A Lasting Legacy
How the generosity of Library fans changes lives

Advice for writers from acclaimed local children’s author Brian Wells. Interview on page 5

Homework Help is expanding! Find out more on page 10
Each year the Urban Libraries Council recognizes innovative service ideas from member libraries across the country. For the second time our Library was the recipient of a Top Innovator Award in the collections category. We were one of 10 awards presented and were selected from nearly 270 nominations. Our Top Innovation is called “We Have the Hots for You”, a grouping of services that personalize Library services to meet individual cardholder’s needs.

Here in Cincinnati and Hamilton County we’re used to our Library being one of the busiest in the country. Currently, we rank 5th in the US with more than 18.7 million items borrowed, downloaded, or streamed in 2015. That’s an amazing number for a Library serving a population of just over 800,000. What makes these “Hot” services so special is the way they make it easy for you to use our Library while providing you with a unique Library experience.

The original “Hot” service is Hot Authors. With Hot Authors, you can sign up automatically have a copy of the newest book from 100 authors sent to your Library location when it’s published. You sign up for your favorite author’s new book once, and we send the next new book by that author to your branch automatically. That’s all you do. No keeping track of when the next book is coming out, no checking the catalog to see when you can place it on hold—we do all of that for you. The next “Hot” is an expansion of that service to give cardholders the option to get favorite author new books in audiobook, large print, or digital formats. Hot Authors is extremely popular with thousands of cardholders getting new books automatically.

A librarian in our Popular Library, Steve Kemple, created the next “Hot” service, CD of the Month. I know, it doesn’t have “Hot” in its title but it still qualifies. Steve and other knowledgeable staff select a music CD you might not have chosen for yourself and send it to your local branch with a little note hinting at what the music is like and signed by the selecting librarian. At last count, Steve and his group of music-lovers were sending out more than 800 hand-selected CDs each month.

Two additional “Hot” services were started earlier this year. Hot Tickets is similar to Hot Authors but uses movie genres to get new movies to avid watchers. Choosing from broad categories like comedy or action, cardholders again select once and then enjoy the show!

The final “Hot” service is Book Hookup. Utilizing the broad expertise of our staff of librarians, who love to read, we select books for you to read based on information you provide. These books are selected by real people, not a computer algorithm, and we have heard from readers how much they enjoy these books.

So whether you love to read, listen to music, or watch a movie, we have a Hot Service that can make using the Library even easier. Just ask any staff member for assistance or visit our website CincinnatiLibrary.org to sign up.
Loveland Branch Library opens renovated, expanded space

A crowd of people gathered at the Loveland Branch Library, located at 649 Loveland Madeira Road, on Tuesday, Oct. 11, to celebrate the opening of the expanded and renovated branch. The location now spans a second storefront next door and includes a new TeenSpace, MakerSpace, a meeting room, and study rooms. Dignitaries and community members turned out for the ribbon-cutting and tour.

The Loveland Branch first opened Jan. 9, 1967, in the basement of the Loveland Methodist Church. The branch was moved into part of the old IGA building in 1973, placing it closer to the elementary school and the local shopping center. By the early 1990s, an even larger area was needed. In January of 1993, the branch moved to its current location in the Shoppers Haven Shopping Center. The renovation was generously paid for by the shopping center’s landlord.

Library offers Homework Help at select branches

Ronda Bell Harmon is one of the Library’s many Homework Help aides helping students reach their full potential. For four years, Bell Harmon has worked with students at the Madisonville Branch Library.

“The children that come here after school know they are in a safe place when they visit the Library,” said Bell Harmon. “Not only do they receive help with their homework, but they also receive one-on-one attention, a lot of love, and they don’t have to worry about being judged.”

The Library provides free homework help to students in kindergarten through grade 8 at many of our branch libraries in the afternoons during the school year. Homework Helpers at these locations help students finish their daily homework and step in to do extra skill building exercises in subjects where the child may need more help. Harmon said parents come into the branch at the end of the school year to tell her how the program has helped to improve their child’s grades.

“"When you hear the appreciation from both the students and the parents, you know you’re making a big impact in the community," said Bell Harmon.

