

# Trustee Newsletter

Fall 2020

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Ohio Library Council  
495 Metro Place South  
Suite 350  
Dublin, Ohio 43017  
Phone: (614) 410-8092  
Fax: (614) 410-8098  
olc.org

## Ohio's Public Libraries To Receive \$18.3 Million in Coronavirus Relief Funds

Ohio's public libraries will receive \$18.3 million through the Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The funds were approved by the Ohio Controlling Board at the end of July.

This program provides funding of \$25,000 to each Ohio public library and branch location (funds can be utilized across the library system). This funding will be distributed by Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) – Public Library Assistance Program.

Library systems can use the funds to purchase items such as hand sanitizer, face masks, gloves, thermometers, Plexiglas barriers, air filters, additional cleaning supplies and large bins to quarantine returned library materials. Please note that these funds are separate and independent from both the CARES Act grants through the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services (IMLS) and the CARES Act Mini-Grant program through the State Library of Ohio.



Libraries have adapted quickly to meet the needs of their communities. Kelsey, from the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County prepares materials for curbside pick up.

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## OLC Hosts Powerful Discussion on Advancing Racial Equity within Public Libraries

These are distressing and challenging days. Together, we have faced a pandemic, the closure of our buildings to the public, in some cases layoffs/furloughs of staff, and the horrific murder of George Floyd and the riots that followed. We know many libraries have already scheduled online conversations and provided curated lists of books about racism to expand empathy, cultivate understanding, and build knowledge. While OLC doesn't have all the answers, we are committed to providing a forum for ongoing learning, action and engagement.

On August 6, the OLC hosted a powerful conversation with *All American Boys* authors Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely on how to advance racial equity within public libraries. This webinar provided a unique perspective on the difficult topics of racism, power, identity, and oppression, and how they impact public library staff, services, programs, and collections. This was a direct and honest discussion about why it is



Brendan Kiely (left) and Jason Reynolds (right) talk with OLC Executive Director Michelle Francis during a live Zoom event on racial equity for OLC members.

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## Relief Funds (from pg. 1)

All public libraries are required to follow the Ohio Department of Health's safety protocols in the Responsible Restart Ohio plan. Some library systems have already spent \$12,000 to \$180,000 on COVID-19 related supplies. Many of these expenses will be ongoing throughout the pandemic. This funding is designed to help offset those unanticipated costs.

The OLC would like to formally thank the Ohio Controlling Board, Governor DeWine, and the Ohio Senate for hearing our call and listening to our concerns. This funding is greatly appreciated and will allow us to continue to make safety a priority for public library employees and Ohio's 8.5 million library cardholders.

## Racial Equity (from pg. 1)

so critical for libraries to focus on race to improve equitable outcomes for everyone. This was just the first in a series of events. Racial justice is not achieved by a webinar or good intentions, but with an ongoing commitment and action. The OLC will host more programs like this one in the coming months.

The OLC's Diversity Awareness and Resources Committee recommends ways in which the OLC can address diversity as it relates to the library profession and to the Ohio library community. The committee has put together a number of tools to help libraries respond to recent events and social justice issues. Resources are available at [olc.org/racial-equity](http://olc.org/racial-equity).

### Provide your e-mail address and stay up-to-date!

As a benefit of membership, library trustees are entitled to receive the OLC's *Access Weekly* e-newsletter. This is delivered every Wednesday to your inbox. Don't miss out on important updates— please send your e-mail address to [olc@olc.org](mailto:olc@olc.org) and ask to be added to the *Access Weekly* list.

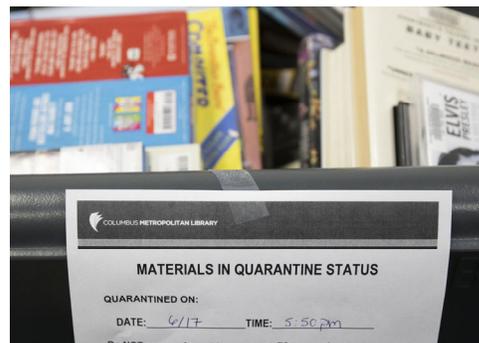
## IMLS, Battelle, and OCLC Form Partnership to Research COVID-19 on Library Materials

When the pandemic first hit and the national emergency intensified, the OLC was a proponent of a national study to determine how long the coronavirus (COVID-19) lived on library materials. This information was essential in order to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus to library staff and the public. In April, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced a new partnership with Ohio-based Battelle and OCLC, Inc. to conduct a natural attenuation study on materials that are prevalent in libraries, archives, and museums. The Columbus Metropolitan Library sent samples to Battelle for testing.

For the first round of testing, Battelle applied the virus on hardback and softback book covers, inside the pages of a closed book and a plastic book covering. The results from the first test showed that the virus was not detectable on these materials after three days of quarantine. Then for the second round, Battelle tested more items, including a magazine and children's board book. After four days of quarantine, the virus was not detectable on the children's board book; however, the magazine pages showed a trace amount of virus at four days.

Compared to the results of Test 1, the results of Test 2 indicated that a slightly longer quarantine time may be required to render the virus undetectable for some types of materials, especially ones with glossy pages. The results from Test 3 showed that a longer quarantine time may be necessary for plastic-based materials such as DVD cases. At this time, the OLC is recommending that libraries quarantine returned materials for four days. The Battelle testing continues. Results from test sets 4 and 5 are expected by the end of the summer.

