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Washington-Centerville Library

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ROI Report Confirms Economic Value of Washington-Centerville Public Library

Columbus – The Ohio Library Council (OLC) has issued a statewide return on investment (ROI) report of Ohio’s public libraries. The report confirms that libraries including Washington-Centerville Public Library provide a strong economic benefit to their communities. The report was released today at the Statehouse.

“Based on every measure in the report, Ohio’s investment in public libraries is both cost effective and of high value to Ohio residents,” said Dr. Howard Fleeter, an economist and public policy researcher based in Columbus. “Today’s findings confirm Ohio’s status as the nation’s premier provider of library services.”

The report shows that Ohio’s public libraries save Ohioans money and also directly benefit the state economy. Public library services in Ohio are worth nearly \$2.7 billion. For every dollar spent by Ohio public libraries in 2014, Ohioans received \$5.48 in total economic value.

Ohioans take advantage of the benefits and visit their local libraries often. According to the report, Ohio has the highest library use per capita in the nation. At Washington-Centerville Public Library, cardholders check out 41 items a year, seven times the national average. Compared to other states, Ohio libraries are also more cost efficient with one of the lowest cost per transaction rates in the country. Ohio’s figure of \$2.88 is well below the national average.

“We know Ohioans value their public libraries,” said Doug Evans, Executive Director, Ohio Library Council. “This report gives us measurable evidence that Ohio’s public libraries provide a significant economic benefit to Ohio and its residents.”

For more information, or a summary of the ROI study, visit www.wclibrary.info/about .

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