

Monthly Report, January 31, 2025

Reports are posted on the State Library of Ohio website at

<https://library.ohio.gov/about/publications/state-librarian-reports>

Updates from the State Librarian

- State Librarian Mandy Knapp started on December 31, 2024. Mandy has been meeting with staff in Columbus and Caldwell to get up to speed on plans and initiatives. Many staff from the Ohio Library community attended a Meet and Greet with Mandy on January 16.
- Mandy has launched a Listening Tour to gather feedback on perceptions of the State Library throughout the Ohio library community. There are three phases. The first phase is to meet with staff at all levels at the State Library. The second phase is to meet with representatives from trusted partners and individuals who serve on advisory committees for the State Library. The third phase is to meet with other members of the Ohio library community. The Listening Tour is expected to take the full calendar year to complete.
- State Library budget testimony for the Ohio House Committee on Workforce and Higher Education is schedule to take place on February 11.
- State Library staff in Columbus participated in an in-service day January 27 to prepare for OhioLINK's migration to a new Library Service Platform (LSP). The migration will occur in waves; State Library's wave will be later this year.

Announcements

[*What's New*](#) on the State Library website and distributed via email lists



- [Now Accepting Applications For The 2025 LSTA Summer Library Program Grant](#), January 7, 2025



- [ILEAD Ohio Application Opens January 7](#), January 7, 2025 & reminder on January 30, 2025



- [15 Selected for 2025 Cohort to Earn Digital Curation Certificate.](#)
January 9, 2025



- [The Voice in the Hollow is 2025 Floyd's Pick Award Winner,](#) January 13, 2025



- [State Library Recognizes Beverly Cain for Service,](#) January 17, 2025



- [Jeff Laser Joins State Library Staff as Library Consultant for Strategic Planning,](#) January 24, 2025



- [State Library Location for AARP Foundation Tax-Aide](#), January 30, 2025

Choose to Read Ohio

- The 2025 [Choose to Read Ohio](#) (CTRO) booklist features 20 notable titles for all ages and reading levels, encompassing fiction and nonfiction and a variety of geographic and cultural interests.
- The CTRO Advisory Council creates a [readers' toolkit](#) for each CTRO book, featuring author biographies, discussion questions, activities, and resources to engage curiosity and explore themes in depth. Toolkits for all 155 books selected to CTRO since its inception in 2009 are available for free download on the CTRO website. Starting with the 2025 CTRO booklist, toolkits are being published as webpages instead of PDFs for accessibility and findability.
- *The Voice in the Hollow* by Will Hillenbrand has been named the tenth annual [Floyd's Pick Book Award](#) winner, awarded by the CTRO Advisory Council in memory of children's literature expert, advocate, and librarian Floyd Dickman.
- The Floyd's Pick Book Award is given annually to a book written by an Ohio author or illustrated by an Ohio illustrator that is representative of high-quality literature created for children. It aims to carry on the legacy of Floyd Dickman's joyful work to support and share children's literature.
- The CTRO Advisory Council has also selected two Floyd's Pick Honor Books for 2025: *My Thoughts Have Wings* by Maggie Smith, illustrated by Leanne Hatch, and *The Yellow Bus* by Loren Long.
- Contact [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with any questions about CTRO and Floyd's Pick.

Government Documents

- The State Library of Ohio is a Congressionally designated depository for U.S. Government Publications and the official Ohio government documents depository. If you have questions about Government Documents, feel free to contact Government Documents Librarian/Regional Depository Coordinator Elissa Lawrence at elawrence@library.ohio.gov.

Guiding Ohio Online

- On Tuesday, January 28, the application window opened for the State Library of Ohio's **LSTA Guiding Ohio Online (GOO)** grant. The GOO grant supports public libraries serving rural populations in Ohio by providing funds to hire a contracted technology/digital literacy trainer for their community. GOO applications will remain open through Sunday, March 23, 2025. For more information on the GOO grant initiative visit <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/guiding-ohio-online>.
- If you have any questions regarding the funding or budget of Guiding Ohio Online, please contact the LSTA Office at LSTA@library.ohio.gov.

- If you have any questions regarding Guiding Ohio Online trainers (hiring, best practices, etc.) please contact Anne Kennedy, Technology Consultant, at akennedy@library.ohio.gov or by calling 614-466-1710.

