



## Message from the State Librarian

A new year is an invitation to form resolutions, to take what one has built on in the past and make positive changes for the future. At the State Library, we made good progress on several of our goals as outlined in our 2025-2026 Action Plan. Most notably, our State Library Board, our staff, and library leaders across the state participated in a strategic planning session to guide our organization's future.

I am so pleased to announce that Library Leadership Ohio is accepting applications. I myself am an alumna of the program, as are countless library leaders. If you aspire to lead at any level in libraries, I encourage you to apply. The connections you will make will last you your entire career. Perhaps this year you can resolve to invest in yourself and apply!

## Highlights

- In January, State Librarian Mandy Knapp visited the Franklin County Law Library and the Pauline Smyth Geologic Records Center, part of the Ohio Geological Survey.
- Associate State Librarian Evan Struble attended the opening of a new exhibition to the public, "Traveling Bricks: Exhibition Made of LEGO Bricks" at the Bossard Memorial Library in Gallipolis, Ohio.
- The Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Consortium released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a library catalog.
- Progress was made towards a new facility for the States Library's research collection in Columbus.



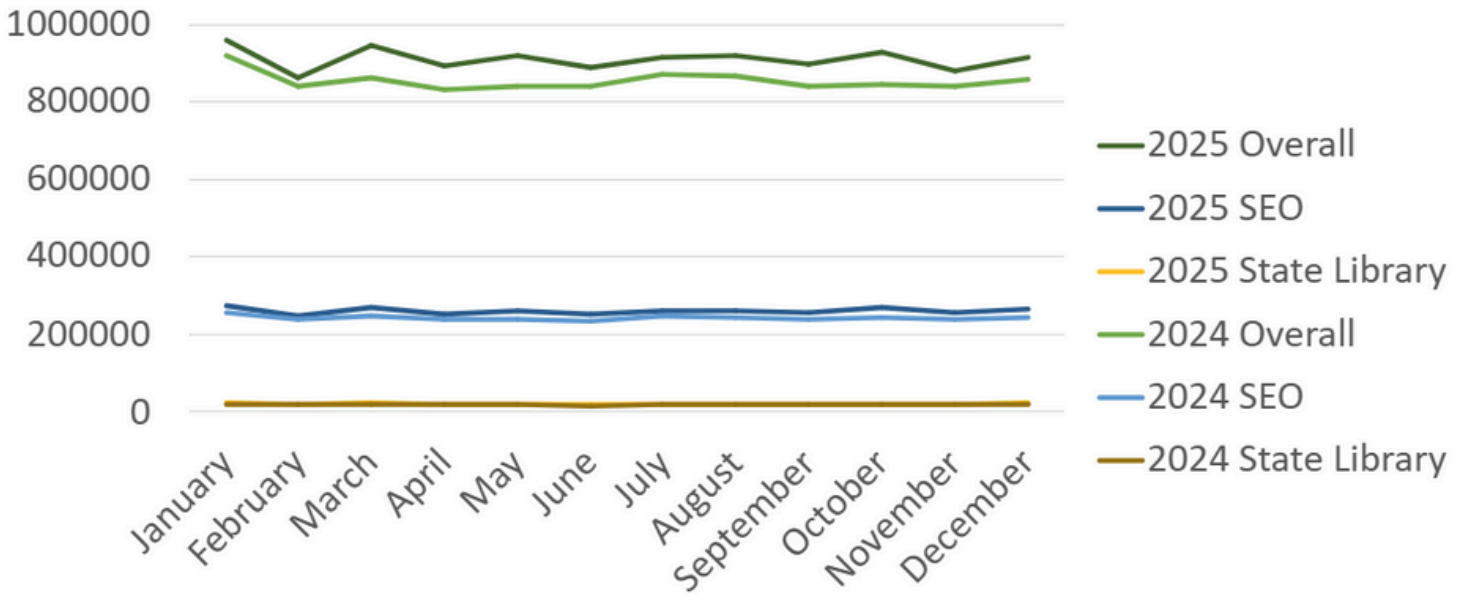
***Associate State Librarian Evan Struble  
and Debbie Saunders, Director of the  
Bossard Memorial Library***



