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800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio
45202-2071

Contact
Phyllis Hegner
Phone•369•4571
or
Richard Helmes
Phone•369•6959

PRESS RELEASE

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Fax 513•369•4565

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The Public Library Plays Host to Olympic Insight

As Salt Lake City gears up for the XIX Olympic Winter Games (February 8 – 24), final preparations on the slopes and in the rinks are being made. While an estimated 2,345 competing Olympians undergo last minute training, fans, too, can warm up for the big event. At the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, it's easy for anyone from bobsleigh buffs to figure skating fanatics to jumpstart their Olympic know-how.

Find out where the closest curling rink is in Ohio. Learn the difference between the skeleton and the luge. Understand the intricacies of figure skating scoring. Know why Biathlon skiers carry rifles. Or, get the lowdown on the Nordic Combined. A wide variety of books and materials to make anyone an Olympic expert is available at the Main Library. *(Many titles are also found at any of the Public Library's 41 branch locations. For convenient pick up, materials from any Library location may be requested and sent to the branch nearest you.)*

To bring enthusiasts up to speed on most anything Olympics related, the Education & Religion Department (2nd Floor, South Building) has far-ranging resources. There is housed the Library's most extensive collection of sports materials including titles on Olympic Games yesterday and today, biographies, and books about specific Olympic sports such as snowboarding.

For a nice cross-section of suggested materials on the Games, pick up the department's **Winter Olympics Booklist** (available beginning the first week in February). The booklist includes everything from Scott Hamilton's *Landing It* and Peggy Fleming's *The Long Program* to David Wallechinsky's *Complete Book of the Winter Olympics* and Bud Greenspan's *100 Greatest Moments in Olympic History*. For those who prefer action, Olympic videos available in the Films & Recordings Department (1st Floor, South Building) and official websites are listed on the booklist as well.

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At the Main Library or any branch library enthusiasts are also welcome to come in and log onto the Internet for free to keep up with event schedules and record-breaking stats or follow the daily action on official Olympic web sites. While surfing the Internet from a home computer or the Library's, access www.CincinnatiLibrary.org for important information about the Olympics. Simply click on "Sites by Subject" on the homepage, and then click on sports. Or, use the Library's free research databases to find out the finer points on Olympic trivia. Staff members from the Library have also assembled a list of suggested materials from the collection about the Olympics. Access the list from the Library's homepage by clicking on "What's New."

For traditional coverage, get the news on games here and in other parts of the country through leading publications in the Magazines & Newspapers Department (2nd Floor, North Building). Along with all the major local newspapers, the department carries the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, among others, as well as scores of sports-oriented magazines including *Sports Illustrated's* special Olympic Games preview.

Young wannabe Olympians can learn more about the Games through the Children's Learning Center at the Main Library (1st Floor, North Building). A variety of juvenile titles, including the U. S. Olympic Committee's *Olympism: A Basic Guide to the High Ideals and Sports of the Olympic Movement* and fiction books like *Hour of the Olympics*, which is part of the popular Magic Tree House series, is available for check out.

Becoming an Olympic medalist takes lots of hard work and years of dedicated training. With a little prep work beforehand, now it will be much easier to follow the competition when tuning into the Olympics. What's more, it will be easier to impress others with a better grasp of how this internationally celebrated event evolved---from the first recorded Olympiad held in 776 BC in Olympia, Greece to the Olympic Games to be held nearly 3,000 years later in Salt Lake City.

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Stop by the Education & Religion Department (Main Library, 2nd Floor, South Building) for your free WINTER OLYMPICS BOOKLIST or call the department at 513-369-6940 to answers your reference questions about the Olympics. Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries, as well as information on the Olympics, is also available on the Library's web site at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.