materials to homebound patrons.

The Ohio County Public Library's facility houses the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program throughout tax season each year in one of its meeting rooms, and has been one of the top five VITA sites in the nation for the last several years, completing approximately 4,000 returns each year free of charge to area residents.

OVERVIEW

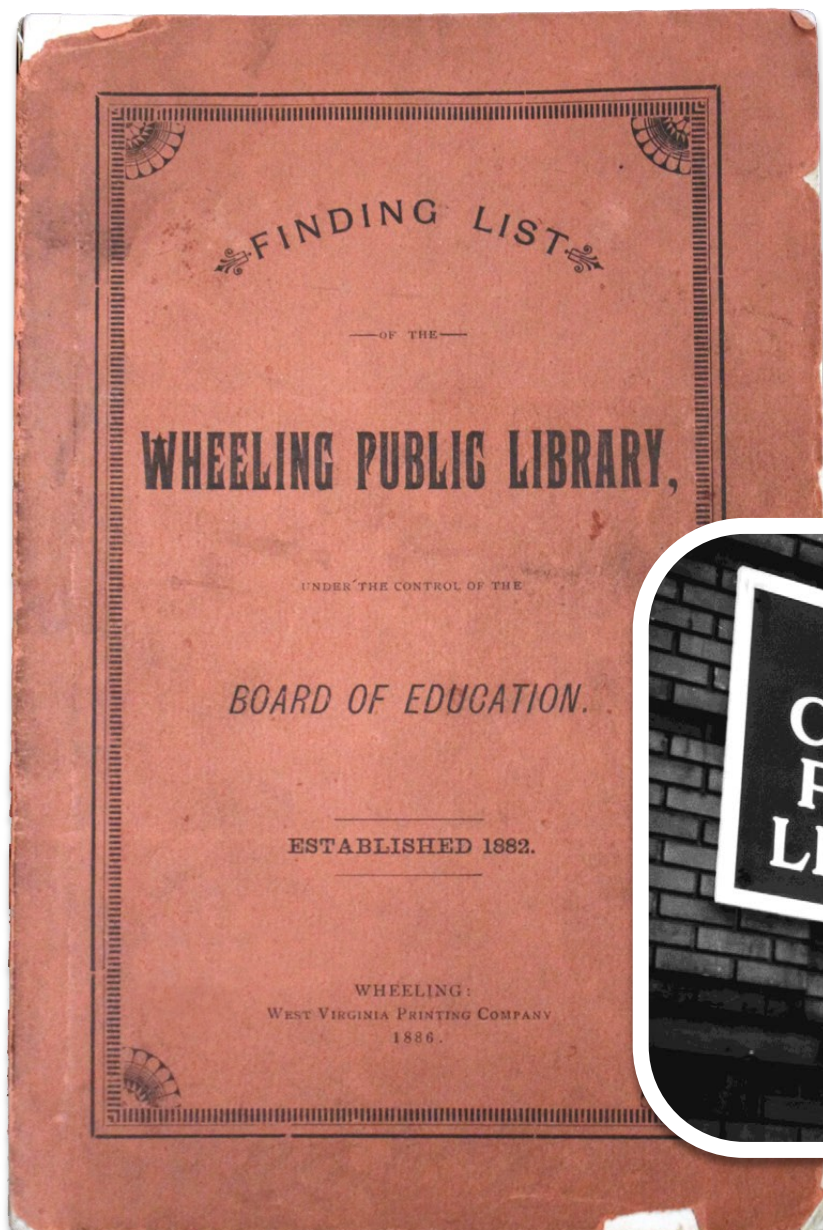
OCPL

has been in existence in some form since 1807.

Originally a subscription library, it became the Wheeling Public Library in 1882 through an act of the West Virginia Legislature that allowed the Board of Education of Wheeling to become the administrative body of the library and “to provide for the establishment, maintenance, support, increase and government of a public library in said district, by the board of education thereof.”

This act also “provided that three-tenths of a mill be levied on the dollar valuation for the establishment, support, and increase of such public library.” The Library remained under the administration of the Board of Education until the Tax Limitation Amendment to the State Constitution was ratified in November 1932 which was quickly followed by the May 1933 passage of a county unit bill which abolished local and independent school districts and created consolidated county boards of education. This legislation dictated that boards of education could not be the administrative body of local public libraries. Because these legislative actions meant the Wheeling Public Library no longer had a governing body, a special act of the West Virginia Legislature was passed that same month, May 1933, that created the Ohio County Public Library, provided for a new Board of Trustees, and continued the levy rate initiated by the Board of Education of Wheeling in 1882. That rate, three cents of every \$100 of assessed property value in Ohio County, continued to be provided by law for another eighty years until it was struck down by the West Virginia Supreme Court in 2013 in response to a lawsuit filed by the Kanawha County Board of Education. Since 2013, the Ohio County Board of Education has voluntarily continued to fund the Library at that same rate, ensuring the continued stable support and increase of offerings of the Ohio County Public Library.

Currently this annual support provides 42% of the Library’s operating budget and is essential for the contin-



The Ohio County Public Library has been funded at the same rate by the Board of Education since 1882, providing stability for annual planning in collection development, building maintenance, and programming growth for 139 years.

ued effective and efficient operation of OCPL.

Serving a county of 41,400 residents, the Library has approximately 36,000 registered library patrons. In an average year, OCPL circulates over 220,000 items each year, has approximately 150,000 patron visits, and is open seven days a week for a total of 67 hours. OCPL offers free internet and wireless access for patrons.

The Library's collection includes over 160,064 physical volumes in addition to

an array of downloadable collections of ebooks, audio books, and streaming video. OCPL also offers an array of downloadable collections of magazines, movies, books, word searchable newspapers, foreign language skills, art works, Great Courses, manuals, test preparation, and genealogy resources.

This year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library began curbside service for patrons. This service has proven so popular that it will remain as an ongoing service!

ADULT SERVICES REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The Adult Services & Reference Department is headed by a professional librarian, and staffed with four paraprofessional reference assistants with Bachelor's degrees.

These assistants staff the Reference Desk every hour that the Library is open, providing individual general reference assistance and reader's advisory to patrons, both in person and by phone. They also answer questions via the Library website's "Ask A Librarian" form. This past year approximately 36,000 reference questions were answered.

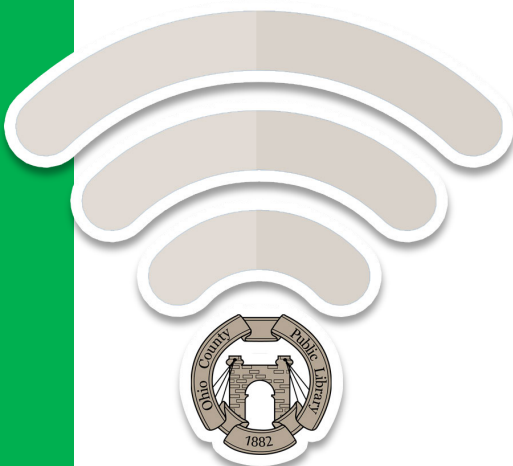
As a member of OCLC, a worldwide interlibrary loan consortium, interlibrary loan requests are filled for patrons free of charge from libraries throughout the United States, and even the world. Over 1,000 interlibrary loan requests were filled at OCPL in the last year.

Both Reference and Circulation staff are notaries, providing free notary service every hour the Library is open.



Free public internet stations are also provided every hour the Library is open, and wireless internet connections are provided throughout the building and even in

the parking lot 24 hours per day, every day of the year. Excluding wireless service, OCPL had 13,400 individual internet uses this past year. The Library also participates in the WV Kids Connect initiative, providing dedicated internet connectivity to Ohio County school children during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Free computer classes are conducted regularly for patrons by the Reference staff. A new mobile computer lab with six laptop computers has been purchased for students to use in these classes.

The Reference staff also provides test proctoring for distance education students as well as testing for local professionals who need certification in various fields.

