

## Message from the State Librarian

Telling the story of our federal funding is critical now more than ever. In early March, Library Consultant Kirstin Krumsee, Ohio library advocates, and I flew to Washington, D.C. to participate in Voices for Libraries. There, we met with staff from 14 of Ohio's legislative offices. Moving forward, I am using those initial contacts to keep our elected officials apprised of the good work we're doing.

The State Library of Ohio receives about \$5.4 million each year from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through its Grants to States Program. These funds are used in the implementation of statewide initiatives like Guiding Ohio Online and Ohio Digital Library; to enable the Libraries Connect Ohio's core set of library databases, Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Consortium, and statewide delivery of physical materials; and to administer special and competitive grant programs.



## Highlights

- ◆ Library Services and SEO Service Center staff worked closely to provide State Correctional institutions with uninterrupted access to print materials during a prolonged SearchOhio borrowing outage of unknown length starting in late May 2025.
- ◆ Mandy, Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley, Associate State Librarian Evan Struble, and Data Systems Manager Eric Maynard toured a facility on 35 East Chestnut and met with Department of Administrative Services staff to discuss a possible move.
- ◆ On March 27 & 28, Mandy toured libraries in the greater Cleveland area and met with library directors and trustees to learn more about issues libraries face today and opportunities where the State Library can assist. Visits included Westlake-Porter Public Library, Lorain County Public Library, Rocky River Public Library, Cleveland Public Library's new MLK Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library's Brooklyn Branch, Cleveland Heights Public Library and Shaker Heights Public Library.
- ◆ On March 31, Mandy visited in Briggs-Lawrence County Public Library's new LSTA funded Makerspace.

