

Wayne 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, Wayne County Public Library System had 68,097 registered borrowers and a circulation of 1,705,334 items.

Wayne County Libraries

- Wayne County Public Library, www.wayne.lib.oh.us
- Orrville Public Library
- 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?

Wayne County is served by a total of (8) library facilities located throughout the county. The Wayne County Public Library has its main branch in Wooster, with branch locations in Creston, Dalton, Doylestown, Rittman, Shreve and West Salem. The Orrville Public Library serves the city of Orrville and the surrounding area. The libraries in Wayne County serve as a source of information, culture and entertainment for county residents and visitors alike.

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.

All locations have at least one T-1 connection provided through OPLIN; the Wooster location has the equivalent of 4 T-1 lines. All locations offer Wi-Fi service and most locations have adequate network ports and electrical outlets. The Wayne County Public Library and the Orrville Public Library are part of CLEVNET; a consortium of 32 library systems throughout Northeast Ohio. The Wayne County Public Library has (3) full time technology employees and has established a technology fund. At the Orrville Public Library and other branch locations, there are times of the day when the number of computers are not sufficient to meet patron demand. Some locations offer computer and internet training to patrons.

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

The Wayne 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, Wayne County's libraries sector is

currently at stage 5 on a 0 to 5 scale. Most public libraries offer patrons a 54 mbps or faster wireless network.

- **Applications & Services** – In the category of technology applications & services, the libraries sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Patrons may review their accounts online and pay fines by credit card. Patrons can access the library online as a portal for other online information services.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the libraries community, Wayne County is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Libraries help the community understand copyright issues and how to protect privacy on the Internet. New hires are required to have experience using new technology. Libraries take internal responsibility for continuing erate and other discounts. Libraries have developed network management policies and technologies to prevent patrons from sending spam.

Where Do We Need To Be?

The Wayne 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 maintain networked places at a stage 5 and move applications & services and leadership from stage 4 to stage 5, and leadership from stage, all on a 0 to 5 scale. The team's vision includes:

- Library websites are more interactive and more services are provided online.
- All locations have newer computers, the latest operating systems and software.
- There is reliable funding sources to enable all locations to stay current with technology.
- 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

- Continue to explore sources of funding that will enable libraries to stay current with the latest technology, stay ahead of public bandwidth needs and have adequate computers to serve patrons.
- Take steps to upgrade library websites to provide greater interactivity and use of online services.
- Encourage the use of online databases and online catalog.

The eCommunity Leaders within the Libraries sector include:

Leslie Picot, Orrville Public Library

Phonk Khangshah, Orville Public Library

Greg Lubelski, Wanye County 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.

Dave Davidson 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.