

Chairman Carey, members of the Committee:

First I want to thank you and the Strickland administration for continuing to support the State Library.

I know that you have a busy schedule and will keep my remarks brief, giving you a quick overview of State Library services and achievements – past, present, and future. To support my examples, you will find material (including charts and testimonials) sprinkled throughout my testimony and in the packet you received.

I have included the vision and mission of the State Library for your reference.

Vision

The State Library of Ohio will lead in ensuring the delivery of all information and library services to all Ohio residents, anywhere, anytime.

Mission

Lead and partner in the development of library services throughout Ohio
Promote and enable resource sharing among libraries and library networks
Provide access to information for Ohio's state government
Provide specialized services to Ohio's residents

The State Library is committed to helping state employees in their jobs – answering reference questions and providing research, library material, and training. You will find testimonials from those who use the State Library and a list of classes offered by State Library staff.

Testimonials on State Library reference and research services to state government

“I would like to extend my appreciation for the fine service that the State Library of Ohio provides. As a State of Ohio contractor for the Teacher Advancement Program, data and current educational theory and practice are critical to our success. Time after time, the associates at the library are always more than willing to assist me with an extremely high level of efficiency and effectiveness. Information, and an accurate connection to it, are essential as we work to improve the quality of Ohio teachers. I am appreciative of the services that the State Library of Ohio offers. It benefits both Ohio teachers and Ohio students.”

- Greg Paulmann, Ohio Teacher Advancement Program Director

“You guys are tremendous. If every organization ran like the State Library, it would be amazing.”

- Cheryl Straker, Deputy Director of Museum and Education for the Capital Square Review and Advisory Board after receiving research on Ohio legislators from 1803 forward, to be used in an interactive kiosk planned for the new museum at the Statehouse.

Training classes offered by the State Library to state government

- **Fast Facts Fast: Using the World Book Online Encyclopedia and Oxford Reference Online**
- **Finding and Requesting Books via the State Library of Ohio**
- **Finding Online Magazine and Newspaper Articles**
- **How to Use Statewide Electronic Resources (Ohio Web Library)**
- **Online Health and Medical Resources**
- **Online Test Preparation and Microsoft Office Product Tutorials**
- **State Library Resources Training**
- **Yes! You Can Use Google**

In addition, the State Library offers meeting room space to state agencies. I have included a chart which shows the usage of these rooms and suggests a value of more than \$220,000 realized by state government from using the State Library facility rather than scheduling a meeting in a hotel or conference facility.

State Library Meeting Room Savings for State Agencies

Room	Square Feet	Usage Number	Rental Cost	Total Cost
Boardroom	1920	222	\$ 550.00	\$ 122,100.00
A	250	19	\$ 250.00	\$ 4,750.00
B	250	94	\$ 250.00	\$ 23,500.00
C	250	29	\$ 250.00	\$ 7,250.00
D	1650	120	\$ 400.00	\$ 48,000.00
Training Room	350	58	\$ 250.00	\$ 14,500.00
TOTAL		542		\$ 220,100.00

The State Library is no stranger to education and learning. I will speak to just a few of the programs which the State Library makes available to all Ohio residents.

The State Library subscribes to the **LearningExpress Library** which offers assistance in the area of job stimulation and employment by way of guiding the user through resume building, assistance in writing cover letters, and offering tips for honing interview skills. There are also literally hundreds of practice tests in this service including ACT, Civil Service, Firefighters, EMT and more. There is a list of tests in your packet.

In July 2008, the State Library added online courses on Microsoft products to what is available on LearningExpress Library at no cost to all Ohio residents. A list of these courses is also in your packet. All courses are available to residents via the Internet either remotely -- in schools, offices or homes -- or in all libraries across the state.

Residents, state employees, and library staff are availing themselves of this. It is more cost effective and efficient than attending training which requires travel and sometimes tuition.



“I have worked in many different libraries, both public and academic, over the past 20 years and this may be one of the best databases I’ve come across.”