With the rapid increase in downloadable collections, the Reference staff also provides individualized assistance to patrons to set up and begin using various devices for downloadable collections. OCPL provides twenty-seven downloadable and online collections. The largest downloadable collection provided is the WVDeli collection. This is an entire downloadable library of approximately 91,000 items including ebooks, audiobooks, movies, music, and magazines. Eleven public li-

braries across West Virginia purchase downloadable resources for this consortium. These eleven libraries include many of the largest public libraries in the state. This consortium enables OCPL patrons to have access to a much larger collection of downloadable resources than OCPL could purchase on its own. A complete listing of these online collections and resources can be found at the end of this profile on pages 24-35.

In addition to the online downloadable services the Library provides, an important local resource that OCPL has created is the digitized and word searchable *Wheeling Intelligencer* and *News-Register* online newspaper archive from our microfilm collections. Issues of the entire run of the *Intelligencer* from 1856 to the present are currently available with the exception of 1983-1985, which will soon be added, and the *News-Register* from 2010 to the present, are now online. The entire run of both papers will be available within the next few years.

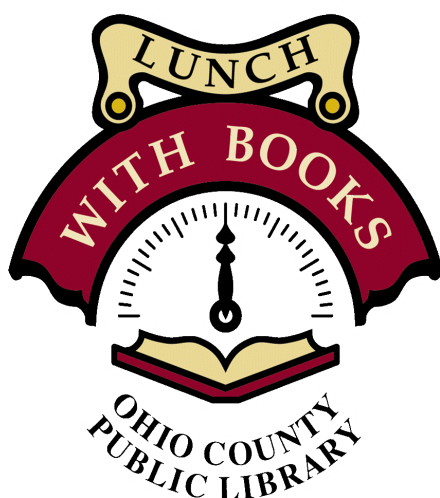


The Reference Department at the Library answers approximately 36,000 questions a year. They also provide assistance with computers and our downloadable collections.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

The Library's flagship Lunch With Books program is offered every Tuesday at noon in the Library's auditorium.

Patrons are invited to bring a bag lunch and enjoy programs by authors, poets, historians, musicians and a variety of other guests. Complimentary beverages and pretzels are provided.



Lunch With Books has grown into a very popular program with a solid regional and statewide reputation. The average attendance ranges from 70-80 people.

Some of the most popular programs have featured local history, including a celebration of Saengerfests, Wheeling's German singing festivals; a Civil War fashion show; presentations by holocaust survivors, including Judge Thomas Buergenthal and Cantor David Wisnia (both survivors of Auschwitz-Birkenau); a reading by the national best-selling author of historical fiction, James Alexander Thom; a "Neighborhood Nostalgia" series during which patrons are invited to share memories of growing up in some of Wheeling's historic neighborhoods; and a production of the infamous "War of the Worlds" radio show with full audience participation, including reading parts and producing special effects. This same show was also presented for more than 130 area middle school students who were learning about radio shows. The students also read parts and helped with special visual and sound effects using lasers and various noisemakers.

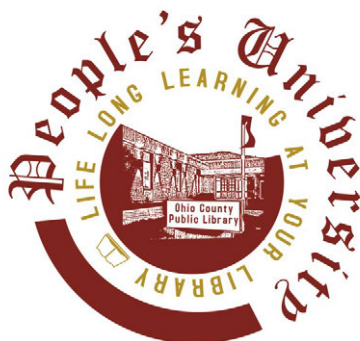


Attendees often fill the Library auditorium at our popular free noontime Lunch With Books programs.

Lunch With Books also features programs based on enduring community partnerships, such as the **Hughes Lecture Series** (with West Liberty University), and the **Wheeling Poetry Series**, hosted by West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman.



Another regular adult program offered by OCPL is an evening series called



ated **People's University** as a program for adults who wish to continue their

People's University. In keeping with the mission of public libraries as sanctuaries of free learning for all people, the Library created

education in the liberal arts. Using a semester approach, it features courses (taught by experts in each subject) that enable patrons to pursue their goal of lifelong learning in classic subjects such as history, music appreciation, philosophy, science, and literature. Patrons may attend as many classes as they wish. There are no tests or other requirements and, as with all Library programming, these classes are free and open to the public.

The series began in 2010 with a nine-class History of Wheeling taught by Dr. David Javersak. Other classes have included World Geography, American Literature, Music Appreciation (with the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra), Philosophy, Astronomy, Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust (with Temple Shalom and Classrooms Without Borders), the Civil War, Biology, Appalachian Music and Folklore, and Human Rights.

Since COVID-19 forced the discontinuation of in-person library programs, OCPL has introduced initiatives called “**LWB Livestream**” and “**PU Livestream**” to compensate. These events are broadcast live using the StreamYard video platform on OCPL’s Facebook page, YouTube channel, and website. The programs are automatically recorded and stay online indefinitely so that patrons are able visit these pages later to watch after the initial broadcast. During the past year, average attendance (in the form of entire video viewership) for LWB Live Stream has climbed to the mid-40s while PU Livestream maintains a respectable mid-30s average.

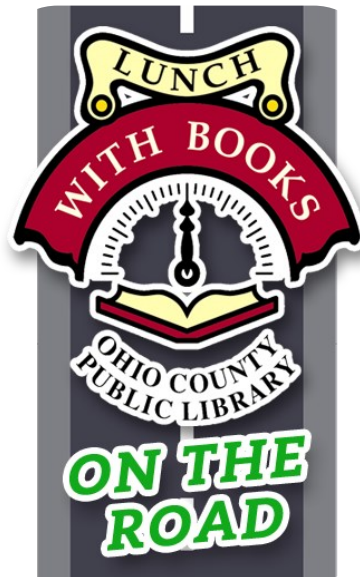
Perhaps the biggest benefit of offering online programs is that it has allowed the Adult Programming Department to present high quality guests from all over the world. In fact, **LWB** and **PU Livestream** have hosted guests live from as far away as California, Finland, Ireland, Australia, and the United Kingdom. In addition, patrons from all over the world are able to tune in and watch.

LWB Livestream has recently featured award-winning authors like Crystal Wilkinson and Billy O’Callaghan. Upcoming guests will include U.S. Women’s Chess Champion and author Jennifer Shahade, and the author of *The Sword and the Shield: The Revolutionary Lives of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.*, Dr. Peniel E. Joseph, the Barbara Jordan Chair in Ethics and Political Values at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and a professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin.



Top: General Ulysses S. Grant joined us for an online Lunch With Books Livestream presentation on Railroads in Civil War Strategy. Bottom: For our Summer 2020 People’s University “Around the World in Literature & Language” Finale, members of the community competed online in a Geography Bee with a Wheeling Park High School student taking home the bronze.

As a supplement for area students and young adults, the Adult Programming Department has created portable multimedia programs. Created for Black History Month, was a presentation weaving photographs, video, music, art, and readings of primary source material (much of it from the Library’s Archives), into a powerful story of African American life



in Wheeling from slavery through the Civil War, Emancipation, "Jim Crow," the "Great Migration," desegregation, Civil Rights, and contemporary life. After first being presented at the Library's **Lunch With Books** series, the new **Lunch With Books On the Road** program was presented at Wheeling Park High School by the invitation of Associate Principal Meredith Dailer in front of a total of ninety students. It was presented again at Triadelphia Middle School for the entire student body of 470 students.

Adaptable to almost any audience, this program was taken on the road again for a presentation at West Virginia Independence Hall. A similar program about immigration to Wheeling has been prepared for **Lunch With Books on the Road**. Nor has COVID-19 stopped this initiative. Recently, Ms. Dailer, now principal at Wheeling Park High School, used a **LWB Livestream** video program on African American leaders of segregated Wheeling as a Black History Month supplement for students. Michael O'Connell, CIEL/Option Pathway Instructor, at the Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center used the video for the same purpose for the young people at the Center.