ILEAD Ohio

- The State Library of Ohio and [OhioNet](#) are pleased to announce the return of [ILEAD Ohio](#) in 2025. ILEAD Ohio is a transformative 9-month program designed to develop the leadership and project management skills of library staff across the state. By working in teams to address real community needs, participants will gain hands-on experience in project management, team building, and community collaboration.
 - Applications for the 2025 iteration of ILEAD Ohio are now open through February 17. Full information can be found here: <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/training-and-development/ilead-ohio/ilead-ohio>.
 - If you have any questions regarding ILEAD Ohio, please contact Erin Kelsey, Library Consultant, at ekelsey@library.ohio.gov or 614-644-6889.

Instagram

- The State Library recently began a weekly post featuring items in our special collections and government documents collections at <https://www.instagram.com/statelibraryohio/>.



- In our government documents collection is the poster Please, Mister, Don't Be Careless, posted January 7, 2025: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DEiKweqy7JU/>.



- From our Ohio Documents Collection... Engineering-Economic Feasibility Report: Lake Erie International Crossing / Prepared for State of Ohio, posted on January 14, 2025:
https://www.instagram.com/p/DE0USkOywX/?img_index=2



- We have five posters designed by Charley Harper for the National Park Service in our government documents collection, posted January 21, 2025:
https://www.instagram.com/p/DFGjky4Sc_O/?img_index=5

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- The State Library of Ohio’s **LSTA Celebrating Ohio Book Awards and Authors (COBAA) Grant** application window closed on January 12. Applications are currently under review.
 - The COBAA grant program invites Ohio libraries to apply for up to \$2000 in grant funds to support collection development and collection-related program initiatives for their communities. The initiative supports the purchase of books by Ohio authors as well as books recognized by Ohio-based book award programs.
- The application period for Cycle 2 of the State Library of Ohio’s **LSTA Open Grant** initiative closed on December 31. State Library staff will review applications and recommend not more than six projects for funding.
 - LSTA Open Grant projects will begin on March 1, 2025, and be completed by August 31, 2025.
 - For more information on the Open Grant initiative, visit: <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/open-grant>
- Questions regarding the LSTA program should be addressed to Jeff Regensburger, Library Consultant/LSTA Coordinator, at: LSTA@library.ohio.gov.

Meeting Rooms

- The State Library of Ohio provides meeting rooms that can be booked by State of Ohio agencies and members of the library community. In January, 407 hours of meetings were held in our 7 meeting spaces by groups including the Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and many others.
- Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our meeting rooms.

Ohio Digital Library

- In the month of January, ODL patrons checked out **957,633** items.
 - The most popular non-magazine title in January was *Onyx Storm* by Rebecca Yaros—the third book in her popular fantasy romance series. The most popular magazine title was *The New Yorker*.
- In mid-March 2020, ODL enabled the opportunity for Ohioans to take advantage of the Overdrive [Instant Digital Card](#). A user can sign up with their phone number and gain quick access to e-content via ODL. Users that sign up via the Instant Digital Card will be directed to their local library to fill out a physical library card. In January 2025, 5,521 registrations took place.
- Curious about what’s being checked out? Take a look at [the real-time checkouts and holds](#).

Ohio Memory

- [Ohio Memory](#) is the collaborative statewide digital library program of the Ohio History Connection and the State Library of Ohio. On this free [website](#), you can explore digital content from over 390 cultural heritage institutions representing all 88 of Ohio’s counties covering a wide range of topics from prehistory to present day.
- If you have questions about this program, you can contact our Digital Initiatives Librarian Shannon Kupfer-Trausch at strausch@library.ohio.gov.

Ohio Ready to Read

- Ohio Ready to Read (ORTR) provides library-oriented resources on the [science of reading](#), including webinar recordings, articles, and other tools. This resource collection is part of ORTR's [Kindergarten Readiness and Student Learning](#) guide for Ohio public libraries.
- [Early Literacy 101](#) is a free, full-day (6 contact hour) hands-on workshop to help library staff build a firm foundation in early literacy. Participants learn how brain development impacts how young children learn; discover effective, research-based early literacy resources and activities; and explore how storytime supports early literacy. [Learn more about the workshop](#). 2025 workshop dates will be announced in coming months. Public libraries may request to host an Early Literacy 101 workshop via the link above.
- Contact [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with any questions about ORTR.

