

Chairman Perales, 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 2018 and 2019.

The State Library of Ohio was established in 1817 to serve the information needs of Ohio's state government. As we celebrate 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 121 Ohio academic libraries that are members of OhioLINK. Additionally, State Library staff have 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 was honored to have again been selected as a Top Workplace for 2016 by Columbus CEO, an honor it first earned in 2014.

The State Library of Ohio, on its own and in partnership with other state agencies, libraries, and organizations, administers programs and services that generate an annual savings of at least \$425 million for state agencies, libraries, and Ohio taxpayers. 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. The State Library plays a unique and vital role in providing services to Ohio libraries. The State Library's services are wide-reaching and all-inclusive, serving all residents through whatever type of library a resident chooses to use – public, school, special, or academic. All residents of Ohio benefit from the direct and indirect assistance the State Library provides libraries and library staff.

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 92 small and rural library systems in 46 Ohio counties sharing a catalog of nearly 8 million items, and the Ohio Digital Library, which provides downloadable eBooks and other digital content to library customers. One hundred seventy-seven libraries have joined together to provide Ohioans with access to the more than \$8.3 million worth of digital content available in the Ohio Digital Library. Other programs include:

- **The Statewide Delivery System**, which supports statewide resource sharing by delivering nearly 9 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. 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 to own.

The administration of federal **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)** funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) 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:

- **Library services for the blind and physically disabled**, which ensure equity of access to state residents who are blind or physically disabled, including over 1,200 military veterans and 402 children with vision impairments;
- **The Statewide Summer Reading Program**, which encourages Ohio's children and young adults to maintain and increase their literacy skills during the summer;

- **Regional Digitization Hubs**, located in four locations around the state, which 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 State Library is leading a collaborative effort with these digitization hubs and several other institutional partners to establish the Ohio Digital Network, Ohio's only service hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). DPLA is an online portal that brings together the riches of America's libraries, archives, and museums, and makes them freely available to the world, with a particular emphasis on providing resources to students and teachers.

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**.

Grant funding from ServeOhio, Ohio's commission on service and volunteerism, assisted the State Library with developing and implementing 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 the digital skills necessary 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. In the first two years of the program, more than 27,000 individuals received training. We currently have 27 AmeriCorps members working in 73 physical locations in 31 public library systems located in 24 rural Ohio counties. The



**Guiding Ohio Online**

funding from ServeOhio will end in FY 2018, but because of the success and impact Guiding Ohio Online has had, the State Library hopes to continue the program by using federal funds in the form of LSTA grants from IMLS.

In 2016, approximately 325,000 Ohio children and teens participated in **Summer Reading Programs**. Attendance at related events for children and teens was nearly 835,000 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 an electronic classroom that are available for state agencies to use at no cost. These facilities were used 1,973 times by numerous agencies between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2016, resulting in a savings of over \$700,000 for the agencies making use of these facilities.

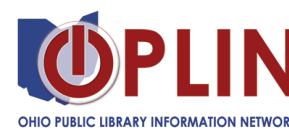


**State Library Meeting Room Use  
Savings for State Agencies in Fiscal Years 2015 & 2016**

<b>Room</b>	<b>Square Feet</b>	<b>Usage Number</b>	<b>Rental Cost</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Boardroom	1920	485	\$ 550.00	\$ 266,750.00
A	250	293	\$ 250.00	\$ 73,250.00
B	250	270	\$ 250.00	\$ 67,500.00
C	250	232	\$ 250.00	\$ 58,000.00
D	1650	445	\$ 400.00	\$ 178,000.00
Training Room	350	248	\$ 250.00	\$ 62,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,973</b>		<b>\$ 705,500.00</b>

The State Library helps leverage resources and improve efficiency by engaging in collaborative projects with several state agencies including the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, The Governor's Office on Workforce Transformation, ServeOhio, Ohio School for the Deaf, and the Ohio History Connection.

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 and free public Internet access through their local public libraries.



Ohio's four Regional Library Systems provide affordable and effective training for library staff. The Regional Library Systems supplement state funding received through a line item in the State Library's budget with membership dues and/or fees for continuing education from member libraries.

The Ohioana Library occupies space in the State Library and 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 regularly collaborate on programs. Together, both agencies partner with other organizations to avoid duplication of services and to extend their programs to expanded populations.

Ohio's libraries of all types – public, college and university, school, and special – have a well-established reputation for excellence and are widely regarded as being among the best in the nation. This success is based in great part on many of the statewide collaborative projects led by the State Library that have allowed Ohio's libraries to provide all Ohioans with access to a broad array of services and resources in the most effective and efficient way possible. 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.

For 200 years, the State Library of Ohio has initiated and led programs and services that have supported Ohio's libraries and state government. Because the State Library plays a vital role in developing an innovative, educated, and skilled workforce, it is uniquely positioned to deliver on the promise of creating **A Smarter Ohio**. Providing adequate funding for the State Library is making an investment in Ohio's commitment to develop, support, and attract a robust workforce, and to improve training and education that will drive Ohio's economic revival and build Ohio's next generation.

I understand the tremendous amount of work you have before you and know you will work hard to balance the needs of residents with the demands of agencies. I appreciate the efforts the Governor has made to maintain funding for the State Library in this Biennial Budget. Thank you for considering the State Library's budget

proposal, which has been carefully developed in an effort to maximize limited state resources to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of critical information resources and services to Ohio government, libraries of all types, and Ohio residents. 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.