

Chairman Widener, members of the Committee, I am Beverly Cain, State Librarian of Ohio. I appear before you today to provide testimony on the State Library's proposed budget for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013.

**The State Library of Ohio has three strategic priorities:**

- **To promote and enable resource sharing among libraries and library networks;**
- **To lead and partner in the development of library services throughout Ohio; and**
- **To provide access to high-quality authenticated information and resources for Ohio's state government.**

Focusing on these priorities enables the State Library to provide all Ohioans with access to the critical knowledge, resources, and information literacy skills they need to successfully participate in today's global knowledge economy.

The State Library of Ohio supports a number of programs and services that maximize the use of public funds by facilitating resource and information sharing among Ohio's libraries. These programs include:

- **The Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Library Consortium**, an online catalog and circulation system that is shared by 79 library systems at 176 physical locations across 41 Ohio counties.
- **Ohio Libraries Share: MORE (Moving Ohio Resources Everywhere)** is a statewide resource sharing network that makes it possible for Ohio residents to request and receive library materials from across the state.
- **The Ohio Web Library** is a collection of thousands of online publications and research resources made available at no cost to Ohio's libraries, schools, universities, and residents.

- **KnowItNow24x7**, Ohio's 24x7 virtual reference service, is the busiest statewide online reference service in the United States.
- **The Ohio e-Book Project** is a statewide project that provides downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, music and videos to library customers at a considerable savings to participating libraries.
- **Automation Consortium Grants**, funded with Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) dollars, are currently being made available by the State Library to encourage public libraries to join an existing automation consortium such as the SEO Library Consortium.

The State Library of Ohio works collaboratively with libraries, state agencies, and organizations to develop and deliver library services throughout Ohio. Many of the State Library's current efforts are focused on education and workforce development. Two electronic resources included in the Ohio Web Library: *LearningExpress Library*, which supports GED preparation, workplace skills improvement, occupation practice tests, and more, and the *Job & Career Accelerator*, for career investigation, resume building, and job searching, have experienced significant increases in use during the current biennium.

*Find Help In Tough Times*, a collection of resources located on the State Library website, makes information on employment, finance, health, housing, and more, easily accessible in one place. The State Library is also participating in *Project Compass*, a program developed to help support the efforts of public libraries to meet the urgent and growing needs of the unemployed and underemployed in their communities. The State Library is committed to sustaining efforts such as these to provide activities, services, and outreach to the unemployed in our state.



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

**"The State Library of Ohio is an invaluable resource for the Garnet A. Wilson Public Library. Their development and support of the Ohio eBook project, MORE interlibrary loan program and supporting statewide delivery service, and administration of the LSTA federal grant funds, have benefited the library and its patrons in Pike County. Most recently, the State Library of Ohio worked closely with the Bill and Melinda Gates Library Foundation, which brought almost \$30,000 to the library to purchase new, state-of-the-art computer equipment."**

**– Thomas Adkins, Director**

**Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County**

The State Library of Ohio was established in 1817 to serve the information needs of Ohio's state government and it continues to fulfill that role today by providing a wide range of services. The State Library has a collection of 2 million print materials, e-books, journals, and online full-text databases, as well as the unique expertise necessary to provide state government employees with a single trusted source of authoritative, organized, and timely information. Because the State Library is a founding member of OhioLINK, Ohio's state government employees may request library materials from the OhioLINK Central Catalog, which provides access to approximately 48 million items housed in Ohio's university libraries. Additionally, staff from the State Library provide high-quality training to help state employees learn to use the resources available to them.

**"The books, videos and other resources offered by the State Library allow me to create substantive and credible training presentations without compromising our agency's fixed training budget."**

**– Vincent Williams, Office of the Ohio Secretary of State**

The State Library makes meeting and training facilities available for state agency use. These facilities were used a total of 704 times by state agencies in Fiscal Year 2010, resulting in an estimated savings of \$270,650.00 for the agencies making use of these facilities.

**State Library Meeting Room Savings for State Agencies in Fiscal Year 2010**

Room	Square Feet	Usage Number	Rental Cost	Total Cost
<b>Boardroom</b>	1920	213	\$ 550.00	<b>\$ 117,150.00</b>
<b>A</b>	250	48	\$ 250.00	<b>\$ 12,000.00</b>
<b>B</b>	250	120	\$ 250.00	<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>
<b>C</b>	250	76	\$ 250.00	<b>\$ 19,000.00</b>
<b>D</b>	1650	205	\$ 400.00	<b>\$ 82,000.00</b>
<b>Training Room</b>	350	42	\$ 250.00	<b>\$ 10,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>704</b>		<b>\$ 270,650.00</b>

The State Library develops partnerships with other institutions and state agencies in order to leverage resources and improve efficiency. The State Library is engaged in collaborative projects with several state agencies including the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio School for the Deaf, the Ohio Historical Society, and the Ohio Secretary of State.

The State Library entered into a partnership with Kent State University's School of Library and Information Science in 2008 to provide a home for the Columbus program of Ohio's only School of Library and Information Science. This partnership has resulted in enhanced collaborative opportunities for library education and projects in support of library services throughout the state.

**“There is a logical connection between Ohio's only accredited School for the training of librarians with the State Library, which provides a coordinating and leadership role for libraries and information agencies in the State. We are in this together - providing essential information services to the citizens.”**

**– Dr. Don A. Wicks, Associate Professor & Interim Director**

**School of Library & Information Science, Kent State University**

I would like to speak very briefly about other line items in the State Library Budget: the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN); the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled; the Regional Library Systems; and the Ohioana Library.

OPLIN provides broadband 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. For many Ohio residents, this Internet access is their only link to the many e-government services available to them.

Ohio's four Regional Library Systems are instrumental in providing continuing education and technological assistance to libraries across the state and are of particular value to small and rural libraries.

Ohio's Talking Book Program ensures equity of access to state residents who have difficulty using a traditional book, specifically those who are blind or physically disabled. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped recently announced that it had selected the Ohio Talking Book Program as its Network Library of the Year. This award is given for excellence, innovation, and special achievement in providing library service to blind and physically disabled individuals.

The Ohioana Library is a line item in the State Library budget for their rental expenses. They will provide separate testimony so I will not go into any detail about that service. The State Library is pleased to partner with the Ohioana Library on many projects, such as *Choose to Read Ohio*.

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 minimize funding reductions for the State Library in this Biennium Budget. Any additional reductions to the State Library budget would make it difficult to continue our services to the library community, state government, and the Ohio residents who ultimately benefit from our services. Adequate funding for 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 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.