Presentations

- Janet Ingraham Dwyer provided a keynote about collaboration and State Library of Ohio services for youth-facing librarians and library workers at the joint meeting of Cleveland Metropolitan School District media specialists and Cleveland Public Library youth services librarians on January 15.
- Janet Ingraham Dwyer presented “Warming Up to Summer,” an overview of CSLP and state resources, at the NEO-RLS Children’s Summer Reading workshop on January 16.
- Katy Hite and Janet Ingraham Dwyer presented at the SWON Summer Conference on January 23, along with Amy Olson from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, about the “Whys” of summer, CSLP and state resources, and best practices in summer planning.
- Katy Hite and Janet Ingraham Dwyer hosted and emceed the SERLS/Central Ohio Youth Services Summer Library Program workshop on January 24 and led an icebreaker activity and a talk on the “Whys” of summer. Jeff Regensburger gave a brief overview of the State Library’s LSTA Summer Library Program (SLP) grant to attendees.
- Katy Hite led an informational session as part of the Know Your Flow Ohio LSTA Grant program. This session was attended by representatives from the 15 public libraries recently awarded the grant. Guest speakers included a representative from the Network of the National Library of Medicine, a local public health professional, and public library directors from New Jersey and Ohio.
- Penelope Shumaker gave a presentation to the State Library Board on January 16, sharing information on the Ohio Digital Network, DPLA, and the State Library of Ohio’s ongoing commitment to digital heritage and digital preservation.
- Penelope Shumaker led the 2025 Library Juice Academy cohort kick-off on January 8, providing guidance and instruction for what the cohort should expect to encounter as they complete the coursework necessary to obtain their desired certification.
- In support of ILEAD Ohio, Erin Kelsey (along with other State Library and OhioNet staff members) facilitated two “Team Lab” sessions, where interested parties could learn more about the ILEAD Ohio program, as well as make connections toward assembling a team in order to apply.

Reference Services

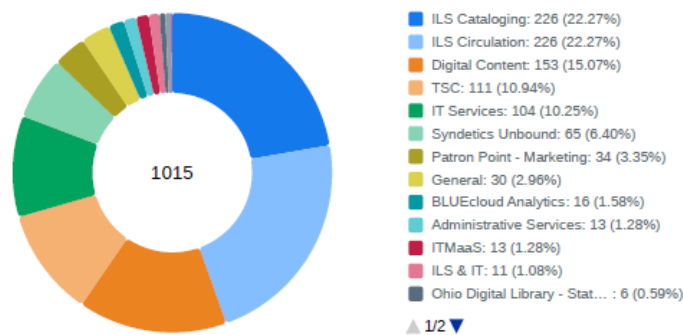
- In January we provided research assistance to state agencies, businesses, universities, and to the public. Here are some of the agencies that we served this month:
 - Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
 - Office of the Ohio Public Defender

- Ohio Attorney General
- Ohio Department of Aging
- Ohio Department of Development
- Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- Ohio Department of Transportation
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
- Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

SEO Service Center

- Total automation consortium circulation for the past 30 days—**1,011,027**
- Total number of new users created in the past 30 days—**6,365**
- In-house periodicals filled—**2**
- Interlibrary loans initiated for the past 30 days—**449**
- Total number of support tickets created for the previous month—**1,015**
- Support tickets logged with Integrated Library Software (ILS) vendor SirsiDynix—**12**

Total Tickets by Month



● Consortium Service Highlights

- On January 6, the SEO IT Team kicked off the start of the pilot project for managed IT services (ITMASS) with the Guernsey County Public Library. The team will be responsible for providing IT services support for the library and branches.
- On January 6, Paula Clark onboarded staff from Milton Union Public Library on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
- On January 7, Paula Clark onboarded staff from Monroeville Public Library on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
- On January 7, Paula Clark onboarded staff from the Minerva Public Library System on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
- On January 8, Heather Miller met with the Minerva Public Library Director.

- On January 9, SirsiDynix provided a Library Software Platform overview of their BLUEcloud product for consortium members.
 - On January 10, SEO IT and Director met with the team from Fresh Service to discuss additional functionally potential for the SEO Support Portal.
 - On January 14, the newly updated Support Center site went live.
 - On January 14, Nicole Brown, Brenda Michel, and Jay Miley visited the Evergreen Community Library.
 - On January 15, Equinox provided a Library Software Platform overview of the Evergreen product for the consortium.
 - On January 15, Michael Postlethwait and Jay Miley attended the monthly SirsiDynix SureSailing call.
 - On January 17, John Stewart and Jay Miley attended the WhoFi Quarterly update meeting.
 - On January 17 and 22, the migration team provided BLUEcloud Analytics training to Bucyrus, Galion, and Mt. Gilead Public Libraries.
 - On January 21, SEO Management and IT Team met with SirsiDynix Library Relations Manager to discuss support cases upcoming projects.
 - On January 23, Heather Miller met with the Wauseon Public Library Director.
 - On January 23, the migration team met with SirsiDynix to begin profiling for the Evergreen Community Library migration to SEO.
 - On January 24, OCLC provided a Library Software Platform overview of their WISE product for consortium members.
 - On January 24, Paula Clark onboarded North Baltimore Public Library staff on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
 - On January 27, Paula Clark onboarded staff from the Minerva Public Library System on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
 - On January 27, Paula Clark onboarded staff from the Logan County Library System on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
 - On January 30, Heather Miller met with the Bliss Memorial Library Director.
 - On January 31, Paula Clark worked with staff from the Logan County Library System on the Patron Point Marketing Platform for publishing and scheduling first email.
- **Niche Academy Stats**
 - Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views—**1,589**
 - Online Catalog Tutorial views—**1,031**
 - Technical Services Committee—**11**
 - ASL Storytime—**27**