In addition to these regular programs, the Library has offered special programs such as the **It's Wheeling History Trivia Challenge** in partnership with the Wheeling National Heritage Area; a staged reading

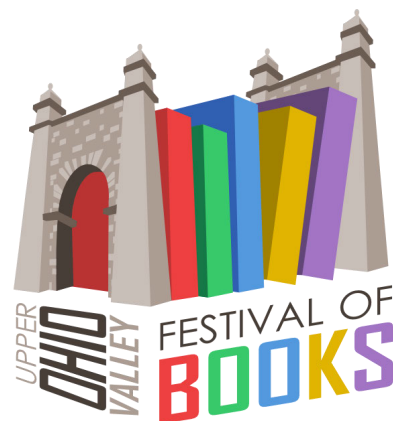


It's Wheeling History Trivia Challenge in partnership with the Wheeling National Heritage Area; a staged reading

of the play **The Quiet Man** in partnership with Oglebay Institute's Towngate Theatre (which led to a full production of the play at Towngate a year later); the **Fracking Facts series** on local environmental issues; the **Making Sense of the American Civil War** book discussion series in partnership with the West Virginia Library Commission, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Library Association; a variety of adult summer reading programs; and a **Constitution Day** program featuring readers from state, county, and city government.

The Library also participates in two large annual programming events: the **City of Wheeling Arts Fest** and the **Upper Ohio Valley Festival of Books**. For the first Arts Fest the Library brought four of Wheeling's best living writers – novelists George Fetherling and Keith Maillard, as well as poet Marc Harshman and playwright Sean O'Leary – together on stage for the first time anywhere. Guests at the Festival of Books, which the Library helped found, have included New York Times best-selling novelists Sharyn McCrumb, Thrity Umrigar, and Jayne Anne Phillips.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, OCPL continued the Upper **Ohio Valley Festival of Books** as a livestream event, featuring noted Appalachian memoirists Cassie Chambers, author of *Hill Women*, and Bobi Conn, author of *In the Shadow of the Valley*.



Early childhood literacy is important. Children who are read to regularly exhibit higher activation in areas of the brain that support mental imagery and comprehension of narratives — key skills needed for independent reading comprehension.

Library programs have significant positive impacts on early development and help equip children with life-long learning and literacy skills that help prepare them for school and beyond.

The Ohio County Public Library's Children's Department provides area children with two weekly **Story Time** programs for 3- to 5-year-olds and two weekly **Toddler Times**. In an typical year, Story Times and Toddler Time are held throughout the year with an average monthly attendance of 320 at the four weekly programs. Though in-person programming has been suspended throughout the pandemic, the Library's children's programming has continued in a virtual environment on OCPL's website and through social media.



For older children, OCPL conducts monthly **Step Into Stories** programs geared to elementary school age children. These programs included puppet shows, musical performances, and professional storytelling.

This year virtual programs have been offered, such as a streaming puppet show version of *The Nutcracker* performed by MadCap Puppets out of Cincinnati, various musical performances by Tony M. Music, a West Virginia-based children's music entertainer who integrates literature and storytelling with music into fun educational and interactive experiences, and a livestreamed science program from the Center for Aquatic Sciences in Camden, New Jersey.

IN THE SCHOOLS

For several years now OCPL has been purchasing books and educational materials for Ohio County schools. Funds are divided among all the schools within the county and teachers are able to work with their schools' principals and media specialists to develop orders for both the media centers and classrooms. These educational materials include STEM, STEAM, and electronic devices such as Chromebooks. In addition to purchasing books for the schools, the Library also continues to purchase e-books and educational online databases as requested by the schools.

OCPL's Children's Specialist spends, on average, 42.5 hours per month in direct service to the students in the county, visiting classrooms to read to the children with a **traveling Story Time**. Programming has expanded to include Story Time programs to local preschools and day care facilities. These monthly visits incorporate stories, bells, scarves, puppets, and songs to engage children in fun learning activities. Classroom visits are provided



Left: Tony M. sings to OCPL Kids online. Right: Madcap Puppets online video performance of *The Nutcracker*.

for every Pre-K class in the county as well as older classes at a teacher's request. Many schools have expanded the program to include TK, K, and First Grade classes. Taking children's programming outside the library walls has allowed the department to reach an additional 1,000 children a month. Because of the pandemic, in the 2020-2021 school year we have been unable to schedule the visits to schools and daycares in the county on a monthly basis, but this program will resume as soon as the situation allows. In the meantime, teachers have been able to request a private, password-protected Zoom Story Time with our Children's Specialist.

In addition to the classroom visits, each year, OCPL's Children's Department holds a popular **Awesome Author** writing contest for county elementary age students in grades 3 through 6. Because of the popularity of Awesome Author, the program was expanded in the 2019-2020 fiscal year to two separate contests by creating one level for grades 3 and 4 and a second level for grades 5 and 6. The latest third and fourth grade contest had 166 entries, while the fifth and sixth grade contest had 160 entries. The **Awesome Author** finales are the best attended children's programs of the year with over 250 children, parents, and grandparents attending. This program will resume as soon as is safely possible.



The Children's Department also conducts an active **Summer Reading Program** annually. Summer reading is critical for students to retain knowledge and skills learned in the previous school year. Students who don't read are at risk of falling behind their classmates. Summer reading not only helps a child's ability to retain information learned the previous year, but also increases growth in knowledge and critical thinking skills for the coming year.

Each year's summer reading program is built around a theme with regular weekly programs based on this theme. In the past, OCPL's **Summer Reading Program** included a separate program for adults. For the last few years, however, the Children's and Adult Summer Reading Programs have shared the same theme offering programs of interest for both kids and adults centered on that theme. This has proven very popular as adult readers enjoy helping kids reach their goals and children are encouraged by the assistance of their parents, grandparents, and other members of the community.

In 2019, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, our theme was "**A Universe of Stories.**" Kids, with the assistance of adults, not only surpassed the goal of reading to moon with one minute

of reading counting as one mile, but read to the moon and back... twice!

The 2020 theme, "**Reading Takes You Places,**" gave readers young and old a passport to travel world through books while we

were in lockdown due to COVID. Children's programming featured stories from around the world while adult programming offered lessons in literature and language from all over the globe.



This year's summer reading theme is "**Reading Colors Your World.**" Planned activities will include a combination of outdoor and virtual programming.





A young patron picks out primary age chapter books from the shelves of OCPL's Children's Department. Offerings in the Children's section also include board books for infants; picture book readers and Caldecott Medal winners for toddlers and young readers; and juvenile fiction, non-fiction, biography, and Newbury award winners for older readers. These sections are supplemented with audiobooks and read-along book bags. Audio CDs, music CDs, DVDs, and magazines are also available for kids. A separate young adult section in the Library's regular stacks houses books for teenaged readers.

At the Library, six **AWE Early Literacy Learning Center** computer stations area available in the Children's Department for children to use while visiting the Library. These computers are preloaded with software for children ages one through ten. Designed to increase children's reading skills, the more than 25 educational programs are divided into categories including reading, science, social studies, mathematics, research, art and music.

The Children's Department collection has expanded to include a new collection of **Vox Books**. Vox Books are the world's first audio books that live in print books. The permanently attached Vox reader transforms an ordinary picture book into an all-in-one read-along. With Vox books, there is no need for computers, tablets, or CD's. Children simply push a button to lis-

ten and follow along. Vox titles are available in picture books and nonfiction titles.

Both Ohio County Public Library's online card catalog as well as its many downloadable collections, including **WVDeli**, **Hoopla**, and **Sesame Street Ebooks**, offer a variety of ebooks, audio books, and videos for children. WV Deli and Hoopla also have a version built specifically for teen readers. OCPL's card catalog as well as WVDeli and Hoopla also have a children's version which are much easier for children to understand and use since they rely heavily on graphics and display only the children's titles.

OCPL's Children's Department strives to rise to the challenge of providing the youth of Ohio County with the highest quality collection, programs, and outreach services possible.

ARCHIVAL HISTORY & LOCAL HISTORY

Wheeling's history is important. The foundations of what were to become the Library were laid in 1807, early in Wheeling's development, and the Library as we know it today was established in 1882.

