



Message from the State Librarian

On May 6, I gave testimony before the Ohio Senate Education Committee. The Senators had many questions about the operations of the State Library, our needs, and about libraries in general. I'm pleased to say that since enumerating our facilities issues at testimony, we have some movement towards possible resolutions. Although much is unknown, I am resolved to find a new home for our precious materials.

Since becoming State Librarian around the first of this year, I have been on a Listening Tour. Phase 2 of the Listening Tour, which is to meet with close partners and members of State Library's various advisory boards, is well under way. It is such a joy and privilege to meet with librarians across the state. When times are difficult, I think of these visits. The hard work and dedication I see in our libraries fortifies me and renews my hope in a better tomorrow.



State Library staff ready for testimony at the Ohio Statehouse

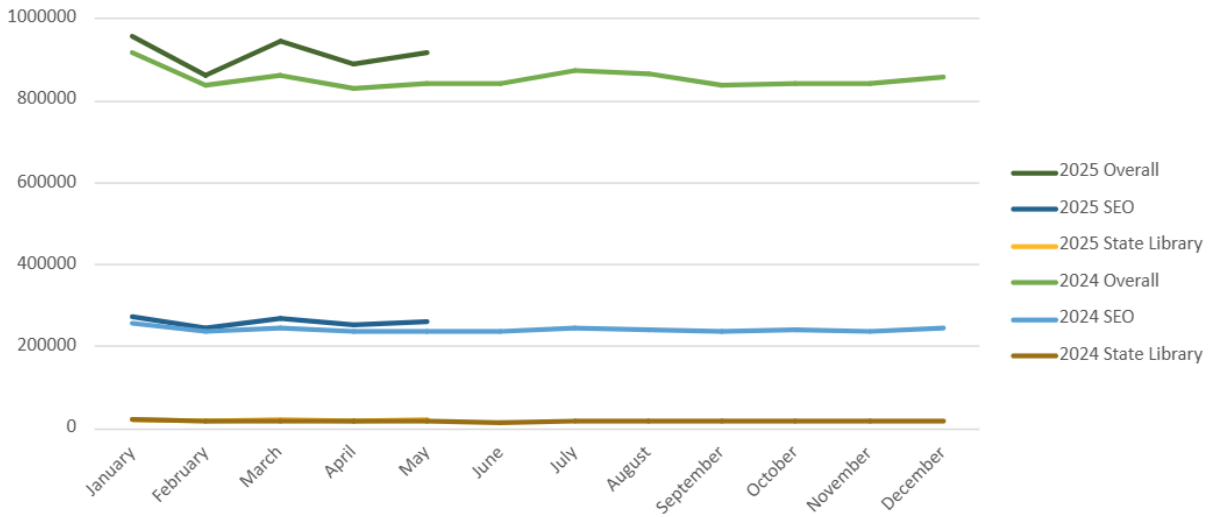
Highlights

- ◆ On May 3, State Librarian Mandy Knapp, Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley and Director of Marketing and Communications Marsha McDevitt-Stredney attended the Ohioana Book Festival, held at State Library's Columbus location. A special thank you to Ryan for his hard work on this project.
- ◆ On May 10, Mandy and Library Consultant Kirstin Krumsee attended public library testimony to the Ohio Senate Education Committee.
- ◆ On May 16, Mandy attended the OhioLINK All Directors Meeting. The catalog migration was the key focus.
- ◆ In May, Mandy visited many libraries on her Listening Tour. These included meeting with the directors of all four Regional Library Systems, OhioLINK director Amy Pawlowski, Findlay-Hancock County Public Library Director Sarah Clevidence, Hardin Northern Library Director Becky Coker, OELMA President Gayle Schmuhl, ALAO President Sara Klink, Greene County Public Library staff members, school librarian Lisa Barnes Prince, Canal Fulton Public Library staff member Terry Tocchi, OPLIN Director Don Yarman, Ohioana Director Kim Kiehl, and Ohioana Staff members. She is looking forward to more visits!

