



May 2026

Dear Friends and Affiliates of the Ohioana Library:

The purpose of this message is to provide a status update on our relocation project. Many people have been involved in this process - graciously providing suggestions, assistance, and information. Ohioana is truly grateful for the support it has received from all of you.

The Ohioana Library is on schedule to vacate our current location by June 30, 2026. During March and April, we accepted proposals from several moving companies who each had an opportunity to visit our site in order to provide their best bid for our relocation project.

We are pleased to announce that Planes Moving & Storage will begin packing our collection, furnishings, etcetera during the first week of June. They will transport our library collection to a climate-controlled storage facility operated by Vital Records Control. VRC has a system that will allow Ohioana to request items from the collection while it is in storage.

Once the collection has been removed, the Patterson Pope Company will disassemble our specialized shelving systems. They will then transport the shelving systems to a storage facility operated by Planes Moving & Storage. Utilization of Patterson Pope for this purpose will ensure continuation of warranty coverage for this costly shelving.

While the Patterson Pope Company is disassembling the shelves, Planes Moving and Storage will pack and relocate the rest of our furnishings, files, etc. to their storage facility. Everything will remain in storage for the next twelve months. During that time, the Ohioana staff will have furnished office space in a separate facility near our current location. Ohioana has engaged a highly regarded commercial real estate broker to help find an alternative long-term location for the collection, and we are also exploring collaborations with institutions of learning.

The Ohioana Trustees have always cherished our connection to the State Library. We hope to continue that connection in the future even as we both pursue different storage solutions and locations.

OHIOANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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In addition to the preparations involved in leaving our current location, the Trustees are also involved in an on-going search for a new Executive Director. During the next twelve months, while the collection is in storage, the Trustees and the new Executive Director will focus on:

- the financial stability and staffing of the organization;
- revitalizing membership development and involvement
- processing uncatalogued materials
- clarifying the organization's mission and the ways in which it is implemented
- identifying new uses for and users of the collection
- reenvisioning the Ohioana's programs and outreach activities
- locating a permanent home for the Ohioana Library which will meet the needs of its new future.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out! Your support during this exciting and challenging transition means so much.

Sincerely,
Ohioana Library Association