For a complete list of branches that offer Homework Help, visit CincinnatiLibrary.org/Education.
New MakerSpace machine converts vinyl albums into digital tracks

The MakerSpace media conversion station at the Main Library now features an ION Archive LP machine. This piece of equipment means vinyl collectors can bring their records in and turn them into digital tracks.

The new converter accepts 33, 45, and 78 LP formats and converts in real time. The machine can be reserved for two hours at a time. Customers are limited to one reservation a day, but can make up to six reservations six weeks in advance.

The staff in the MakerSpace say if you want to use the machine, bring a flash drive or have cloud storage available for your new digital tracks. CDs can be burned as well. You might also want to bring headphones if you want to listen to your albums while they record. Flash drives, CDs, and earbuds are available for purchase in the MakerSpace.

Make an appointment by visiting CincinnatiLibrary.org/MakerSpace.
Local self-published author receives perfect 10 review from Publisher’s Weekly

Like a prism, author Brian Wells has had a multi-faceted career. He worked in public affairs for Illinois Gov. James R. Thompson, in marketing at Procter & Gamble, and overseeing creative development for movies, specials, and series that ran on NBC, ABC, CBS, Fox, and the Hallmark Channel. And in his spare time he works to combat child trafficking in South Asia. So it should be no surprise that his self-published novel, The League and the Lantern, became one of the most successful children’s novels by a debut author in Kickstarter history. It went on to receive a perfect 10 review from BookLife, Publishers Weekly’s website for indie authors. Wells lives in Mt. Lookout with his wife and two children.

With all your work in the entertainment industry, did you ever picture yourself writing a book, especially a children’s adventure book?

Strangely enough, yes! I’ve always loved adventure books and felt like I had stories to tell. I’ve enjoyed helping develop movies as an executive producer but felt like my story would live best on the page. Not to say it won’t travel to the screen at some point, but my first love has always been books!

What inspired the story? Did you write it envisioning a series?

I grew up in Springfield, Ill., in President Lincoln’s shadow. I’ve always found him fascinating and that his life and those times were rich for mystery and adventure. I have always thought of The League and the Lantern as a series and I am hard at work on the second book.

What was it like to self-publish your book?

We’re launching a new publishing model so this is just the first of an independent label. It was way more work than I ever imagined, but an incredible education. As with most authors I have times where I wish I could do nothing but write, but other times I’m thankful I get to have my hands in every part of the creation.

What was your favorite and least favorite thing about writing a book?

Favorite thing is both feeling like I become friends with the characters and also having them surprise me as I’m writing. I’m a bit of an outliner but then I get into the writing and the characters surprise and delight me in ways I wasn’t planning as I’m writing! Least favorite is correcting grammar.

What advice would you give first-time authors?

It’s a bit cliché, but only because it’s true. Writers write. Give yourself permission to write poorly but do not give yourself permission not to write. I try six days a week to know that I moved my story ahead at least just a little that day, even if it wasn’t much or if it was sloppy. It’s always so much easier to revise that first draft, no matter how sloppy it is, than it is to get the first draft done.

What book(s) are you currently reading?

I just finished The Lie Tree by Frances Hardinge. She writes so elegantly. It’s like the letters on her keyboard are fancier than mine. Also, I just finished Jonathan Stroud’s The Hollow Boy. I’ve read all the Lockwood and Co. series and love them all. I’m getting ready to start Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan.

Any favorite Library memories?

Earning construction paper “fish” on the library wall net during summer reading challenge at the Lincoln Public Library in Springfield while growing up. During my story research I was back there and ducked in the library and found the exact copy of a Great Brain book I had read growing up. Not just the same title, but the actual physical copy I had checked out 40 years ago! When I used to work at P&G downtown and I needed to write a speech for one of the executives, I would sneak out of my office and go over to the top floor of the Main Library and write at a corner table. It’s the only place I could get any real writing done!

To learn more about Brian Wells and The League and the Lantern, go to LeagueandLantern.com.

Prolific author Lee Child is coming to the Main Library!

