

Chairman Gardner, members of the Committee, I am Beverly Cain, State Librarian of Ohio. I am here today to provide testimony on the State Library's proposed budget for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017.

The State Library of Ohio was established in 1817 to serve the information needs of Ohio's state government. As we near our bicentennial, the State Library continues to fulfill that role by providing a wide range of services including access to the more than 52 million print and electronic materials in the collections of the State Library and 91 Ohio academic libraries that are members of OhioLINK. Additionally, State Library staff has the expertise necessary to provide high-quality training and one-on-one help to assist state employees with finding and using the resources they need to perform their jobs efficiently and effectively.

The State Library maximizes the use of public funds by facilitating resource and information sharing among Ohio's libraries through programs such as the Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Library Consortium, which includes 90 small and rural library systems in 46 Ohio counties, sharing a catalog of nearly 8 million items, and Ohio Libraries Share: MORE (Moving Ohio Resources Everywhere), which connects participating libraries using disparate types of catalog systems to make it possible for Ohio residents to borrow materials from libraries across the state. Other programs include:

- **The Statewide Delivery System**, which supports statewide resource sharing by delivering more than 8 million books and other library materials to Ohio library users each year.
- **The Ohio Web Library**, which makes a collection of thousands of digital publications and research materials available to all Ohio libraries, schools, universities, and residents at no cost to them, made possible by the collaboration of the State Library, the Ohio Public Library Information Network, INFOhio, and OhioLINK. This efficient pooling of assets provides tremendous cost savings, making it possible for any Ohioan to take advantage of a collection of information that no single library can afford on its own.

- **The Ohio Digital Library**, which provides downloadable eBooks and other digital content to library customers. 177 libraries have joined together to provide Ohioans with access to the more than \$4.3 million worth of digital content available in the Ohio Digital Library.

The administration of federal **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)** funds is a primary responsibility of the State Library. These federal funds are used in a variety of ways to assist libraries in serving their customers. LSTA dollars are used to fund Competitive Grants to Libraries, which are awarded to all types of libraries for a wide variety of projects, and to support several statewide programs including:

- **KnowItNow24X7**, a virtual reference service;
- **Library services for the blind and physically disabled;**
- **Statewide Summer Reading Program**, encouraging Ohio's children and young adults to maintain and increase their literacy skills during the summer;
- **Regional Digitization Hubs** are being established in four locations around the state to help libraries and cultural institutions transform print materials to digital form as a means of increasing access to their collections and reducing the handling of fragile materials.



The vision of the State Library of Ohio is **A Smarter Ohio** where every Ohioan can access the necessary resources to be engaged citizens, excel at their jobs, participate in the workforce, and pursue their passions and interests. To that end, many of the State Library's current efforts are focused on improving education and enhancing workforce skills. Two programs exemplifying these efforts are **Guiding Ohio Online** and the **Statewide Summer Reading Program**.

The State Library has received grants from ServeOhio, Ohio's commission on service and volunteerism, to develop and implement a program for public libraries called Guiding Ohio Online. The vision of this initiative, which targets populations in rural Ohio, is for



every Ohioan to develop digital skills needed to fully participate in e-government; search and apply for jobs online; understand the risks and benefits of online financial transactions including shopping, banking, and tax preparation; connect with family online; and protect personal information in the digital age. We currently have 26 AmeriCorps members working in 28 rural libraries.

In 2014, nearly 450,000 Ohio children and teens participated in **Summer Reading Programs**. Attendance at related events was over 839,000 statewide. Research studies confirm that children who participate in public library summer reading programs return to school ready to learn with improved reading skills.



The State Library has five meeting rooms and a training room that are available for state agencies to use at no cost. These facilities were used 1,800 times by numerous agencies between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2014, resulting in a savings of over \$650,000 for the agencies making use of these facilities.

**State Library Meeting Room Use  
Savings for State Agencies in Fiscal Years 2013 & 2014**

Room	Square Feet	Usage Number	Rental Cost	Total Cost
Boardroom	1920	465	\$ 550.00	\$ 255,750.00
A	250	218	\$ 250.00	\$ 54,500.00
B	250	247	\$ 250.00	\$ 61,750.00
C	250	147	\$ 250.00	\$ 36,750.00
D	1650	467	\$ 400.00	\$ 186,800.00
Training Room	350	256	\$ 250.00	\$ 64,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,800</b>		<b>\$ 659,550.00</b>

The State Library helps leverage resources and improves efficiency by engaging in collaborative projects with several state agencies including the Ohio Secretary of State, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of the Treasurer of State, ServeOhio, Ohio School for the Deaf, the Ohioana Library and the Ohio History Connection.

The State Library is the only full regional federal depository library in Ohio and is also a depository for state government documents. By managing, distributing, and providing free and open access to print and digital government information, the State Library plays a vital role in supporting transparency in government from the past, in the present, and with continued support, into the future.

I would like to speak very briefly about other line items in the State Library Budget. The Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) provides Internet connections to Ohio's 251 public library systems, ensuring that all Ohio residents have fast, free public Internet access through their local public libraries.



The Ohioana Library occupies 7,681 square feet of handicapped accessible space in the State Library facility at 274 E. First Avenue in Columbus. Funding for the Ohioana Library's lease obligation is a line item in the State Library's budget. The State Library and the Ohioana Library work closely together and collaborate on programs when possible. Meeting room space of the State Library is shared with the Ohioana Library. When the Ohioana Library has specific programs such as the Ohioana Book Festival, State Library staff assists with the programs. Together, both agencies partner with other organizations to avoid duplication of services and to extend their programs to expanded populations.

The State Library administers the Ohio Talking Book program, ensuring equity of access to state residents who are blind or physically disabled, including over 1200 military veterans and 402 children with vision impairments.

An adequate, consistent level of funding is necessary to ensure the State Library's continued ability to serve state employees, Ohio residents, and facilitate cost savings for Ohio's libraries. State Library programs such as the Statewide Delivery System and the SEO Library Consortium exemplify the ways shared services can be used to maximize limited resources, realize efficiencies, and generate cost savings. These programs require time, expertise, and adequate funding to develop, implement, and maintain on an ongoing basis.

The State Library, on its own and in partnership with other state agencies, libraries, and organizations, administers programs and services that save at least \$425 million dollars a year. These programs, services, training, and resources are available at no cost to State of Ohio employees, Ohio libraries of all types, and by extension, Ohio residents.

I realize that the elected officials of the State of Ohio are dealing with significant budget questions and have many difficult decisions to make, and I appreciate the efforts the Governor has made to maintain funding for the State Library in this Biennial Budget. An investment in the State Library is an investment in Ohio's commitment to develop and support a robust workforce and improve training and education to drive Ohio's continued economic revival.

Thank you for your time, patience, and consideration. I will be happy to answer any questions that you might have regarding the State Library and its proposed budget for the next biennium. Thank you.