



Delaware
County District
Library

LEVY 2025

DELAWARE COUNTY
DISTRICT LIBRARY

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



**BRYAN
HOWARD**

Director

Since I joined the Delaware County District Library in September 2022, I've learned much about this amazing system and the people it serves.

First, Delaware County is the true embodiment of a community. They are a connected group of businesses, non-profits, charities, governments, and more who know what it means to serve your neighbor and work together for the benefit of others.

Second, I've learned that the Delaware County District Library staff have heart. They give their all into whatever they do. Whether it's preparing a storytime for our youngest learners, or teaching a retiree in the Maker Studio how to use a 3D printer,

2024

100,573

Cardholders at year-end 2024,
9.2% increase over 2023

87,637

Wireless & public computer
sessions in 2024, 12% increase

1,973,057

Total items checked out and
database sessions in 2024

the staff strive for the best and are excited to deliver it.

Finally, I know our patrons deserve the best library system we can provide. In this document, you'll see my plans for the future of the Delaware County District Library system and the road map that a new levy will take to get us there. I'm excited for you to join us on this journey and look forward to your support.

Sincerely,
Bryan Howard



LIBRARY OVERVIEW

Defined by the 2024 Strategic Plan. The culmination of seven months of systematic inquiry, feedback, and analysis of all stakeholders of the Delaware County District Library: our Citizens, Board of Trustees, Community Partners, and Staff.

MISSION

We open doors to imagination, knowledge, connection, and discovery.

VISION

DCDL is our community's cornerstone for discovery through all stages of life. Here, we learn, grow, and connect.

VALUES

Lifelong learning, community, and service.

PRIORITIES

DCDL is accessible and convenient. DCDL connects our community. DCDL is a dependable steward of the public trust. DCDL is a great place to work.

Read the full report at www.delawarelibrary.org/strategic-plan



A HISTORY

A library has been part of the Delaware County community since 1890. In fact, in 2026 the Delaware County District Library will celebrate our 75th anniversary of becoming a library system! The 1904 construction of the new library on North Sandusky Street began with a \$25,000 gift from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. In 1951, the library officially became the Delaware County District Library system, and in 1984 moved to the new location on East Winter Street.

DELAWARE COUNTY SUPPORT

- * 1990 - Delaware County voters approve a \$4.5 million bond issue to expand the Delaware Branch and construct branches in Powell and Ostrander.
1991 - Ostrander Branch opens.
1992 - Delaware Branch is renovated.
1993 - Powell Branch opens.

- * 2009 - Delaware County voters pass a 1 mill property tax levy to extend hours, increase collections, improve technology, and build a branch in Orange Township.
2011 - Orange Branch opens.
2018 - Delaware County voters pass a 15-year renewal of the 1 mill levy.
2023 - Liberty Branch opens.

220%

Increase in Delaware County population from 1990 to 2020, US Census



2009

Last request for new money from Delaware County taxpayers, based on 2008 property values



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Funding for the Delaware County District Library primarily comes from two resources, the Public Library Fund and a 1 mill local property tax levy.

In addition to those sources, the Library also generates income from investments, grants, and Friends of the Delaware County District Library.

WHAT IS THE PLF?

The Public Library Fund (PLF) is 1.7% of the State of Ohio's General Revenue Fund (GRF) split between all public libraries. The GRF is made up of state and federal tax revenues, including income taxes, sales taxes, and lottery profits. DCDL's share of the PLF accounts for about 1/3 of our overall budget, or \$3 million.



2024



PLF

\$3M



Property Tax Levy

\$6M



Investments, Grants, Friends, and Fees

\$700,000

NEARBY LIBRARY LEVIES BY THE #S

Library	Total mill & collection per \$100,000	Individual mill & passage
Worthington Libraries	4.8 mill \$168	2.6 mill permanent (passed 2005) 2.2 mill permanent (replaced 2013)
Columbus Metropolitan Library	4.3 mill \$139	2.8 mill permanent (replaced 2010) 1.5 mill permanent (passed 2023)
Mansfield-Richland County Public Library	3.9 mill \$117	3.9 mill (passed 2023)
Westerville Public Library	2.75 mill \$70	2.0 mill permanent (replaced 2011) .75 mill permanent (passed 2024)
Wornstaff Memorial Public Library (Ashley)	2 mill \$70	2 mill (replaced 2024)
Marysville Public Library	1.5 mill \$53	1.5 mill (replaced 2024)
The Community Library (Sunbury)	1 mill \$35	1 mill (passed 2009, replaced 2023)
Delaware County District Library	1 mill \$31*	1 mill (passed 2009, renewed 2018)

