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PRESS RELEASE

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It's Not Too Early to Start Thinking of Your Income Tax!

If you're like most people, you wait until the last minute to file your income tax return. The Public Library can help you with a New Year's Resolution to file early. For years the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County and the Internal Revenue Service have offered a valuable service to the public by providing hundreds of forms at the Main Library and 41 branches to file your income tax return.

This year the Main Library will again offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a free tax preparation service by IRS-trained volunteers. The service will be available to elderly and low-income taxpayers that file the 1040A or 1040EZ federal form. For these taxpayers, volunteers will also assist in State of Ohio returns. No tax assistance will be available for the long 1040 form or schedules or business tax returns.

VITA volunteers will be at the Main Library in the Public Documents & Patents Department each Saturday from 2:00-5:00 p.m. beginning Saturday, January 19, and continuing through Saturday, April 13. Due to demand, advance registration is required. To sign up, visit or call the department at 369-6971 after 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday you wish to come in. The service is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Public Documents & Patents Department saw one of its busiest years in 2001 for income tax form assistance. "Throughout the entire system we sent out more than 1 million income tax forms," said John Graham, Manager of the department. In addition to providing copies of many of the most commonly used forms and instructions, the Public Library is also a great resource for tax planning guides that will assist you with your return, as well as help in planning for the future. If you don't find a form you need, there is a reproducible copy available at the reference desk to photocopy.

"We also have forms going back to 1977," he continued. "Many times people need to file amended returns and need those old forms. The IRS allows you to make copies of any of its forms, including the most recent. In addition to Ohio, we also have forms for the states of Indiana and Kentucky." Anyone interested in picking up income tax forms should contact their local branch or the Main Library.

♥ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**