



Mansfield/Richland County Public Library



2025 Annual Report



Letter from the Director



In 2025, the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library completed projects and kicked off new ones! We continued working through items in our Master Facilities Plan, most notably reopening the Ontario Branch after one year of renovations. The community has been excited by the additional meeting spaces, vibrant Children's Department, dedicated Teen Space, and outdoor patio! As we turn the page on one project, we moved toward two major projects we have been working on for some time.

The Creation Lab MakerSpace construction was bid out in late 2025 with construction set for early 2026. The new space will allow for collaborative opportunities to use 3D pens and printers, button makers, an embroidery machine, a heat press, a laminator, and more!

The Library also purchased land across from our current Crestview Branch to allow for the construction of a new standalone branch. We are currently in the design process and will have a plan for the new building to share with the community in the near future.

As we continue to grow and evolve, you can always count on the services you know and love.

Our growing Outreach services, programming for all ages, First Call 211 information and referral, Summer Library Program, digital services, and the friendly neighborhood locations continue providing a high quality of life in Richland County. We appreciate your continued support!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris May". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chris May, Library Director

Mission

Vision

In this global and digital age, we understand the importance of being deeply rooted in our community. Our Library is not just a place for books but a vibrant center for people of all ages to come together, have fun, learn, grow, craft, seek knowledge and understanding, connect, and engage.

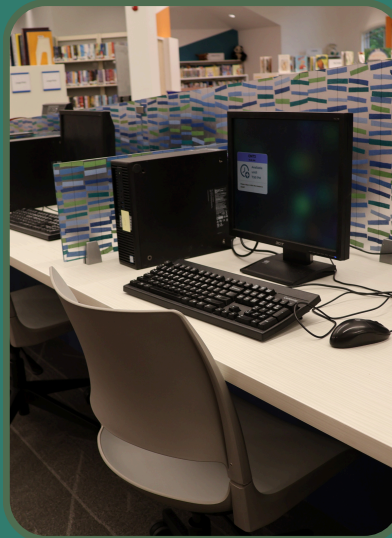
2025 Board

President: Amy Hiner
Vice-President: Brigette Burnell
Secretary: Kate Peters
Dr. Larry Rawls
Teana Sykes
Geneva Cummins
Dr. Tara Muratore Strang



Ontario Branch

On May 22, 2025, the Ontario branch reopened to the public after a one-year remodel. The renovations have been well received by the community.



- Larger community room
- Additional private study area
- Designated TeenZone space
- Engaging children's area with increased creative play and learning space
- Outdoor seating area
- Enhanced lighting across the facility
- Automatic, double width entrance with immediate access to parking



2025 Highlights



1 MPAC Exhibit

The Library entered into a partnership with the Mansfield Public Art Commission for a permanent exhibit space on the second floor of the Main Library. To date, four local artist exhibits have been featured.

2 Additional Meeting Space

The remodeled Ontario branch now has a larger Community Room that booked 130+ meetings in 2025. Three sound-proof meeting pods were also purchased to add public meeting space at the Main Library.



Highlights Continued



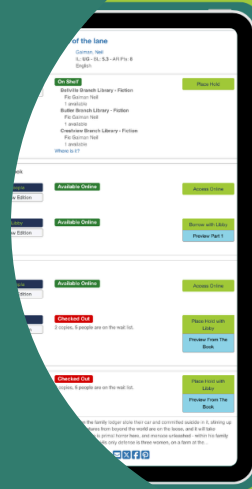
3 Exterior Signs

Eight branches and the Main Library received new exterior signs, securing brand continuity and increasing road visibility.

4 Koha/Aspen Discovery

A new and improved library catalog experience was launched. Aspen Discovery features a powerful search engine creating an enhanced user experience. The launch of this new system involved intense training for library staff.

Big Features Include



- Filter search results by format, language, Accelerated Reader Level, Lexile measure, and more.
- Search results display in groupings, making it easier to find your preferred format.
- Explore Featured Lists.
- Create your own lists and save your favorite searches.
- Keep track of your borrowing history (optional).
- Get reading recommendations!
- Easily find all of the books in a series.
- Search results will show available books at each location.



Highlights Continued



5 Crestview Project

The Library completed the purchase of land to build a new Crestview branch. The Board selected Bostwick Design Partnership as the architects for the project. Preliminary meetings have begun for the new building.

6 Learning Lab/Creation Lab

HBM Architects began the project for the renovation of the current Learning Lab at the Main Library. The space will be the future Creation Lab public creativity space and an adjacent, new Learning Lab will be constructed.



2025 Summer Library Program



“Color Your World”



“Color Your World” was the theme of the 2025 Summer Library Program. Every location saw an increase in involvement with a total of 10, 474 participants of all ages. Over 69,000 tickets were distributed for the adult and teen programs.



