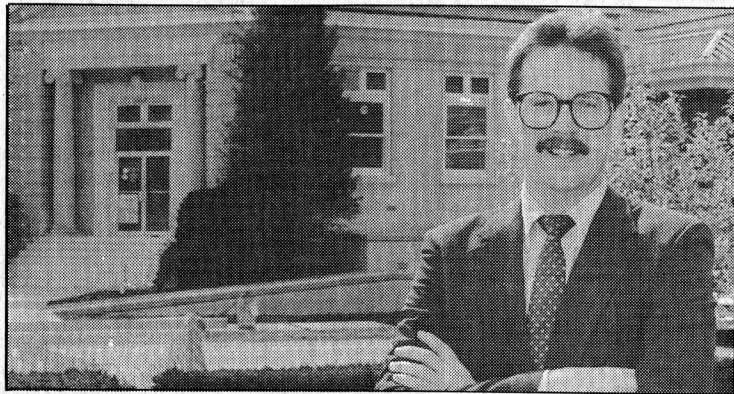


# Enlarged Lebanon library to open soon



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Fred Straub

Librarian Raymond J. Nienaber stands in front of the remodeled public library in Lebanon. A wall collapsed during the work, but the building will soon reopen.

BY IRENE WRIGHT

The Cincinnati Enquirer

LEBANON, Ohio — The Lebanon Public Library will have more than books when it reopens this month.

The enlarged building will have features only dreamed of in the original 1906 structure.

They include a community room, public restrooms on both levels, access for the handicapped, an elevator, staff kitchen, and space to fill over the next 50 years.

Workers will move from the temporary library on Mechanic Street into the renovated building this Saturday or the next, according to librarian Ray Nienaber.

The old library held 70,000

books and now can store up to 150,000. The old had 4,000 square feet; the new has 19,000 square feet.

Nienaber said the officials weighed whether to expand the building or follow the trend of putting libraries in commercial strips.

“This is Lebanon. People are very proud of their heritage and buildings,” he said. “We wanted to keep the library downtown, and wanted the architecture of the old building to be incorporated into the new one.”

Citizens supported the \$1.7 million library project by passing a 1.36-mill bond issue in November, 1986.