COLLECTION AMOUNTS

Per \$100,000 property valuation

Worthington Libraries - 2.2 mill/\$77 and 2.6 mill/\$91

Columbus Metropolitan Library - 1.5 mill/\$53 and 2.8 mill/\$86

Mansfield-Richland County - 3.9 mill/\$117.84

Westerville Public Library - .75 mill/\$26 and 2 mill/\$44.08

Wornstaff Memorial Public Library - 2 mill/\$70

Marysville Public Library - 1.5 mill/\$53

The Community Library - 1 mill/\$35

Delaware County District Library - 1 mill/\$31

Effective Rate*

Residential: 0.57

Commercial: 0.78

Though the DCDL 1 mill levy was passed in 2009 and renewed in 2018, it still operates under the 2008 property valuations, and has decreased in its overall effective rate. The current value of the Library's 1 mill levy is collecting between 0.5-0.7 of its original value.

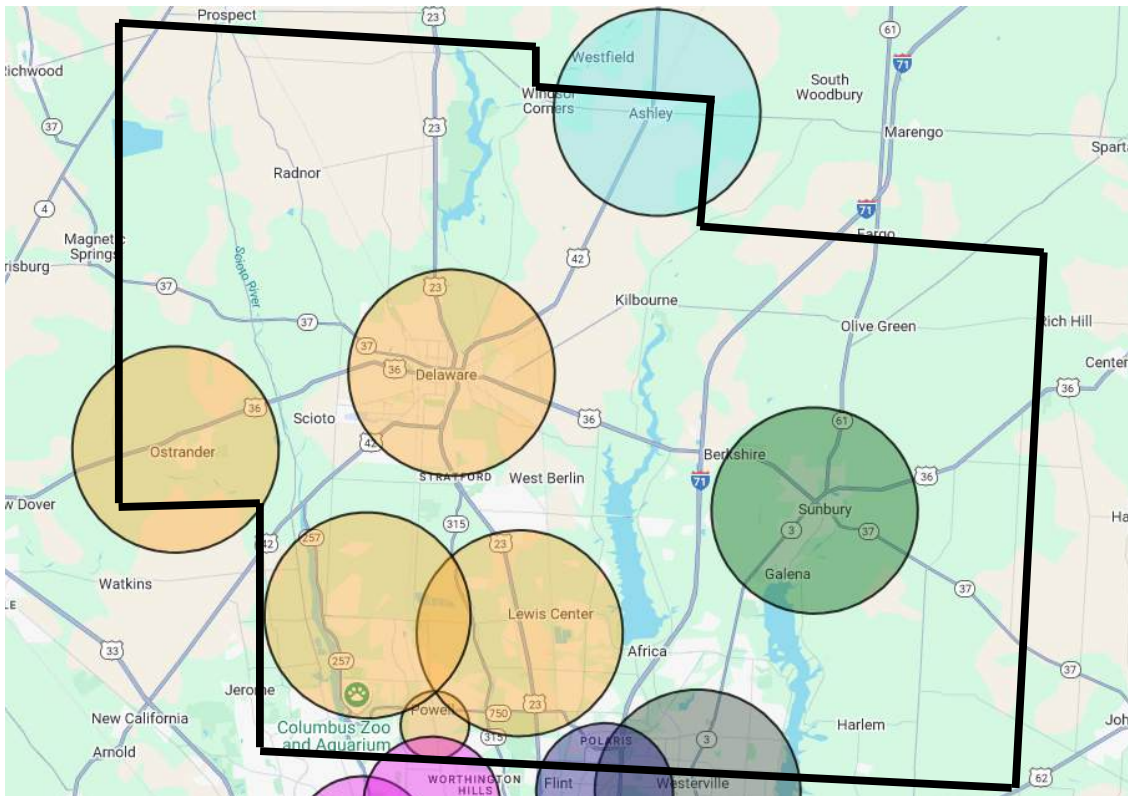
For example, for each \$100,000 in residential valuation, the levy is collecting \$17.67. (Originally valued at \$31/\$100,000.)