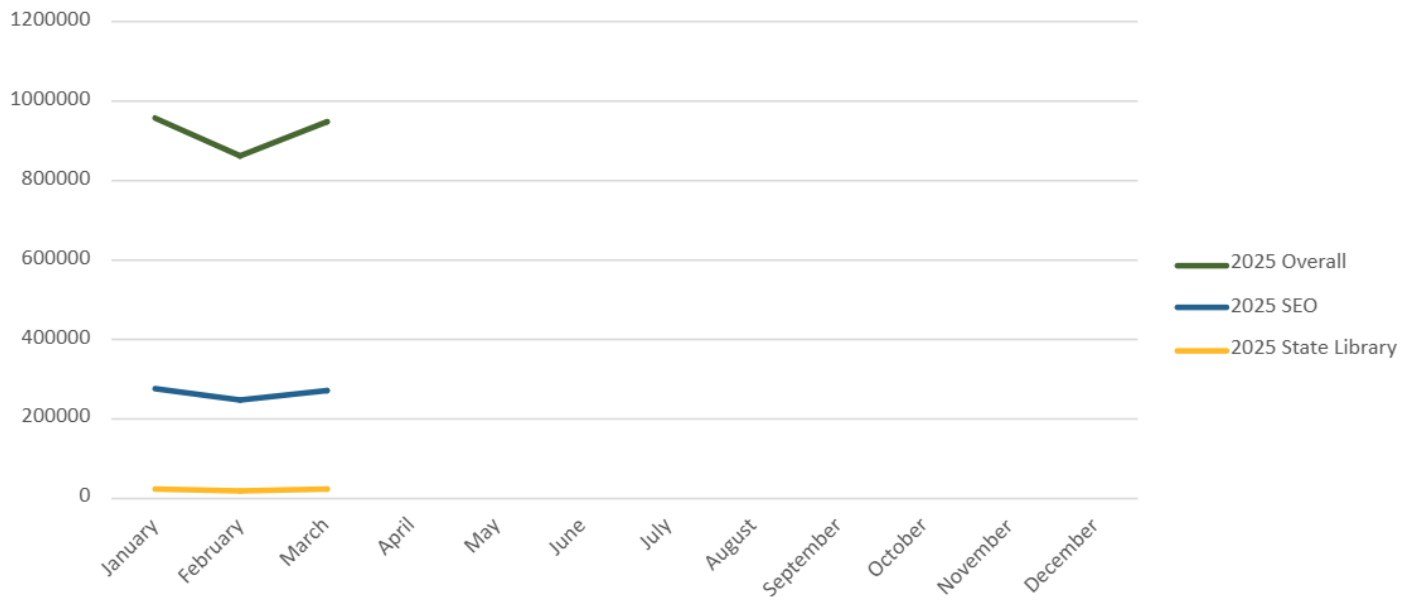


**State Librarian Mandy Knapp and US Congresswoman Emilia Sykes**

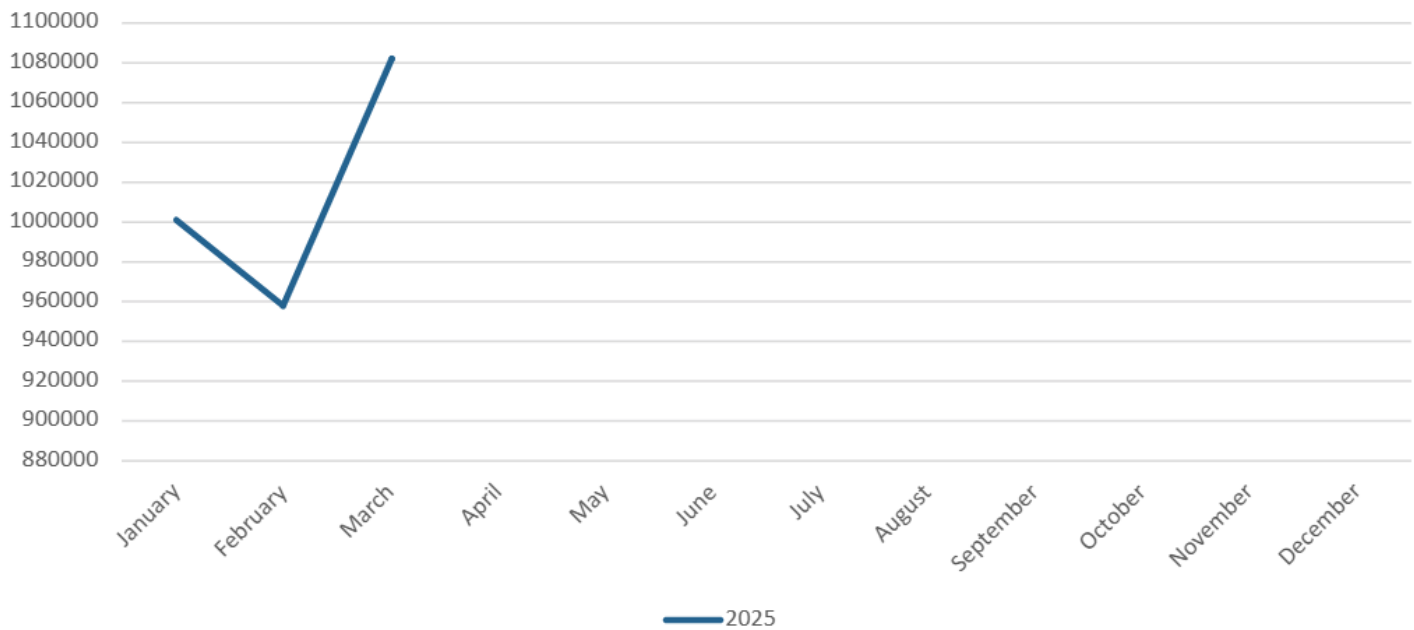


**Mandy Knapp and Library Director Gretchen Claypool**

### Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



### SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



## Library Services—March 2025

On 3/12/25 Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley met with **State Rep. Thad Claggett** (R-Licking County) **State Rep. Ismail Mohamed** (D-Columbus), and **State Rep. Heidi Workman** (R-Rootstown) for over an hour talking about the resources and impact of the State Library of Ohio.

Topics included the positive impact of State Library of Ohio, public libraries, and the databases provided by the State Library of Ohio to State employees. During the meeting **State Rep. Thad Claggett**, who is the Chair of the House Technology and Innovation Committee, shared that he is going to have his committee members use our O'Reilly Learning Database to receive training on new technologies such as AI and Blockchain. We also shared some rare books and documents from our collection with the Representatives which they were very excited to see.



*SLO Meeting with State Rep. Thad Claggett, State Rep. Ismail Mohamed and State Rep. Heidi Workman*

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*“Her Life was richer because of you.”—Quote from the family of recently deceased Talking Book Patron*

### Meetings with State Representatives

We met with Rep. Kevin Ritter and Rep. D.J. Swearingen and discussed the State Library of Ohio and shared some of our rare materials with the Representatives.

