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## **How important are public libraries to our future? PBS special explores this issue**

How important are public libraries to our future? A new documentary set to air during National Library Week on PBS stations across Ohio addresses this question. In Cincinnati, CET (TV48) will air the half hour program, *Libraries of Tomorrow*, on Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, April 10 at 1:30 p.m.

This program shows the value libraries bring as they serve as the center of the information superstructure. It includes interviews with:

- Pulitzer Prize winning author David McCullough.
- Larry Weber, creator of Weber Shandwick Worldwide, a public relations organization.
- Dr. Lev Gonick, Vice President for Information Technology Services at Case Western Reserve University.

In addition, Glazen Creative Studios, producer of the program, visited libraries across the state to interview community leaders, library users, and library staff. The Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County was one of six public libraries, and the only Ohio metro library, asked to participate in this program. Those interviewed in Cincinnati include library users Larry Kaiser, Gary LaBorde, Shayne Manning, and Miriam Raiford, as well as Library Director Kim Fender. Each told a story about how the Library has changed their life.

- Larry Kaiser is a **Vietnam War veteran** who used the library's resources to start a non-profit program to offer music lessons to inner city youth at the Arts Consortium of Cincinnati.
- Gary LaBorde told how using the Library had helped him buy a house and get a job as a manager at McDonald's.
- Shayne Manning, a University of Cincinnati graduate and a structural engineer with THP, Ltd., is an avid Library supporter who shared his thoughts on how public libraries are good for the community.

- Miriam Raiford, who lives downtown, is a strong advocate of the library system and of the Main Library in particular which she visits regularly, often with her two sons.

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✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org)T.**