

Message from the State Librarian

As 2025 draws to a close, it is a good time to reflect on the year we've had. My overwhelming feeling is pride. I am so proud of our Ohio libraries. I am especially proud of our staff at the State Library, in the work they have done under tremendous uncertainty and of tumultuous times. I am so proud of our library workers, who go to work every day to make a difference in their communities, never knowing what the day will bring. I am so proud of our grantees, who hung in there with us as we navigated new and uncertain waters. I am so proud of our State Library Board Members, who never wavered in their support of the State Library and the work we



Ohioana Director Kim Kiehl, Artist and Illustrator Joseph Sutphin, and State Librarian Mandy Knapp

do. I am proud to be your State Librarian and humbled by the trust you place in me. Thank you. Let's hope for a less exciting year in 2026.



Highlights

- Highlights and Key Takeaways from the State Librarian's Listening Tour can be found [on the State Library's website](#).
- State Librarian Mandy Knapp interviewed artist Joseph Sutphin as part of a joint Ohioana & State Library Winter Open House.
- The State Library of Ohio Foundation Board met and set bylaws.
- Mandy and Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley presented to the America 250 - Ohio Commission December 12.
- The State Library Board approved twelve LSTA Competitive Grants at the December meeting.

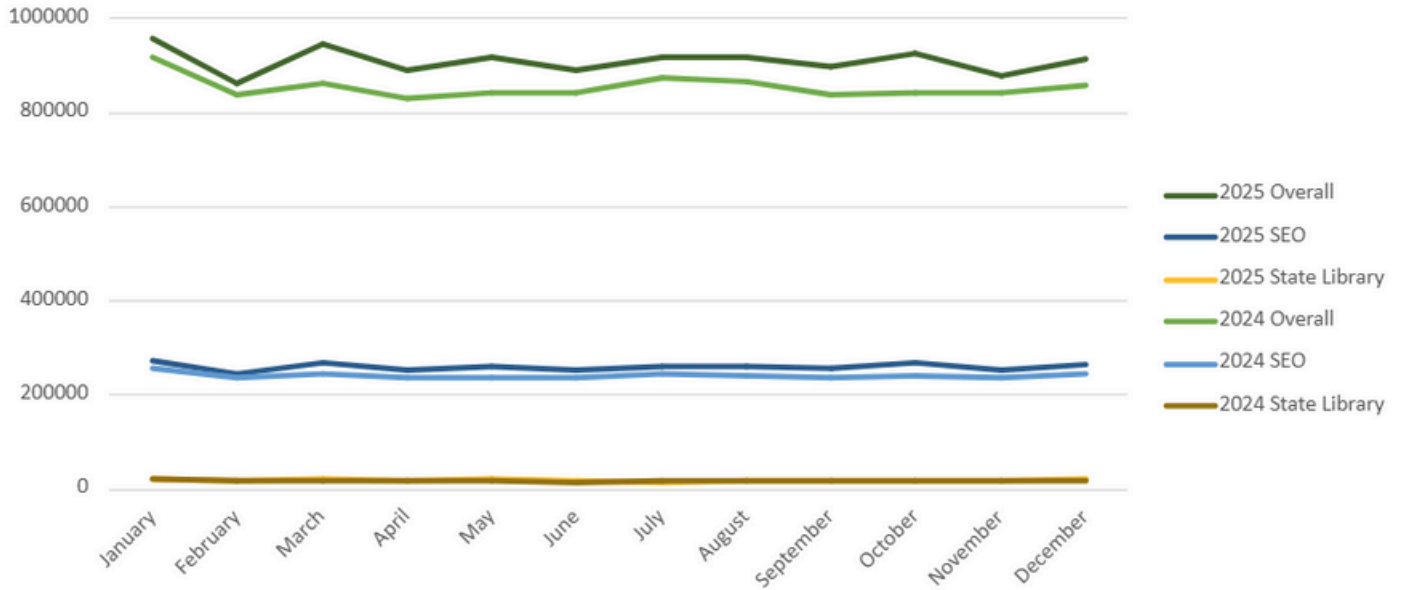
"Thanks for sending this out to participants. Such an open, enlightening feedback. I look forward to great success for SLO & Ohio's libraries as a result."