### Ohio Memory Quarterly meeting

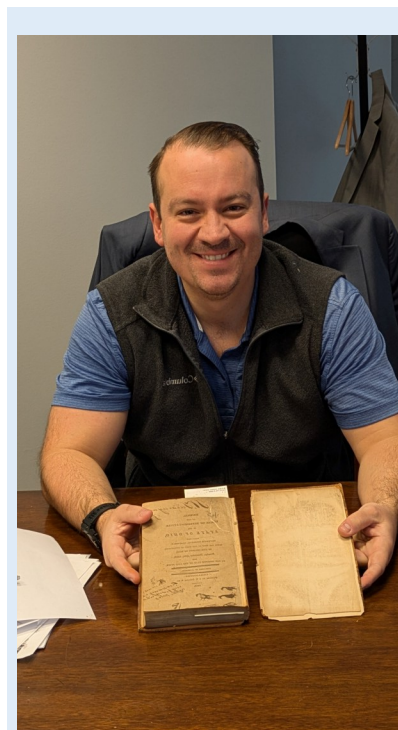
Library Services staff and Ohio History Connection staff met to discuss our Ohio Memory partnership and gave program updates.

### America 250-Ohio Commission

Members of our Reference Team are doing research related to Ohio firsts, early Ohio history and Ohio film to support the Commission’s celebratory programs around Ohio.

### Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

Library Services represented the State Library of Ohio at an event in Greene County lead by First Lady Fran DeWine to celebrate Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio reaching a remarkable milestone– over 20 MILLION books delivered to children under five throughout Ohio!



*State Rep. D.J. Swearingen holding one of the State Library’s rare books*

## Library Programs & Development—March 2025



*As part of the strategic planning process, library consultants Erin Kelsey (center, with megaphone) and Jeff Laser led staff at Briggs-Lawrence County Public Library through an interactive activity.*

### Current Strategic Planning Clients:

- Ashland Public Library
- Canal Fulton Public Library
- Marvin Memorial Library
- Portage County District Library
- Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
- Briggs Lawrence County Public Library
- London Public Library
- Mansfield Richland County Public Library

Each year, the State Library of Ohio asks Ohio public library systems to report on their summer activities and results. The **2024 Ohio Summer Library Program report** features statistics, stories, observations, and lots of photos from libraries all around the state. View or download the report from the [Ohio Summer Library Program website](#).

With the addition of the new/updated items from the March harvest of 42 participating **Ohio Digital Network** institutions, there are now [424,794 items in DPLA from Ohio](#).



DIGITAL NETWORK

The State Library of Ohio, in partnership with the Ohio Preservation Council (OPC), is pleased to announce the **LSTA Conservation & Preservation Grant**, allowing for LSTA funds of up to \$4,999 for libraries to conserve a single item or preserve a small, discrete group of items within their collections. Under this special

program, prospective applicants must attend a required [workshop](#) on May 20th. By attending the workshop, prospective applicants will gain knowledge of the criteria for selecting materials for conservation/preservation, basic evaluation considerations, finding a conservator, working with conservators, contracts and

insurance, and treatment documentation. Additional details about this grant initiative can be found [here](#). After attending the required workshop, grant applications will be accepted between May 21st and August 24th, 2025.

