

THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM IS A PLACE WHERE





**ANYTHING IS
POSSIBLE**



A PLACE OF DIVERSITY

That serves as a melting pot of unique cultures and ideas.

Our Mission

Lorain Public Library System provides everyone with free, educational, informational and entertainment resources through responsive quality service to support lifelong learning throughout Lorain County.

From the Director's Desk

As the new Director of the Lorain Public Library System, I am honored to serve you and to continue the tradition of excellent library service to Lorain County. Since coming on board in October, I have been struck by the diversity and strength of our communities and excited by the impact libraries can have by promoting literacy and learning. 2016 was certainly a momentous year at the Lorain Public Library System. In September, Director Joanne Eldridge retired after 22 years of dedicated leadership of our Library. Director Eldridge shepherded the Library through many ups and downs in funding while elevating library service through her commitment to community and literacy. She laid the foundation for the good work you will see throughout this annual report and for that we are forever grateful.

Great communities have great libraries and people are at the heart of what makes a library such a treasured asset in the community. In 2016, we co-sponsored a grant from the Lorain County Health District with Columbia Township and other local organizations to create a walking trail in the Columbia Township Park. We also worked with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide books and food in backpacks that were sent home with Lorain City Schools students. Finally, we were proud to bring the Guys Read program to students at General Johnnie Wilson Middle School and Washington Elementary School in Lorain. This innovative program matches older boys in middle school with younger boys in elementary school to help them become stronger readers and cultivate a love for books. This wonderful program was covered on Channel 5 News in Cleveland.

Of course, we could not do any of this without your support. In 2016, the communities of Avon, Lorain and Sheffield Lake voted to support sustainable library funding. We are grateful for your continued support and are always looking for ways to be creative and sustainable in the ways we serve you.

In 2017, we will be building on the success of this year and working to cultivate a culture of innovation and openness. We truly believe that anything is possible and that the power of information and literacy knows no bounds. I am excited about where we are and the great things we have yet to do together.

All the best,



Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz
Director, Lorain Public Library System

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That serves as a melting pot of unique cultures and ideas.

Message from the Assistant Director

"The library is a living organism." Written by S.R. Ranganathan in 1931, the fifth law of library operations theory still holds true 85 years later right here at the Lorain Public Library System. An atmosphere of transformation over the past year has positioned the library for an exciting future of possibilities! Thanks to people like you who love their libraries, three operating levies were successfully passed to provide funding to maintain and grow services that help us connect you with the information you need to change your life. Late in 2016, a transition in leadership, due to the director's retirement, and subsequent appointment of Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz to the post, has been the inspiration for our exploration of new services and fresh ideas that can be incorporated to make the library more inviting and welcoming. New materials, additional services, more community meeting spaces and programs of interest make each branch in our system interesting, unique and confirm Ranganathan's theory that libraries truly are organisms of change. Whether you seek an impeccable meeting space for your group or friends, are searching for the latest release of a movie or book, or just want to chill, be sure to make your neighborhood library the first choice for truly endless possibilities!

Toni R. Whitney
Assistant Director, Lorain Public Library System



A PLACE FOR ALL AGES

Where people engage with the world, both the real one and the imaginative.

Technology

- Wired North Ridgeville's new meeting room for sound and video. Installed a touchscreen display in North Ridgeville's children's room.
- Replaced the public copiers and coin boxes in six branches.
- Upgraded the software on 140 public computers to Windows 10, Office 2016 and Google Chrome.
- Added five public computer stations and a Hatch children's computer at Columbia.
- Replaced nine computers in Main Library's public training room with faster models running newer software.
- Performed a major hardware upgrade on 12 public computers at Domonkas.
- Installed improved software at all branches for printing from patron-owned devices.
- Upgraded the public computer network cabling at the South Lorain Branch.

Community Awareness

- Launched the Bold Beginning Pilot grant, which enabled us to make new partnerships for the library, enhance existing programs and acquire some new collection items.

Summer Reading Program Kickoff

- Launched the Summer Reading Program Kickoff with the Exercise Your Mind Beach Party at Lakeview Park in Lorain. 300 people attended and had a fun time despite a small threat of rain.
- Hosted the Cooking Caravan, an education company out of Columbus, and held a Chef Battle with teams of kids from the audience who made healthy snacks.





A PLACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER

New friendships are formed; knowledge is shared and ideas take shape.

MAIN LIBRARY

📍 351 W. Sixth Street, Lorain, OH 44052

“

In addition to providing access to a variety of resources for check-out, the Main Library continues to serve as a central meeting space and place for the citizens of Lorain. Community-building is encouraged through library-sponsored programs and classes as well as the easy access to meeting rooms that we provide for local groups' use.

”

Valerie Smith, Main Library Public Services Coordinator

Volunteers

- 249 volunteers donated nearly 1,000 hours of their time at the Main Library during the year, mainly during Friends of the Library book sales and programs in the Children's Department.

New Technology

- Two new photocopiers for public use were added this year.
- New machines provide convenient new features such as the ability to scan items and email them directly from the machines with no extra charge to patrons.

Notable Events

- A series of healthy eating programs were held in June, July and August. The Library partnered with nutritionist presenters from Mercy Regional Health Center and the Cleveland Clinic.
- The Lunchtime Local History programs hosted throughout the year continued to attract residents and former residents to the library for information and reminiscences.
- Over the summer, the Children's Department created a summer series of programs and invited local daycares and camps to come to the Library every Monday afternoon for large-group programming. Hundreds of children came to the events.
- Main Library joined almost 300 public libraries in the United States as it sponsored its first annual Indie Authors Day program on October 8.
- The Guys Read program was continued through a partnership between the library and students at General Johnnie Wilson Middle School and Washington Elementary School.

Fun Facts

- The Library received a grant from the Lorain Lions Club that provided digital magnifiers for use by patrons at the Main Library and the South Lorain Branch.
- The new ArtistWorks online music and art classes resource was launched early in the year.



AVON BRANCH

📍 37485 Harvest Drive, Avon, OH 44011

“

Looking back on 2016... it was so wonderful to see more and more families discovering the Avon Branch as a fun place to learn and play together. Family Engineering Night programs offered opportunities for family teamwork, learning and some friendly competition, and play dates at the Library gave parents and their young children unstructured learn and play time and a chance to get to know other families in the area. We constantly strive to offer the programs and services of interest and need to the community and we always want to hear your ideas!

”

Donna Kelly, Branch Librarian Manager

Volunteers

- 303 teens contributed 482 volunteer hours.
- 52 adults contributed 98 volunteer hours.

New Technology

- New copier allows patrons to make color copies and self-scan to flash drive or email.
- All computers were updated to Windows 10 and Microsoft Office 2016.

Notable Events

- We began offering sensory story times and other programs specifically tailored to children with special needs.
- The Library visited the Avon Pool this summer for Swim Break Story Times and the Parks and Recreation Playground Days.
- We started a monthly interactive activity station where patrons can stop at their leisure and do something fun, creative and different each month. Activities include building a puzzle, Zentangle® inspired art, coloring, making fancy paper snowflakes and more.
- The Library participated in Avon's holiday weekend of events in December by offering Mini-Golf in the Library – it's now an annual tradition.

Fun Facts

- New soft chairs added to Quiet Reading Room.



COLUMBIA BRANCH

📍 13824 W. River Road, North Columbia Station, OH 44028

“ Columbia Township is a wonderful location filled with caring and passionate people. It's always exciting to find new ways to work with other organizations to both honor the rich past and traditions and to embrace technologies and ideas that will bring exciting new experiences to the residents. ”

Susan Spivey, Branch Librarian Manager

New Technology

- A new countertop was installed along the back windows of the Library to house five new laptop computers and additional electrical outlets with USB ports. The equipment, along with new children's Hatch computers and a new server, were obtained through a grant from the Columbia Community Foundation to The Friends of the Columbia Library, Inc.

Notable Events

- Added senior programming such as the Senior Coffee Hour and Coffee & Classic Film in response to community input.
- In September 2016, the Columbia Branch held an Open House highlighting local resources available in Columbia. Besides the Library, participants included the Columbia Community Foundation, the Columbia Local Schools Board of Education, the Columbia Historical Society and The Friends of the Columbia Library, Inc.
- An open house focusing on the heroin epidemic was held in November and several Lorain County agencies were present at this event, including the Lorain County Drug Task Force, the Lorain County Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board, the LCADA Way, Solace Lorain County, Lorain County General Health District and the Addict's Parents United.

