Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ITEM NO.:	**4.E**	MEETING DATE:	**March 13, 2026**
SUBJECT:	**Request for Support of the 2031 ACRL Conf. in Columbus**	SUBMITTED BY:	**Michelle Francis**

REPORT FOR ACTION

Process
On Feb. 24, OLC received an email from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). ACRL is currently seeking a host city for the ACRL 2031 Conference, and Columbus, Ohio, is one of the cities under strong consideration. ACRL is reaching out to request a letter of support from the Ohio Library Council for holding the ACRL 2031 Conference in Columbus.

As part of the site selection process, ALA policy requires ACRL to provide evidence of support from the state library chapter in which the proposed host city is located. OLC's support of Columbus as the proposed destination for ACRL 2031 would be a meaningful contribution to this process and an important factor in our final decision.

Action Requested
ACRL is asking the OLC to provide a brief letter of support for ACRL holding its 2031 conference in Columbus, Ohio, March 18-21, 2031. The letter simply needs to confirm that OLC as the state chapter endorses ACRL's proposal to hold ACRL 2031 in Columbus. No ongoing commitment to participation or involvement is required. However, **OLC members will be extended the discounted ACRL member rate for either in-person or virtual conference registration**.

About the ACRL Conference
The ACRL Conference attracts nearly 3,000 academic and research librarians and related professionals from across the country. Held biennially, the conference rotates among regions to ensure broad access and engagement. The most recent conference was held in Minneapolis in April 2025, and ACRL 2027 will take place in Portland, Oregon, and online as a hybrid conference.

About the ACRL Conference Site Selection Process
Last fall, ACRL issued a request for proposals to cities in the eastern region of the United States. After reviewing submissions and conducting site visits, Columbus emerged as a strong candidate to host ACRL 2031. The final selection will be based on a range of factors, including the availability of meeting, exhibit, and hotel space; accessibility; affordability; local points of interest; and support from state library chapters in the region.