A Time to Celebrate the Future

► Three new Library buildings are opening in Clifton, Reading, and St. Bernard. Get the first look inside!

► Get creative in the Main Library’s new MakerSpace (page 7)

► ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
  Download the latest eBooks from hot authors (page 4)
  Cincinnati Reds memorabilia to be displayed at the Main Library (page 5)
2014 was an incredible year for our Library. The number of items borrowed reached 18,249,132, surpassing 18 million for the first time ever. Digital downloads once again led the growth with 1,788,895 items downloaded, accounting for about 10% of our total circulation. Print (books and magazines) accounted for 50% of the items borrowed with the remaining 40% comprised of all forms of audiovisual materials. Reference questions were also up 8%, surpassing 2.1 million, as was program attendance with more than 510,000 people attending one of the more than 25,000 Library programs offered in 2014.

Our cardholders increased to 579,158 with 89% of Hamilton County households having at least one Library cardholder.

Our Library was ranked 6th overall in circulation for 2013, up from 7th in 2012. We received a five-star rating in the Library Journal Index 2014, which ranks libraries according to per capita circulation, visits, program attendance, and Internet use, the highest rating possible. For libraries with budgets of $30 million or more we ranked second in the country.

We completed the Avondale Branch Library accessibility project with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 20. In addition to making the branch fully accessible, it underwent a significant renovation with new furniture, carpeting, lighting, and upgraded heating and cooling. Self-check and computers were also added. The beautiful new entrance includes a custom Rookwood tile commemorating the branch’s 100th anniversary and reflecting the Rookwood tile framing the original entrance. We held three groundbreaking ceremonies on April 21 for new branch libraries in St. Bernard, Reading, and Clifton. All projects will be paid for without debt and are projected for completion by summer of 2015. These new branches will greatly expand the services available in these communities with technology labs, MakerSpaces, study rooms, program spaces, and, at Clifton, after-hours lockers.

Duke Energy presented the Library with the Power Partner Award for the Main Library Energy Retrofit project and an incentive check for $210,000.

We transitioned from Summer Reading to Summer Learning with great success. Our traditional summer reading program saw a substantial increase in completion with 70% of registered students completing the program. Brain Camps were offered at every location with some one-day camps and others week-long. More than 2,500 children attended a Brain Camp, up 66%. The new Summer Camp Reading program assisted about 70 struggling readers over the six-week camp with documented reading improvements. Finally, we served nearly 18,000 lunches at 14 Library locations, a 20% increase.

With the use of tablets and smartphones replacing desktop computers, we began piloting a mobile service model in anticipation of being completely mobile at the three new branches. The Main Library’s Information & Reference Department and Westwood Branch have led our system in adapting to the mobile service environment.

We also planned for the introduction of MakerSpaces to our Library. The Main Library’s 9,000 square feet MakerSpace opened January 26 on the second floor of the North Building. Smaller MakerSpaces are planned for both St. Bernard and Reading.

Thanks for a great 2014. I’m looking forward to 2015 which promises to be another exciting year for our Library with new locations opened, new service models implemented, and new technology introduced.
Library Reaches Milestone—Over 18 Million Items Circulated

Library cardholders were busy reading, watching, and downloading in 2014, leading to a new record—more than 18 million items circulated. About half of those were print materials; another 40 percent were audiovisuals like CDs and DVDs; and an astounding 10 percent were digital items. Our Library customers checked out more than 1 million items just from OverDrive, the Library’s primary eBook service. Fun Fact: More than 4,442 digital items were checked out on Dec. 29, 2014—our busiest download day of the year!

ON THE SAME PAGE AUTHOR WILL VISIT MAIN LIBRARY

“Forget great. The Great Gatsby is the greatest—even if you didn’t think so when you had to read it in high school. I didn’t think so back then either.” So begins So We Read On, Maureen Corrigan’s irresistibly engaging, acutely insightful examination of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s masterpiece—“the Great American Novel we think we’ve read but probably haven’t.”