Fun Facts

- The Columbia Branch co-sponsored a grant from the Lorain County Health District with Columbia Township and other local organizations to create a walking trail in the Columbia Township Park.
- Our 2016 fitness-themed Summer Reading Program helped spark the creation of the Booking It or Fitness Walking Club.



DOMONKAS BRANCH

📍 4125 E. Lake Road, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054

“

Thank you, Sheffield Lake, for your vote of confidence this year as you approved our local library levy! It has been an exciting year of programs and events. As always, our staff is committed to providing patrons with the best materials, information, electronic resources and programs possible. Even though I will bid you farewell in 2017, I would like to welcome you to visit the Domonkas Branch and take advantage of our various resources and to enjoy our beautiful view of Lake Erie.

”

Pamela M. Coghlan, Branch Librarian Manager

Volunteers

- 105 individuals volunteered at the Domonkas Branch.
- 310 volunteer hours were recorded in 2016.

New Technology

- New black and white/color copier for patrons.
- Patron and staff computers were updated to Windows 10.
- Installed network cabling in the meeting room and an additional wireless access point.
- New laptop charging station in staff workroom.

Notable Events

- We provided a number of popular programs throughout the year including a Noon Year's Eve celebration, a Star Wars Party, Teen Iron Chef, a Downton Abbey Tea, a presentation on Bigfoot and Breakfast with Santa.
- Hosted the Lorain County Friends Exchange for friends of the library groups from each Lorain Public Library System community.

Fun Facts

- Installed new shelves in storage cabinet in the Meeting Room.
- Upgraded to new energy efficient lighting in the parking lot.



NORTH RIDGEVILLE BRANCH

📍 **35700 Bainbridge Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039**

“ We continued to offer a variety of popular programs for all ages at our busy branch library. Adult programs included book clubs, coloring classes, computer classes, craft fun, story times and Sunday afternoon presentations. Children, teens and families enjoyed story times, crafts, science fun and games. I want to thank The Friends of the North Ridgeville Branch Library, Inc. for continuing to sponsor many of the library's programs and activities in 2016.

Karen Sigsworth, Branch Librarian Manager

Volunteers

- North Ridgeville Branch had 30 teen volunteers who worked 144 hours during 2016.
- North Ridgeville Branch had 109 adult volunteers who worked 883 hours during 2016.
- Total volunteers were 139; total volunteer hours were 1,027.

New Technology

- Upgraded the 24 public service computers in the adult computer area to Windows 10 and Microsoft Office 2016 as well as a number of staff computers.
- Installed touch screen technology in the story time room that will be used for presentations with children and teens.
- Two new copy machines were installed in the fall.

Notable Events

- North Ridgeville Branch offered another successful Sunday program series from January through March with presenters sponsored by The Friends of the North Ridgeville Branch Library, Inc.
- North Ridgeville Branch staff provided tours for all 350 first graders from the North Ridgeville City Schools in November.
- North Ridgeville Branch hosted the North Ridgeville Schools art exhibit during the month of May.
- Continued to furnish the new meeting room that was created, adding cabinetry, new carpet, a fireplace and refrigerator so far.

Fun Facts

- We collaborated with the Friends of the Library group to provide a booth at the North Ridgeville Corn Festival in August.



SOUTH LORAIN BRANCH

📍 2121 Homewood Drive, Lorain, OH 44055

“

At your South Lorain Branch, we want to explore new ways to celebrate and serve our unique community. Please stop in and share your ideas with us. Together, we can make our library even more special than it already is.

”

Cheryl Grizzell, Branch Library Supervisor

New Technology

- New network cabling to provide faster computer connections.
- New copier that allows patrons to scan for free.

Notable Events

- South Branch held many diverse programs throughout the year, including: Chess Club, art appreciation programs, DVD discussion groups, meditation programs, extreme Pumpkin Carving and a popular discussion about Bigfoot.

Fun Facts

- Participated for the first time as an organization in NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month), serving as a write-in spot and holding several sessions that drew participants from Sandusky to Shaker Heights in addition to our many local writers.



OUTREACH

“ 2016 was a year of new partnerships for the Lorain Public Library System. We worked with the Lorain County Bridges Out of Poverty group, Second Harvest Food Bank and Lorain Cooperative Ministries to provide services and programs to members of the community the Library had not connected with before. ”

Elaine Betting, Outreach and Children's Department Manager

New Technology

- Two new laptops and three new receipt printers.