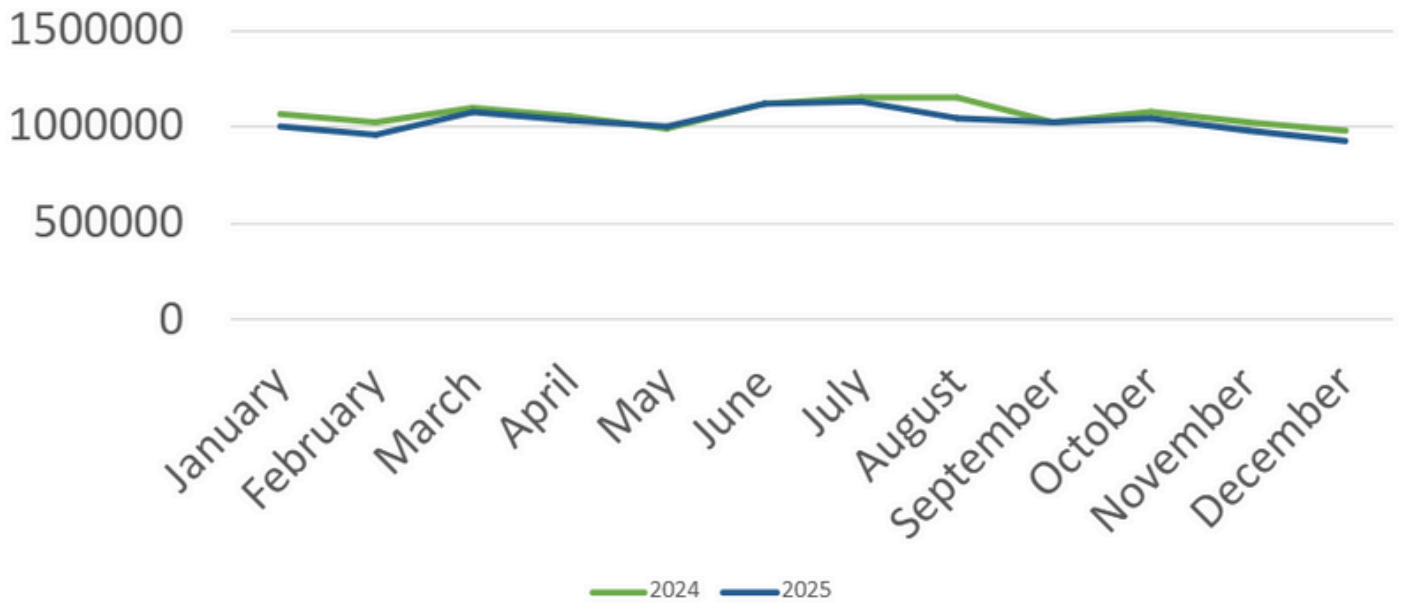
***Franklin County Law Library Director Jennifer Jones  
and State Librarian Mandy Knapp***

- Due to a short absence of appropriations, a partial federal government shutdown occurred stating at midnight on January 30. This shutdown only lasted a few days, and thankfully State Library grants and operations were unaffected.

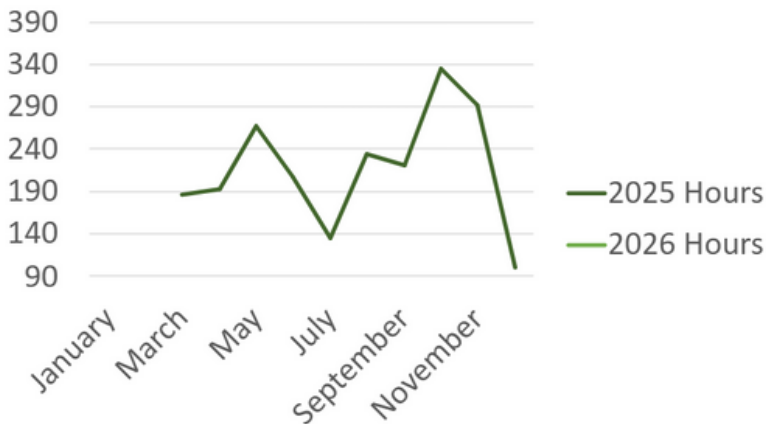
Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



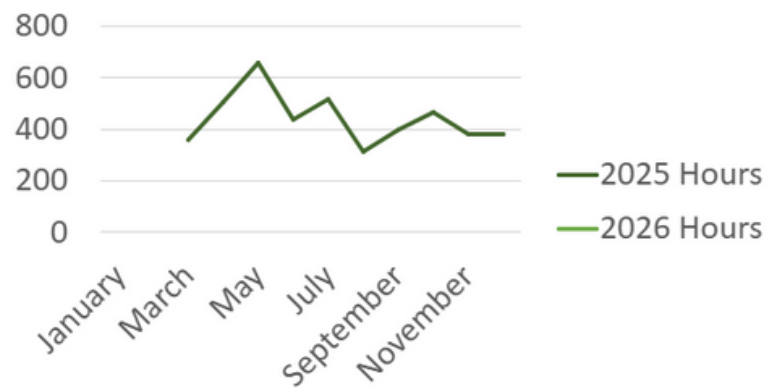
SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



State Library Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



## Library Services—January 2026

### Senator Manchester's visit to the State Library

On January 21, State Senator Susan Manchester visited the State Library of Ohio. We gave her a tour of our facility and shared some of our State/Federal Documents and rare books with her. We also spoke with her about our many programs that benefit her constituents.

