

# Maag kicks off National Library Week

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The staff at Maag Library began celebrating National Library Week and the building's 25th anniversary Monday, according to Thomas Atwood, executive director, Maag Library.

Atwood said the staff is focusing on not only the technological advances the library has made but also the history behind Maag Library and the progress of libraries in the community.

"Our focus has been on technology, but we are still all about the books. Our valley is rich in strong libraries," Atwood said. "We are using National Library Week to show how great our libraries are. The strengths of libraries in the community include technology, the collection of books, and even the beautiful buildings."

Atwood added, "People want to be a part of something beautiful, something that's technologically appealing yet comfortable."

Atwood said the staff at the library is trying to promote awareness of the technology that Maag Library has been able to offer students at YSU.



PHOTO BY LARISSA THEODORE/ THE JAMBAR

**READING TIME:** Sheri Della Penna, of the Youngstown Public Library, shares stories with children from Central Day Care as part of National Library Week at Maag Library.

He said there are 3,500 electric journals and several thousand electric books available to students on the Internet at [www.maag.ysu.edu](http://www.maag.ysu.edu), Maag's official Web site. He said students are able to access this site 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Atwood said the library recently digitized an oral history

collection.

"We have over 1,500 oral accounts of people talking about Youngstown schools, Idora Park, the steel mills, [among other things]," he said. "The history department assigned students to

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tape record people who have a history in Youngstown. We have this so we don't lose the history of our town."

Events for library week include a book signing by children's author John Atwood, 1:30 p.m. Thursday; a story time for children, 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday; an art student doing

sketches, noon to 2 p.m. Thursday; and performances by Dana musical groups, which will perform intermittently.

There will also be contests and drawings going on throughout the week, and the retired library staff will be coming in and setting up a Maag Library history information booth.