Our communities of readers are delving into The Great Gatsby and Corrigan’s partner book as part of the On the Same Page program. Corrigan, book critic for NPR’s “Fresh Air,” Critic in Residence at Georgetown University, and winner of an Edgar Award for criticism, will talk about the book and sign copies at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at the Main Library. Books will be available for purchase courtesy of Joseph-Beth Booksellers.

For a complete list of programs, book discussion questions, and more, visit CincinnatiLibrary.org/SamePage. On the Same Page is a project of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and is made possible in part by the Friends of the Public Library, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Mount St. Joseph University, Cincinnati Art Museum, WXVU, Senior Life, Cincinnati Magazine, and Metro. Additional support comes from Downtown Cincinnati Inc. and ArtWorks.

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BOOK LOVERS CAN CONNECT WITH LOCAL AUTHORS AT THE MAIN LIBRARY IN APRIL

Dozens of published writers from Hamilton County will chat with fans, sign books, and talk about the creative writing process during Ohioana 2015 from 1:30–4 p.m., Sunday, April 12, at the Main Library.

Some authors will sell books after the awards ceremony, which includes a panel discussion about the art of sports journalism and the presentation of the Cooper Award, given to an individual or organization that has made outstanding contributions to the promotion of books and reading in Hamilton County.

Find out more at Ohioana.org.
POPULAR TITLES ADDED TO ZINIO DIGITAL MAGAZINES

We've added new titles to our popular Zinio Digital Magazines collection. Now you can enjoy reading an unlimited number of your favorite magazines on your tablet, computer, or mobile device for free! These new additions include Bon Appetit, Cincinnati Magazine, Glamour, GQ, Lucky, SELF, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, and Vogue.

To get started with Zinio, go to CincinnatiLibrary.org/downloadables and click on “Connect to Zinio.”

OVERDRIVE NOW HAS MAGAZINES

The Library’s Overdrive collection now includes a wide variety of digital magazines. Use your Library card to access current issues of popular titles such as Bloomberg Businessweek, Cook’s Illustrated, Cosmopolitan, Discover, Harper’s BAZAAR, Men’s Health, and Seventeen.

Download as many as 20 magazines to your device each month. Titles never expire, so you never have overdue fines. To get started, go to CincinnatiLibrary.org/downloadables and select “Connect to Overdrive.”

THE LIBRARY IS MAKING OUR HOT AUTHORS SERVICE EVEN MORE CONVENIENT!

In early February, Library customers will be able to sign up to receive eBook or eAudiobook versions of many of their favorite Hot Authors, including Dan Brown, Clive Cussler, Stephen King, and Nora Roberts. Keep an eye on our homepage for more details about this exciting addition to Hot Authors!
In July, Cincinnati will be the proud host of Major League Baseball’s All-Star game for the fifth time in the history of this celebrated event. The Great American Pastime will feature items and images portraying the history of the Cincinnati Reds from its beginning as baseball’s first professional team to the days of the Big Red Machine.

The Library is partnering with The Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame & Museum which will be making available items from their collection such as Reds’ jerseys, programs, and images from their photograph collection, including an 1894 scorebook, a scrapbook from a player on the 1919 World Series team, and original newspapers.

The third annual Cincinnati Library Comic Con will take place in May at the Main Library, but the excitement begins to build in March with the annual drawing contest! Artists ages 5 and older can go to any library location between March 1–31 to enter comic book and graphic novel-related artwork for a chance to win awesome prizes. Winners will be honored at a ceremony during the Cincinnati Library Comic Con Saturday, May 16, at the Main Library.

Poetry Readings, Open Mic Sessions Celebrate National Poetry Month

The Main Library will host the 17th Annual Poetry in the Garden series this April in partnership with the Greater Cincinnati Writers League. Join us at 7 p.m. each Tuesday evening in April in the Popular Library Reading Lounge to listen to local poets read their work. You’ll also have a chance to read your own poetry at open mic sessions—sign-up sheets will be available 15 minutes before each session begins, and readers are allowed to share two poems during their five-minute session. For more information, call 513-369-6919.