The Library in some form has witnessed Wheeling's growth from a frontier town of 8,550 to a bustling industrial city of over 60,000 to the Wheeling of today. As not only the oldest public library in the state, but one of the oldest institutions in the county, the Ohio County Public Library recognizes an obligation to preserve and make available a local history collection.

In addition to the more than 3,000 local history volumes available to the public in the Wheeling Room, the Library's **Archives and Special Collections** houses over 275 cubic square feet of archival materials in a secure, climate-controlled room in the lower level of the Library. Notable collections include the records of the Wheeling LaBelle Nail Company, OVMC Board of Trustees,



Some of the OCPL Archive collections currently being processed.

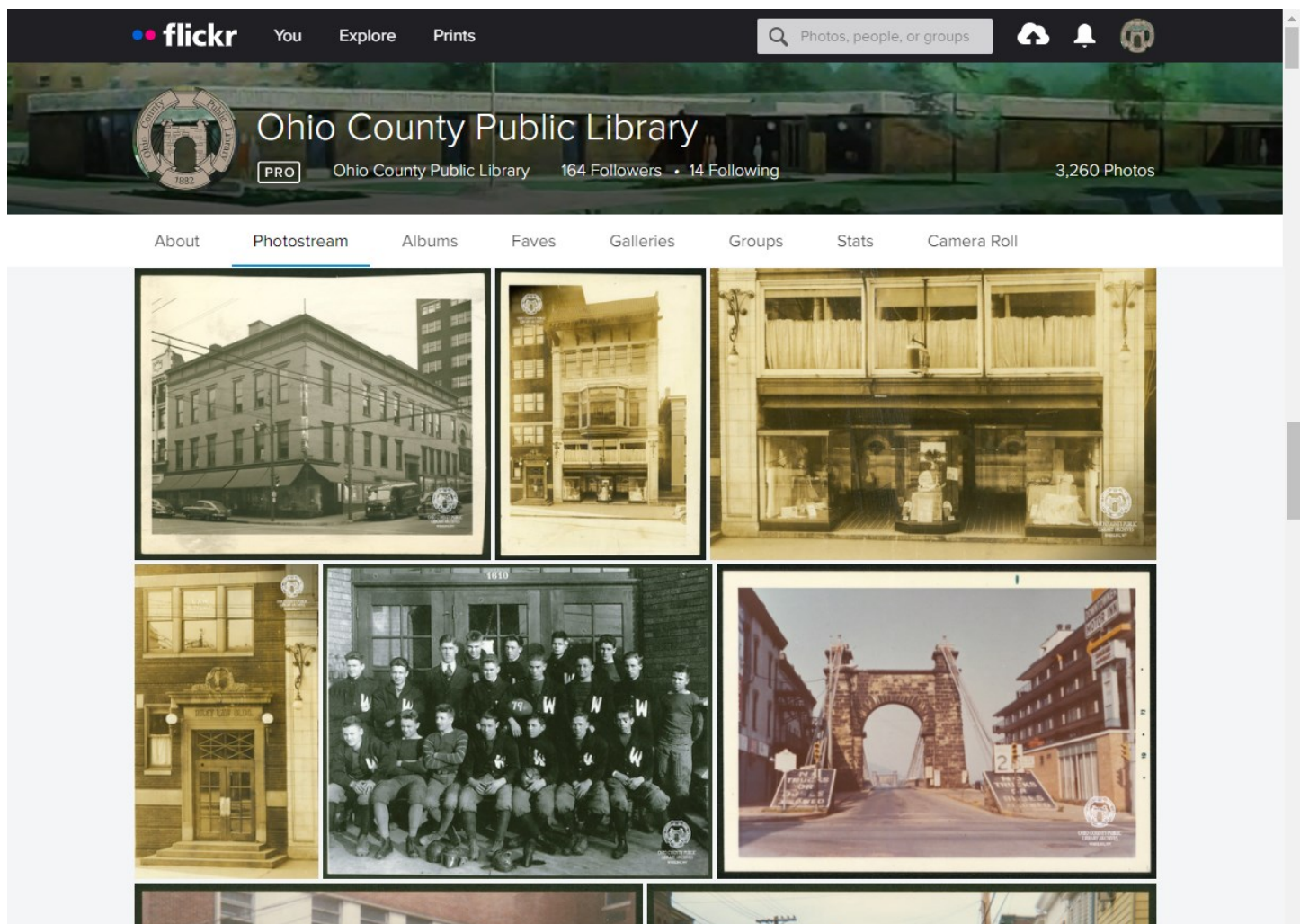
C. C. Smiths' Engineering Company and the Wheeling YWCA, as well as the Eddie Martin and Bill O'Leary Photograph Collection and the papers of notable local historians, Bill Carney and Beverly Fluty.

The purpose of these collections is not only to preserve materials that document the history of Wheeling and the Upper Ohio Valley region, but to make these materials available to researchers, students, and the general public. The physical archives contain invaluable historical records, photographs, and maps.

To facilitate public access to these archival materials and collections,

guides to the materials are added to the Archives section of OCPL's website and to the Library's catalog as they are processed. Patrons may also consult the collections by making an appointment to view the materials in-person. For remote users of these collections, the Library offers scanning services and will email those copies to the users.

The Library's Archives also maintains an online presence which includes an extensive "Wheeling History" section on the Library's web site; a **Flickr** page featuring over 3,200 digitized images from OCPL's archival collection; and the **Archiving Wheeling blog** and its related social media presence. In the month of February 2021, OCPL's website regis-



Over 3,000 images of historic Wheeling have been digitized by the OCPL Archives and are available online.

tered 9,673 user sessions and 21,706 page views. Over 10,000 of those page views were for Wheeling history, genealogy, or Archives pages. Also, in February 2021, 97,994 image views were reported on Flickr; the **Archiving Wheeling** blog had 996 visitors for a total of 1,674 post views; and the *Archiving Wheeling* Facebook page had over 4,000 people following it.



In 2018, OCPL opened a new display area on the main floor of the Library so that ongoing **exhibits of historical and**

local interest displays could be continually displayed. New exhibits featuring items from the Archives and items on loan from the Library's "**Heritage Partners**" are routinely displayed in these display cases. Currently, a display on Wheeling's street car era features photographs from the Library's J. B. Gwinn Transportation Collection and loans from the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum in Washington, PA.

Throughout the 2019 Wheeling ses-
tercentennial celebration, exhibits
were displayed to explore each star in
the new Wheeling flag representing
Wheeling's eras: Indigenous, Frontier,
Transportation, Statehood, and Indus-



Visitors view display areas at the grand opening of the "We Can Do It! WWII" exhibit on OCPL's main floor.

trial era artifacts were exhibited. In addition, items from the Library's Archives were displayed along with loans from Grave Creek Mound Museum, Mount Pleasant Historical Society, Oglebay Institute, and various community members. In 2018, library patrons, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and the National American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Museum, along with OCPL's Archives, all added exhibit items to the traveling WWII exhibit from the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. Professors from West Liberty University, Wheeling Jesuit University, Bethany College, West Virginia University, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and Drexel University were asked to speak about different aspects of WWII throughout the two-month exhibit period with an average attendance of 89 people per program. As a result of the robust programming and wide community participation and partnerships, The Heinz History Center uses the Ohio County Public Library's exhibit profile as an example for future recipients of the Center's traveling exhibits.

In addition to the rotating exhibits on the first floor, the Library also houses two significant collections on its lower level for West Virginia Northern Community College & Alumni Association, providing public viewing access during all hours of operation. The College's Hazel-Atlas Glass collection is on display in the Boardroom, and the J. J. Young Photograph Collection is on display in the hallway corridor. OCPL also created a Wheeling Downs exhibit in an empty storefront space in downtown Wheeling that members of the public can view at any time. The Archives Department continues to be a leader in

community outreach projects of a historical nature, having forged partnerships with The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Archives, Oglebay Institute and Museums, Wheeling Heritage, Friends of Wheeling, Heinz History Center Affiliate Program, California University of Pennsylvania, and Eastern Michigan University.

