

Columbiana 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

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, Columbiana County Public Library System had 80,759 registered borrowers and a circulation of 1,177,944 items.

Columbiana County Libraries

- Columbiana County District Library, www.Columbiana.lib.oh.us
- Ohio State Library, winslo.state.oh.us
- Ohio Public Library Info Network, www.oplin.lib.oh.us
- Digital Media Service, www.overdrive.com
- Ohio Electronic Library, www.infohio.org/default.asp
- Ohio State Archives, www.ohiohistory.org/resource/statearc
- Ohio Public Libraries, winslo.state.oh.us/publib/libtable.html
- InfOhio, www.infohio.org
- MCOECN, www.mcoecn.org

Where Are We Today?

Columbiana County is served by Columbiana Public Library, Carnegie Public Library in East Liverpool, East Palestine Memorial Public Library, Leetonia Public Library, Lepper Library in Lisbon, and Salem Public Library.

Residents also have access to State of Ohio's Library online at 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 your home. Other library resources include; INFOhio, a virtual K-12 library at www.infohio.org/default.asp, OhioLINK offers access to more than 47.6 million library items statewide at www.ohiolink.edu, and eResources at seoebok.seo.lib.oh.us.

Libraries Sector Assessment Overview			
Category	Current Assessment	Future Vision	Additional Comments
Networked Places	4	5	
Applications & Services	3	5	
Leadership	3	5	

The Columbiana 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.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Columbiana 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, Columbiana County is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. The library research desk is an online community resource. Staff training on new technologies is a priority at most libraries. Libraries are using

consultants to take advantage of erate and other discounts. Library policies reflect appropriate filtering requirements.

Where Do We Need To Be?

The Columbiana 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 set a goal of moving to ratings of 5 for Networked Places, Applications and Services, and Leadership categories. The team's vision includes:

- 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 additional servers.
- Outsource system network administration responsibilities.
- 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:

Nancy Simpson, Lepper Public Library

Brad Stephens, Salem Public Library



Melissa Percic, Carnegie Public Library

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.

Don Shirley, Southeast 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.