



Because the Library Embraces Learning

- Nearly 1,500 learning opportunities were offered in 2016.
- 67,000 citizens learned something new by attending a library event.
- Experts on current topics like heroin addiction and senior resource availability were enlisted to share their knowledge at the Library for the public's benefit.
- More than 80 demonstrations were held on how to do everything from 3D printing, to landing a job interview, to belly dancing at a day-long How To Festival.
- Special travelling exhibits like Hamilton! were hosted at the Library and provided a fun and educational way to learn about our nation's history.
- New online learning tools were added in 2016. Tools like Lynda.com grow personal and business skills while Brain HQ helps promote brain fitness.
- An entire community, including all local high school students, read and discussed the same book, *The Other Wes Moore*, in the summer of 2016.


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Building a Better Future

2016 Annual Report



Because the Library Cultivates Imagination

- Citizens checked out more than 2 million items in 2016.
- Citizens had access to millions of physical and digital books, audios, movies and more. Items not owned by the Library are easily borrowed from other libraries via Search Ohio, a statewide collaboration.
- Over a million dollars was spent on purchasing new materials in multiple formats. Materials spending accounts for 16% of total library expenses.
- New content providers like ComicsPlus are added regularly to increase availability of high-demand digital items. Checkout of digital materials increased by 14% over 2015.
- Checkout of printed books remains strong with more than 1 million books checked out in 2016. Printed books remain the most checked-out format in the Library's collection, accounting for half of all the items checked out annually.
- Self-contained Maker Kits encourage patrons to learn to knit, play the acoustic guitar, or even use a 3D doodle pen, while 'brary Bags offer parents and their children an all-in-one activity bag including books, a game and some early literacy activities. Both collections are interactive ways to cultivate imagination!



Because the Library Grows Literacies

- New county-wide collaborations were formed uniting Ready, Set, Soar with local school administrators and library staff to promote the concept of summer reading as a way to prevent summer learning loss.
- Teachers and administrators worked with the Library to host School Literacy Nights throughout the summer as a way to encourage and celebrate summer reading.
- More than 3,500 children and teens read a collective 59,102 books during the Library's summer reading program.
- STEM programming for children and teens reinforces science, math and technology skills needed by today's students. Examples include: Tinkr Tech, Brush Bots, Teen Tech Tuesday, and a STEAM-focused preschool storytime.
- A record number of teens entered the Dottie Yeck Good Life Award Writing contest. This program, funded by a private endowment awards a \$3,000 top prize to a local teen each year. In 2016, more than 650 teens wrote essays about how are laying a solid foundation for their life.
- An interactive Nature Literature Trail called Owllexander's Tyke Hike was installed at Schoolhouse Park to reinforce toddler early literacy skills through shape, color and number recognition.

Looking Ahead



Because the Library Shapes Infrastructure

- Total expenditures rose only 1% over 2015. Over the past three years, expenses have grown by less than \$300,000.
- Citizens receive \$4.67 in return for every \$1 spent in taxes, demonstrating the Library's commitment to excellent stewardship.
- Public input was solicited to inform the design of the Woodbourne Library Expansion to ensure it meets the current and future needs of library patrons.
- More than 200 citizens make up the Friends of Washington-Centerville Public Library and support the Library via advocacy and fundraising for short-term projects. Friends of WCPL celebrated their 5th anniversary in 2016 and were recognized as the best Friends group in the state by the Ohio Library Council.
- Grants totaling more than \$25,000 supplemented state and local tax dollars in 2016. Grants were used to fund summer reading programs, the purchase of new equipment and collections like Maker Kits.