- Robert C. Antill, Director of the Carroll County District Library

“The unemployed are finding that they can visit the library and practice taking the civil service tests required for many government positions. We are constantly inter-library loaning (borrowing from other libraries) ACT, SAT and nurses aide practice tests. LearningExpress provides instant access to these and a wealth of other practice tests.”

- Susan Pieper, Library Director of the Paulding County Carnegie Library

“Study guides and test books never stay on the library’s shelves for very long. They’re constantly being checked out, and sometimes, unfortunately, they’re never returned. The study guides for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), is especially popular. With LearningExpress, people don’t have to worry about returning a book on time.”

- Linda McDonald, Public Relations Manager at the Fairfield County District Library

“It is especially helpful to our rural clientele since using LearningExpress eliminates costly travel to study sites.”

- Linda Slaninka, Director of Swanton Public Library

“It seems lately that I show a student about every other day, how to get in and use it for not only ACT and SAT practice, but also for the GED practice. Just today I showed a young man how he could take a GED practice test, and if he didn't do well in one area, he could go into the GED course, also from LearningExpress, to get the help that he needs. He was very grateful for this help.”

- Jane Puleo, Garfield Hts. High School

“We’ve been using LearningExpress Library for staff development on computer-related topics, and have found it a very helpful resource. Teachers have been able to set up their own accounts and monitor their learning—they like the 24/7 availability and the ability to track what you’ve done. It’s a tremendous cost-saver to give reinforcement of face-to-face instruction.”

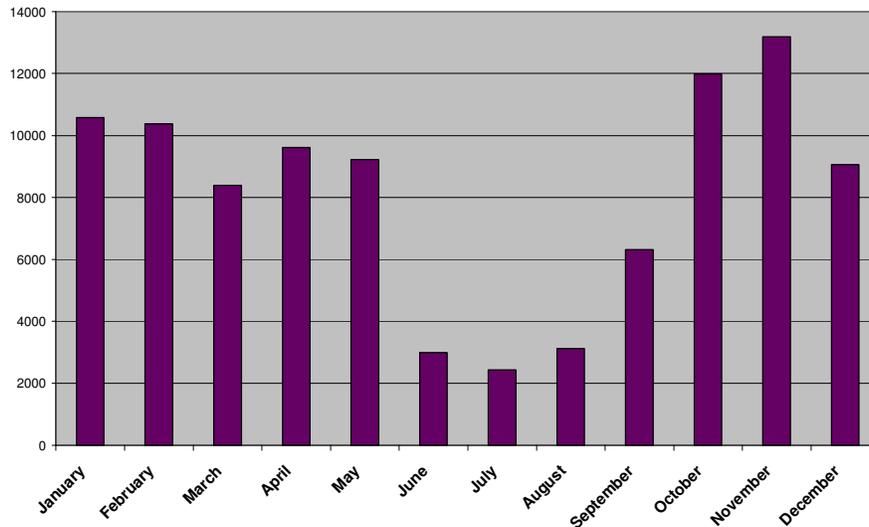
- Kathy Fredrick, Shaker Heights Schools

“...(P)atrons have seen real benefits from access to LearningExpress through the State Library of Ohio. Not only does LearningExpress provide an excellent back-up to our popular print test-prep materials, it also affords us the chance to offer patrons free computer training opportunities they might not have access to otherwise. In this current economic climate, job-seekers are literally looking for any advantage they can get. Being able to provide free tutorials for our software like Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access is certainly valued by our community... We’re thrilled to offer access to LearningExpress. It’s exactly the kind of 21st century technology that keeps libraries vital and relevant in their communities.”

- Jeff Regensburger, Lead Librarian at Worthington Public Libraries – Northwest Library

KnowItNow is a 24/7 virtual reference service staffed by librarians. Introduced in 2004, it remains the most heavily used service of its kind in the nation. There was an accessibility issue: this service could not be used by Ohio residents who are blind. The State Library tried to resolve this with the commercial vendor but the vendor was either unwilling or unable to remedy this flaw. The State Library resolved the problem through Open Source Software development.

