



715 Market Ave. N, Canton, OH 44702 - 330.452.0665

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Linda Dahl, Public Information Coordinator
Phone: 330.458.2699; email: ldahl@starklibrary.org
Web: www.starklibrary.org

Search Ohio's Libraries @ Your Library

October 2, 2008 – Finding that unusual book, music CD, or movie is now as easy as going to the library. The [Stark County District Library](#), along with [Louisville Public Library](#), and [Massillon Public Library](#) have introduced SearchOhio, a web-based service that makes statewide public library collections available through a single online portal.

“[SearchOhio](#) offers our library customers a great advantage,” said Kent Oliver, executive director of the Stark County District Library. “It gives them access to an incredible database of materials and direct requesting.”

Simply by clicking on the “[SearchOhio](#)” button on the library’s online catalog, library customers will have access to more than nine million items held in the collections of the participating library systems. [SearchOhio](#) began with five libraries in 2006 and has quickly grown to its present size of 15 systems.

“The search process is very simple,” said Suzette Burlingame, the Stark County District Library’s associate director for library technologies. “If you search our catalog for an item, and discover that we don’t have it, you can then click on the [SearchOhio](#) link. The system searches for that item at all 15 participating libraries. Then you can place a hold on that item and have it delivered to the library location of your choice, just like any other item we have in our catalog.”

“I have been impressed by how few key strokes it takes to access the [SearchOhio](#) database. All we have to do is point and click and make our selections. This is going to be fun!” continued Michael Snyder, director of Louisville Public Library.

"The sheer number of items from which our customers can choose using [SearchOhio](#) means that waiting time for most materials is going to decrease dramatically," Camille Leslie, director of the Massillon Public Library added.

Tracy Strobel, deputy director of the [Cuyahoga County Public Library](#), one of the founding libraries, explained, "Our participation means that we don't have to collect so deeply and can share the breadth of our collections. What we collect as a group is a benefit for all. As big as Cuyahoga County Public Library is, we still borrow materials from smaller SearchOhio libraries and thus provide continuing value to our customers."

The 15 participating SearchOhio libraries are: Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cuyahoga Falls Library, Greene County Public Library, Kent Free Library, Louisville Public Library, Massillon Public Library, Mentor Public Library, Portage County District Library, Reed Memorial Library, Stark County District Library, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, Wadsworth Public Library, Warren-Trumbull County Public Library, Westerville Public Library, and Youngstown & Mahoning County Public Library. Akron-Summit County Public Library, Rodman Public Library in Alliance, and the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library have just joined the consortium, bringing the total number of participating libraries to 18. The additional library systems will be online sometime in 2009.

The [Stark County District Library](#), [Louisville Public Library](#), and [Massillon Public Library](#) have shared catalog resources since 1979. The three library systems offer a combined collection of 1.3 million items.

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