Child will be speaking about his series of Jack Reacher novels, including his latest book Night School, on Monday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Reading Garden Lounge. Child will also sign a limited number of books at this event. The Library is giving away 400 copies of Night School before Child’s appearance! Watch CincinnatiLibrary.org for details. For more information on this speaker please visit www.prhspeakers.com.
When Shan Bhati’s mother, Shammi, passed away, it was important to Shan and her brother, Amar, to do something meaningful in her honor. “We both remembered how much she enjoyed taking her grandson to the Madeira Branch Library for storytime,” said Bhati. Bhati and her brother reached out to The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Foundation — an independent, nonprofit fundraising organization that benefits the Library. They discussed how a donation could help make their mother’s memory last forever. “We instantly knew that it was the perfect fit for mom,” Bhati said. Working with The Library Foundation, the family decided to put their gift toward a renovation of the Madeira Branch Library’s children’s area, which officially opened to the public on Oct. 21. “We are hopeful that the expansion of the children’s reading area and purchase of many new educational toys will allow larger reading programs to be held, more comfortable accommodations for the children, and hopefully more children starting to think of the Library and reading as fun,” she said. Bhati says her mother’s lifelong love of reading goes all the way back to her mom’s childhood in India. Shan’s grandmother is a successful author. When Shammi and her husband, Anant, came to Cincinnati in the early 1970s, they made sure to pass that love of reading onto their children. The family often visited the Westwood Branch Library near their childhood home — sparking a love of reading that’s never faded. “I strongly urge anyone even considering a gift to meet with The Library Foundation,” Bhati said. “There are so many ways that any size gift can help.”
The Friends of the Public Library

When Mary Lu Aft first came to Cincinnati she discovered the Annual Friends Book Sale on Fountain Square. Soon she was hooked and her lifetime passion for books found the perfect outlet with the Friends and the Library. She and her husband Dick have been members and volunteers for over 28 years. Aft has served as book sale chair, helping the Friends raise over $5 million to support Library programs and collections.

While Aft and her husband have made a substantial impact on the Library through volunteering, the couple has also established a named fund at the Friends. “Our Public Library would not thrive were it not for the generosity of people whose gifts have outlived them,” said Dick Aft.

While not everyone has the time or resources to make such a contribution to the Library, the Afts believe everyone has the opportunity to make an impact. “There are so many ways to contribute and it’s important that no one feels they need to have huge resources to do so,” said Dick Aft. “Contributions can range from money to time to even donating your used books.”

“We are fortunate to have one of the best public library systems in the country—if not the world,” said Mary Lu Aft. “The main reason we are able to be so successful is due to the generosity of people in our community.”

The Friends of the Public Library fund great programs, author visits, and Summer Learning. They’ve set up a shop inside the Main Library with hundreds of used books, unique items, and literary-themed gifts, with proceeds benefiting the Library (see page 9 for more information). The Friends also run a Warehouse in Hartwell filled with gently used books, vinyl records, CDs, and DVDs. Library fans can buy Library collection souvenirs, commemorative bricks, and make donations, grants, or bequests to the Friends, as well as volunteer to help at any of their sales. Learn more and become a member of the Friends by visiting Friends.CincinnatiLibrary.org.

THE ANDERSON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

These volunteers raise money specifically for use at the Anderson and Mt. Washington branch libraries. They hold two big sales a year, in June and November, and are always collecting donations of used books. ATLA also holds a Teacher Appreciation Day in August, giving away 7,000 free books to educators from all over Hamilton County.

“I enjoy how ATLA members all work for a common goal, each and every week,” says Bridget Anthony, president of ATLA. “We have fun together! It is rewarding to know we are giving back to the community. I’ve met many great people. An added benefit is being around lots of readers. We discuss books and authors and I never lack for new titles.”

Learn more about ATLA at CincinnatiLibrary.org/ATLA.
HAPPENING AT MAIN LIBRARY

DOWN TO THE ROOTS:
EXPLORING THE HISTORY
OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART
FORMS IN CINCINNATI DURING
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This February, the Main Library explores the history of visual arts, music, and drama in the Queen City created by African Americans. The exhibit *Better than Good: The Photography of C. Smith* features the works of the Cincinnati native. Dating back to the pre-Civil Rights movement, Smith captured multiple “firsts” as well as national and local sports figures, religious leaders, politicians, and entertainers. The exhibit runs Jan. 13–March 12 in the Main Library’s Joseph S. Stern, Jr. Cincinnati Room. Smith will also discuss his passion for photography and share stories of his six-decade career at the exhibit’s opening event Saturday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays at the Main Library!