KnowItNow24x7 Statewide Sessions Handled January - December 2008



Total usage of this service from January 1 through December 31, 2008 was over 97,000.

Testimonials speak for themselves. As more than one student proclaims: "It rocks!"



"This is an amazingly helpful resource....I never want it to go away!! The librarians are so incredibly helpful...I really appreciate it!!"

"The service was a five letter word great G-R-E-A-T!"

"This is the best website I have ever seen. It's a great source to use when you don't have time to go to the library, or you can't get there, or you really need information online. Keep up the great work!!"

"I love this program. I am a seventh grade student, and I love being able to get info from a librarian, and good websites to, without having to drive to a library. GOOD PROGRAM!!!!!!!!!"

"You guys are wonderful! What a great idea! I'm a single mom working 2 jobs and going to school. This service has helped me so much. Time is precious to me. Again thank you!"

"Books rock and so do you guys, ROCK ON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Reading is essential to learning and the State Library encourages reading early and throughout one's life.

- **Ohio Ready to Read project** is a partnership of the State Library with the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Library Council, and public libraries across Ohio. Through this program, librarians are trained to work with parents and caregivers so they understand the importance of introducing children to books early in their lives and helping children develop the skills that will help them be ready to read when they begin kindergarten.
- The State Library assists public libraries across the state to offer **Summer Reading Programs** so that children and teens are encouraged to read when they are out of school on summer break. This helps students maintain or increase reading comprehension and reading levels.
- This month the State Library introduces another reading program called **Choose to Read Ohio**. It is modeled after the One Book, One Community programs but with a twist. We are featuring Ohio authors and allowing readers to choose from a list of books rather than giving them one title. The purpose of the program, of course, is to encourage reading amongst all ages.

The State Library of Ohio promotes **Statewide Resource Sharing** because the State Library believes that every Ohio resident should have access to information and library material from library collections across the state. Ohio currently has a complicated system of resource sharing mechanisms illustrated by the maps you will find in your packet. The many layers and colors reflect multiple systems and consortia which do not interact with one another because the various software systems cannot talk to one another. The State Library, in partnership with six other states (South Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin), plans to contract for the creation of Open Source Software which we hope will facilitate the communication between these multiple systems and consortia.

KnowItNow, LearningExpress Library, Statewide Resource Sharing, Reading Programs: all of these programs are funded in full or in part with Federal Library Services and Technology Act funding which the State Library receives annually. Libraries of all types and sizes benefit from the State Library competitive grant process: school, academic, public, and special. The projects include: helping libraries move their card catalogs to electronic catalogs, enhancing library services to youth and young adults, helping libraries realize an innovative technology, and improving the delivery of library service to Ohio residents who have difficulty using traditional services, specifically residents who are blind or physically handicapped.

You will find a list in your packet of libraries in your districts which were awarded LSTA grants in the past biennium.

As you know, federal funding has a Maintenance of Effort and Matching requirement. The State Library monitors these requirements so that Ohio does not jeopardize federal funding, especially at this time when it is being used to fund programs of critical importance to the state of Ohio.

Cleveland Public Library and the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County provide reading material to the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In an effort to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness, after July 1, 2009, this service will be provided entirely by Cleveland Public Library. I am confident that customers of this service will continue to receive excellent service.

Funding for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) and the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) is designated from the Public Library Fund in the upcoming budget. I would be remiss if I did not thank the House for returning \$10 million to the Public Library Fund – the amount which will fund LBPH and OPLIN. However, I respectfully request that the funding for these two essential services be returned to GRF so that the Public Library Fund is kept for its original purpose, that is, to fund Ohio's public library system. It is no mistake that Ohio's public libraries are the best used in the nation – they have the highest circulation, highest visits per capita, highest attendance at library programs. Indeed, Ohio is the model public library system in the nation. The Legislature in its wisdom created a funding mechanism which allows this. I hope that you will protect this so Ohio continues to be that model.

Thank you again for your support of the State Library and for your attention during my testimony. I will be happy to answer any of your questions.