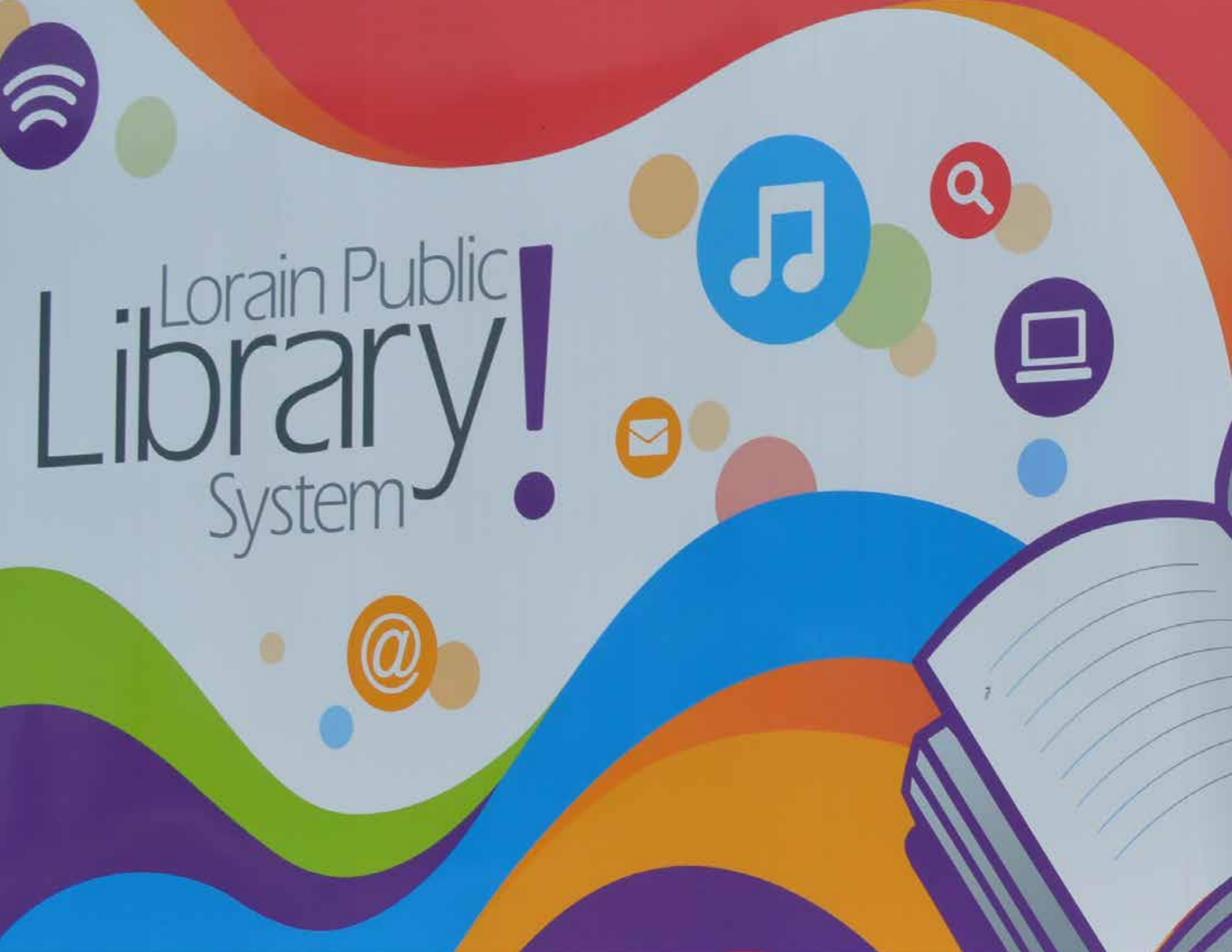
Notable Events

- Continually adding new Book Truck stops our schedule.
- Added a special summer stop at the Avon Pool.
- Began offering eMedia courses for seniors at some of our stops.
- Working to serve the seniors in our communities in different and varied ways through programs, the Book Truck and Books by Mail.
- Created a coloring kit that can be sent out to Books by Mail patrons.