Bring the family to the Main Library in December for a variety of fun holiday performances and activities.

On **Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m.** enjoy **The Wildly Witty, Particular Princess and Ingenious Inventor of Floralee** presented by Know Theatre of Cincinnati. This original, two-person, interactive fairy tale will have your kids “thinking like scientists” as they follow the Princess of Floralee on the adventure of a lifetime. On **Saturday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m.** enjoy live jazz with the Chris Comer Trio. Both weekends are sponsored by the Friends of the Public Library.

The Cincinnati Northern Model Railroad Club Holiday Model Train Display returns to the Main Library Dec. 9–11 in the Atrium. You’ll find more information on all the holiday events at the Main Library and branch libraries by visiting CincinnatiLibrary.org just after Thanksgiving.

**Other Black History Month Events at the Main Library**

**SATURDAY, FEB. 11**
*Photography and Genealogy Research*, 11 a.m.

Behind every photo lies a story. Genealogist Thomas Jordan, author of *Double Jordan: My Journey Towards Discovering My Paternal Ancestors*, will explore genealogical clues contained in cabinets of pictures and photo albums found at home.

*Preserving Your Family Photos*, 1 p.m.

Every genealogist knows that photographs are fragile objects. Come to the Main Library’s MakerSpace and see steps to protect and preserve family photos using the latest scanning and storage technology available at the Library for free. While there, learn how to make your own book based on genealogy research.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 18**
*The Cincinnati Jazz Scene*, 1 p.m.

Jazz music has been an integral part of Cincinnati’s heritage since the 1920s with many great musicians and venues contributing to this city’s history. Join a panel of historians and musicians for a discussion of some of the great players and the many jazz locations in the Tri-state area throughout the decades.

*Hank Mautner Quintet Jazz Concert*, 3 p.m.

Celebrate Cincinnati’s jazz history with a concert. Trumpeter, composer, arranger, and conductor Hank Mautner has been a fixture of the Cincinnati music scene for almost 30 years.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 25**
*The History of Black Theater in Cincinnati*, 1 p.m.

Join Tony Darnell Davis, professor of theatre emeritus from the University of Cincinnati, for a look at the efforts and struggles to provide the dramatic arts to the African American community in Cincinnati and the establishment of the Cincinnati Black Theater in 2001.
The Friends of the Public Library

LIBRARY FRIENDS’ SHOP EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS AND SALES
The Library Friends’ Shop inside the Main Library has extended hours Nov. 28–Dec. 23. It will be open Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sundays 1–5 p.m. Starting Dec. 1, check out the Friends’ 12 Days of Christmas savings offers on the Friends’ Facebook page.

FRIENDS’ HOLIDAY WEEKEND EDITION ON THE MEZZ
DEC. 3–4, 11–12, AND 18–19, MAIN LIBRARY MEZZANINE
We’ll be decorated for the season and stocked with gently used books suitable for giving in the space just outside the Friends’ Shop. Our staff and volunteers will help you find that special gift. New this year: buy an exclusive 2016 Friends’ mug and get a free cup of coffee or cocoa.

HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY DISCUSSION
SUNDAY, DEC. 4, AT 2 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY MEZZANINE
Friends’ volunteer and historian Diana McBride will discuss the history of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, sharing stories of the people who set up our wonderful Library and how it came to become a great institution. RSVP by calling 513-369-6035.

WORK-SHOP-SAVE AT THE MAIN LIBRARY
TUESDAY, DEC. 6, 5–8:30 P.M.
Downtown residents, office workers, and business professionals, this is a perfect night to browse, discover, and save 25 percent on memorable gifts. We’re open late, just for you. Take the Cincinnati Bell Connector right to our front door. Gift wrapping is available for a small donation.

AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, VENTURE TO HARTWELL FOR THE ANNUAL FRIENDS’ WINTER WAREHOUSE SALE
8456 VINE STREET, 45216
THURSDAY, JAN. 12, 10 A.M.–7:30 P.M.
FRIDAY JAN. 13 AND SATURDAY, JAN. 14, 10 A.M.– 6 P.M.
SUNDAY, JAN. 15, NOON–5 P.M.
Come via car, sleigh, bus, van, wheels, or legs to find great reads and escape the doldrums of winter to find great deals on books and more.

For more information about any of our winter events, visit Friends.CincinnatiLibrary.org.
Call The Friends’ Warehouse at 513-369-6035 or The Library Friends’ Shop at 513-369-6920.
The following gifts were received between June 16 and September 15, 2016. For more information about donating to the Library Foundation, visit our website at www.CincinnatiLibraryFoundation.org.

Gifts to the Library and Foundation

Annual Fund

$145,000
Planned gift from the Estate of Mary Surguy

$50,000
Planned gift from the Estate of John F. Curley

$10,000+
Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Career Online High School Grant

LaMacchia Family Foundation, Library & Foundation support

Ohio Valley Foundation, Grant for the Outreach - Electronic Tablet Program

The John A. Schroth Family Charitable Trust, Summer Learning 2016

$1,000+
The Andrew Jergens Foundation, Summer Learning 2017

Christine Barrett

James Cheng, memorial gift for the Andrea Cheng Book Fund

The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation

PNC Foundation, Summer Learning Sponsor, pre-school reading program

$500+
James H. Brun

Sylvia S. Johnson

$250+
Martha G. Anness in memory of Louis "Lou" Koenig

Douglas Imbrogno for the Forest Park Branch Library

Lakeshore Women’s Club for the Greenhills Branch Library

Ann C. Regan in memory of Beulah L. Weppler

$100+
A. Eugene Bertke

Cincinnati Woman’s Club in honor of Jeanne Strauss-DeGroot

Elizabeth H. and James R. Cornwell Fund for the Madisonville Branch Library

Janet Curley

Sarah and Tommy Evans in memory of Jasper Chalfonte, Ruth Myers, Jack Geiler, and Wolfgang Olson

Aaron Hansen in memory of Dr. Peter St. John Dignan

Hon. Sylvia and Robert G. Hendon in memory of Jane Reuter

Damien Johnson

Janet L. Kramer in memory of Beulah Weppler

David Mason

Lisa Thal in memory of Doris Zipperstein

$50+
Kristie Absalon in memory of Maggie, beloved dog of Jim and Sandee Lomax

Kimberly Ballinger in memory of Dr. Peter St. John Dignan

Jack Barrett and Jennie Geiger in memory of Eileen Mallory

Jennifer Damiano in memory of Duchess, beloved cat of Vito

Jennifer and Frankie Damiano - in honor of their 13th Wedding Anniversary

Kimber Fender in memory of Eileen Mallory and Marianne Gatewood

Matthew Hodgson and Tom Ford in memory of Shelby, beloved pet of Jenny and Mike Quinn

Gene and Ellen Dean Kissling and Nancy and Ray Warren in memory of Dr. Peter St. John Dignan

Mario Pellegrini

Lynn Pierson in memory of Doris Zipperstein

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Schlosser in memory of Sandra LeGrand

Jenna Schmitz in memory of Lucky, beloved pet of Jennifer Berger

William J. Walls

Jeffrey P. Waltz in honor of Elizabeth M. Mills and in honor of Laura A. Waltz

$49 and under

Barb Amato in memory of Speedy, beloved pet of Colleen Hines

Barbara Blum in memory of Sparky, beloved pet of Deborah Ham

Aaron J. Borden in memory of Clay Turner

The Canner and Marshall Family in memory of Doris Zipperstein

Annette Christianson in memory of Yetta, beloved pet of Julie Culleton

Susan Cohen and Rob Schmueling in memory of Ralphie, beloved pet of Liza and Ryan Geismar and Family

Bonnie Collins in memory of Nike, beloved pet of Denna Craig

Melissa Hendon Deters in memory of Hugh P. Byrnes and in memory of Jackson, aka Jack-Man, beloved pet of Heidi, Steve and Kat