The Senator was very excited and interested in our collection and our work within the state. We also were able to share an atlas in our collection from her hometown from 1898 that showed her family farm!



***Senator Manchester with Director Ryan Burley and Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee Ziegler***



***During one of our tours, Crawford County's Librarian was very excited when she saw her county represented in one of the pictures in our rare book room about the traveling libraries.***

### **Busy month of tours and Library visits!**

This month Library Services gave a presentation and tour to ServeOhio's 2026 AmeriCorp cohort. This group of over 40 AmeriCorp members learned about the State Library of Ohio and got to see some of our rare documents and items. We also gave a tour for the SERLS/COYS Summer Reading Workshop attendees. Library Services also visited the University of Cincinnati Libraries and the Ohio State University Depository to learn more from our OhioLINK partners.



## Library Programs & Development—January 2026



*Library consultants Katy Hite (center) and Janet Ingraham Dwyer (right) address the crowd at the opening session of the SERLS/Central Ohio Summer Planning Workshop on January 23.*

### Floyd's Pick Book Award

Every Monday Mabel by Jashar Awan has been named the eleventh annual Floyd's Pick Book Award winner, awarded by the Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) Advisory Council in memory of children's literature expert, advocate, and Library Consultant Floyd Dickman. This 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.

Library Consultants Janet Ingraham Dwyer and Katy Hite serve on the CTRO Advisory Council, and Janet is project coordinator for CTRO. Additionally, the CTRO Advisory Council selected two Floyd's Pick Honor Books for 2026: Home Is a Wish by Julia Kuo and Go Tell It: How James Baldwin Became a Writer by Quartez Harris, illustrated by Gordon C. James.



### Library Leadership Ohio 2026

The State Library of Ohio, in partnership with OhioNet, is pleased to announce Library Leadership Ohio (LLO) 2026. LLO supports great libraries by developing great leaders. Offering exceptional programs focused on personal

development and transferable leadership skills, LLO fosters connections and collaboration within Ohio's library community.

Library Leadership Ohio will be held July 21-23 at the Hocking Hills State Park Lodge & Conference Center in Logan, Ohio. Applications for the

program will open on **Wednesday, February 18**. A one-hour virtual information session about Library Leadership Ohio will be held on February 23 at 3:30 pm EST. Register for the information session.

**LLO**  
**Library Leadership**  
**Ohio**

### ODL By the Numbers

Let's take a deeper dive into the Ohio Digital Library (ODL) for the month of January:

#### **Total checkouts:**

1,008,268

The ebook format has a slight edge over audiobook: 458K vs. 435K, respectively.

#### **Support:**

139 support tickets were submitted and answered in January.

#### **Most popular book title:**

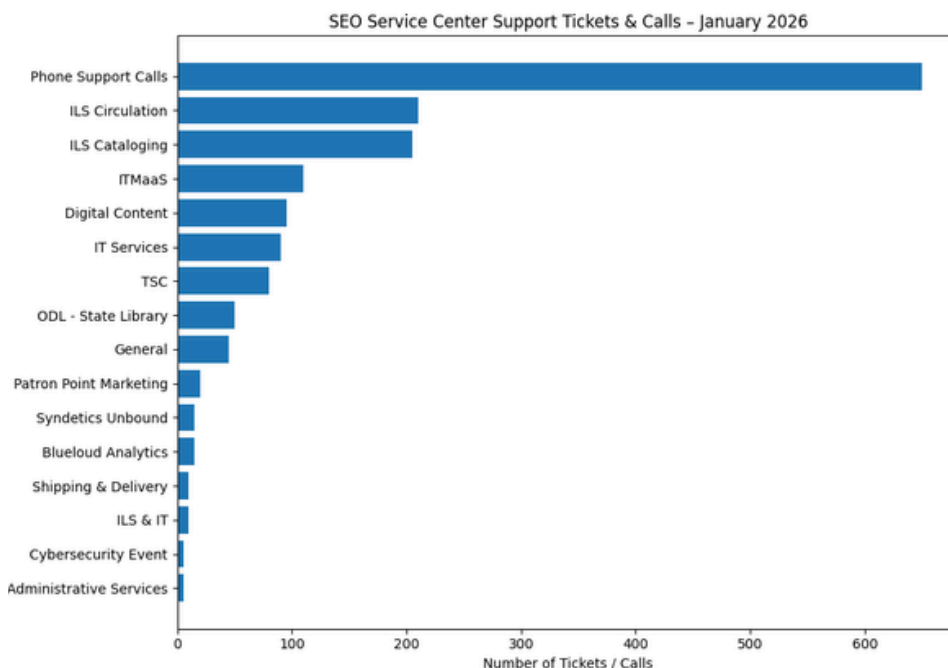
*Heated Rivalry*, by Rachel Reid (audiobook)

