

State Librarian's Report



Beverly Cain  
State Librarian

2010 was anything but a dull year for Ohio's library community. Ohio libraries received awards, embarked on new services and programs, collaborated in exciting new ways, rose to meet funding challenges, supported the state's economic sustainability and workforce development, and experienced many changes.

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**Advocacy Day 2010**

The current economy makes it more important than ever to advocate for our libraries. This past year, a record-breaking group of librarians and library supporters participated in Library Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. With the American Library Association's Annual Conference being held in Washington, DC, many librarians who would not normally have had the chance to participate in advocacy day were able to do so.

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**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

As part of the federal stimulus package known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), \$7.2 billion was appropriated for the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) to expand broadband access and adoption in communities across the U.S.

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**Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's (BMGF) Opportunity Online Hardware Grants**

In late 2008, the State Library of Ohio was chosen to participate in the third and final round of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's (BMGF) Opportunity Online hardware grant. This two year grant provides funds that assist public libraries with upgrading and adding public computer workstations for patrons in communities that have a high concentration of poverty and also have public computers that are at risk of becoming outdated with limited capacity for users.

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**Looking Back – and Forward – to the Summer Reading Program**

All across Ohio, kids made a splash, teens made waves, and adults watered their minds during the 2010 Summer Reading Program. Public libraries took to this year's shared themes from the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) like – a book to water?

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**Connecting to Collections**

The *Ohio Heritage Partnership: A Statewide Initiative* project is a joint-effort between the State Library of Ohio and the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) and is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as part of their call to action, Connecting to Collections.

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**Choose to Read Ohio**

Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) is a statewide reading initiative encouraging Ohioans to "**Read together – Read Ohio – Read for life.**" CTRO spotlights Ohio authors and promotes reading across Ohio. CTRO is for everybody. Use it in your preschool storytimes and in your outreach to nursing facilities, on campus and in K-12 classrooms, with book discussion groups and with entire cities.

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**Games, Gardens, Talking Books and Ohio Books: All About LSTA Special Grants**

January 1, 2010 was the beginning date for LSTA-funded VictorReader Stream projects and Choose to Read Ohio projects. These were the first grants awarded as "special grants" by the State Library. These successful grant programs were followed by Growing Community, Introducing Gaming to the Library, and another round of Choose to Read Ohio.

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**Job and Career Accelerator Launch**

This year, the LearningExpress Library (LEL) entered its sixth year as a database available to all Ohio residents. Along with the robust selection of **Job & Career Accelerator** practice tests, software tutorials, and other professional development resources that have traditionally been a part of the LEL suite, the State Library of Ohio and LEL ushered in a brand new online service for Ohioans in 2010: the Job & Career Accelerator.

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Read online at:

[www.library.ohio.gov/marketing/Newsletters/TheNews/2010/December](http://www.library.ohio.gov/marketing/Newsletters/TheNews/2010/December)

**KnowItNow 24x7 2010 Year in Review**

KnowItNow24x7, Ohio's statewide collaborative online reference project, opened the year with its three web portals (KnowItNow, HomeworkNow, and ReadThisNow) consolidated under one name and one web address: [www.knowitnow.org](http://www.knowitnow.org).

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**Library Skills Training for State Employees**

The amount of information available online is growing exponentially; when faced with this deluge of data, our patrons often have difficulty finding the best and most accurate information.

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**New Color Scanner for the State Library**

In March 2010, more than two years after its selection, the State Library was able to purchase the Indus 5004, a high-quality overhead scanner for digitization.

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**Ohio eBook Project**

The Ohio eBook Project (OEP) is a growing consortium of 40 libraries that pool their resources to collectively purchase downloadable content for use by library patrons from their home computers and portable devices. Most of the books and other materials purchased for the OEP collection are shared with all member libraries.

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**Ohio Public Libraries Continue to Be Among the Best in America**

Thirty-six Ohio Libraries were identified as Star Libraries in the 2010 Library Journal Index of Public Library Service. Stars are awarded on a point system and Ohio had the greatest number of Star Libraries in America! Fifteen Ohio libraries were honored with a Five-Star Rating for the highest scores within their respective categories (up from five libraries in 2009 Round 2).

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**Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Year in Review: 2010 Highlights**

The newest members joining SEO consortium are Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library and the Carnegie Public Library in East Liverpool. Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library migrated and went "live" in February on the SEO Consortium database. Carnegie Public Library in East Liverpool will migrate to the SEO database in the next few months.

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**State Library of Ohio Collaborates with State Agencies**

As many Ohio residents faced difficult times and budget shortfalls in 2010, they turned to their public libraries for help in accessing information and resources. As Ohioans face unemployment or underemployment, home foreclosures, bankruptcies, competition for fewer jobs and numerous other struggles facing our state, libraries are increasingly becoming the one-stop-shop for finding help in tough times.

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**Talking Books – (Transformative) Year in Review**

2010 has been a very busy year for Ohio's Talking Book Program. In late September 2009, the national Talking Book Program began its long anticipated transition from analog cassette tapes & players to digital books & players.

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**The News in Review & Survey**

We recently requested feedback from our readers about *The News* in order to monitor its quality and value to the library community. We are pleased to announce that 249 individuals participated in the survey.

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**2010 READ Posters**

In 2010, the State Library of Ohio created six promotional READ posters. This year we expanded our primary focus of elected officials to include Choose to Read Ohio authors.

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**State Library Budget**

The State Library's budget for FY 2010 closed on June 30, 2010 with no budget reductions being required during the year. Even though there were no formal budget reductions during FY 2010, state agencies realized savings for the State of Ohio through the implementation of cost savings days.

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What's new in our collection? Click [here](#) to find out. Or, go to [www.library.ohio.gov/Marketing/Residents/RecentAdditionstoCollection](http://www.library.ohio.gov/Marketing/Residents/RecentAdditionstoCollection)