Library Celebrates St. Patrick’s Day with Song and Dance for the Whole Family

Join us at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, for the 33rd Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration of Song and Dance sponsored by the Friends of the Public Library. The celebration happens in the Main Library’s Reading Garden Lounge and will showcase music with Foley Road and a special performance by the McGing Irish Dancers. Our tribute to Irish heritage is family-friendly and fun! Reserved seating is available for Friends of the Public Library members—please call 513-369-6035 to reserve your seat.
For years, the grass-covered lot at the corner of Vine Street and McClelland Avenue in St. Bernard sat empty—not exactly an eyesore, but a vacant hole in the heart of a vibrant community. In 2000, the city donated the lot to the Library, and the Library purchased the adjoining lot. The space is empty no longer as the lot is now home to the beginnings of a stunning new Library branch—four times the size of the current St. Bernard location. When it opens this summer, customers will have plenty of elbow room, a parking lot, space for programs and meetings, and rows and rows of books. “Customers are excited about every aspect,” said St. Bernard Branch Library manager Katheryn Toren-Jones. “They have been waiting many years for this idea to come to fruition, and they are ready.”

Customers seven miles to the north in the city of Reading are also excited, particularly when they consider their new 12,000-square-foot branch, which will also open this summer, will have 10 times the number of computers as the current location. “Our public PCs are almost always in use and, frankly, some people don’t get the access they need,” said Reading Branch Library manager Liz Anderson. “Internet access is so very integral to daily life now, and it will be a huge benefit to our community to have so many computers available to our customers.”

A third building is under construction in Clifton, but this project is slightly different. An historic house called Parkview Manor was donated to the Library by Michael Dever, president of Performance Automotive. The site is the former home of Cincinnati political figurehead George Barnesdale “Boss” Cox. Built in 1895, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. This summer, the historic mansion will house the new Clifton Branch and will boast innovative features including a special locker that will allow customers to pick up their holds after hours, a children’s storytime solarium, a covered porch with built-in chess and checker tables, a bike ramp with a built-in tire pump, and an outdoor water fountain with access for dogs. “I think one of the things that they are most excited about is the meeting space,” said Clifton Branch Library manager Jill Beitz. “Clifton doesn’t really have any public meeting spaces, and I suspect that our meeting room will be booked solid.”

Kimber L. Fender, the Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director of the Library, said these projects have been on her “wish list” for much of her tenure. She worked closely with each neighborhood to make sure the buildings would meet the needs of residents. “The community has been engaged since the beginning of the projects,” said Fender. “We held community forums to find out what was most important to each community.” A need for more space was the most frequent request. “These branches are replacing libraries too small to meet the demand for Library services. They lacked meeting rooms, program spaces, and computers; housed small collections; and had no space to simply sit and read—a vital purpose for a public Library,” said Fender. The new branches will have staff members circulating with mobile tablets, so they can look up call numbers, answer reference questions, and check out items without being behind a desk. The Reading Branch features a drive-up window service.

The Library posts weekly construction updates on its website and customers can watch live construction cameras pointed at the Reading and St. Bernard sites. The projects were funded through budget savings and the 2013-2015 capital budget, which is part of the Library’s annual operating budget. The Library is paying cash and currently has no debt, nor will it incur any with these projects.

Construction Manager Angela Peterson has had the formidable task of spearheading the work at the three sites. On any given day, each site has 10–15 workers laying foundation, raising walls, installing duct work, running electrical cable, and restoring woodwork. She spends most of her time at the Clifton location and is enthusiastic about the way the restoration is progressing. “This entire building is exciting,” Peterson said. “The woodwork and plaster is going to be gorgeous again.” Fender looks forward to the grand opening ceremonies. “When the ribbon’s cut and everyone rushes in, I’ll know all the hard work to make the project happen was worth it,” she said. “Since our branch libraries are in neighborhoods for generations, these new and renovated branches will be providing Library service to their communities for years to come.”

Clifton Branch manager Jill Beitz agrees, “I hope that the community loves it as much as I think they will. It’s going to be a real treasure,” she said.
MAKE THIS SPACE YOUR OWN
A GUIDE TO THE LIBRARY’S NEW MAKERSPACE

Libraries have always cultivated new ideas, but now at the Main Library—and soon at the Reading and St. Bernard branches—it will be possible to transform those ideas into something tangible in the new MakerSpaces.