Summer Reading Program Kickoff

- Launched the Summer Reading Program Kickoff with the Exercise Your Mind Beach Party at Lakeview Park in Lorain. 300 people attended and had a fun time despite a small threat of rain.
- Hosted the Cooking Caravan, an education company out of Columbus, and held a Chef Battle with teams of kids from the audience who made healthy snacks.





Lorain Public Library! System



A PLACE INSPIRED BY GROWTH

The seeds of knowledge are planted and young minds begin to flourish.

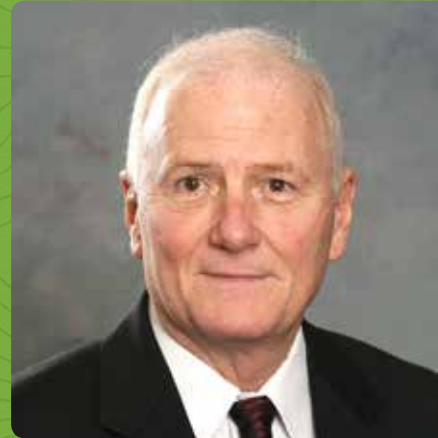
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Books fall open,
you fall in.

-David McCord



A PLACE THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Beyond the walls and shelves, there's a trove of adventures and information.

BY THE NUMBERS

At Your Service

2016 eLibrary Statistics

eBooks, Digital Audiobooks and Video Storybooks (Axis 360, BookFlix, hoopla, OverDrive)	122,346
Downloaded Music Tracks and Music Videos (Freegal Music)	13,582
Digital Magazines (Overdrive Nook)	3,948
Digital Movies and Television (hoopla)	2,506
Streaming Music Albums (hoopla)	1,495
Online Education Course Enrollments (Gale Courses)	198
Online Education Courses Completed (Gale Courses)	49

2016 System Statistics

Open hours	16,006
Library visits	681,412
Library cardholders	65,058
Materials owned	555,899
Materials loaned (not including eMedia)	1,659,325
New materials added	43,315
General questions answered	356,304
Reference questions answered	217,282
Computer bookings	143,818
Meeting room bookings	1,081
Programs offered	2,446
Program attendance	55,439
Website visits	504,427
Facebook likes	2,510
Twitter followers	1,643
Full-time employees	55
Part-time employees	81

BY THE NUMBERS

2016 Top Checkouts

Adult Books

- *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
- *15th Affair* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro
- *See Me* by Nicholas Sparks
- *Cross Justice* by James Patterson
- *Tricky Twenty-Two: A Stephanie Plum Novel* by Janet Evanovich

Axis 360 eBooks

- *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
- *Invisible* by James Patterson and David Ellis
- *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins (eBook)
- *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow
- *Trouble Maker* by Leah Remini

OverDrive

- OK! Magazine
- Star (Magazine)
- Food Network Magazine
- Dr. Oz The Good Life (Magazine)
- Good Housekeeping (Magazine)

DVDs & Blu-rays

- *The Last Assignment*
- *Omega Cop*
- *3:10 to Yuma*
- *Me & the Mob*
- *Gulliver's Travels*

Hoopla

- *The Girl on the Train* (Movie)
- *A Walk in the Woods* (Movie)
- *Hamilton* (Original Broadway Cast Recording)
- *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
- *Opposite Day* (Movie)

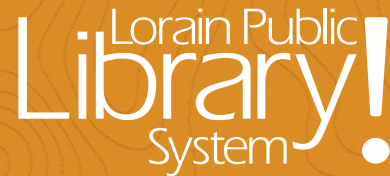
FINANCIALS

Revenue Source (Dollar Amount)	% of Total	Expenditures (Dollar Amount)	% of Total
Public Library Fund (\$4,062,277)	46%	Materials (\$1,098,607)	12%
Levies (\$4,022,216)	45%	Personnel (\$5,122,321)	61%
State Rollbacks & Transfers (\$640,152)	7%	Capital (\$323,199)	4%
Other (\$169,931)	2%	Contracts (\$1,627,095)	20%
Total Revenues (\$8,894,576)	100%	Supplies (\$156,935)	2%
		Other (\$28,496)	<1%
		Expenditures Total (\$8,356,653)	100%



THANK YOU

Be a part of our never-ending adventure! Thriving communities have flourishing libraries.
Help your system succeed by donating to the Lorain Public Library System.



LorainPublicLibrary.org