Clyde S. Scoles has served libraries in Ohio for nearly half a century. Since 1985, he has been the director of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library where he has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of the community. Throughout his career, Scoles has shown a commitment to collaboration and innovation. He has led the library’s partnership with many organizations throughout Lucas County including programs to revitalize downtown Toledo and to promote early literacy. Scoles has embraced technology evidenced by investing in a number of digital initiatives including the library’s mobile technology center (one of only a few in the nation) that provides free Internet access and computer training to low-income neighborhoods.
The Stark County District Library’s BikeSmart program broke new ground in library services by offering its cardholders free access to bicycles. Many communities have bike-share programs, but this was the first time a library has partnered with a national company (Zagster) and local parks and recreation departments to have a significant impact on the community. By lending bikes for transit and fun, the Stark County District Library opened up access to transportation and helped improve the overall health of the community. In addition, BikeSmart expanded the value of having a library card for existing patrons and encouraged others to sign up. The program offered a refreshing view of what a library can provide to the community.
John Philip Outreach Award

The Delaware County District Library's Community and Family Outreach Department supports 17 different services to the community including programs for prison inmates, senior citizens, hospital patients and other residents who cannot use the library in a traditional way. Whether it is providing new parents with board books or giving seniors access to memory kits, the Delaware County District Library is dedicated to bringing library programs and services to the isolated and underserved members of the community. The library partners with other organizations such as the YMCA, United Way and the Alzheimer's Association to ensure that everyone in Delaware County can benefit from the library’s resources.
From a 16-year-old page to her position as Assistant Director, Sarah Clevidence has shown incredible dedication to the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library, the profession and the community. She is an up and coming leader and an excellent example of modern librarianship. Clevidence was instrumental in revitalizing Hancock County’s struggling adult literacy program. Under her direction, the Read for L.I.F.E program has doubled in size. This enthusiasm for literacy is also shown in her commitment to CommunityREAD, a local program that brings popular, nationally-recognized authors to the Findlay area. Clevidence is also a leader within the library profession. As a member of the OLC’s Library Education Committee, she played an integral role in outlining the core competencies for today’s library staff and helped develop the Ohio certification program for librarians and library staff members.
Trustee of the Year

Described as the trustee every board wants, Benjamin Chinni has taken on many challenges during his 21 years on the Euclid Public Library’s Board of Trustees. He has guided the library through numerous staffing, building, financial and technological changes with the overall goal of making the library the focal point of the community. Chinni spearheaded many infrastructure enhancements and upgrades which have positively impacted the library’s technology and early literacy initiatives. His efforts and advice on technological and intellectual freedom issues have benefitted libraries across the state. He is also responsible for the mobilization of the library’s Outreach Department, determined to make the library’s resources available to all members of the community.
Supportive Staff Member of the Year

Site Manager since 2002, Marty Flynn is a one-person department responsible for maintaining the building and grounds of the Avon Lake Public Library. He is a highly-skilled and dedicated employee whose behind-the-scenes work is crucial to the smooth operation of the library. Whether it’s service contracts or soap for the bathrooms, Flynn will always research the best price and product. He recently transitioned the library over to LED lighting which reduced the library’s electric usage by 25 percent. Flynn also has a wonderful working relationship with the staff and is never too busy to lend a hand. In addition to his mechanical and technical skills, he has an outstanding commitment to providing the best possible experience for library patrons.
In just five short years, the Friends of Washington-Centerville Public Library has grown to more than 200 members and raised more than $100,000 for library projects. This dedicated group of volunteers provides crucial support for the library’s summer reading program, facility and grounds improvements as well as technology purchases. Book sales make up the core of their fundraising efforts, but what sets this group apart is their ability to partner with local organizations and businesses to raise money in unique ways. From wine tastings to 5K races, they have raised much needed funds and also expanded the library’s visibility in the area. Their ongoing support and promotion of the library is a model of what a Friends group can accomplish with a clear mission and a vision that reaches out into the community.