A makerspace, sometimes called a hackerspace or a creative lab, is a place where creative people can gather, create, invent, and learn. Customers of the Library have access to 3D printers, audio and visual equipment, laser cutters and engravers, sewing machines, cameras and other hardware and software tools that they can use for free to create nearly anything they can imagine. (Some machines require additional materials which may be purchased for a fee.)

The Library’s 3D printer brought one idea to life that changed the world for Ken Oster. Due to a physical challenge, regular bike pedals didn’t work with the shoes he wore. So his assistant Peter Smith designed a new pedal for him. The only problem was figuring out how to manufacture it. Then the pair heard about the new 3D printer at the Main Library. “Looking at all our available options at the time, the Library was definitely more direct, hands-on and least expensive,” says Oster. “We were stoked to access a public printer. What an honor. We are very fortunate in Cincinnati to have such resources.”

Pedal created using the 3D printer in action.

THE MAIN LIBRARY MAKERSPACE OFFERS CUSTOMERS:
• 3D printers
• A laser cutter/engraver station for a variety of materials.
• A vinyl printer/cutter for printing and cutting full-color graphical vinyl signs, decals, and crafts.
• An audio recording station with a sound-proof booth. Audio recorded in the booth can be mixed or edited at the digital creation stations.
• A suite of computers with premium and open-source software commonly used for digital creation.
• A photography station with a high-quality camera, lightbox, and green screen to create still photography, product photos, or video.
• Sewing machines and large tables for measuring and cutting fabric.
• Media conversion stations to convert photos, videotapes, CDs, and cassette tapes to digital.
• Entry-level electronics and soldering equipment to create custom electrical components.

Additionally, there is a “Mini” MakerSpace with easy-to-use items suited for beginners and younger customers, including:
• An Egg-Bot
• MaKey MaKey’s
• Laminators, hole punches, and paper cutters
• Button makers
• Crayola Ring Makers
• 3Doodlers and more
Find gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and more at discounted prices. Become a member of the Friends for even bigger savings.

**MADEIRA BRANCH SALE**

March 5–7
7200 Miami Ave.
513-369-6028

Thursday, March 5, noon–9 p.m.
Friday, March 6, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

**FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY/ATLA**

Save the Date:

**Big Deals at Upcoming Friends of the Public Library Sale**

The Friends’ Shop is the Ultimate Oasis for Book Lovers

People in Hamilton County love their Library! Last year, the Library circulated over 18 million items (see page 3 for more on that milestone.) Celebrate the joy of reading, and let everyone know that you are a fan of the Library by shopping at The Friends of the Library Shop in the Main Library. The store has a selection of literary-themed items you won’t find anywhere else, and all proceeds support the Library’s materials, equipment, and programs. Stop by to receive personalized service from our friendly staff. The shop is right inside the Vine Street entrance of the Main Library, 800 Vine St., and is open 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

**FUN FACTS ABOUT THE FRIENDS!**

- We receive 12,000–15,000 donated items weekly.
- We have foreign language books for adults and children.
- The volunteer core crew includes doctors, teachers, a chemist, nurses, professional volunteers, lawyers, accountants, librarians, and the mother of a Broadway choreographer.
- Our volunteers are passionate about what they do.
- We sell to buyers around the corner and across the globe.
- We are responsible citizens of the earth, recycling and repurposing items that will not sell.
- Our prices can’t be beat.

**ATLA DONATES COMMEMORATIVE PLATE FEATURING ‘OLD MAIN’ TO LIBRARY**

In 1871, two brothers named Homer and Shakespeare Laughlin started a pottery company in East Liverpool, Ohio which would one day become famous for its Fiesta line of dinnerware. More than 130 years later, a Homer Laughlin Souvenir Plate surfaced at a yard sale. Someone bought the plate and, last fall, the plate was donated to the Anderson Township Library Association (ATLA), who in turn donated it to the Library.

The donated plate features a sketch of the exterior of the original Main Library. It’s from the Eggshell Theme line and was manufactured in 1961. It turns out that during the 1940s–1960s, blank Homer Laughlin plates could be purchased and turned into commemorative plates with personalized images. Two designs were created—an interior and exterior of Old Main—based on sketches. The ATLA plate features the exterior image.

