



**Kimber L. Fender**

# Hall of Fame Librarian

Throughout her career in libraries, Kimber L. Fender has shown a commitment to advocacy, collaboration and innovation. Since 1999, she has served as The Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Under her leadership, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County has become a dynamic force in the community and gained national recognition for excellence including four consecutive, *Library Journal* five-star rankings. Fender is active in her community, creating unique partnerships with organizations such as the Cincinnati Reds and serving many state and local groups that share her same commitment to life-long learning. She is also a true advocate for libraries, testifying countless times before the Ohio General Assembly on issues impacting public libraries across the state. Her work has earned her numerous accolades including the 2017 A. Chapman Parsons Award for her outstanding advocacy efforts and the Improving Our Community Award from the United Way of Greater Cincinnati.



# Librarian of the Year



**Debbie L. Saunders**

From a library page to her position as Director, Debbie L. Saunders has shown incredible dedication to the Dr. Samuel L. Bossard Memorial Library of Gallia County and the surrounding community. Under her leadership, the library has opened opportunities for many rural and underserved individuals in southern Ohio. This is evidenced by many innovative programs including the world-renowned "Bodies Revealed" exhibit which drew more than 19,000 visitors to the library, many of whom were students. Saunders was also instrumental in implementing the library's new "Wi-Fi To Go" program that brought the Internet to hundreds of rural homes. Additionally, the library has added free online courses that focus on professional development and technology skills. In March 2017, Saunders testified before the Ohio General Assembly about her library's role in helping people find jobs, especially in an area of the state hit hard by the recession. Through these programs, Saunders has provided educational and cultural opportunities that many in the Southeast would not have experienced otherwise, due to geographic and economic barriers. Her accomplishments illustrate how a library can have a positive and lasting impact on the community.





## **Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County**

From left: Steven Kemple, Sandy Bolek, David Siders, Josh Becker, Holbrook Sample, Kimber Fender, Denis Daley, and Paula Brehm-Heeger.

# **Library Innovation Award**

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County's "We Have the Hots for You" suite of services make the library easier to use by predicting—and automatically placing holds on—the most current (or "hot") materials for participating library patrons. While personalizing a patron's experience is not something new, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County's approach is unique and innovative and can be adapted to fit libraries of all sizes. The library offers a variety of automatic "Hot" holds services that include the newest print, e-Books, e-Audiobooks, and DVDs. Additionally, the library offers customized, staff-mediated reader's and listener's advisory services based on a user-completed survey with items delivered to the customer's favorite location within 48 hours. This level of customization and speed required library staff members to use existing software in creative ways. In the new e-format world, it has become essential to eliminate barriers to service whenever possible. The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County has implemented an efficient and successful way to keep their cardholders close by anticipating their needs.



2017



**Thomas R. Uhler**

# Trustee of the Year

As a member of the Rossford Public Library Board, Thomas R. Uhler has significantly impacted the library and the community it serves. He has been steering the efforts of the library for more than two decades. Uhler was instrumental in the conception and completion of the library's major building expansion and renovation project. During this time, he immediately recognized the need for teens to have a dedicated space in the library and led the effort to create one. He also worked to ensure that the building reflected both the historical flavor of the city as well as a progressive and innovative space. A highly-respected and life-long member of the community, Uhler understands the importance of a diverse board and has been proactive in recruiting candidates from around the area for open trustee positions. Uhler continues to be an incredible asset to the library, its patrons, and the Rossford community.



2017

# Service Excellence Award



**Michael Christian-Budd**

As Cataloging Team Lead at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Michael Christian-Budd has charted the course for his staff in a rapidly changing environment and ensured the library consistently provides high-quality, bibliographic access for the thousands of individuals who search the library's catalog for materials ranging from e-books to artifacts. Last year, Christian-Budd and his staff amended, created or otherwise interacted with 94,000 catalog records, produced metadata for approximately 4,500 images, and contributed 195 new or revised Library of Congress name authority records as an independent Name Authority Cooperative (NACO) contributing library. His dedication to top-notch service goes well beyond his library. Christian-Budd is also active in several professional organizations, leading a variety of technical services committees and sharing his knowledge at conferences. He also coordinated the cataloging services for the Taft Museum and Harriet Beecher Stow House, while ensuring that the staff and customers of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County received outstanding support and service.



2017

# John Philip Outreach Award

As a staff member at the Portsmouth Public Library, Cathy Hunter has shown true dedication to the philosophy of taking programs and services outside of the library. Hunter began her career at the Portsmouth Public Library as a custodian and became interested in the library's outreach services. She took the initiative and obtained a Class B CDL driver's license making her eligible to drive the bookmobile. As a Bookmobile Clerk, Hunter has read countless stories to children of all ages, attended dozens of community events, driven in parades, and assisted with programming at various nursing homes and assisted living facilities in every corner of Scioto County. Hunter works hard to ensure that the needs of the bookmobile patrons are being met and goes above and beyond to keep them coming back. She has played an important role in making the Portsmouth Public Library a vital part of the community.



**Cathy Hunter**



# Citizen of the Year Award



**Stephen Hedges**

Stephen Hedges will retire as Director of OPLIN in September 2017, but his mark on Ohio's public library community will be felt for years to come. Hedges was instrumental in providing Ohio residents fast, free public Internet access through the 251 independent local public library systems in Ohio, as well as the use of high-quality research databases not freely available on the Internet. From creating website templates for libraries to use to expanding bandwidth, Hedges has kept the main mission of libraries in mind. Prior to joining OPLIN, Hedges was the head of the Athens County Public Libraries. Under his direction, it became the first public library system in the United States to use open source software for all circulation, cataloging, management and web services, positioning it as a world-wide leader in the implementation of open source library software. To this day, you can find Hedges providing technical support to everyone from public library staff to high school teachers. Stephen is the co-author of the book *Best in the Nation: The First Two Hundred Years of Ohio Libraries*, and has served on the governing boards of a number of Ohio library organizations.