--Stephanie Bange, Choose to Read Ohio Advisory Committee Member

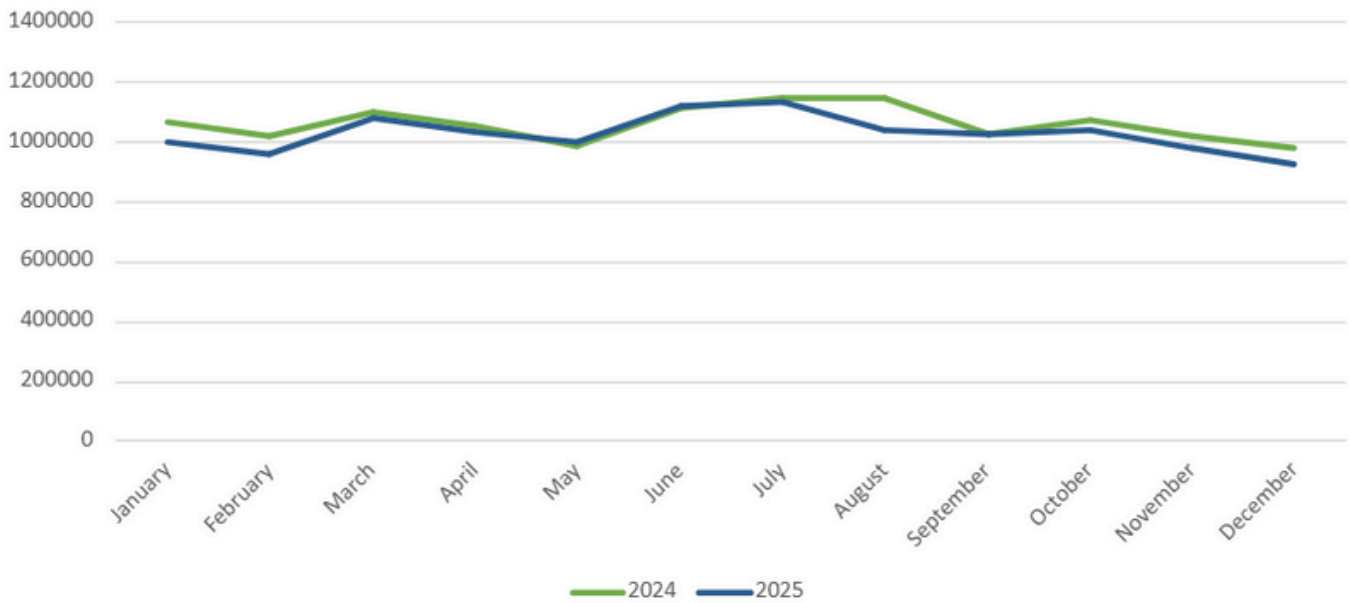
"We are very excited to move forward with the grant. Now that it is official, our staff is eager to begin using the Charlie Cart, and new ideas are already taking shape."

--Travis McAfee, Way Public library

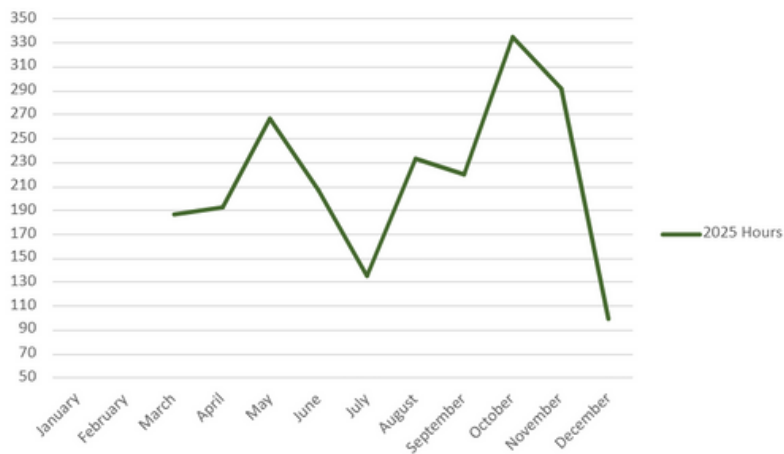
Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



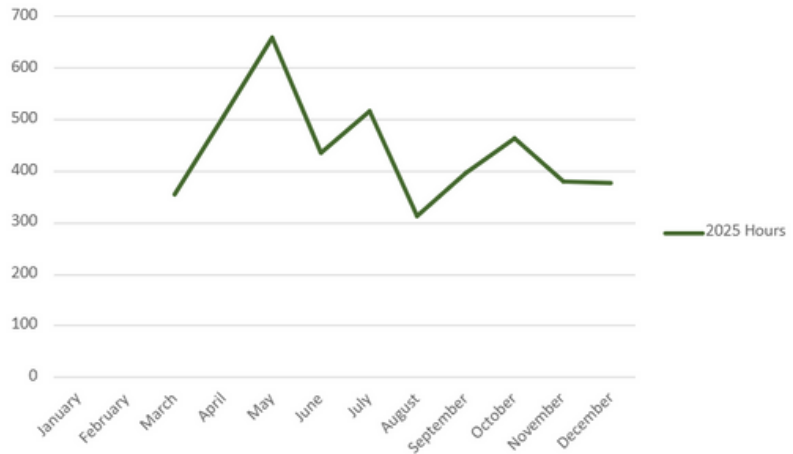
SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



