



Wright Memorial  
*Public Library*

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





Above left: Youth Services Coordinator Jacqui Taylor reads to Oakwood City Schools students during summer school. Above right: Virtual programs for families, adults, and teens were a critical part of Wright Library's 2021 programs as COVID continued to surge.



The Children's Terrace highlights the library's connection to neighboring Katharine Wright Park, bringing views of the park inside the library and creating a new library space for outdoor play and programs.



Above left: Teens connect at the new computer area built with them in mind. Above right: The nonfiction living room on the Main Level creates more room for reading and working. The large wooden table was donated to the library and helps extend the historic 1939 feel throughout the newly renovated space.

*Dear Residents,*

It would be simple to say that 2021 was a year of construction and the coronavirus pandemic. But it was also a year of great progress and perseverance.

In January 2021, Wright Library embarked on its most significant renovation project since the 1980s. For twelve months, construction crews transformed tired library spaces and aging infrastructure into a modernized, efficient, accessible, and vibrant community space, while taking care to blend the building's historical character with new furnishings and finishes. The result is a fully-accessible 21st century library, including: a large, light-filled children and teens area; a re-opened Park Entrance and vestibule with a Holds Pickup Locker and extended hours; two new meeting rooms with integrated technology; an open floor plan on the Main Level with study and reading spaces among the book collections; and much more. The \$5 million project was completed on time and under budget, with support from both taxpayers and private donors.

Wright Library's staff continued serving the community throughout construction and the ever-present pandemic. In fact, Wright Library was the first library in Montgomery County to volunteer to distribute at-home COVID-19 test kits from the Ohio Department of Health, distributing more than 19,000 test kits in 2021. That and other stories of impact in this report illustrate the power of a strong library—and of a strong community.

We thank you for your ongoing support that allowed us to persevere and make progress through the challenges of 2021. This is your library, and I am thrilled to invite you into its next chapter.

*Kristi Hale, Director*



The library's lower level has been transformed from a windowless basement to a vibrant children's area with fun and durable seating, a computer area, book stacks, kid-friendly storytime corner, and more.



Above left: Community members gathered for a garden tour to learn about native plants and connect with other nature lovers at this program inspired by Wright Library's community read of the book "Nature's Best Hope." Above right: In December, staff distributed 1,728 COVID home test kits in just four hours.

**2021 TRUSTEES**

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2021 Expenses	
Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	\$4,000,000
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,135,919
Note Principal & Interest	\$412,574
Purchased Services	\$243,712
Materials	\$203,880
Supplies & Capital Outlay	\$84,637
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,080,722</b>

2021 Revenues	
Note Proceeds	\$3,758,888
State Taxes	\$1,476,168
Local Property Taxes	\$896,252
Grants & Miscellaneous	\$829,109
Fines & Fees	\$8,579
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,968,996</b>



**"I participate in the summer reading club because it reminds me of the whole summer freedom feeling I had as a youngster. While now I balance work and family with summer activities, the reading club is a lovely reminder to take a break and enjoy."**

*On Saturday, June 5, Dream Maker Farms visited Wright Library for a petting zoo on the north lawn. More than 250 patrons eagerly filled the library lawn. Not only was this the first weekend of the 2021 Summer Reading Club, it was the first in-person special event for families since March 2020!*

## FUELING LEARNING DURING SUMMER

More than 800 children participated in the Summer Reading Program in 2021. Research shows students who read over the summer return to school more prepared to learn. This summer, 16 students also engaged in a library-sponsored writing contest, fueling their imaginations and creativity.

Adults also found engaging options at Wright Library over the summer, earning prizes for reading and for trying out Wright Library's new Dayton Literary Trail. The trail is Wright Library's self-guided local history tour, celebrating 15 talented writers who once called the Miami Valley home. Find the trail map and author bios at [wrightlibrary.org/daytonliterarytrail](http://wrightlibrary.org/daytonliterarytrail).

Speaking of authors, The Wright Library Poets celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2021. This creative group is open to all and meets regularly to share writing and encouragement.

