

Comments from Library Patrons 2007

We love our Worthington Library for the usual reasons that it manages to acquire important new selections despite shrinking state support; that it is user friendly--whether providing personal help at the reference desk or linking us up to the internet; that it is a cornucopia of well-chosen cinema, travel, music, and instructional media; that it provides a veritable magnet school for the children of our city--with their own stacks, computers, media, and with places for the children to feel at home in the special world of reading; that it offers gatherings of library users of all ages to think together and stretch their minds from the limits of the universe to the smallest unit of energy, from the history of our nation to its involvements around the world, from the philosophers to the psychologists in the search for self, and from bluegrass to Bach and back.

But what REALLY makes us love our library is the lines of patrons waiting either for the automated checkout or for the librarians to record our borrowings. We have time to look over our fellow patrons with whom we share the curiosity that brings us all here: They are professionals in corporate "uniform;" mothers with children in arms and with older girls and boys holding their books to borrow; teen- aged students with materials for school assignments, retirees like us; they are Americans with the faces of Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East; there are blue jeans and burkas, work shoes and white shirts, and most wondrously, all the eyes from which all ancestors continue to look out upon this world of ours--continuing the search for knowledge, for self-fulfillment, and for human, humane order which is the hope of the world. In short, it is as James Truslow Adams described it in 1940 when the world, as now, was seemingly poised on the cusp of a fall into darkness: Adams saw in the public library the realization of the Great American Dream. We'll settle for that.

Friends,

I'm only too glad to write about how much I value the Worthington Libraries. The only challenge is where to begin.

One place would be the library's home page and the access it provides to reserving materials and to doing online searches in the Virtual Reference Room. I've used the Religion and Philosophy Online, Grove Music Online, Rosetta Stone and e-books features just to name a few. This is wonderful!

Then there are the library facilities themselves. While I tend to use Northwest Library because it is closer to my residence, I have used both facilities. I sometimes go there to work, writing on my laptop. Both provide comfortable places to work, read or just browse.

And I appreciate the service. I recently reserved ten books from various libraries in the system and received them all within three days! I've found everyone from the reference librarians to the checkout desk personnel very helpful.

Just recently, I discovered the Recorded Music Group at the Worthington Library. What a wonderful program Jules Lapidus offers each month. I appreciate Worthington Library for hosting such an enriching program.

You are a great asset to our community. As a local taxpayer, I also appreciate the careful management of taxpayer funding combined with a responsiveness to community interests.

Thanks for giving me this opportunity to express what I've long felt and appreciated about you all!

Worthington Library has so many friendly people on staff. The layout of the library is so well done out that it is easy to find items that you are looking for.. Also I do like the magazines that they carry. I even gave them two magazine subscriptions several years ago that I thought that other patrons would appreciate and they did since the Worthington library is carrying both of the magazines now. It is very easy to use the computers to reserve books,magazines and cd's and DVD's . So keep up the good work.

love my library, let me count the ways....Actually there are too many reasons to count. Let me summarize by saying that the Worthington Library continues to go high tech but maintains a high touch environment. There are always live librarians around to help and advice and they always do it with a smile and can do attitude. Great people at the library greatly adds to my appreciation. Thanks for being such a wonderful community resource.

I LOVE MY LIBRARY!

I would be lost without our local Worthington Library. Your information center is the best. Your staff is always willing to help you find what you need/want. They do it cheerfully and with excitement. I have also had great suggestions on similar books that are related to the subject/subjects I have inquired about. The Worthington's programs for children are enticing and keep my children involved in reading. I love going to the nearby Worthington Library after 4:00 P.M on weekdays and find it filled with teens using the resource area and working on homework . I have also used their programs to improve my computer skills. It is a great resource for me and my family.

Love My Library—Worthington Libraries, that is. Old Worthington and Northwest Libraries are fantastic!

They provide learning opportunities, in addition to traditional library services.