A **professional development workshop** is available for teachers who wish to begin using archival local history materials in their classroom. Classes can also take a field trip to the Library and Archives for a **multi-station program** designed to introduce students to archival material, learn the differences between primary and secondary sources, and teach how history can be extracted through photographs. This educational program can also be taken "on the road" to any of the schools. The team often publishes stories on its **blog**, *ArchivingWheeling.org*, that inspire or supplement classroom instruction. Wheeling Park history teacher Ryan Stanton, for example, has used the 1931 City of Wheeling Survey of African American Employees, part of the OCPL Archives YWCA Blue Triangle featured in an Archiving Wheeling post, as primary sources for student research. Recently, Deb Warmuth, a teacher at Wheeling Central Catholic High School, was inspired by our Archiving Wheeling article about Blessed Martin School, to give her class a presentation on the subject for Black History Month.

The Archives and Local History Department is committed to caring for Wheeling's history, sharing our heritage with the community, and making history accessible to all.

GENEALOGY WHEELING ROOM

The Ohio County Public Library is the only public library in the state with a full-time staff person dedicated specifically to assisting patrons in researching their family history and local history questions.

The Wheeling Room is located on the main floor of the Library and is kept locked at all times to keep the valuable, irreplaceable local history and genealogy records secure. Patrons accessing these records must obtain the assistance of library staff to enter the room. In addition to an extensive collection of local history books, the Wheeling Room collection contains City Directories going back to 1839, as well as census indexes, family histories, and old high school and college yearbooks.



Twelve paintings of historic Wheeling by Wheeling Hall of Fame member, artist J.J. Owens, hang in the Wheeling Room.

Ohio County Public Library patrons also have free access to **AncestryLibrary.com, Heritage Quest, MyHeritage, and Fold3**, all of which are databases of genealogical records. Many of Wheeling's City Directories and Ohio County Census records are available online to remote users through these services.

The Wheeling Area Genealogy Society has long used the Ohio County Public Library as its headquarters and maintains a dedicated space on the Library's lower level where obituary files are housed along with other valuable records to assist those researching their family histories. WAGS frequently purchases history and genealogy books for the Wheeling Room collection.

Individuals from across the nation and beyond visit the Wheeling Room to research their family histories. Because the National Road came through Wheeling and served as an easy place to cross the Ohio River due to the Suspension Bridge, it became a main stop along the route of travel for westward migration. As a result of its location, Wheeling also became home to many families during part of their histories. The Library frequently receives genealogy questions through both mail and email and provides obituaries and other information to individuals located throughout the world. In the past few years, individuals from over forty states, the District of Columbia, Poland, Germany, and England have visited the Wheeling Room to research their family histories.



The Wheeling Room houses 3,325 books on local & family history as well as extensive newspaper clipping files.

OUTREACH SERVICES

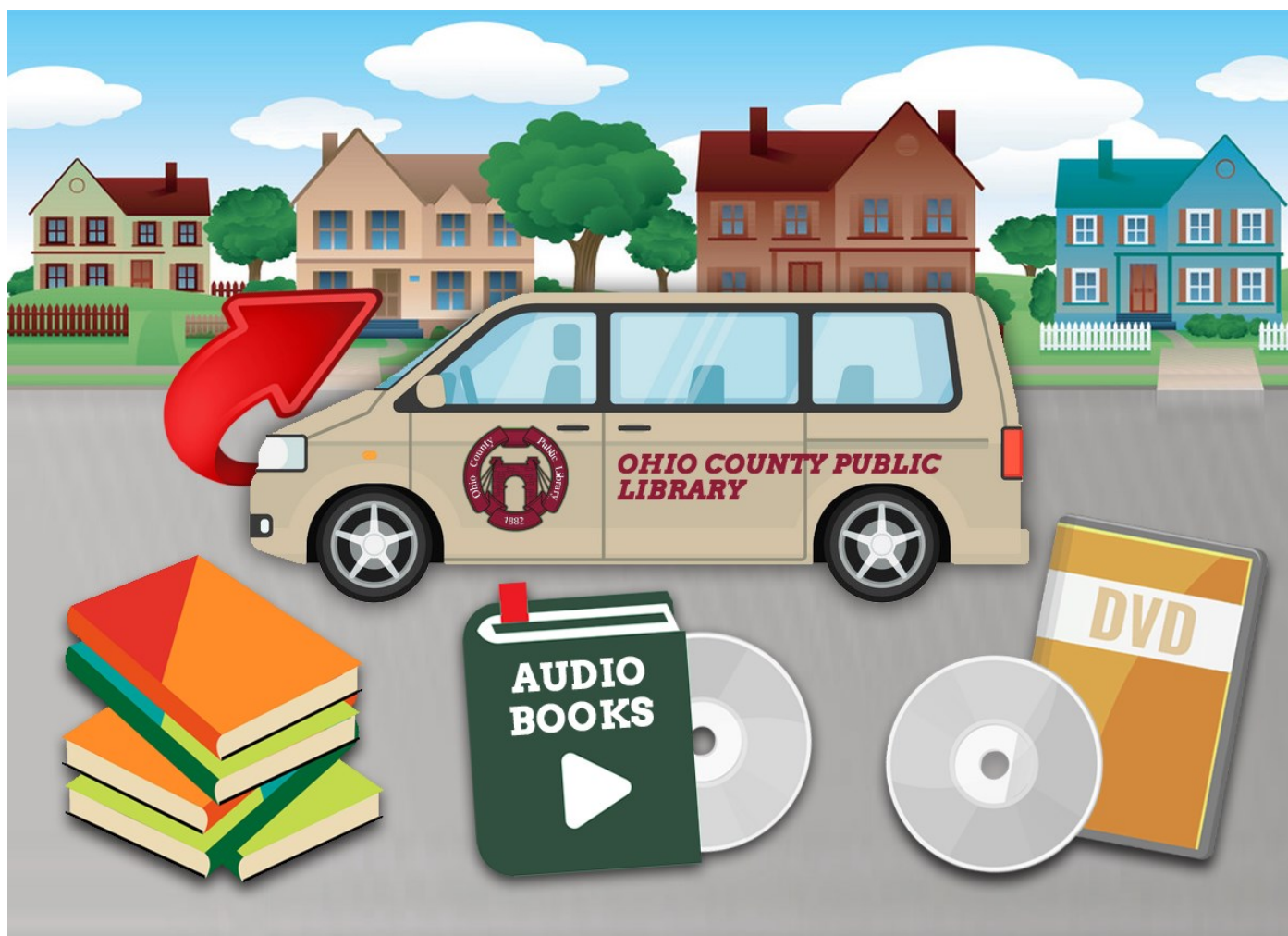
Delivery to your door! The Ohio County Public Library's Outreach Specialist delivers library materials to over seventy homebound patrons in Ohio County.

Most of these patrons are elderly but some are younger with handicaps that prevent them from visiting the Library. Some of the homebound patrons live in area apartment high-rises and others are still in their homes. In 2020, the services were expanded to include delivery to anyone considered high-risk for COVID-19.

As part of the initial sign-up, our Outreach Specialist conducts an in-depth interview with each patron. The interview sheet, filed for reference, details the patron's reading, listening, and viewing interests. In addition, an ongoing check-out history is kept for each Outreach patron. This makes it possible for the Outreach



The Library has a dedicated van for the Outreach Specialist to load with materials and drive across the county to deliver Library materials to homebound patrons.



Our Outreach Services delivers books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs, music CDs and provides reader advisory and reference services to homebound patrons.

Specialist to recommend and choose new materials for each Outreach patron based on their personal preferences. Items are delivered to each homebound patron on a regular basis.

The Outreach Specialist also offers to conduct Book Discussion groups in some of the area high-rise apartment buildings for interested residents.

