



Wright Memorial
Public Library

Annual Report 2023



Dear Community Members,

I am very proud to share with you the highlights of Wright Library's past year, both in providing exceptional core library services and also pursuing new and exciting opportunities for our patrons.

It is clear that the community values Wright Library: circulation of materials remains strong, use of the library's technology increased 32 percent, library visits increased 17 percent, and robust program attendance and use of meeting rooms signal that the library is a place where people of all ages come together to learn and thrive.

In 2023, we developed a new strategic plan focused on nurturing young learners, celebrating people and ideas, satisfying curiosity, growing as a vibrant community hub, and optimizing our resources to serve you better. It is a plan that was heavily informed by community input and allows us to strengthen our core offerings while adapting to the changing needs of our community.

Your quality of life and lifelong learning remain our focus. We look forward to seeing you at the library soon!

Kristi Hale, Wright Library Director



Wright Library has something for **EVERYONE**

REMOVING BARRIERS

In 2023, patrons and visitors to Wright Library had unencumbered access to needed and desired resources:

FINES-FREE

An updated fines policy eliminated most overdue fines. Lowering obstacles to reading encouraged more use of the library.

FAST READS

The newest and most popular books became easier to access with an expanded 14-day borrowing period and renewed investment in the collection.

LIBRARY OF THINGS

This collection of non-traditional circulating items includes equipment, tools, hobby kits, digital devices, "Doorway to Dayton" passes to local attractions, and more. The popularity of this collection grew by 13% due, in part, to new offerings made possible by the Wright Library Foundation.

- >> Circulation of "Doorway to Dayton" passes doubled as more passes were added including Boonshoft Museum of Discovery/SunWatch Indian Village, International Peace Museum, and Carillon Historical Park.
- >> Wright Library kept pace with patrons' media consumption by introducing Roku streaming devices to the collection. Each device is loaded with one ad-free subscription service (Apple TV+, Disney+, Max, Hulu, Netflix, and more) plus library streaming services such as Kanopy and Hoopla.



349,001 MATERIALS BORROWED BY
13,766 WRIGHT LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS



2,102 ITEMS BORROWED FROM THE LIBRARY OF THINGS
INCLUDING 292 "DOORWAY TO DAYTON" PASSES



9,942 ATTENDEES AT 292 YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS



6,560 ATTENDEES AT 207 ADULT PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY HUB

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- >> Two workshops with the Braver Angels organization, offered in partnership with the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition, provided guided forums for conservatives and liberals to have honest conversations.
- >> In the fall, the League of Women Voters introduced Oakwood voters to their school board and city council candidates.
- >> The exhibit "Finding Freedom Summer" and related programs highlighted Civil Rights awareness and education.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

- >> Experts offered valuable programs on timely topics including Artificial Intelligence (AI), health and wellness, writing, and small business.
- >> More than 20 adult and senior care programs provided information about estate planning, elder law, volunteering, housing, and health.
- >> In partnership with the Oakwood Historical Society, six programs honored and celebrated many aspects of Dayton's unique history.
- >> More than 20 author visits and book talks celebrated self, diversity, and overcoming obstacles.
- >> The library served as a popular place to meet and gather as evidenced by a 48% increase in meeting room usage.

RESPONSIVE SERVICES

- >> Wright Library increased its internet traffic capacity with 500 Mbps fiber, replaced patron desktop computers and laptops, upgraded catalog kiosks, and added digital signage.
- >> Digital access to Mango Languages was added in 2023, and overall usage of online digital subscriptions doubled. Popular subscriptions included Dayton Daily News, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, NewsBank media access, Freegal Music, and genealogy research resources.
- >> Library services such as notary, passports, interlibrary loan, tech tutoring — even the distribution of Covid-19 tests — all saw considerable increases in 2023.
- >> Responding to community needs included outreach. Librarians held regular storytimes for older adults at Brookdale Senior Living, adults with developmental disabilities, and for younger audiences at Lange, Smith, Harman, Little Acorn, Hillel, and Top of the Hill schools.
- >> Partnerships with local environmental organizations and volunteers helped support the planting of two additional native plant gardens and related educational programs.



52,534 COMPUTER AND WIFI SESSIONS



250+ NATIVE AND POLLINATOR PLANTS

2023 Foundation Board

Mike Armstrong, *President*
 Juliet Glaser, *Vice-president*
 Julio Quintero, *Secretary*
 Leigh Harrell, *Treasurer*
 Caitlin Benton
 Wesley Boord
 Patty Caruso
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2023 Library Board

Randale J. Honaker III, *President*
 Jennifer Enseleit, *Vice-president*
 Lu Ann Stanley, *Secretary*
 Darrell Crowe
 Bob Eling
 Joseph Fulford
 Candise Powell

SCAN TO SEE OUR GENEROUS
 2023 FOUNDATION DONORS



LIFE LONG LEARNING

Through a diverse collection of print and audio books, expert programming for early childhood literacy and development, and special events for families to experience together, Wright Library continued to provide foundational and inspirational support for children, teens, and their caregivers to thrive. Wright Library hired a new Youth Services Coordinator to continue to grow the library's focus on creating young learners from birth through their high school years.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Wright Library continued to operate with conservative fiscal management. Expenditures were under budget and within the forecast for long-term sustainability. \$515,710 Capital Campaign donor pledge payments were received towards the debt for the Next Chapter Renovation Project.

Generous donor support to the Wright Library Foundation provided financial resources to offer the very best in library services to Oakwood residents. In 2023, Foundation funds were used to add capacity to the Remote Pick-up Lockers; beautify the library grounds with native plants and picnic tables; add circulating streaming television subscriptions and "Doorway to Dayton" museum passes; host award-winning authors; and offer exceptional educational and informative programs for all ages.

To learn more about how you can support Wright Library, visit wrightlibrary.org/foundation



"These gifts allow us to provide so many exciting collections and experiences that tax dollars alone would not allow."

-Kristi Hale, Wright Library Director

2023 Budget

Wright Library acts with honesty and integrity to optimize assets and remain fiscally responsible and transparent about how the library invests and serves Oakwood.

2023 Revenue		2023 Expenses	
State Taxes	\$1,603,341	Salaries & Benefits	\$1,225,863
Local Property Taxes	\$902,370	Debt	\$412,278
Contributions, Gifts, and Donations	\$555,884	Purchased Services	\$380,369
Earnings on Investments/Other Misc.	\$171,191	Materials	\$241,210
Patron Lost Items and Fees	\$10,056	Supplies & Capital Outlay	\$187,011
Total	\$3,242,842	Total	\$2,446,731



1776 Far Hills Avenue
Oakwood, Ohio 45419

Wright Memorial
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2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community feedback guided Wright Library's new strategic plan, which will navigate operations through 2026.

With the library's mission and core values at the forefront, Wright Library will continue to enhance services to the Oakwood community in important and unexpected ways.

For a complete view of the plan, visit:

wrightlibrary.org/about



FIVE KEY GOALS

satisfy
CURIOSITY

The community will have the resources they need to explore topics of personal interest and continue learning throughout their lives.

create young
LEARNERS

The library will have robust resources and programs for the educational and personal growth of children and teenagers.

be a
COMMUNITY
hub

The library will serve as a community hub with accessible virtual and physical spaces that offer safe and welcoming opportunities to meet, interact, work, and enjoy.

CELEBRATE
people & ideas

The library will celebrate people and ideas by offering opportunities to encounter a broad range of ideas, lived experiences, and cultures.

optimize
ASSETS

The library will analyze, streamline, and update organizational processes and services to improve patron and staff experiences.