State Library Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



Library Services—December 2025

America 250-Ohio Commission Meeting

On December 12, we hosted the America 250 - Ohio Commission meeting at the State Library of Ohio. Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley shared some of our rare documents relating to the Revolutionary War with the group which included Nancy Putnam Hollister, former Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Ohio; Ted Strickland, former Governor of Ohio; Chief Justice Sharon L. Kennedy, Supreme Court of Ohio; Michael B. Coleman, former Mayor of Columbus; State Senator Susan Manchester; State Representative Adam Holmes; and many other influential Ohioans. After our presentation we received positive feedback from multiple commission members on our presentation, including from co-Chair Doug Preisse.

“From the coordination of the materials, to the incredible rare documents, to the tour, we thoroughly enjoyed the day. I had multiple people from the team approach me about how much they learned...” --Chief Policy Officer DODD Steve Beha



Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley presenting to the America 250 - Ohio commission

DODD Department visit

On December 19, we did a presentation for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Policy Department and their Chief Policy Officer Steve Beha. We spoke about the State Library of Ohio, showed off some rare books and documents, and gave a tour to their 40 staff members. Librarian Stephanie Michaels also pulled state documents related to the DODD from our collection so the department could review their history.



Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Policy Department visiting the State Library

Library Programs & Development—December 2025



Library consultant Katy Hite (center, background) leads a group of Worthington Libraries staff members through a summer reading-focused workshop.

Building Community-Based Summers

Library consultants **Katy Hite** and **Janet Ingraham Dwyer** facilitated a mini-workshop for the Worthington Libraries Summer Reading planning team on December 2, with a focus on identifying the “why” of summer reading and on connecting with community, two core topics of Building Community-Based Summers (BCBS), a professional development opportunity that empowers library staff to develop summer services with community at the center.

Katy and Janet also completed facilitation of the online learning sessions for the first tri-state cohort of BCBS with teams from Ashland Public Library, Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, Dayton Metro Library, two Indiana libraries, and five Michigan libraries. Katy will be one of three facilitators for a national BCBS cohort sponsored by the Collaborative Summer Library Program in spring 2026.



Summer Library Program Grant

On Wednesday, January 7, the application window opened for the LSTA Summer Library Program (SLP) grant. The SLP grant program invites Ohio libraries to apply for funds to support and empower libraries to enhance their 2026 summer programs with library-led

activities that spark creativity and learning, engage individuals of all ages, and benefit their communities.

Libraries may apply for up to \$2,000 in federal LSTA funds to support summer programs for children, teens, and/or adults; a local cash match of 25% is required.

ODL By the Numbers

The Ohio Digital Library (ODL) celebrated another **record-breaking** year in 2025!

Total checkouts: 10.92 million
(6% increase over 2024)

Ebooks remain a slightly-more popular format over audiobooks: 5.08 million vs. 4.6 million checkouts, respectively.

Average daily checkouts:
29,918

Date with highest overall checkouts: December 2
(36,166)

