



Library System

Check it out:
Library is in top ten

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the nation's third-oldest library, has consistently received national recognition for excellence, and for the second year in a row, was ranked a "Top Ten American Library" of all 79 libraries serving 500,000 or more by HAPLR, a national public library ranking service.

Mission: Connecting people with the world of ideas and information.

System: Main Library & 41 branch libraries throughout Hamilton County, Ohio

Web site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Provides free in-house & remote access to the online catalog, Homework Now (4th-12 grade), KnowItNow anytime interactive reference service, commercial databases with full-text articles, interactive books & reading blog, and other information resources, including Veterans History Project website with streaming video, Kidspace, a web page for children and their parents, and Teenspace, connecting teens to the Library 24/7

Collection: Over 9.5 million items including books, magazines & newspapers, digital audio books and ebooks, books-on-tape & books-on-CD, music CDs, videos, DVDs, CD-ROMs, music cassettes, children's book & cassette sets, large print, sheet music, slides, and Braille

Population Served: 814,611 residents of Hamilton County in 413 square-mile area

Circulation: Over 14.7 million annually—one of the 10 highest circulating libraries in the U.S.

Programs: Nearly 15,000 free programs offered annually for all ages from babies to seniors

Reference: Questions are answered by phone, fax, email, letter, and in person—over 1.7 million questions answered in 2006

Special Services: Provide talking books & Braille to the visually impaired, blind & physically handicapped in 33 Ohio counties; outreach services including books-by-mail & collections delivered to day cares, senior centers & incarceration facilities; teacher collections loaned for use in the classroom, Passport application service, materials in dozens of languages, bilingual story times & English as a Second Language programs, and literacy services including GED classes & GED practice testing. Online services include customized email newsletter, directories of selected websites, reading resources and recommendations, Wi-Fi service at all 42 locations.

Source: *Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County*