LOCATIONS

Several library systems serve Delaware County; Delaware County District Library (orange), Wornstaff Community Public Library in Ashley (light blue), Community Library in Sunbury (green), Westerville Public Library (black), and a small portion of Worthington Libraries and Columbus Metropolitan Library (dark blue and pink).

DCDL (except the Powell Branch), Ashley, Sunbury and Westerville libraries are shown with 3-mile radii drawn around them, indicating the direct geographies they serve. CML and Worthington libraries show 2-mile radii, and the DCDL Powell Branch shows a 1-mile radius.



DCDL BRANCHES



Outreach Services



Powell Branch



Ostrander Branch



VALUE OF A LIBRARY CARD



Gold Medal

Ohio has the highest number of library transactions and visits per capita in the country

Silver Medal

Ohio's library use is second only to California in the entire United States

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Every year, Ohioans save thousands of dollars by using their local public libraries. Delaware County District Library also communicates the value of your library card every time you check out. Take a look at the bottom of your receipt and find a running tally of how much you've saved by using your library card!

\$3.07 Billion

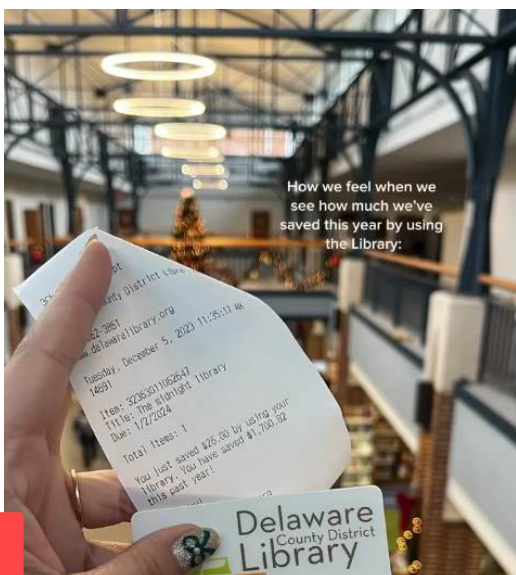
Provided in direct economic value to Ohio residents in 2019

\$4.98 ROI

When economic multiplier effects are included, each \$1 spent by Ohio public libraries returns a total economic value of \$4.98

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL REPORT

In a 2021 report conducted for the Ohio Library Council by Howard Fleeter & Associates, a public library return on investment (ROI) was computed by assessing the statewide value of library materials and services to library patrons, then comparing the value with statewide library operating expenditures.



THE LIBRARY'S REQUEST



1 MILL

Current
(2009 passed/2018 renewed)
Collecting \$17.67 per \$100,000



1 MILL

Additional
(2025 request)
Valued \$35 per \$100,000



2 MILL

Total
(with 2025 voter approval)
Valued total \$52.67 per \$100,000

MAY 6, 2025

This spring, the Delaware County District Library will be on the ballot asking for voters to approve a new 1 mill property tax levy. The Delaware County Auditor has certified that the new levy will generate \$35 per \$100,000 valuation, which will result in approximately \$10.5 million for the library. As mentioned on page 5, the Library's current 1 mill levy collects an effective rate of .57, meaning that for each \$100,000 in residential valuation, the existing 1 mill levy currently collects \$17.67 (from an original value of \$31 per \$100,000). If passed, voters would pay a total of \$52.67 per \$100,000.

Our three primary focuses for improvement are convenient access, increased services, and facility upgrades. These issues were identified by the public, Library Trustees, and Library staff during the 2023-2024 strategic planning process. Through seven months of surveys, focus groups, interviews, and data collection, the public gave the Library a clear picture of the services they expect to receive and the daily needs they face.



PROMISE #1: CONVENIENT ACCESS

Strategic Plan Priority #1: DCDL is accessible and convenient. We are committed to meeting our community where they are, and finding ways to deliver the materials and services our patrons want, when they need them.



MAKER STUDIOS

Delaware Branch & Liberty Branch.