The Library would like to thank ATLA for its gift.

Anderson Branch Library manager Katie Greifenkamp and The Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director of the Library Kimber L. Fender with the plate donated by ATLA.
The following gifts were received between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 2014. For more information about donating to the Library Foundation, visit our website at Foundation.CincinnatiLibrary.org.

Gifts to the Library and Foundation

- **Writer-in-Residence Program**
  - Naomi T. Gerwin, $20,000

- **Winter Break Snack Program**
  - The Kroger Co., $2,100

- **Summer Learning**
  - Richard R. Barrett made in the name of Jane M. and Charles N. Wall, $14,000
  - Constance B. Jones made in the name of Jane M. and Charles N. Wall, $14,000
  - PNC Charitable Trusts, $10,000
  - Martha G. Anness, $5,000
  - William R. Dally Foundation, $3,372

- **Annual Fund**
  - $5,000+ (individual donors)
  - $2,000+ (individual donors)
  - $1,000+ (individual donors)

- **$500+**
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  - Louis Dauner
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  - Mr. and Mrs. Timothy R. Juenke

- **$250+**
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  - Anita Buck and Stephan Pelikan

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The Library is deeply grateful for the generosity of our community and welcomes gifts of all sizes. Your donations are essential to ensuring delivery of excellent Library services and the availability of the widest possible range of informational resources for all ages. For inquiries regarding contributions, please contact Melissa H. Deters, Library Foundation Executive Director, at 513-369-4595.

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Joseph F. Cornish in memory of Adah L. Gould
Jim and Kim Dechert in honor of Susan Brynteson
Melissa H. Deters in honor of Mary Jo and Arnold Barnett
Excelleration Inc. in honor of Mary Bennett-Brown’s retirement
Kimber Fender in memory of Arleen Fields, Library employee, and Library retirees
John Johns and Mary Chastain-Armstrong
Noriko Fields in memory of Jack Fields
Sharon Freyhof in memory of Sheila Freyhof
Jane Garvey in memory of Blair Garvey and Eva Jane Coome
Joanne Huelsman in honor of Eldon Bailor and Tom Gilbert
Henry LeRoy Jennings in honor of Rosa Lee Jennings
Ann Jordan in honor of Rachel D. Brown
Joan Kaup in honor of the Emanuel Community Center Book Club
Richard Lautenslager in memory of Jo Ann Lautenslager
Sue K. Lumb in memory of Arthur C. Lumb
Eileen Mallory in memory of Cindy Matyi
Peggy Ann Markstein in honor of David Huberfield
David Mason for the birthday of John Mason
Bethany Meyer, Kate Murray, and Kathy Menchofer in honor of Judge Sylvia Sieve Hendon
Judge John O’Connor and Dr. Kathy O’Connor in memory of Alice D. O’Connor
Mary Lee and Don Olinger in honor of Janet Smith
Karen Otto in memory of Edward and Mary Sirotak
Margaret Rhein in memory of Robert Rhein
Bradford and Susan Scott in memory of Gretl, Cheeky, Lynx, Mame, and Fred, and in honor of Ginger, Furry, Wakko, Yakko, Piikki, Cali, Jiminy, Stripe, Tiger and Tori
Randall and Ximena Sharp in tribute to their son
Debra Simpson in memory of Arleen Fields
Society of the Transfiguration in memory of Elizabeth Matthews
Dick and Lynn Standen in honor of Mary Grimes
William and Patricia Victor in memory of Charles Anness
Martin H. Vitz in memory of Carl Vitz
Pet Memorial Gifts
Sue and Bob Bitzer in memory of Gus, beloved pet of the Bitzer Family
Chuck Brown and Linda Seiter in memory of Pookie Bear, beloved pet of Sandy Kathman
Deborah and Donald Buchert in memory of Gus, beloved pet of The Stoecklin Family
The Buse Family in memory of Roxie, beloved pet of Emily Mullen
Melissa H. Deters in memory of Willie, beloved cat of Hon. Cheryl and Hon. Jon Sieve, and in memory of Champ, beloved dog of the Jim Robben Family
Roxann H. Dieffenbach in memory of Beau, beloved Chihuahua of Lydia Webb, and in memory of Boots, beloved Bichon of Karen Mayer and Family
Carolyn Gutjahr in memory of Fry, beloved dog of Janice Kagermeier
Hon. Sylvia and Robert G. Hendon in memory of Willie, beloved cat of Hon. Cheryl and Hon. Jon Sieve
Janice Henshaw in memory of Willow, beloved pet of the Erickson Family
Rachel High in memory of Sylvia, beloved cat of Carol Campbell
Pamela Jacobson and Ginger Gandy in memory of Sierra, beloved pet of Bonnie Becker
Cathy Lang in memory of Astro, beloved pet of Lisa and Jeff Miller
Thomas and Elaine Langlois in memory of Frannie, beloved pet of Holly and Mike Mott
Andrea Lippelman in memory of Bruno, beloved dog of Frank Sullivan
Sara Mathews in memory of Face, beloved cat of Mike and Julie
Randy and Barb Miller in memory of Zoe, beloved pet of the Melowsky Family
Karen Miller in memory of Bella, beloved cat of the Finn Bauer-Nilsen Family
Regina Pugh in memory of Cozmo, beloved dog of Brian, Jessica and Hank Andrews-Griffin
Pat and Dan Reuter in memory of Mongo, beloved cat of Kara Reuter
Ann Segal and Jerry Malsh for pet memorials
Linda Seiter and Chuck Brown in memory of Colby, beloved pet of Ellie Matt and Linus Singleton
Maria A. Sfera in memory of Sammy, beloved pet of Kathy and Chris Taylor
Ellie and Matt Singleton in memory of Lizzy, beloved pet of Linda Seiter and Chuck Brown
Ellie and Matt Singleton in memory of Face, beloved pet of Mike Singleton and Julie Maines
Nancy Tanner in memory of Missy, beloved pet of Carole Meikle

