

## Clinton County Libraries Sector

### Why Is This Important?

Today, libraries are more than just books on the shelves. Everything from the card catalog to checkout can be simplified with the help of high-speed Internet. Public libraries often play a vital role in the community by providing every resident with the opportunity to receive instruction and use the Internet free of charge. Though they are not available 24 hours a day as a home computer is, libraries are still a central point of access to the Internet. Ohio Public Library Information Network, or OPLIN, provides Internet connections and information services to Ohio public libraries. OPLIN's mission is to ensure that all Ohio residents have fast, free public Internet access through the 251 independent local public libraries in Ohio, as well as the use of high-quality research databases not freely available on the World Wide Web. [www.oplin.lib.oh.us](http://www.oplin.lib.oh.us)

Many businesses have been launched as a result of research conducted on a computer in an Ohio library. Many children are able to do their homework online or research reports because of the Internet access provided by the local library. Because the library plays such an important role in the community, it is essential that local libraries are on the cutting edge of technology and are continuing to develop new methods of keeping their patrons up-to-date. High-speed Internet can help libraries continue their tradition as a trusted and indispensable resource.

According to the State of Ohio Library statistics, Clinton County Public Library System had 32,400 registered borrowers and a circulation of 331,300 items. The system contains approximately 150,000 books and volumes.

#### Clinton County Libraries

- Wilmington Public Library, [www.wilmington.lib.oh.us](http://www.wilmington.lib.oh.us)
- Ohio State Library, [www.winslo.state.oh.us](http://www.winslo.state.oh.us)
- Ohio Public Library Info Network, [www.oplin.lib.oh.us](http://www.oplin.lib.oh.us)
- Digital Media Service, [www.overdrive.com](http://www.overdrive.com)
- Ohio Electronic Library, [www.infohio.org/default.asp](http://www.infohio.org/default.asp)
- Ohio State Archives, [www.ohiohistory.org/resource/statearc/](http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/statearc/)
- Ohio Public Libraries, [www.winslo.state.oh.us/publib/libtable.html](http://www.winslo.state.oh.us/publib/libtable.html)
- InfOhio, [www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org)
- MCOECN, [www.mcoecn.org](http://www.mcoecn.org)

## Where Are We Today?

The Clinton County Public Library main branch is located on South Street and has a second branch in Clarksville. There are three types of libraries in Clinton County: public, academic and school libraries. Each is in good shape as far as future visioning is concerned, but tech services like video conferencing, lack of trainers, and bandwidth are the main concerns.

Residents also have access to State of Ohio's Library online at [www.winslo.state.oh.us](http://www.winslo.state.oh.us). The online catalog is available to place requests, check on the status of requests, or renew books from the comfort of you home. Other library resources include; INFOhio, a virtual K-12 library at [www.infohio.org/default.asp](http://www.infohio.org/default.asp), OhioLINK offers access to more than 47.6 million library items statewide at [www.ohiolink.edu](http://www.ohiolink.edu), and eResources at [www.seoebook.seo.lib.oh.us](http://www.seoebook.seo.lib.oh.us). Statewide is that the vision for all types of libraries to be interactive and functionally linked to share physical resources and to purchase databases at greatest efficiency levels. That vision will be implemented in Clinton County and the local school counterpart.

Libraries Sector Assessment Overview			
Category	Current Assessment	Future Vision	Additional Comments
Networked Places	4	5	The issue is money, space, and human capital to support training for technology literacy.
Applications & Services	3	5	Video conferencing is not a future goal or need. We do require more bandwidth to support robust online access to library resources.
Leadership	2	5	Libraries are working towards being linked in real time. Have facilities but lack good trainers. Library resources are Broadband dependent, something Clinton County desperately needs more of.

The Clinton County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the libraries sector is on track for enhancing access and using technology and its applications. The team plans to continue to make significant progress in making technology a priority. The main issue is money, space and staff time and skills to support training for tech literacy. More robust online access to library resources is needed for which the key is bandwidth.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of Networked Places, Clinton County’s libraries sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Public libraries have added network ports or wireless networks and electrical outlets to carrels.
- **Applications & Services** – In the category of technology Applications & Services, the libraries sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Most libraries have catalogs online. Patrons may use the Internet to place books on hold and request books from other libraries in the library system. Patrons can search online databases from home, school or work. Libraries host live video feeds of public interest events.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology Leadership within the libraries community, Clinton County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Libraries are the first to offer free access and instruction in the use of the Internet.

## Where Do We Need To Be?

The Clinton County eCommunity Leadership Team has set forth a two-year vision for enhancing the library and allowing it to serve the community more effectively and efficiently. The team has set goals to move Networked Places from stage 4 to stage 5, Applications and Services from stage 3 to stage 5 and Leadership from stage 2 to stage 5, all on a 0 to 5 scale. The team’s envisions that all types of libraries in the state will be interactive and functionally linked to share physical resources and to share purchased databases at the greatest efficiency level. That vision will be implimented in Clinton County as well as part of the statewide initiative led by the State Library of Ohio, OhioLINK, and the school counterpart. The team would also like to see:

- Most public libraries offer patrons a 54 mbps or faster wireless network.
- Public libraries offer live video consultations. Public libraries allow patrons to borrow ebooks over the Internet. They help patrons conduct research and assist with legal access to copyrighted databases and publications, including music and movies. Two-way videoconferencing is available to the general public.

- Libraries continue to upgrade their facilities to offer the community the next generation in technology, services and training. Libraries actively promote information technology literacy to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills and innovation in the community.

## How Do We Get There?

### Project Ideas

- Create a coordinated training calendar to make the best use of facilities and trainers for both basic and advanced application levels.
- Coordinate sharing of library databases so that staffs in all types of libraries have access to robust resources to assist local library patrons. Promote existing databases and database access strategies to the public to raise awareness of what is available.
- Advocate increased bandwidth and access to the dark fiber network for Clinton County.

### Other Potential Projects

- Expand use of wireless access to provide more patrons with high-speed access without waiting for library PCs, and even after hours.
- Encourage the use of online databases and online catalog.

The eCommunity Leaders within the Libraries sector include:

Jean Mulhern  
Nancy Ehas  
Chris Owens  
Bonnie Starcher

In working toward the implementation of the sector-specific goals, Connect Ohio will recommend specific additional participants be brought into the process, who may include technology providers, subject matter experts, other community organizations, funding sources, government agencies, and the resources of agencies and commercial providers of products and services to the libraries sector.



Sage Cutler, Southwest State Operations Manager for Connect Ohio will continue to work with the sector leaders to advance selected projects toward their completion. By leveraging Connect Ohio's project management process, its research information, and its partners, projects will be defined, developed, and reviewed to help assure that the local teams are equipped to execute them. Connect Ohio will assist in the identification of funding sources, introducing technical resources, and helping to define the measurable goals and timelines that will ensure that the projects are actionable, measurable, and valuable.