



## Ohio County Public Library

**The Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, W.V.**

All images from OCPL.

- The Ohio County Public Library (OCPL) in Wheeling is West Virginia's oldest tax-supported library. It opened as the Wheeling Public Library on October 12, 1882.
- OCPL has been housed at various locations around Wheeling including a grocery store, the Masonic Temple, and a dry goods store. In 1904, Andrew Carnegie offered funds to construct a library but his offer was rejected by Wheeling voters, largely due to Carnegie's role in the 1894 Homestead strike. The library was relocated in May 1973 to its present location.
- OCPL serves all residents in the panhandle of West Virginia and adjacent counties in Ohio and Pennsylvania by providing the resources necessary for the pursuit of education, information, and recreation, with the objective of promoting an enlightened and informed citizenry. It accomplishes this by providing all members of the community with a safe, pleasant, non-discriminatory, and technologically robust environment that is conducive to lifelong learning.
- OCPL maintains a substantial collection of materials related to the rich history that Wheeling and its surrounding area have accumulated since settlers first arrived in the 1790s. This includes an archive of photographs, ephemera, musical recordings, and a vast assortment of other materials and artifacts that preserve the region's unique and diverse heritage. Noteworthy collections include records from the 4th regiment, Virginia & West Virginia militia records, LaBelle Cut Nail Factory, and the W.C. Brown photograph collection, which includes early photographs of Wheeling.
- For adult patrons OCPL provides *The People's University* and *Lunch with Books*. *The People's University* offers free courses in the areas of history, literature, music appreciation, and philosophy. Recent courses include: The First World War, Appalachian Music & Folklore, Biology, and Regional Flora and Fauna. There are no prerequisites or tests with these courses. *Lunch with Books* is a series of free presentations on a variety of topics given by authors, poets, historians, and musicians. Free beverages are provided and most programs start at noon on Tuesdays in the auditorium.
- The library has a rich history of providing services to children of all ages since March 1912, when the library moved into its first permanent location and could dedicate space and services to children. The Children's Department has 35,000 items in its collection including books, magazines, and much more. Special programs are also scheduled during the year including Toddler Time for babies and toddlers, Step Into Stories for preschoolers, and a Summer Reading Program for older children.
- OCPL will host the Heinz History Center's traveling exhibit, *We Can Do It! WWII*, from May 26 to July 24, 2018, in conjunction with additional and associated exhibits, programs, and partnerships.
- OCPL's Outreach Services provide home delivery of library materials to temporarily or permanently homebound patrons throughout Ohio County. Schools and day care centers are also eligible for outreach services.
- The library has kept pace with rapid advances in technology by providing online services including: Select Reads, New Book Alerts, Author Check, InstantFlix, Freegal, and WVDeli, an acronym for West Virginia Digital Entertainment Library Initiative. WVDeli enables patrons to check out and download e-books, audiobooks, music, and more to a Kindle, Nook, iPad, Android tablet, laptop, or desktop.
- The Ohio County Public Library is located 52 16th Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. It is open Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.ohiocountylibrary.org](http://www.ohiocountylibrary.org) or call (304) 232-0244.
- The History Center Affiliates Program, HCAP, is a membership-based network that allows local and regional historical societies and museums access to museum professionals and best practice standards through the Senator John Heinz History Center.

To find out more about HCAP or to apply for membership for your organization, please contact Robert O. Stakeley, History Center Affiliates Program (HCAP) Coordinator, at [rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org) or (412) 454-6359.



Regularly rotating exhibits on the first floor of the library highlight Wheeling history using materials and artifacts from the OCPL's Archives and Special Collections.



Carriages and pedestrians cross the Wheeling Suspension Bridge from Wheeling Island to the heart of the business district in this 1886 photo taken by W.C. Brown. An owner of one of the first photography studios in Wheeling, in 1950, W.C. Brown donated a significant number of photographs depicting scenes of early Wheeling to the library.



The Wheeling Room houses genealogy and local history research materials.