

Sharing

Sharing is often difficult, ask anyone between the ages of two and five. They will offer a response that is likely to be a window into the world's thoughts on sharing. By the time a person has grown up, if they choose to marry, they will often recite a vow testifying to their expert ability to share, something along the lines of "All that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you." What an amazing transformation. It would seem that humans are able to develop into sharing experts in two short decades. This is good news because we are also expected to perform a high level of sharing in our democracy, our extended families, our workplace, and our friendships. In truth we rarely get it right. Just in the last week, and in almost every week of the last year, we have witnessed geopolitical and economic situations emerge that hold up a mirror to humanity's complex attitudes toward sharing. For all of the trouble sharing causes we do have at least one shining example of positive sharing that we can rally around, the public library. For over 200 years in the United States, and the past 113 years in Columbus, the public library has been in the business of sharing. The Columbus community has invested in a collection that provides amazing resources, space, and technology that would take an individual more than a lifetime to build. It is incredible that we are all able to share in this amazing resource together. Librarians are certainly not immune to the complex emotions of sharing. More than one librarian has fallen in the battle to share. They may find themselves hiding their favorite book so it cannot be checked out, or employing the use of a bad attitude to keep people away. No, the profession is not immune to the woes of sharing, but we are trying very hard and on the whole we are succeeding. The Columbus Public Library continues to strive toward the most user-friendly experience a library can provide. Just recently the Columbus Public Library has extended borrowing privileges to people who not only live in Columbus and Platte County but to those lovers of libraries who work in Columbus. The library stays connected to as many resources as possible, many of them through shared alliances with other libraries. The staff at Columbus Public Library tirelessly promotes meaningful sharing of resources and ideas through collections and programming. The future of the Columbus Public Library is very bright. As the world becomes more linked so do libraries and the more connected libraries become the easier it becomes to share. The American Library Association, Public Library Association, and individual librarians everywhere have been working hard to ensure the ethics of libraries will remain viable in the world of digital content. Right here in Columbus we are working to implement a new way of searching for content that will not only include items on the shelf but also library owned digital content. If you have not been to the Columbus Public Library recently I encourage you to drop in and say hello. This is an exciting time for libraries and resource sharing. Imagine the amazing collection that will be here in another 100 years!