Expanded Operating Hours

Patrons desire more hours, uniformly across the DCDL system, expanded every day of the week, including the addition of Sundays.



After-Hours Access

Sometimes traditional hours just don't work for every person. After-hours lockers or book pick-up vending machines are a great alternative to still get what you need when you need it.

Locations:

2

2024 Equipment Uses:

5,938



OUTREACH SERVICES

Bookmobile, Home Delivery, Drop Collections, Discovery Bags & More!



Expanded Maker Studio Services

The Maker Studio has grown in popularity since its introduction in 2019. The community needs access to it beyond its current hours and with broader services.



Expanded Outreach Services

The Outreach Services Department has more than two dozen Bookmobile stops. The pre-K and aging communities can be reached with more stops and specialty services provided.

Home Delivery
Patrons in 2024:

83

Drop Collections in
Pre-K Classrooms:

125

PROMISE #2: INCREASED SERVICES

Strategic Plan Priority #2: DCDL is a dependable steward of the public trust. We anticipate and are responsive to the evolving needs and expectations of current and future Delaware County residents.



* More Popular Print & Digital Materials

When there are more of the items you want on the shelves or online, wait times are shorter and you get the materials you want faster.

* Notary & Passport Services

The top two requests DCDL patrons made during the strategic planning process were for notary and passport services.

COLLECTIONS

351,266 items make up DCDL's physical collection.

Physical Material
Borrows in 2024:

1,522,051

Digital Borrows in
2024:

433,553



* More Online Resources

Databases are more than research. Subscriptions include family genealogy and veteran records, virtual homework help, automobile repair manuals and more.

* Increased Programming

Storytimes are one of the primary building blocks for early literacy. They need to be at convenient locations during times that work for each family.

ONLINE DATABASES

Patrons accessed a DCDL database 17,453 times in 2024.

DCDL-Purchased
Subscriptions:

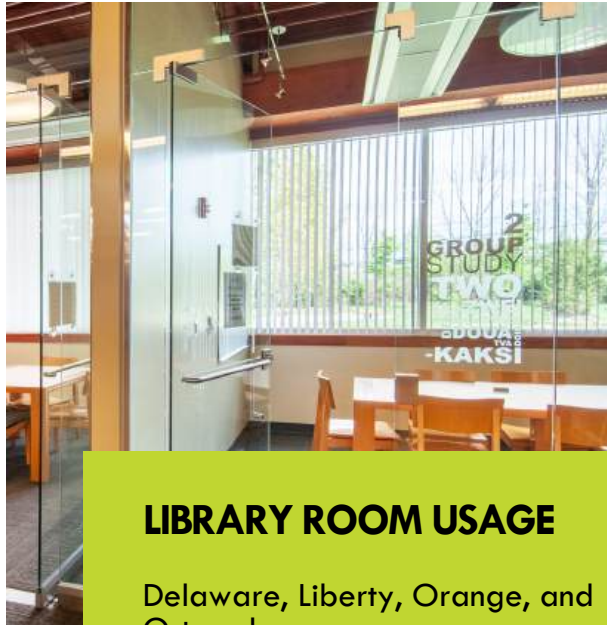
24

OPLIN Ohio Web
Library Subscriptions:

36

PROMISE #3: FACILITY UPGRADES

Strategic Plan Priority #3: DCDL connects our community. Not only is the library a great place to learn, it's a great place to connect with other people! We want every community member to know that they belong at DCDL.



LIBRARY ROOM USAGE

Delaware, Liberty, Orange, and Ostrander.

* Renovations

Delaware, Ostrander and Powell branches continue to need upgrades. Each branch was either built or had its last large renovation project between 1991 and 1993.

* More Study Spaces & Increased Access

Study spaces and large community rooms are in high demand at every single DCDL location. Not only do our patrons require more room, but they need hours that work with their schedule.

2024 Community Room Uses:

1,089

2024 Study Rooms Reservations:

17,127



OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Storytimes, Story Walk, Bring the Farm to You, Medieval Faire.

* Upgraded A/V & Streaming

Patrons have the desire to watch library meetings and attend library programs, even when they can't leave their home. Streaming services should be entertained at all branches.