# Wright Memorial Public Library

EDUCATION IN  
THE HEART OF OAKWOOD

• • • • • 2021 • • • • •

## 118,217

NEW ITEMS  
ADDED TO COLLECTION

## 365

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

## 1,884

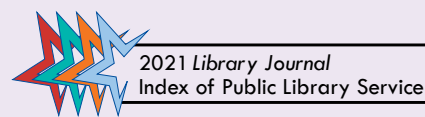
ITEMS LOANED FOR TEACHER  
COLLECTIONS

## 837

YOUTH SUMMER READERS

## 14,158

RESEARCH QUESTIONS ANSWERED



# Star-Rated

**5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS AS A STAR  
LIBRARY IN LIBRARY JOURNAL'S  
AMERICA'S STAR LIBRARIES REPORT**

**Top 1% NATIONALLY  
IN PER CAPITA USAGE**

# LIFELONG EDUCATION

## EMPOWERING PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

With a grant from the American Library Association, Wright Library connected hundreds of residents to the vital importance of native plants through a community read of the book "Nature's Best Hope" and virtual visit from its author, Douglas Tallamy. Wright Library's conversations and related programs empowered people to make changes in their own yards and connected them to local resources that could help. Library staff brought together experts from all over the region and inspired the development of a new local biodiversity group to continue educating people about this important issue.

**"I thoroughly enjoyed Doug's presentation; it was a free college class with a very interesting professor."**



*The "Nature's Best Hope" Community Read ignited community interest in native plants. During the summer, the library offered follow up events, including a native plant tour and plant social where local residents shared information and connected with local experts.*

## A PLACE TO CONNECT

Since 2016, The Next Chapter Book Club at Wright Library has provided adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities a special place to connect, read, and have fun. The group has met more than 200 times in person and virtually, reading 18 books and numerous short stories and plays. The club celebrated its fifth anniversary with a virtual dance party. The program's founder at Ohio State, Dr. Tom Fish, sent along a special gift: a red nose to remind participants to stay happy during difficult times.



# RENOVATION

## WRIGHT LIBRARY TRANSFORMS FOR THE FUTURE

Beginning in January, Wright Library embarked on its most significant renovation since the 1980s.

Funded with \$3.8 million in tax dollars and \$1.5 million in private gifts, the Next Chapter renovation project addressed critical aging infrastructure while also modernizing and updating spaces throughout the building. Wright Library is now more accessible, energy efficient, and usable for the community than ever before.

## STRONG STEWARDSHIP, FINANCIAL FUTURE

With project partners from DANIS Construction and LWC Inc. architects, the library was able to complete the work on time and under budget.



Left: A living room style sitting area is furnished with historically-sensitive chairs and tables.

Right: David Flory donated \$500,000 to Wright Library, the first private gift in a \$1.5 million Capital Campaign for the Next Chapter project. Flory grew up in Oakwood and credits Wright Library with his love of reading and early knowledge of investing. The new area for children and teens is now known as The David and Juliet Flory Learning Commons in his honor.



The David and Juliet Flory Learning Commons in the newly renovated Park Level includes a large, sunny children's area with stacks of books; comfortable seating options; toys, puzzles, and puppets for active play; a Storytime Corner; and a Children's Terrace perfect for outdoor exploration and learning. French doors to the Terrace as well as three backlit stained glass windows flood the space with light.



The Learning Commons also features a larger space for teens to hang out, read, work, and socialize. Through a mix of booths, tables, and comfortable seating, the new teen area creates opportunities for high schoolers to hang out or work, on their own or in groups. The area also includes teen computers, young adult books and magazines, and the game collection.



# STEPPING UP DURING COVID

19,347 TESTS DISTRIBUTED

In 2021, Wright Library was the first library in Montgomery County to answer the call from The Ohio Department of Health to distribute rapid at-home COVID tests. From March to December, Wright Library distributed more than 19,000 test kits to grateful citizens. State officials praised libraries for assistance in the public health effort. "Our partnerships with libraries to make the at-home rapid tests accessible and convenient are a real breakthrough in our ability to get as many Ohioans tested as possible," remarked Ohio Department of Health Director Bruce Vanderhoff.