#### **Most popular magazine title:**

*The New Yorker*

Curious about what's being checked out? Take a look at the real-time checkouts and holds.

## SEO Service Center—January 2026



### Quick Takeaways:

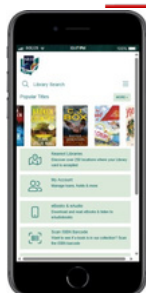
- Phone Support Calls (655) dominate overall volume.
- ILS work (Circulation + Cataloging 413) represents a major share of operational demand.
- IT Services + ITMaaS (196) and TSC (73) continue to be significant service drivers.

### Key service highlights include:

- **SEO ILS staff** held an open office hour introducing the new bounced e-mail handling.
- **Two library visits** - Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County, and Upper Sandusky Community Library

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

- Over **972,744** items were circulated.
- **197,791** holds were created and **188,394** holds were filled.
- **6,386** new users were created
- **466** interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- **949** support tickets were created, with **8** relayed to the software vendor.



| Mobile App Stats | 2025    | 2026           | % Change      |
|------------------|---------|----------------|---------------|
| New Devices      | 3,255   | <b>2,425</b>   | <b>-16%</b>   |
| Holds Placed     | 34,698  | <b>38,012</b>  | <b>10%</b>    |
| App Launched     | 92,020  | <b>99,633</b>  | <b>8%</b>     |
| Searches         | 105,634 | <b>105,473</b> | <b>-.002%</b> |



- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorial views - **1,070**
- Online Catalog Patron Tutorial views - **851**
- Staff Technical Services Committee - **27**
- Patron ASL Storytime views - **6**



- Heavy use in Announcement and Newsletters being sent (**371,055 emails**)
- Medium use in Birthday/Anniversary campaigns (**3,003 emails**)
- Light use of Winback (**292 emails**) and Coming of Age (**1,914 emails**) campaigns

## News—January 2026



### **Now Accepting Applications For The 2026 LSTA Summer Library Program Grant**

January 7, 2026: The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce the 2026 Summer Library Program (SLP) grant application is now open. The purpose of this Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant initiative is to empower libraries to enhance their 2026 summer programs with activities that spark creativity and learning, engage individuals of all ages, and benefit their communities. This grant is made possible with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

### **Kyle Hight Joins State Library Staff**

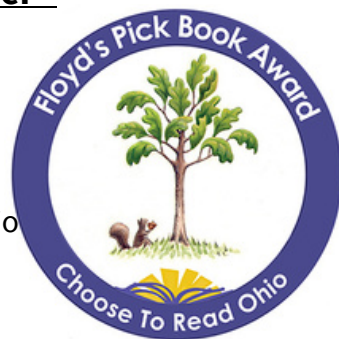
January 8, 2026: Kyle Hight recently joined our staff as a Financial Associate responsible for processing accounts payable and receivable transactions for the State Library, SEO, and OPLIN. In addition to those tasks, Kyle will create financial and accounting reports, work directly with outside suppliers and customers to coordinate payments and receipt of monies, and will assist with data collection for the annual Public Library Survey.

Introducing the  
newest member of  
our staff...



### **Every Monday Mabel by Jashar Awan is 2026 Floyd's Pick Book Award Winner**

January 12, 2026: ***Every Monday Mabel*** by Jashar Awan (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2025) has been named the eleventh annual Floyd's Pick Book Award winner, awarded by the Choose to Read Ohio (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**

***Home Is a Wish*** by Julia Kuo (Macmillan, 2025)

***Go Tell It: How James Baldwin Became a Writer*** by Quartez Harris, illustrated by Gordon C. James (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2025)