Also serving our younger populations, our Outreach Specialist regularly delivers crates of picture books to daycares and preschools throughout the county. Fourteen separate agencies received this delivery service. The books are exchanged with new books on a monthly

basis. In addition to pre-schools and daycares, every Head Start in the county receives book deliveries from Outreach Services.

Every month, Outreach Services also stocks a free book cart for the Ohio County Jail.

The current demographics of Ohio County reveal that 37% of the population is in the over 55 age bracket. Ongoing trends indicate this percentage will continue to grow in the county and OCPL's Outreach Services Department anticipates expanding the number of outreach patrons it serves throughout the coming years.

MEETING ROOMS COMMUNITY CENTER

The Ohio County Public Library has four meeting rooms that are used completely free of charge by many non-profit groups on a regular basis for meetings and various work sessions.

In addition, area businesses also use the meeting rooms for staff training sessions. Area attorneys have used the rooms for mediation sessions, and the Ohio County Sheriff's Department uses the Library's auditorium for anger management classes while the court system uses it for parenting classes for couples going through divorce. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is permanently installed in one of OCPL's meeting rooms throughout each tax season, January through April, every year. In 2018, the local chapters of the SAR and DAR donated an American Flag and a West Virginia flag were been installed in the auditorium allowing civic groups that have bylaws requiring a pledge of allegiance to now hold regular meetings at the Library.

The four meeting rooms vary in size. The 200 seat capacity **Auditorium** is available to reserve with AV equipment, a full sound system, and adjoining kitchen. The 100 seat capacity "**Meeting Room**" is used by many groups throughout the year when the tax service is not in operation. A smaller meeting room, called the **Classroom** since it is set up to function as a workshop or for classroom type meetings, can hold approximately 30 people. The Library's attractive **Boardroom** can hold approximately 12 people and has the Hazel Atlas glass display which is always open for the public to view when the room is not booked for meetings.

The Library's meeting rooms may be booked in advance through the Library's Reference Desk where a booking calendar is kept. Groups which meet regularly are added to the meeting room schedule at the beginning of each calendar year for the entire year.

All rooms are free of charge. In an average year, the Library's meeting rooms are used approximately 1,100 times.

Some groups that use the Library's meeting rooms regularly include: Civil War Roundtable, Ohio Valley SPCA, Wheeling Area Genealogical Society, Ohio Valley Peace Group, Alzheimer's Support Group, West Virginia Driver's

Training, Gun Safety classes, Wheeling Area Glass Club, WV Humanities Council, WV Public Service Commission, and Ohio Valley Christian Home Educators, among many other nonprofit groups. In addition, area businesses may use the Library's meeting rooms free of charge for employee training sessions or other nonprofit uses. Both Sheetz and Dominos regularly conduct employee training sessions at the Library.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic is under control and meetings can safely resume, the Library will again welcome area groups to meet in OCPL's meeting rooms. We look forward to the community activity!



Clockwise from top: The Auditorium accommodates 200; the Meeting Room can fit 100; the Classroom can be set up to accommodate approximately 30; the Boardroom comfortably seats a dozen.

WEBSITE & PHONE APP

OCPL's

website resources continue to grow and expand educational offerings for Ohio County students and all those accessing the Library's website.

An extensive local history section contains many resources and digitized archival materials that area teachers are already using in their classrooms. Following the stay-at-Home orders issued by the Governor at the end of March 2020, a new section — **OCPL@Home** — was added to the Library's website that provides families access to online library and educational resources. Library card holders also have access to ACT and SAT test preparation programs through **Method Test Prep**, music lessons through **ArtistWorks**, lessons in over 100 languages through **Transparent Language Online**, and university-level clas-



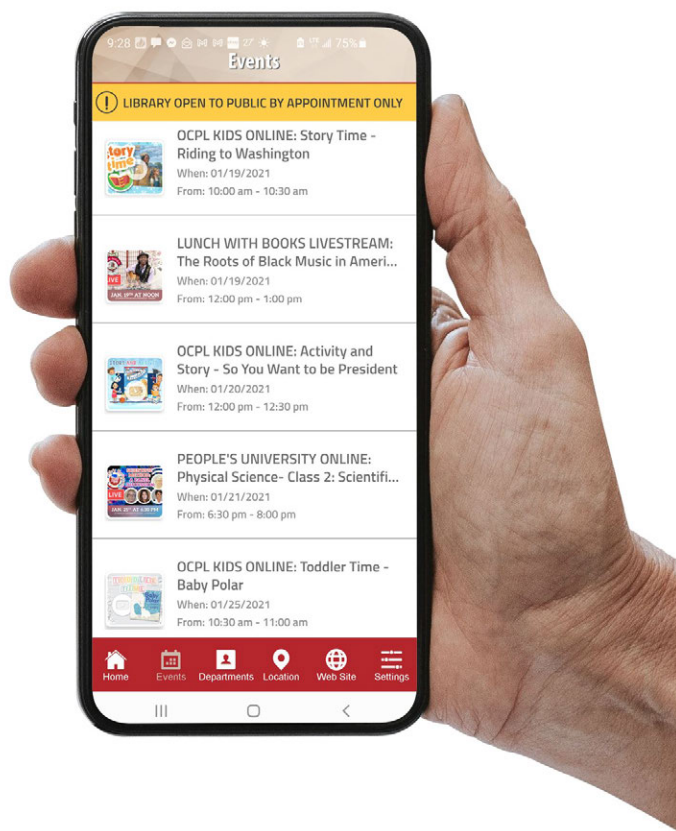
ses through the **Learning Company's Great Courses**. For young kids, in addition to the children's offerings in the other downloadable collections, **WV Deli, Hoopla, and Sesame Street e-books**, and our virtual Toddler Time, Story Time, and Special Activity with Story programs are available for playback at any time.

In addition to providing access to downloadable collections, online local history, and virtual programming, the Library's website has the ability to quickly alert the public to breaking news, such as closings due to inclement weather, or reminders about upcoming programming. Visitors to the website may sign up to receive notifications via email or text message. Subscribers can choose to receive notifications based on personal preferences, such as local history or kids' news and events.

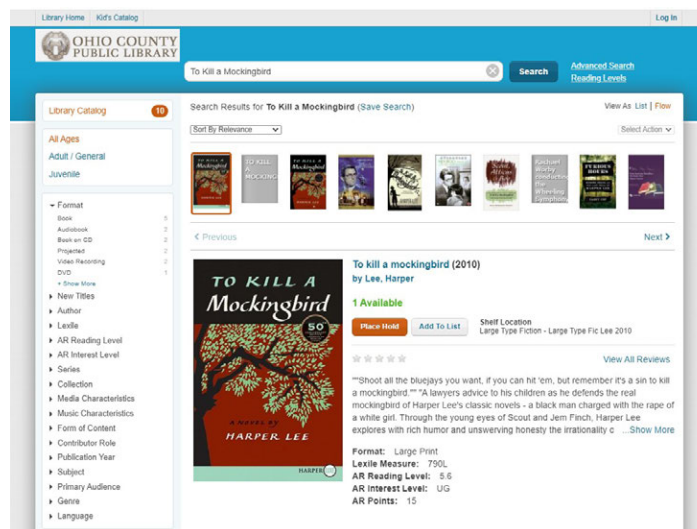
Patrons may also reserve items or renew their books and other materials easily through the Library's **online card catalog**. The catalog is easily searchable online, and patrons can make reading lists of favorite authors or

on particular subjects as well as keep their reading history so they will know if they've checked out an item in the past.

The Library now also has a free smartphone app, **OCPL Connect**, that allows users to view all Library news stories and upcoming events, set calendar reminders, easily share events and news via email or social media, sign up to receive phone notifications based on personal preferences, easily contact the heads of Library Departments, and get directions to the Library with an integrated Google Maps function.



The OCPL Connect smartphone app keeps patrons up-to-date with the Library's latest news and events.



The Library's online catalog makes it easy to reserve and renew library materials online.