Befriend a Branch
3B Book Club for the Symmes Township Branch
3rd Tuesday Book Club for the Symmes Township Branch
Jack Barrett and Jennie Geiger for the Cheviot Branch
John and Erin Campbell for the Loveland Branch
Robert C. Faelten for the Oakley Branch
Don Hild for the Mariemont Branch
Dr. Manisha A. Patel and Dr. Michael G. Curran for the Deer Park Branch
Ann M. Reich for the Symmes Township Branch
Robert Ripp for the Madeira Branch
Kenneth Sinclair for the Miami Township Branch
Brittany Ulrich, Phillips Family Fund, for the Pleasant Ridge Branch
Prema Venkateswaran for the Hyde Park Branch
Joan Wyler for the St. Bernard Branch

Abell Fund
Hamilton County Genealogical Society

Audubon Exhibit Preservation Gifts
Mrs. Martha G. Anness
Ms. Nanci N. Hampel
Kautz Family Foundation
Library Gives Adults a Chance at a Better Life Through New Online Program

Online High School (COHS), her world of possibilities opened again. “This is a dream come true for me,” said Hobbs. “It is going to change my life and open new doors. I want a better life for myself; without an education, I can’t get very far. I’m very motivated to get my degree.”

Hobbs registered as part of the Library’s first class of COHS students in September. Since that day, she has attended online classes at the Main Library’s Adult Learning Center with her eye on the prize. COHS gives adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certification in 18 months. The Public Library was only the third library system in the country to offer this benefit to its customers and hopes to change the lives of 75 customers like Hobbs this year.

Applicants must successfully complete an online self-assessment and a two-week prerequisite course, followed by an in-person interview and a scholarship review process. Once enrolled, each student is paired with an academic coach who will help them create an individual career path, offer ongoing guidance, evaluate their performance, and connect the student with the resources needed to master the courses.

COHS is just one of many programs offered at the Main Library’s Adult Learning Center by Education & Homework Support manager Keith Armour, a former schoolteacher. “The Library enables people to empower themselves,” says Armour. “I will be so happy that the Library had a small part in helping individuals who wanted to create a better life for themselves and their families.”

Learn more about Career Online High School at CincinnatiLibrary.org/COHS.