Services for the Blind and Print Disabled

- Library services for the blind and print disabled in the United States are delivered through a network of libraries and agencies coordinated by the [Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled \(NLS\)](#). In partnership with the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD) at the Cleveland Public Library, the State Library of Ohio serves as the machine lending agency for the state providing playback equipment to eligible blind, visually impaired, and print disabled residents.
- Contact Ryan Burley at rburley@library.ohio.gov with any questions concerning the Talking Book Program.

Staffing

- Jeff Laser [recently joined](#) the State Library of Ohio staff as Library Consultant for Strategic Planning. Jeff is responsible for assisting libraries in all parts of the strategic planning process, including the development of community surveys, leading focus groups, and providing reports and recommendations to library directors. Jeff will have additional duties including serving as an LSTA grant reviewer.

Strategic Planning

- Libraries currently receiving strategic planning services from State Library consultants include:
 - Coshocton Public Library
 - Mansfield-Richland County Public Library
 - Briggs-Lawrence County Public Library
 - London Public Library
 - Logan-Hocking County District Library
 - Minerva Public Library
- If you have questions about the [State Library's strategic planning services](#), or would like to be placed on the waiting list for this service, please contact Evan Struble at estruble@library.ohio.gov.

Summer Food Service Program/SUN Meals

- Many libraries in Ohio and around the USA participate in the **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**, **now branded as SUN Meals**. This USDA-funded program provides free meals and snacks to children ages 0-18 in communities with high levels of need. Besides the obvious benefits of addressing hunger and supporting vulnerable youth, SUN Meals participation benefits libraries through:
 - Access to new user groups, especially underserved and marginalized populations
 - Increased visibility of the library as a community asset
 - Opportunities for new partnerships
 - Positioning of the library as an important stakeholder in community well-being and positive child outcomes
 - Support for summer library programming through increased attendance
- If you are already a SUN Meals / SFSP site or have been in the past, work with your current/previous sponsor to prepare for summer 2025.
- If you want to become a SUN Meals site, the Collaborative Summer Library Program offers a thorough, clear how-to guide: [Libraries and Summer Food](#) provides a step-by-step for libraries interested in becoming SUN Meals sites, or otherwise getting involved in addressing child food insecurity during the summer.
- The State Library also offers a basic guide for Ohio libraries: library.ohio.gov/summer-food.

- The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce administers SUN Meals in Ohio. [Contact the ODEW](#) with questions or for assistance in identifying a potential sponsor.
- A non-congregate option for rural communities allows sites in rural-designated areas to provide grab-and-go meals. [Find out if your library is in a rural-designated area.](#)

Summer Library Program

- The 2025 [Collaborative Summer Library Program](#) (CSLP) theme is Art, with the slogan “Color Our World / Colorea Nuestro Mundo” and features artwork by [Mike Mullan](#).
- The 2025 LSTA Summer Library Program grant program is open. Eligible Ohio libraries may apply for up to \$2,000 in federal LSTA funds to support their summer programs. See the [Summer Library Program Grant page](#) for details and to apply by the February 18, 2025 deadline.
- The **Regional Library Systems host summer planning workshops** around the state in January-March. For a list of workshops and links to register: <https://library.ohio.gov/ohio-summer-library-program> and click on the “Workshops and Webinar Recordings” tab.
- See the [Ohio Summer Library Program website](#) for resources to support summer planning, and contact [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with any questions.

Take 5

- The 2025 Take 5 event will take place at the Main Library Annex, Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, on Friday, May 2. Details and registration will be posted on Ohio library listservs and to library.ohio.gov/take5 in mid-February. Registration will be \$30 and will include lunch and light morning refreshments.
- Take 5 is a day of dialogue and discovery for public library teen and youth services specialists, school librarians, and other youth advocates. Take 5 events feature active learning opportunities, speaker sessions with allies within and outside the library field, hands-on activities, and networking. [Learn more about Take 5.](#)