Teresa Dutko in memory of Mia, beloved cat of Louis Martinelli

Bill Fogarty in memory of Elijah, beloved pet of The Highland Family

Radell Friedman in memory of Doris Zipperstein

Joni Gabriele in memory of Sassy, beloved dog of of Eileen Murray

Ginger Gandy in memory of Gus, beloved pet of The Sharma Young Family

Doug and Carolyn Goldberg in memory Snowflake, beloved pet of Rob and Sally Seiler and Family

Erica Heskamp in memory of Max, beloved pet of Marie Vee Santana and Mike Riley

Crystal Kendrick

Patti and Gary Kline in memory of Savanna

Mr. and Ms. John Lech in memory of Sandra LeGrand and in memory of Daisy, beloved pet of Jessica Lech

Ruth Levy

Andrea Lippelman in memory of Buddy, beloved cat of Kate Lippelman Zwick

Robin Lippelman in memory of Tinkerbell, beloved cat of Ms. Missy Oakley and in memory of Buddy, beloved cat of Kathy Lippelman-Zwick

Kim Lukin in memory of Doris Zipperstein

Donna McMullin and David Rensberger in memory of Chloe, beloved dog of Karen Grass

Denise Miller in memory of Willy, beloved dog of Pam Morris

Randy Miller in memory of Charlie, beloved pet of the Mayer Family

Ronald Plybon

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.
Joy and Richard Rushing in memory of Sadie, beloved pet of Holly and Dave Kross
Barb Shively in memory of Don King for the Delhi Branch Library
“The Stepsisters” in memory of Skinner, beloved dog of Lauren and Bob Woodiwiss
Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Sittenfeld in memory of Nick, much loved cat of Joanne Veith
Mark Skelton in memory of Moose, beloved Boxer of Rob and Brigott Dawn
Connie Springer in memory of Doris Zipperstein
David P. Williams in memory of Clarence, beloved cat of Mr. and Mrs. Todd Williams

#BookBowl 2016

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Foundation and Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, MD will be competing to see who can raise the most money! The competition begins Sunday, Nov. 27 at the kickoff of the Cincinnati Bengals vs. Baltimore Ravens game and continues through Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 11:59 p.m. Help us win by donating online. Watch CincinnatiLibrary.org and the Library’s social media accounts for your chance to take part in #BookBowl 2016!

Connect with your fellow readers and get a heads-up on new books, movies, and music coming to the Library, plus information on Library programs and inspiring ideas by following us.

Facebook
Our posts keep you entertained, informed, and give you the chance to join the conversation.

Twitter
Get regular updates about our collection, Library events, and the literary and entertainment world.

Instagram
Old, new, and behind-the-scenes photos tell the Library’s story one snapshot at a time.

Pinterest
Find tips, tricks, and more from us—the information experts.

Slideshare
Your home for Library videos—including tutorials, fun things happening around the Library, and more.

LinkedIn
Discover career advice, business tips, and free resources that will help you succeed at work.

Tumblr
Not exactly Twitter. Not quite Facebook. It’s something in-between!

Librarians to pick best books of the year—and you’re invited to watch!

In January, our Librarians will gather to vote on the best books for children and young adults from 2016, in the spirit of the Newbery and Caldecott Medals and Printz Award. Our chosen winners will be announced in mid-January. You can follow along on Facebook. We’ll be live-streaming the final decision! The official award winners will be announced on Monday, Jan. 23. We’ll post that list on Facebook as well.
Improving customer service—one cylinder at a time

When the current Main Library building opened its doors in 1955 on the corner of Eighth and Vine streets, it was widely recognized for its contemporary design and use of open space. It also contained a radical innovation—a pneumatic tubing system. When a customer came to the reference desk in a specific department, they would fill out a small slip of paper with the call number or title of the book they wanted to borrow. If the book was in the stacks, the reference staff would put the paper into a cylinder that was approximately 1.5 inches in diameter and 6 inches long. The cylinder was then put into a large tubing system and quickly “whooshed” up to shelving staff. The shelvers located the book and brought it to the department or sent it on the dumbwaiter. A lighted switchboard system would let customers know when to come to the desk and pick up their book.

The tubes were used for more than 50 years, but in 2007 the Library replaced pneumatic tubes and electrical switchboards with e-mail. Remnants of the pneumatic tubes remain. You can see the most obvious signs in the Children’s Learning Center.