* Enhanced Outdoor Spaces

Our libraries have some wonderful outdoor spaces and outdoor partnerships with our hosting municipalities. We will explore how to continue optimizing our use of green space to maximize program attendance and capacity.

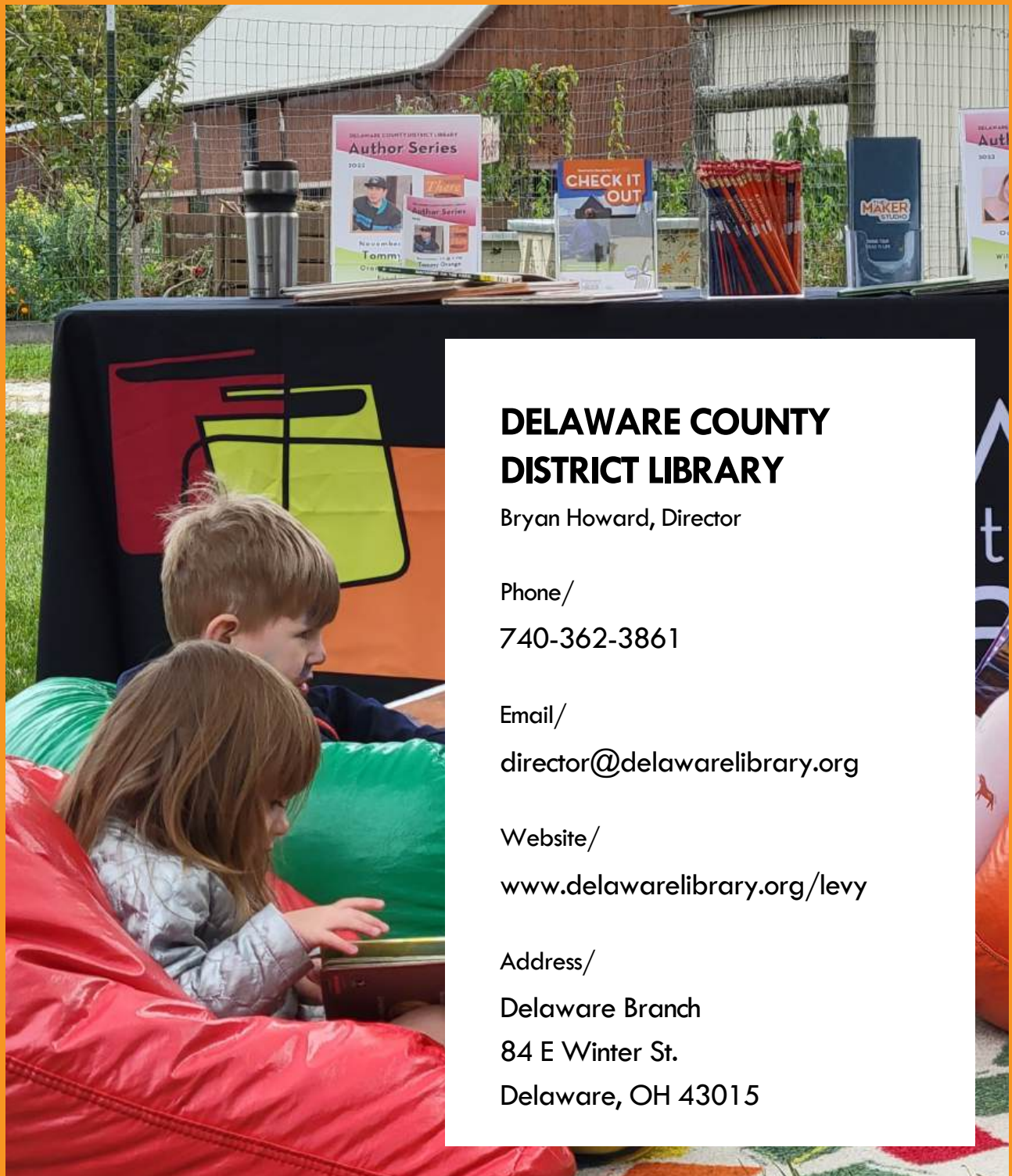
2023 Medieval Faire Attendees:

700

2024 Bring the Farm to You Attendees:

580

CONTACT US



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