Our 8 year old son loves the library! He just finished attending the Library Adventures: Time Travelers 6 week series. Children in grades 1-3 were able to experience the past through stories, crafts, activities, and a snack. Douglas looked forward to going each week. His favorite classes were Pyramids, Mummies, and More, Dinosaur Days, and Wild, Wild West. Douglas loves nonfiction; this gave him the opportunity to learn and have fun at the same time.

Douglas has already started thinking about his design for Worthington Libraries' Illustration Contest. Children in preschool through 6th grade can design a bookmark around the summer reading program's theme and enter it into the contest. Winning illustrations from different age categories are turned into bookmarks to advertise the summer reading program.

And, speaking of the summer reading program, Douglas has been a participant for many years now. He mentioned just last week that he couldn't wait for summer and the reading program. His favorite part? Earning a new, free, book.

Worthington Libraries also offer summer programs for children. Douglas can't wait for the flyer to come out each year. We carefully look through all the options and quickly add them to our family calendar. Douglas' past favorite programs include the Knight, Mad Science, and the Magician.

My husband and I love the library, too. We rely on the children's librarians to offer insight into age appropriate books on sensitive subjects. The books recommended to us have always been helpful.

Worthington Libraries offer classes to help the community, too. My favorite series is Parenting 101. The classes are offered at no cost to those attending. I've attended several of the classes and have found Dr. Yvonne Gustafson knowledgeable and helpful. I've always walked away with new insight.

Thank you, Worthington Libraries, for the service you provide to the community.

I love my library because it has had a major impact on my life.

I did not grow up in Ohio. I feel my reading skills are not up to par. I read slow and often need to re-read paragraphs for comprehension. When my son was young we would visit the old Worthington library to find books. The librarian would interview my son for his interests and walk down the aisles with us to pick out books. She would give my son an overview of the books and his eyes would light up with interest. He certainly would have never even read one book if he needed to wait for me to finish a book and tell him what it was about!

Each summer he participated in the reading program and we all felt proud when he would reach his goal and then get to post his name on the wall. Every summer he and a group of his friends would make it a competition. This is something us parents loved! It's the little things that make a library great and as a result of all the little things, the Worthington library has broken a cycle of a family of slow readers. My son can read a book in one sitting and that is no easy feat now that he is a teenager with many outside interests. In my opinion reading and comprehension drives the success of everything in life. I feel this way because I have struggled with it all my life. My son, will not struggle in large part to the Worthington library.

The impacts of my library are great, but the everyday ongoing impacts are even greater. I often search for age appropriate books on the Internet and then from the comfort of my own home, can log into the library's web site and reserve the books that I have found. I can reserve CDs and movies also and have them sent to the Worthington Library. When they arrive I get an email that they are ready for pick up. Now when a book that I have checked out for myself takes me a long time to read, I can renew as many times as I like as long as someone else has not reserved it. This used to be embarrassing for me to go into the library and renew. I would wonder if the library clerk noticed how many times I had extended the book. I tell everyone I know about the libraries services and how great they are. Also, the new self check out system is terrific, I love it!

Finally, I love to see the preservation of history at the library. I grew up in a place that does not value it's history. The Worthington room is fantastic and I visit often. I have also attended meetings in the rooms that the library offers to community organizations. Sometimes I walk by the new book section and get intrigued by a book that I would not otherwise have exposure to. I could go on and on about the computers, downloadable books and all the books on tapes. I love to drive around town getting errands completed while listening to a story that I checked out.

The library means so much to me. Thank you so much for providing all the resources that you do. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to use them!

To Whom It May Concern,

The Worthington Librairies are the best! The librarians and staff are always helpful no matter

how busy they may be. They are always willing to help patrons find resources and they go the

extra mile.

As for the facilities....they are clean and well-kept. Displays are visually appealing and creative.

It's always a pleasure to visit the library with my family or just by myself . I sometimes desire time to myself, to

browse, read or reflect on whatever is going on in the world or my immediate life. The resources are easy to

find and the surroundings are conducive to reading, writing or whatever I , or my family, need to accomplish.

Thank you!