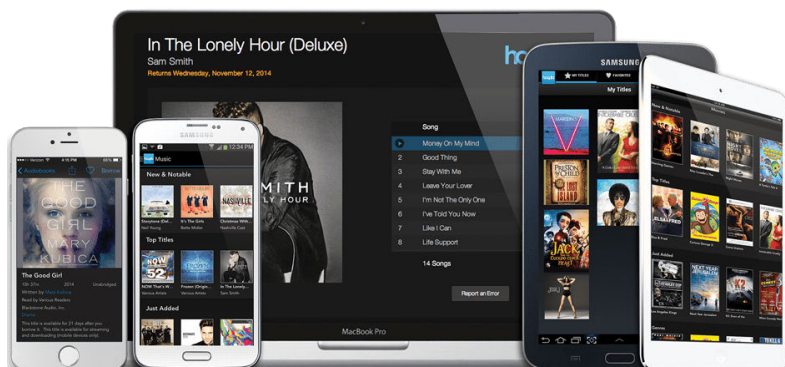
Our virtual programming is accessible on smartphones and our busy patrons on the go always have access through our website, social media accounts, and smartphone app.

OCPL DOWNLOADABLE COLLECTIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS



WV Deli:

Check out and download e-books, audiobooks, music, and more to your Kindle, Nook, iPad, Android tablet, laptop, or desktop computer from our online offerings through WV Deli. Download the free “Libby” app to stream audiobooks, ebooks, and video on your smartphone.



Hoopla:

Instantly borrow e-books, audiobooks, graphic novels, music, movies, tv shows, and more through Hoopla Digital—no waitlists ever! Free smartphone app available.



Sesame Street:

Bright pages, audio narration, interactivity, animation, and more make story time extra engaging. Best of all, Sesame Street eBooks are ready to read anytime with an internet connection!



Online Book Clubs:

Monday through Friday, Online Books Club will send you a portion of a book that takes only five minutes to read. Each Monday a new book begins and by Friday you will have the chance to read 2 or 3 chapters, enough to know if it's a book you want to finish.



Select Reads:

Discover books that match your interests through Select Reads. Each month a newsletter will be emailed to you highlighting selections in the category for the newsletter you have chosen.



e-book Alerts:

e-Book Alerts is an online service that showcases the newest titles purchased by the Ohio County Public Library.



Author Check:

Create a list of your favorite authors that are currently available in the OCPL catalog to receive an email notice as soon as the library orders a new title by one of your authors along with a link to the catalog to place your own hold!



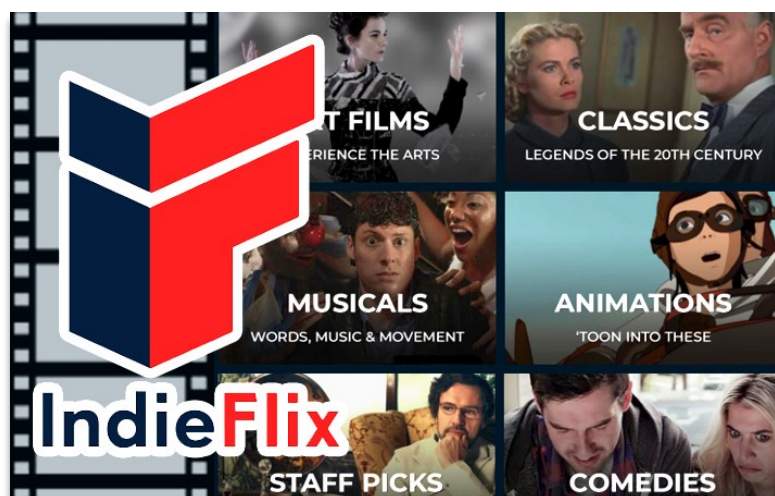
New Book Alerts:

New Book Alerts is a free online service that showcases the newest titles purchased by the OCPL. You can select to receive alerts via email and/or RSS feeds.



Next Good Book:

This online reader resources allows you to keep track of your books, see what others are reading, and share your comments with others.



IndieFlix:

A movie service that offers access to pop culture favorites, box office hits, award-winning feature films, documentaries, and shorts. Instantly view thousands of titles from around the world, including the best from classic TV, horror, comedy, film festival darlings, and more rights.



Acorn TV:

Stream world-class mysteries, dramas, and comedies from Britain and beyond. The latest seasons of fan favorites like Doc Martin, Midsomer Murders, George Gently, Vera, Murdoch Mysteries, and Agatha Raisin are available.



Stingray Qello:

The only place to watch over 1,500 of the most amazing live moments in music. Stingray Qello is the world's largest collection of full-length concerts and music documentaries streamed on-demand to just about any digital device.



The Great Courses:

Take university-level classes online taught by the top 1% of university professors and experts from the Ivy League and other renowned schools and institutions.



ArtistWorks:

Online music lessons through self-paced videos. Grammy Award-winning musicians provide beginner to advanced instruction for the most popular instruments.



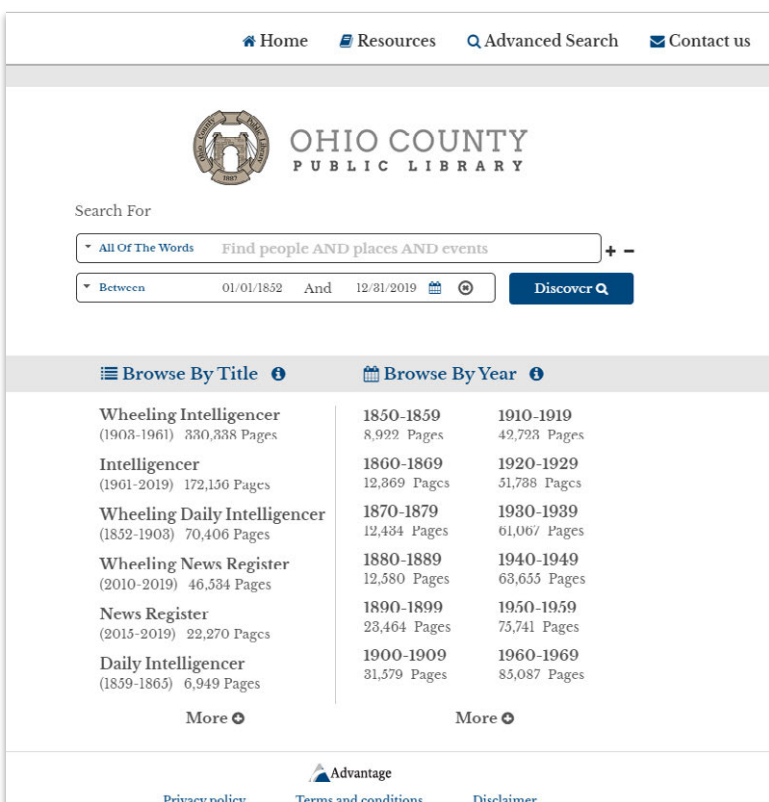
Freegal:

Freegal music service offers access to over 13 million songs, including Sony Music's catalog of legendary artists. Download up to five songs a week and they're yours to keep! Forever. And during COVID, you can stream music 24-hours a day.



Magazines:

Full-color, digital editions for instant desktop reading, mobile streaming, and mobile-app download. Select both new and back issues, adding them to your personal reading libraries with no holds, no checkout periods, and no limits to the number of magazines checked out.



OCPL's Online Newspaper Archive:

Our microfilmed newspapers are now online and, better yet, keyword searchable! *Wheeling Intelligencer* newspapers from 1852-present with the exception of the dates 1/1/83 to 6/30/85 are currently online and the *Wheeling News-Register* from 2014 to the present is available with additional selected newspapers from 2010-2013. Additional dates will be added to our collection as we continue to process our microfilm.



Chronicling America:

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1924 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American papers published between 1690-present.



