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IT'S INCOME TAX TIME AGAIN!! THE PUBLIC LIBRARY CAN HELP.

January 23, 2003

A valuable and free service provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County will make filing your 2002 income tax return a snap. For years the Library and the Internal Revenue Service have teamed up to offer hundreds of income tax forms at the Main Library and 41 branches for filing your return.

This year the Main Library will again offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a free tax preparation service. IRS-trained volunteers prepare basic income tax returns free of charge for individuals of low to moderate income, those with disabilities, and the elderly for taxpayers that file the 1040A or 1040EZ federal form. Volunteers will also assist in State of Ohio returns for those who qualify. E-filing may be available for state and federal returns free of charge. However, no tax assistance is available for the longer 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, February 8, and continuing through Saturday, April 12. Due to demand, advance registration is required. To sign up, visit or call the department at (513) 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. Visitors should also bring with them a copy of their previous year's tax forms, as well as a social security card, if available.

“Last year at the Main Library and 41 branches, we distributed hundreds of thousands of 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 the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**