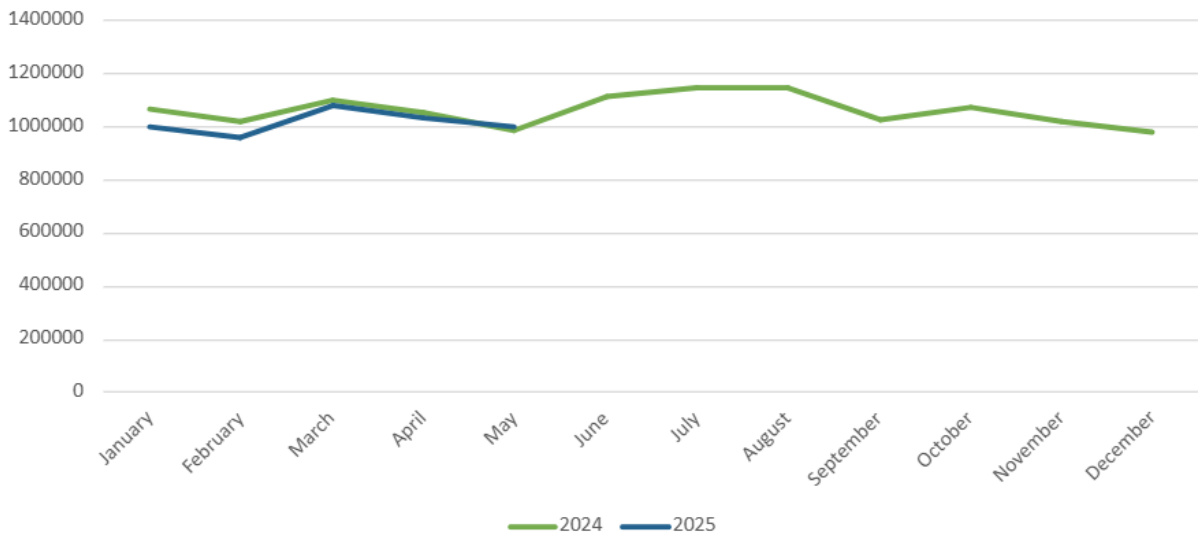


Hardin Northern Library Director Becky Coker and State Librarian Mandy Knapp

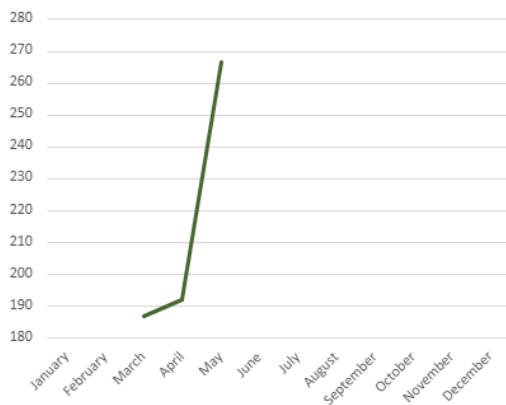
Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



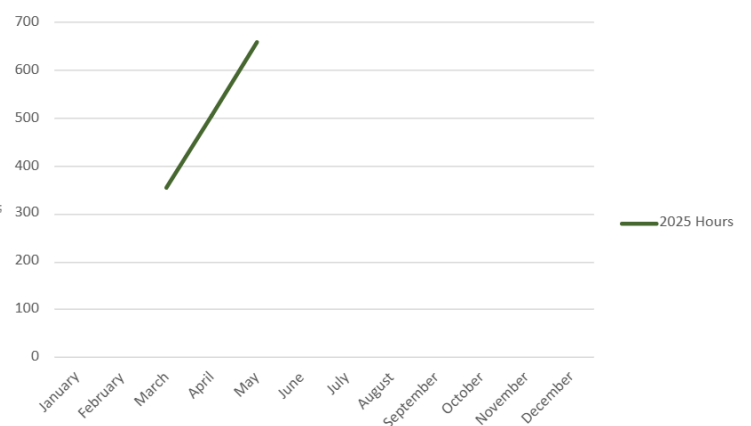
SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