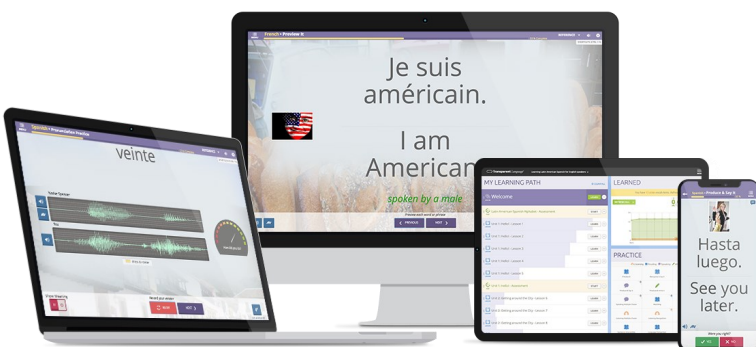
Newspaper Archive:

The world's largest online newspaper archive spans more than 400 years with papers from West Virginia, Eastern Ohio, and Western Pennsylvania available.



Method Test Prep:

Diagnostic evaluations, lessons, quizzes, and full-length exams help students strategically navigate the SAT and ACT by focusing on both content and test-taking techniques help students raise their ACT scores an average of three points and their SAT scores an average of 150 points.



Transparent Language:

With this flexible program, you can quickly and easily learn new languages using a wide variety of courses and activities. More than 100 languages are available!

LearnItLive™



Delicious Foods for Heart Health



Financial Literacy Series



Intro to Parenting with Positive Discipline

LearnItLive:

Find and interact with experts and teachers in live online and on-demand classes. Discover hundreds of expert-led programs covering topics on cooking, nutrition, childcare, finances, fitness, yoga, mindfulness, stress reduction, and much more!

Ancestry Library Edition:

Discover your ancestors with the world's largest family history website. Browse census records and more online at Ancestry.



MyHeritage:

Focuses on people-based records, which contain information about both everyday people and prominent individuals across societies and periods of time.



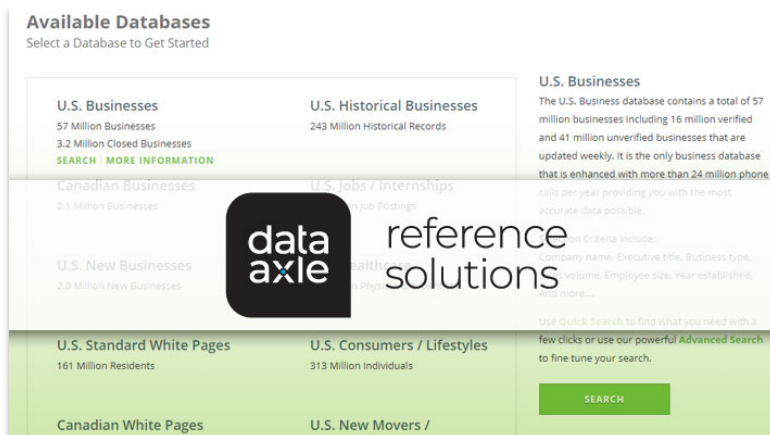
HeritageQuest:

Designed for genealogy and family history research. Includes the entire US Census and other expanding collections, making it one of the largest collections of genealogy material in the country.



Fold3:

Provides convenient access to US military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served. This continually-growing collection contains millions of records from world-class archives.



Reference Solutions:

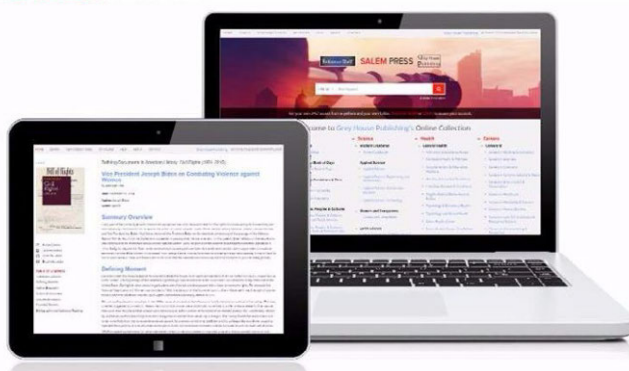
A premier source of business and residential information with more than 40 million businesses, 150 million households across the U.S. and Canada, and 270 million consumers available for Library patrons to search.



Merck Manuals:

Comprehensive medical information source covering thousands of topics in all fields of medicine. Information on medical topics, symptoms, drugs, procedures, news, and more, written in everyday language.

SALEM PRESS



Salem Press:

Access our Salem Press reference collection online. Includes: Civil Disobedience, Social Justice, Race Relations, American History and more.



www.wvinfo depot.org

Your Personal Guide to Information Exploration. Brought to you by the West Virginia Library Commission.

WVInfoDepot:

The West Virginia eLibrary, is an anywhere, anytime library that you can access from your home. WVInfoDepot.org provides access to millions of magazine and newspaper articles, ebooks, digital images, test preparation, primary source materials and more.

WVInfoDepot.org is funded by the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) via the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the West Virginia Library Commission. Additional resource funding is provided by the State of West Virginia.

West Virginians can explore online articles and images from popular magazines, scholarly journals, current newspapers, and other reference works through WVInfoDepot.org or through their public library website.

Databases available through WVInfoDepot:

Alt HealthWatch:

Online alternative consumer health information.

Business Source Elite:

Online business-focused magazines and company profiles.

Consumer Health Complete:

Online health-focused fact sheets and diagrams, drug information, procedure explanation.

Consumer Reports:

Unbiased product testing, investigative journalism, consumer-oriented research, public education, and consumer advocacy.

Explora Primary (Pre-K to Grade 5):

Online articles from magazines and newspapers.

Explora Middle and High School:

For 5th-12th grade students. Articles from magazines, books, primary source documents, images, videos, and newspapers.

Explora Magazines and Newspapers:

For all-ages. General interest magazines, books, primary source documents, images, videos, and newspapers.

GreenFILE:

Online government and general-interest titles. Articles on green building, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and more.

Health Source — Consumer Edition:

Online general consumer health info.

Health Source —**Nursing/Academic Edition:**

Academic focused health information. Also, contains the Lexi-PAL Drug Guide.

Job & Career Accelerator:

Online up-to-date employment directory, resume and cover letter creator, and computer skill tutorials.

LearningExpress Library:

Online academic and career practice tests. Areas covered include SAT preparation courses, SAT practice exams, civil service, cosmetology, EMS, firefighter, GED, law enforcement, military, postal services, real estate, U.S. citizenship, and more.

Legal Information**Reference Center:**

Provides access to legal publications and forms for citizens and small businesses.

Library, Information Science, & Technology Abstracts:

An index to journals, books, research reports, and proceedings. Subject coverage includes librarianship, classification, cataloging, bibliometrics, online information retrieval, information management and more.

Niche Academy:

Online tutorials for databases and web applications, like Gmail, Pinterest, Instagram, Facebook, and more.

NoveList Plus:

Online tool to help readers of all ages find new books to read based on books they've already read or topics in which they are interested.

NoveList Plus K-8 Plus:

Find just the right book by subject, age, awards won, Lexile Reading levels, State standards; even books made into movies, and much more. Read reviews and learn about the author.

Points of View Reference Center:

Middle school through college undergraduate. Features information and opinions on hundreds of today's hottest social issues. Continuously updated pro/con viewpoint essays, topic overviews, primary source documents, biographies, court-case overviews, periodical articles, tables/charts/graphs, and more.

Regional Business News:

Incorporates regional business magazines covering all metropolitan and rural areas within the United States.

TOPICsearch:

Explores social, political & economic issues, scientific discoveries, and other popular topics; includes controversial opinions and viewpoints.

World Book Online:

Reliable information for homework, reports, or general questions from World Book Encyclopedia. Includes:

- **World Book Kids:**
For elementary users. Includes lesson plans.
- **World Book Student:**
Content for upper-elementary and middle-grade users. Users can save, notate, & organize content.
- **World Book Advanced:**
For high school and pre-college users. Contains all of the resources of World Book Student plus primary source materials.

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