



**THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

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Press Release

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Library Receives LSTA Grant to Expand Digitization



This Sanborn fire insurance map is a popular resource available in the Main Library's Genealogy and Local History Department. It's among the high priority types of items the Library will be able to digitize using new equipment purchased with an Innovative Technology Project Grant and matching funds from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation Thomas R. Schiff Donor Advised Fund. Pictured are, from left, Library Executive Director Kim Fender, Tom Schiff (Hyde Park), and Library Technical Services Director Jason Buydos, who is overseeing the digitization project.

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County was recently awarded an Innovative Technology Project grant for the expansion of its digitization program. The grant of \$24,000 is funded with Federal Fiscal Year 2008 carryover funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and was awarded by the State Library of Ohio.

The grant along with a matching gift from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation Thomas R. Schiff Donor Advised Fund and income from scanning items from other organizations' collections, will be used to purchase a Hasselblad camera, computer equipment, and other equipment necessary to allow for larger items to be digitized.

The new equipment will be used to expand an existing program to digitize portions of the Library's collection for worldwide use in the growing Virtual Library.

Among the first materials to be digitized from the Library's renowned genealogy, local history, and rare books collections are 1,000 prints and maps from Cincinnati and vicinity from 1819 to 1940. These will be selected from the Library's collection of nearly 110,000 maps and 5,000 prints. Through digitization, the Library will provide greater access to print materials that are in the public domain and have local significance. Currently, patrons may access this material during the Library's open hours only. Digitizing material eliminates this barrier to access and will allow the Library to share its collection with other libraries and users from around the world, while preserving immediate access to our local patrons.

"We are deeply gratified to Tom Schiff for his generous gift supporting the expansion of digitization," said the Library's Executive Director Kim Fender. "This new equipment will help us further our mission of connecting people with information by making some of our rare and unique resources more accessible to the widest possible audience."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit <http://www.cincinnatiLibrary.org/>.