State Library Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



Library Services—May 2025

On Saturday, May 3, we welcomed **1,550 attendees** to the Ohioana Book Festival at the State Library of Ohio for one of our largest public programs in the last 10 years. 75 Authors and illustrators met with the public, spoke on author panels, and did storytimes. Many partner organizations had tables at the event, including public libraries Columbus Metropolitan Library and Upper Arlington Public Library, and state agencies such as Ohio's America 250 Commission. Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley worked closely with Ohioana staff and CITYSPACE management to bring this important event back our location after it being held offsite for over 10 years. Many Ohio arts, library, and museum leaders attended the event including Greater Columbus Arts Council CEO and President of the Columbus Metropolitan Library Board Tom Katzenmeyer, Ohio History Connection CEO Megan Wood, and Executive Director of the America 250 - Ohio Commission Todd Kleismit.



2025 Ohioana Book Festival attendees speaking with authors in our Lucas room

“On behalf of all of Ohioana's staff & Board, to all of our authors & illustrators, volunteers, sponsors, partners, friends and attendees: Thank you SO VERY MUCH for helping us make the 2025 Ohioana Book Festival a success and for being such a gracious host.” Ohioana Library Association Program Manager Miriam Nordine

May 9 State of Ohio's Microsoft Power Platform Presentation:

We presented on our O'Reilly Online Learning database to IT staff members at a variety of state agencies including the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Public Utilities Commission, EPA, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Education and Workforce, the Ohio Lottery Commission, and others.

May 12 Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Job Fair:

We worked with OOD Program Administrator Jon Hackathorn and OOD Coordinator Hillary Wier to set

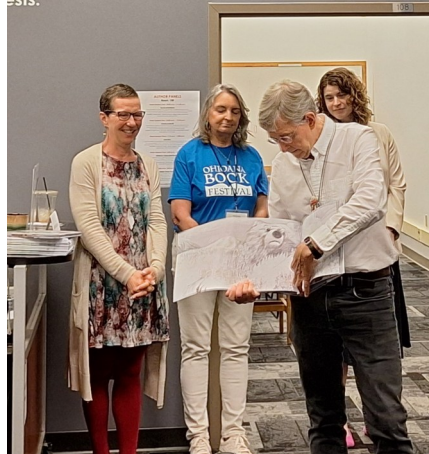
up this successful event at our location. Disabled Ohioans interviewed with **17 state agencies** with help of OOD staff members. We also promoted our Talking Book Program during the event.

Research Assistance for State Agencies: In May our reference librarians assisted many state agencies with research including the Attorney General, Department of Commerce, Department of Insurance, Department of Health, Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and the Public Defender Commission.



Ohioans with Disabilities Job Fair attendee checking in for their interview

Library Programs & Development—May 2025



Left: Staff at Portage County District Library are led through a strategic planning workshop, conducted by Library Consultant Jeff Laser. Right: Library Consultant Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Ohioana Library Executive Director Kimberly Kiehl, and State Librarian Mandy Knapp (l-r) watch as author Will Hillenbrand shares his [Floyd's Pick Book Award](#)-winning title, [The Voice in the Hollow](#).

Applications are [now open](#) for the 2025 **LSTA Conservation and Preservation Grant**. This grant, offered in partnership with the Ohio Preservation Council, provides up to \$4,999 in LSTA funds 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. Prospective applicants had the opportunity to attend a

mandatory educational workshop on May 20 to learn more about the grant process (or opt out of the requirement if they attended the workshop in 2024). The application period closes on August 25.

On May 15 the State Library Board [awarded 18 public libraries](#) over \$340,000 in LSTA grant funds to support their proposed **Guiding Ohio Online (GOO)** projects. The GOO grant initiative supports public libraries serving rural populations in Ohio by providing funds to pay a contracted technology/digital literacy trainer for their community. Grant projects will run from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

The 2025 [Take 5](#) teen services professional development event, **Take 5: Let's Talk!**, took place on May 2 at the Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library. Seventy-five teen and youth services library workers attended, representing libraries across Ohio.