In May, the OLC issued a roadmap for reopening and best practices guide for all of Ohio's public libraries. The guidance included safety protocols, templates and the latest information from the Ohio Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This guidance is available at [olc.org/coronavirus](http://olc.org/coronavirus).



At the beginning of May, the OLC issued a roadmap for reopening and best practices guide for Ohio's public libraries. Based on the latest research, the OLC is recommending libraries quarantine returned materials for four days.

## Trustee Dinners Switch to Virtual Format

Due to COVID-19, the annual trustee dinners have moved to a virtual format. These events will focus on the challenges and opportunities ahead for Ohio's public libraries. The OLC has invited special guests from the Ohio General Assembly to offer insight about what lies ahead following the November General Election. Please plan to attend one of the virtual meetings this fall:

Virtual Trustee Dinner	Date	Time
Central/Southwest Ohio	<a href="#">Sept. 3</a>	6-7 p.m.
Northwest Ohio	<a href="#">Sept. 10</a>	6-7 p.m.
North/Northeast Ohio	<a href="#">Sept. 17</a>	6-7 p.m.
East/Southeast Ohio	<a href="#">Oct. 1</a>	6-7 p.m.

Each event is free for trustees and staff of OLC Institutional Member Libraries. To register and see which legislators are participating, visit [olc.org/library-trustees/trustees-dinner](http://olc.org/library-trustees/trustees-dinner).

## Economic Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Public Library Fund (PLF)

While the closures of Ohio's restaurants, stores and other businesses helped flatten the curve in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, the shutdown also triggered a steep drop in state revenues. As a result, this economic downturn has had a significant impact on the Public Library Fund (PLF). As a reminder, the PLF distribution each month is based on a percentage of the state's total tax revenue credited to the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF) during the preceding month. For example, the September PLF distribution will be based on the state's total tax revenue receipts for the month of August. Each month, the OLC posts the PLF numbers on the [OLC website](#) as soon as they are available from the Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT).

The August 2020 PLF distribution was \$42,189,054 – which is \$11 million (+ 35%) above ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2019. The distribution came in at \$5.4 million (+ 14.68%) above ODT's latest estimate which was issued at the end of June. This amount reflects the delay in income tax filings from April to July. As anticipated, some of the losses to the PLF in May were made up with the August distribution.

While the August distribution was positive, the PLF Calendar Year (CY) 2020 year-to-date total is \$265,213,921 which is \$9.4 million (- 3.42%) below what the OLC was anticipating pre-pandemic. The OLC continues to work closely with economist Dr. Howard Fleeter to evaluate the economic impact of COVID-19 on the PLF. A comparison look at the PLF distribution for the past three years and a listing of each county's monthly distribution totals for 2020 can be found at [olc.org/funding](#).

## OLC Secures Access to PPE for Public Libraries

Purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) was key to Ohio's public libraries resuming operations, but with a national shortage of supplies, the OLC worked quickly to find a solution. In May, the OLC partnered with the Sourcing Alliance/Equalis Group to ensure that public libraries across the state would have access to an adequate supply of face masks, hand sanitizers and disinfectants. The PPE group purchasing program for OLC Institutional Member Libraries provided access to a variety of products, plus a calculator tool to help libraries determine how much PPE they would likely need to operate safely.

Products available through the OLC's PPE group purchasing program include:

- Face masks
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant sprays
- Thermometers
- Sanitizing Wipes

By negotiating group purchasing agreements like this one, the OLC can secure supplies and maximize savings for members. In addition to PPE, the OLC's group purchasing program currently offers members discounts on:

- Janitorial supplies
- Water bottle filling stations
- Furniture and flooring
- Carpet and fabric protection
- Branded Merchandise
- Energy savings solutions such as LED lighting
- Tapes and adhesives
- Photo and video equipment and more

More information is available on the OLC website at [olc.org/resources/vendor-mallgroup-purchasing](#). The OLC also offers group insurance coverage for workers' compensation as well as health and life insurance for Institutional Member Libraries and their employees. Learn more about these benefits at [http://olc.org/about-us/membership/institutional](#).

## 2020 OLC Election Results

The Ohio Library Council's 2020 elections have concluded and the results have been certified by Kacie Armstrong, Chair of the Nominations Committee. The OLC congratulates the following members who have been elected to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors.



LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Carol Herrick,  
Washington-  
Centerville Public  
Library



MLIS DIRECTOR

Tom Dillie,  
Minerva Public  
Library



AT-LARGE  
DIRECTOR

Mary Ellen Icaza,  
Stark County  
District Library



AT-LARGE  
DIRECTOR

Melissa Marolt,  
Perry County  
District Library

Their terms will begin January 2021. Members who have been elected to serve on Division Action Councils are listed on the OLC website at [olc.org/blog/2020/08/19/olc-announces-2020-election-results/](#).



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495 Metro Place South  
Suite 350  
Dublin, Ohio 43017

## We've Moved!

This spring, the OLC relocated offices to 495 Metro Place South, Suite 350, in Dublin (Northwest Columbus). Please make a note of our new address. OLC phone numbers remain the same.

**Ohio Library Council  
495 Metro Place South  
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Dublin, OH 43017**

*We're looking forward to hosting events in our new meeting space in 2021!*