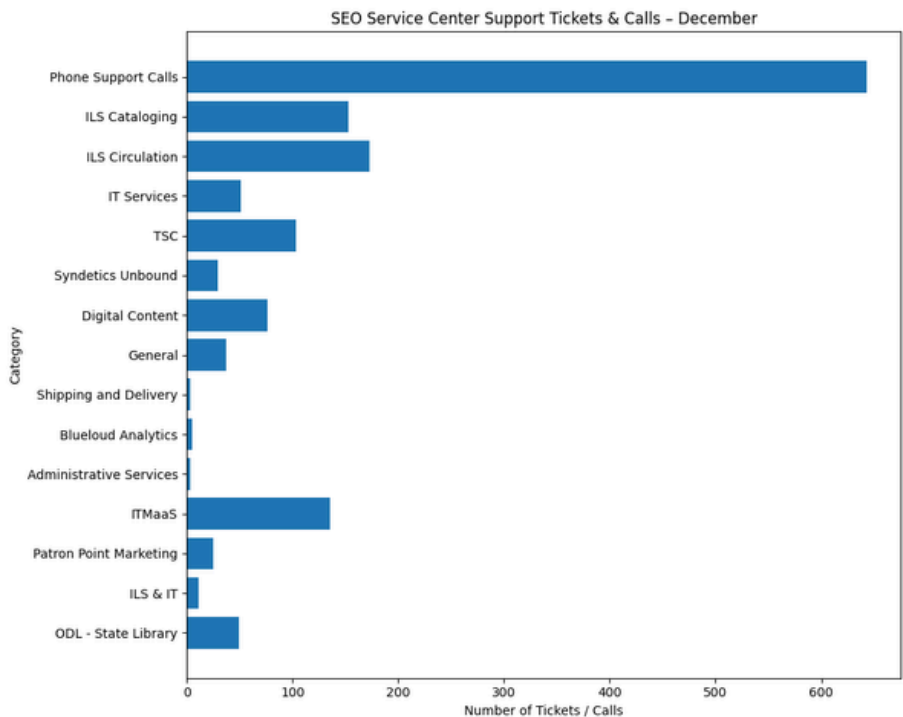
Most popular book title:
The Women by Kristin Hannah, both in ebook (11,536 checkouts) and audiobook (12,726) formats

Most popular magazine title:
The New Yorker (80,061 checkouts)

Grant funds may be used to purchase program materials, supplies, and/or contractual services for presenters and programs offered to the community during the 2026 summer.

Applications for the SLP grant will be open through February 22, 2026. For more information, [click here](#).

SEO Service Center—December 2025



Quick Takeaways:

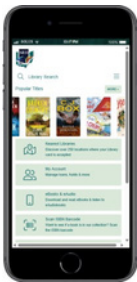
- Phone Support Calls (643) dominate overall volume
- ILS work (Circulation + Cataloging) represents a major share of operational demand
- ITMaaS (135) and TSC (103) continue to be significant service drivers

Key service highlights include:

- **Projects** for IT Managed Services (ITMaaS) progressed forward with plans to move from pilot to new service offering.
- **Hosted** several meetings around the new service offering for IT Managed Services for onboarding new customers in January 2026.

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

- Over **928,619** items were circulated.
- **162,355** holds were created, and **175,488** holds were filled.
- **4,602** new users created
- **496** interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- **854** support tickets were created, with **2** relayed to the software vendor.



| Mobile App Stats | 2024 | 2025 | % Change |
|------------------|--------|--------|----------|
| New Devices | 2,480 | 2,073 | -16% |
| Holds Placed | 24,837 | 27,382 | 10% |
| App Launched | 70,256 | 82,000 | 17% |
| Searches | 79,006 | 74,968 | -5% |



- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views - 899
- Online Catalog Patron Tutorial views - 519
- Staff Technical Services Committee - 37
- Patron ASL Storytime views - 15



- Heavy use in Announcement and Newsletters being sent (389,698 emails)
- Medium use in Birthday/Anniversary campaigns (2,933 emails)
- Light use of Winback (238 emails) and Coming of Age (17 emails) campaigns



20 Books Selected for the 2026 Choose to Read Ohio Booklist

December 1, 2025: The State Library of Ohio and the Ohioana Library Association, with the Ohio Center for the Book and the Choose to Read Ohio Advisory Council, are pleased to announce the 2026 Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) booklist.

CTRO spotlights books by exciting, talented creators who, collectively, write across genres, explore a wide array of topics, and appeal to all age groups.

Libraries Invited to Apply for Collection Development Grant

December 5, 2025: The State Library of Ohio invites libraries to apply for a Celebrating Ohio Book Awards & Authors (COBAA) LSTA grant to support collection development and collection-related program initiatives for their communities. The COBAA grant enables libraries to purchase books by Ohio authors and books recognized by Ohio-based book award programs, as indicated within the grant's Book Selection Tool. This unique initiative allows libraries to expand collections and support literacy by connecting Ohio readers to Ohio authors and Ohio book award winners.



**CONTINUING EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITY**

15 Selected for 2026 Cohort to Earn Digital Curation Certificate

December 15, 2025: The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce the 2026 cohort selected to complete course work to earn a Digital Curation Certificate from Library Juice Academy. Through a competitive application process, a State Library review committee selected 15 participants and will manage their enrollment in the six-course series.



State Library Board Awards over \$265,000 in Federal Funding as Ohio LSTA Competitive Grants

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