Keynote speaker, author and

filmmaker Donte Woods-Spikes shared an inspiring talk on “Adapting to Change: Holding on to What Matters,” reflecting on his work experiences as an educator and mentor in church, community, and school settings and encouraging the attendees to pursue their passions in any environment. Trainer and facilitator Zach Yocum led a

workshop on “Introduction to Compassionate Communication: Working with Young People.”

Other activities included art and journaling, topical talk tables, a Mindfulness Moment, library tour with Director James Hill, and a friendly face-off featuring a panel of teens and librarians.

LPD Staff Presentations

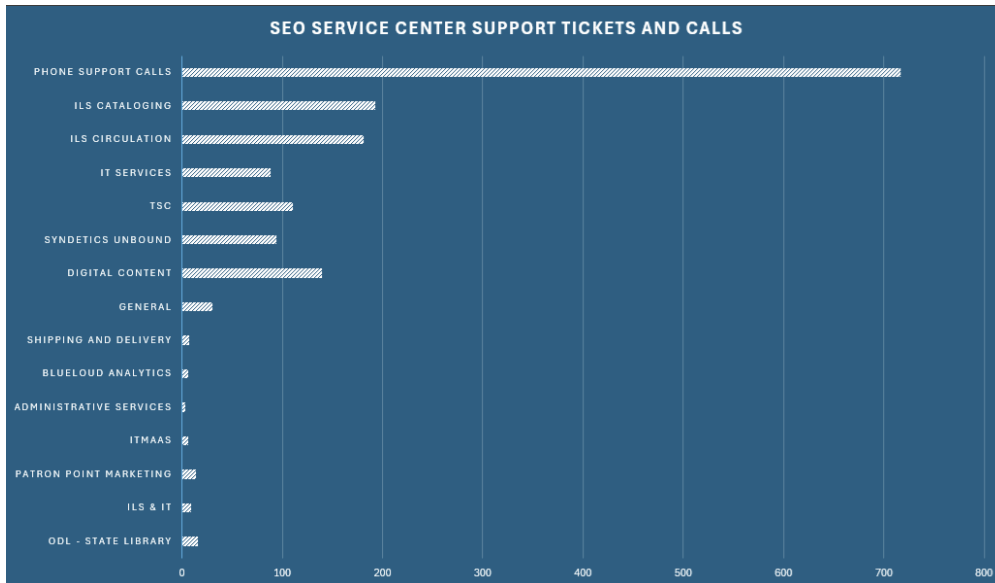
Library Consultants **Jeff Regensburger** (and **Kirstin Krumsee**, of the State Librarian's Office) presented the program “Telling Your Library's Story” for more than 20 attendees at the NEO-RLS Director's Retreat at Punderson Manor in Punderson State Park. This session offered practical advice on knowing your audience, using data, and making your message stick.

Library Consultant **Erin Kelsey**, led a series of presentations—along with live demos—of the State Library's [Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative](#) toolkit for the INFOhio Spring Library User Meeting series of events. Erin met with seven distinct user groups in the K-12 library community.

Associate State Librarian **Evan T. Struble** gave a presentation on how the State Library fits into the Ohio library ecosystem as part of the Ohio Library Council's New Directors Workshop. Evan demonstrated to the cohort of 20 attendees how the State Library supports Ohio's public libraries both directly and indirectly.

Library Consultant **Jeff Regensburger** participated in two panel discussions as part of the Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) annual meeting, held online. These panels gave participants information on a variety of grant programs of potential interest to persons and institutions working in archives and related fields.

SEO Service Center—May 2025



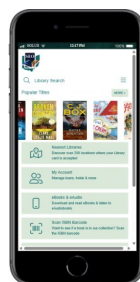
The SEO Service Center team answered over 1,600 tickets and customer calls during the month of May.