2025 Statistics

Circulation

Digital Downloads	358,518
Books	338,317
Movies & TV	322,670
Video Games	46,605
Music	25,279
Magazines	19,899
Audiobooks	8,164
TOTAL	1,120,408

Program Participants

Adult	23,799
Teen	4,011
Children	44,472
TOTAL	72,182

Five students graduated from the Career Online High School program.



Visitors

Bellville	42,007
Butler	19,570
Crestivew	8,286
Lexington	58,083
Lucas	23,304
Madison	39,898
Main	185,898
Ontario	49,493
Plymouth	18,869
TOTAL	445,408

Outreach

Circulation	47,821
Total Stops	451

Library Cards

Online Renewal	518,619
New Cards	5,001
eCards	2,343

Learning Lab

Questions Answered	4,846
Class attendance	112

FIRST CALL

2-1-1

Statistics

Total Identified Needs	40,305
Total Contacts	36,621

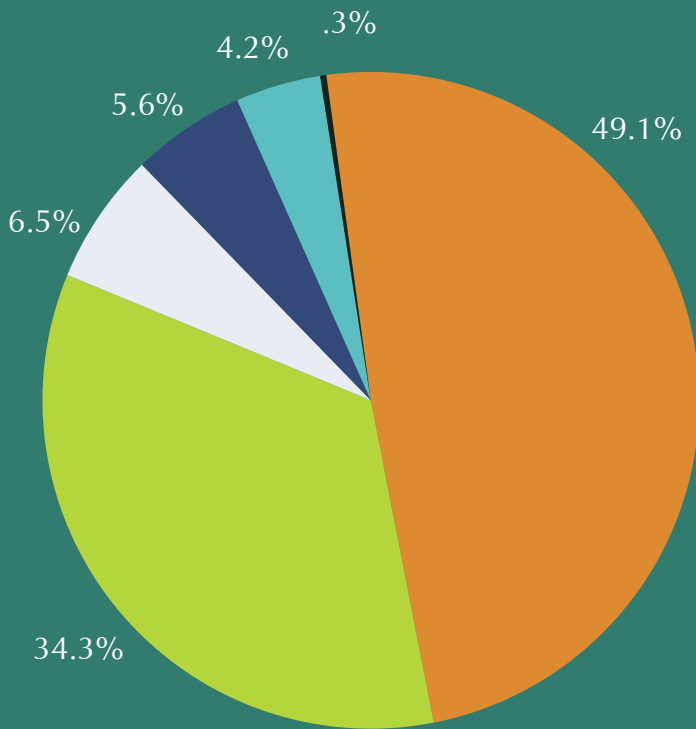
Each year the month of January brings a seasonal increase of calls to the First Call 211 Department to inquire about personal income tax preparation assistance. This year was no exception. First Call 211 served as the appointment setting site for AARP's Tax Aide Income Tax Assistance program for the Mansfield site. Over the first four months of the year more than 1300 contacts were fielded related to income tax filing which included making and confirming nearly 670 tax appointments. An additional 136 income tax appointments were made for the United Way of Orrville's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) during their March service season.

First Call 211 received its full reaccreditation from Inform USA in April 2025. This nationally recognized industry credential remains valid through August 2028. Attending the national Inform USA conference in Orange County, California and the United Way Worldwide 211 Thrive Conference in Kansas City, Missouri allowed staff to learn best practices being implemented across 211s in North America. Networking opportunities presented at these professional gatherings helped to strengthen not only the MRCPL service but shared across the Ohio 211 network.

Several agencies requested the First Call 211 staff to assist with seasonal projects by taking registrations for special events. In 2025, these included: Ashland County Associated Charities' Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas food box distributions and the United Way of Wayne/Holmes County's Annual Senior Forum in October. Richland County Youth and Family Services used First Call 211 to register households for their first Thanksgiving food box distribution. In addition to the initial registrations, registrants receive text reminders of the upcoming event along with any special instructions.

All of the eligible First Call 211 staff continued to hold national certification as Community Resource Specialists as well as three members who hold the additional credential of Community Resource Specialists--Database Curator.

2025 Revenue



General Property Tax.	\$7,018,786
Public Library Funds (State Income Tax)	\$4,896,455
Interest	\$932,429
Homestead/Rollback Tax Distribution	\$802,631
Other Income	\$601,624
Fines & Fees	\$41,436

Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$8,488,053
Transfers	\$6,000,000
Library Materials	\$1,741,728
Contract Services	\$972,621
Supplies	\$241,627
Capital Outlay	\$49,904
Other	\$44,443

- ++
- ++
- ++
- ++