### Workshop Registration Open

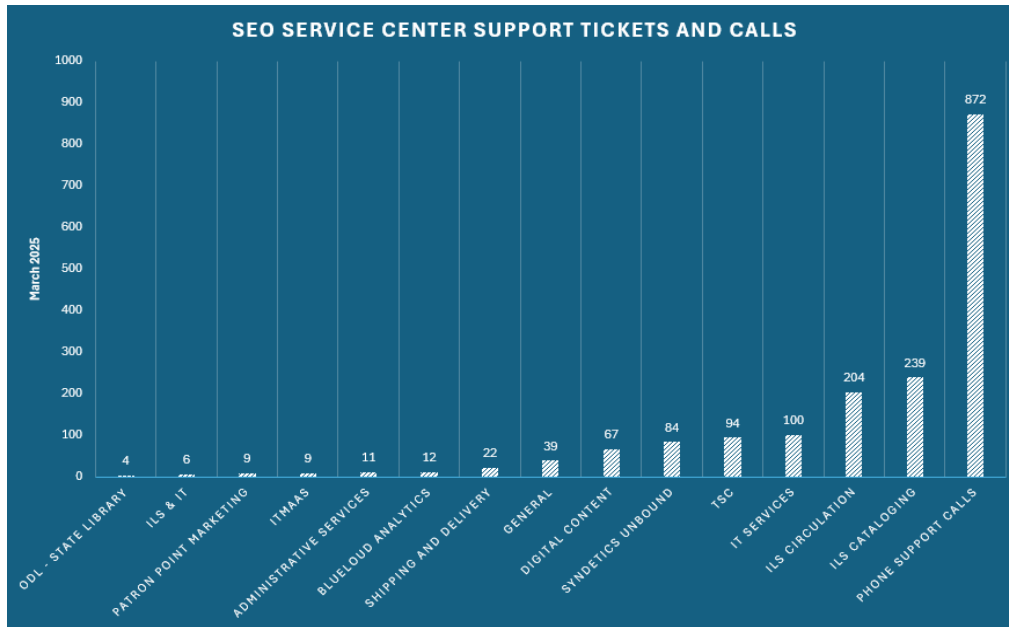
[Register now](#) for the upcoming Reimagining School Readiness workshop to be held on Wednesday, April 30th at the State Library. Through an interactive presentation with hands-on activities, this training session will introduce library staff to the research, practical implications, and resources offered in the Reimagining School Readiness toolkit.

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[Register now](#) for the Finding Readalikes With Collection Analysis webinar on May 8th. It's almost summer, and your library's copies of popular titles are already flying off the shelves. Explore ways to use the Ohio Collection Analysis Toolkit to find readalikes and create balanced recommendation lists and displays that meet community needs.



## SEO Service Center—March 2025

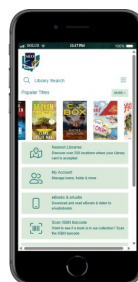


### Key service highlights include:

- The successful completion of the **annual Optional Bill Purge** for 19 libraries, removing over 37,000 old fines.
- The SEO team **hosted the State Library Board meeting**.
- A **visit** was made to the Louisville Public Library

### For the past 30 days, the Consortium experienced significant activity:

- Over **1 million items** were circulated.
- **7,508 new users created**.
- **566 interlibrary loan requests** were initiated.
- **888 support tickets** were created, with 8 relayed to the software vendor.



### Mobile App Stats

New Devices	3450
Holds Placed	31743
App Launched	89519
Searches	96435

### Niche Academy usage showed:

- Strong engagement with **staff tutorials** (1,608 views) and the **online catalog tutorial** (1,508 views).
- Lower engagement with the **Technical Services Committee** (8 views) and **ASL Storytime** (15 views) tutorials.



## News—March 2025



### **LSTA Conservation/Preservation Grant 2025**

March 18, 2025: The State Library of Ohio, in partnership with the Ohio Preservation Council (OPC), is pleased to announce the availability of LSTA funds of up to \$4,999 for libraries to conserve a single item or preserve a small, discrete group of items within their collections. The item(s) selected for conservation/preservation should be unique, valuable (culturally or monetarily), and as a cultural artifact speak to the mission and values of the applying institution. Additionally, as a cultural artifact or collection it should reflect some element of the historic and artistic record of Ohio.



### **ILEAD Ohio 2025 Cohort**

March 25, 2025: "I'm delighted for the State Library and OhioNet to again team up and deliver an ILEAD Ohio program that educates, challenges, and inspires a cohort of library staff members from around the state," expressed Evan T. Struble, Associate State Librarian for Library Development at the State Library of Ohio. Since its inception in 2013, ILEAD Ohio's unique, immersive experience is routinely mentioned by alumni of the program as 'transformative' and I can't wait for the 2025 cohort to take part, expand their network, and grow as leaders."

**OHIO  
DEAF HISTORY  
MONTH**

**March 13 – April 15**

### **Ohio Deaf History Month Begins March 13th**

March 11, 2025: The State Library of Ohio Board recently passed a resolution proclaiming the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15, 2025, as Ohio Deaf History Month and encourages Ohio libraries to display materials and host deaf awareness activities to highlight the significance of the many outstanding contributions made by Deaf and hearing pioneers, particularly in Deaf Education. Ohio Deaf History Month celebrates deaf history and the contributions of the hearing impaired and Deaf community to society. The General Assembly of the State of Ohio passed legislation in 2017 designating the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15 as Ohio Deaf History Month.