Key service highlights include:

- The support team hosted **4 training sessions** on offered services.
- Visits** were made to 2 member libraries.
- SEO Libraries App **received an IOS upgrade**.

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

- Over 1 million items were circulated.
- 8,857 new users were created.
- 179,670 holds were created and 178,536 holds were filled.
- 560 interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- 898 support tickets were created, with 14 relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats

| | 2024 | 2025 | % Change |
|--------------|--------|--------|----------|
| New Devices | 3,194 | 3,061 | ↓ 42% |
| Holds Placed | 25087 | 30,818 | ↑ 23% |
| App Launched | 71,690 | 86,005 | ↑ 20% |
| Searches | 78,616 | 91,396 | ↑ 16% |

Niche Academy usage showed:

- Strong engagement with **staff tutorials** (832 views) and the **online catalog tutorial** (1,320 views)
- Lower engagement with the **Technical Services Committee** (2 views) and **ASL Storytime** (40 views) tutorials



Patron Point

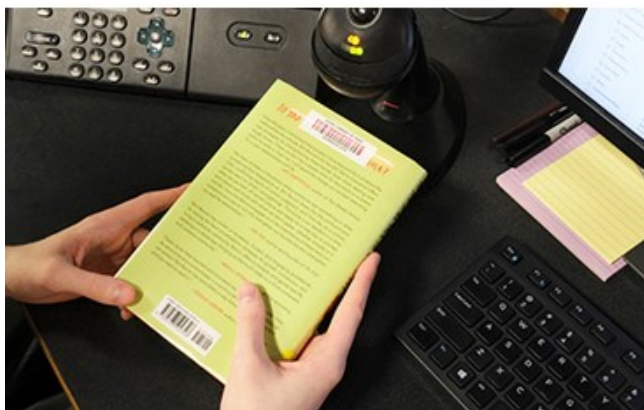
Patron Point Marketing e-mails showed:

- Heavy use in **Announcement and Newsletters** being sent (259,221 emails)
- Medium use in **Birthday/Anniversary** campaigns (2,503 emails)
- Light use of **Winback** (116 emails) and **Coming of Age** (607 emails) campaigns.

News—May 2025



THE OHIO DIGITAL LIBRARY



[The Ohio Digital Library \(ODL\) is Changing Holds Limit](#)

May 1, 2025: The Ohio Digital Library is updating the holds limit to a maximum of 20 OverDrive holds (previously 30). These limits were increased in 2020 to help meet demand. After 5 years of sustained demand, increasing digital material prices, and the possibility of library funding changes, the current holds limit is not sustainable. By lowering the hold limit, we also hope to help reduce wait times.

[Starting on May 23rd Access to Library Accounts is Limited](#)

May 16, 2025: Beginning May 23, the State Library of Ohio will suspend registration for new patron accounts and existing patrons will have limited access to their accounts. State Library of Ohio patrons will not be able to borrow, request, or renew physical library materials again until late June. This includes borrowing from member libraries in the OhioLINK and SearchOhio consortia. Online resources, including library databases and the Ohio Digital Library, will remain available.



Ohio Library for the
Blind & Print Disabled

OLBPD
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Guiding Ohio Online



[State Library of Ohio Board Approves Over 2.1 Million Dollars in Federal Grants](#)

May 22, 2025: During its May meeting, the State Library of Ohio Board approved grants totaling more than 2.1 million dollars in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding, distributed to the State Library via the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The approved grants include:

[\\$234,000 for the operation of the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled](#)

[\\$341,208 for eighteen public libraries in Ohio that serve rural communities to employ a dedicated technology trainer through the Guiding Ohio Online grant program](#)

[\\$1,534,922 for the Ohio Web Library core set of library databases available to all Ohioans through their public, school, and academic libraries.](#) Additional funding and in-kind support for the Ohio Web Library is provided by Libraries Connect Ohio partners OhioLINK, OPLIN, and INFOhio.