## PROGRAM OPTIONS TO STAY SAFE, CONNECTED

The library offered both virtual, outdoor, and in-person programs in 2021. Attendees said the options gave them a much-needed outlet for connection, recreation, and enrichment as the pandemic continued in its second year.

## LENDING A HAND: A STORY FROM A LIBRARIAN:

"I helped a patron make a COVID vaccine appointment. This gentleman was very unsure about using a computer at all, let alone navigating the state's Get The Shot website. I walked him through the process, from signing in to the computer to accessing the website, to choosing a location. When we filled out the interactive form to book the appointment, it required an email address, which the patron did not have. I put in a made-up email address, and the form accepted it (otherwise he would have been unable to book the appointment). The confirmation code was sent to his cell phone as a text message, which I then entered for him. (He did not know how to retrieve the text message on his phone, so I did this for him.) He is now scheduled for tomorrow afternoon! I printed the confirmation page for him, and he was very grateful for the help."



During warm weather, families met on the library lawn for storytime, complete with songs, stories, and play led by librarians. After being virtual for many months, returning for in-person, outdoor storytime was a joyful experience for kids, caregivers, and Wright Library staff.



Staying safe and connected: students from Oakwood City Schools visited the library lawn for a field trip, carrying on a long tradition of partnership in education between the library and the school district.

# ONE CARD—UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

YOUR WRIGHT LIBRARY CARD IS A PASSPORT TO MORE THAN JUST BOOKS

At Wright Library, you'll find a world of opportunity: from music, movies, and books to maker tools and meeting rooms. Stay current and engaged at the library, at home, and on-the-go with your library card.

## DIGITAL BORROWING

Wrightlibrary.org offers 24/7 access to a wide variety of items available to stream or download, including books, audiobooks, video books, movies, comic books, magazines, music, and TV shows.

## ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

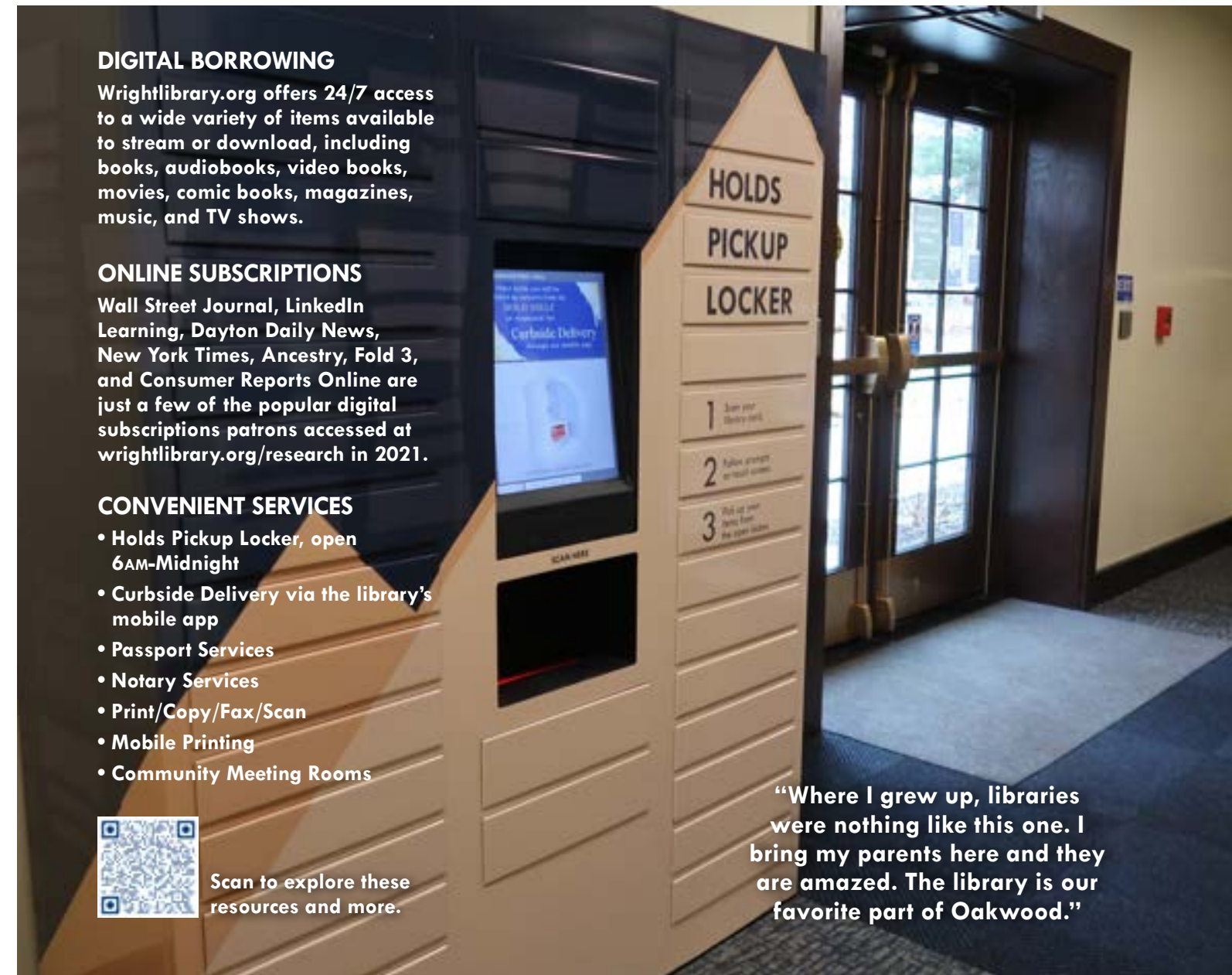
Wall Street Journal, LinkedIn Learning, Dayton Daily News, New York Times, Ancestry, Fold 3, and Consumer Reports Online are just a few of the popular digital subscriptions patrons accessed at [wrightlibrary.org/research](http://wrightlibrary.org/research) in 2021.

## CONVENIENT SERVICES

- Holds Pickup Locker, open 6AM-Midnight
- Curbside Delivery via the library's mobile app
- Passport Services
- Notary Services
- Print/Copy/Fax/Scan
- Mobile Printing
- Community Meeting Rooms



Scan to explore these resources and more.



"Where I grew up, libraries were nothing like this one. I bring my parents here and they are amazed. The library is our favorite part of Oakwood."

Funded by the Wright Library Foundation, a new Holds Pickup Locker in the Park Level vestibule, open from 6 a.m. to midnight, makes picking up items easier than ever.

# DONOR POWERED

## THE WRIGHT MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Thanks to the support of generous donors, the Wright Memorial Public Library Foundation supported several library initiatives in 2021, including the Holds Pickup Locker, live falconry demonstration, and theater performances by The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati.



This one-woman performance of *Jacqueline and the Bean Stalk* dazzled audiences outside Wright Library, creating a COVID-safe live theater experience for families.

The Foundation also funded the *Write@Wright* writers' workshop series led by professional writers and teachers.

## ANNUAL SUPPORT

### 2021 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

#### Laureate \$1000 & Above

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## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

A \$1.5 million capital campaign transformed the library's renovation plans from good to great. We thank these generous donors for their investment in Wright Memorial Public Library's future.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

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Wright Memorial  
*Public Library*

1776 Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood OH 45419

## WELCOME TO YOUR LIBRARY



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The new Eichelberger Park Entrance is more easily accessible from Telford and Aberdeen avenues, with additional ADA and family parking and evenly graded walkways. The entrance features a vestibule, now open from 6 a.m. to midnight, with a Holds Pickup Locker and interior book drop. Above the vestibule is the new Joanne G. Shank Conference Room, ideal for small group meetings.