

## Message from the State Librarian

After a year and a half of planning and searching, I am pleased to let you know that the State Library is getting ready to move to our new home. The staff offices are relocating to the heart of Columbus on Chestnut street while our rare and unique collections are moving to a specialized archival facility with state-of-the-art environmental controls.

By relocating to these two locations, the State Library will free up resources to reinvest in collections, digitization projects, and other initiatives aimed to better serve all Ohioans. Please pardon our dust as we close our current facility so that we can serve you better tomorrow.




***State Library staff members Don Winland, Michael Postlethwait, Jay Miley, Ron Woods, and Eric Maynard moving furniture from Columbus to Caldwell***

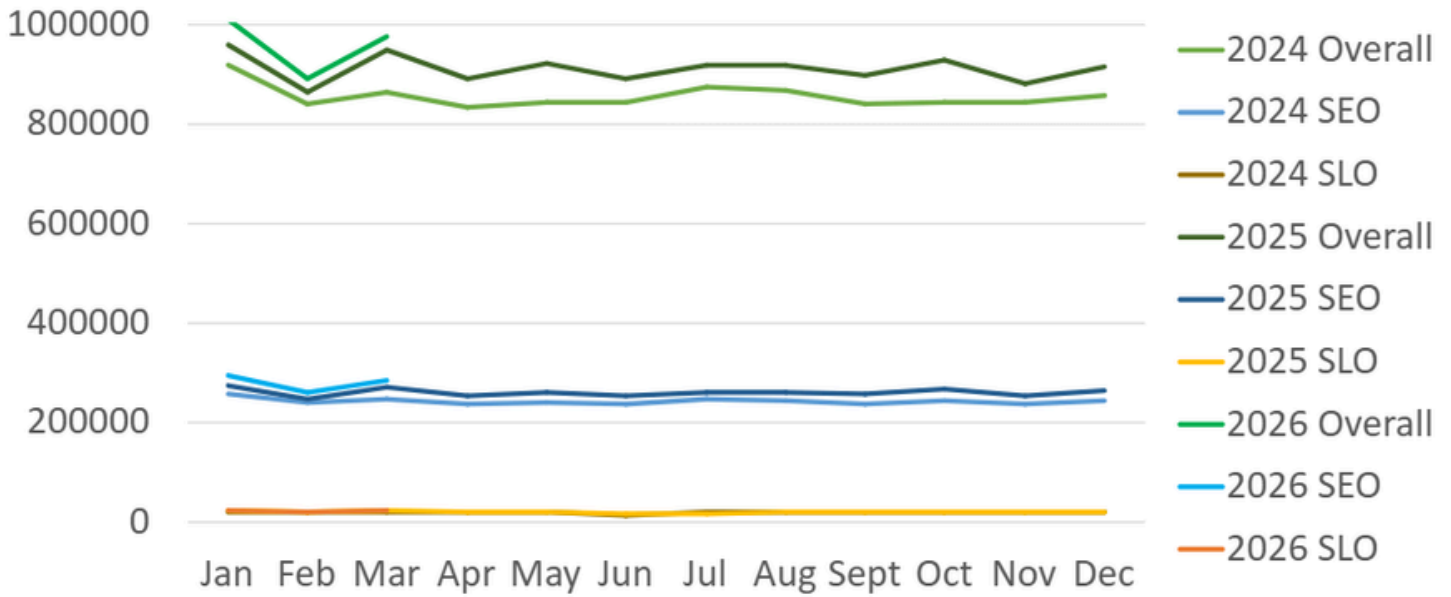
## Highlights

- In March, State Librarian Mandy Knapp, Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee, and Madison Public Library's Shawn Walsh visited Ohio legislators and shared materials on the importance of funding for libraries.
- Mandy also attended the spring meeting of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA). Usha Vance, the Second Lady of the United States, spoke to the group on the importance of reading and literacy.
- Mandy and Kirstin also attended the Ohio Library Council's Library Legislative Day in Columbus.
- Staff worked hard to prepare for the Columbus relocation.
- The State Library's strategic plan is taking shape. The State Library Board set high level goals at the March Board Meeting.

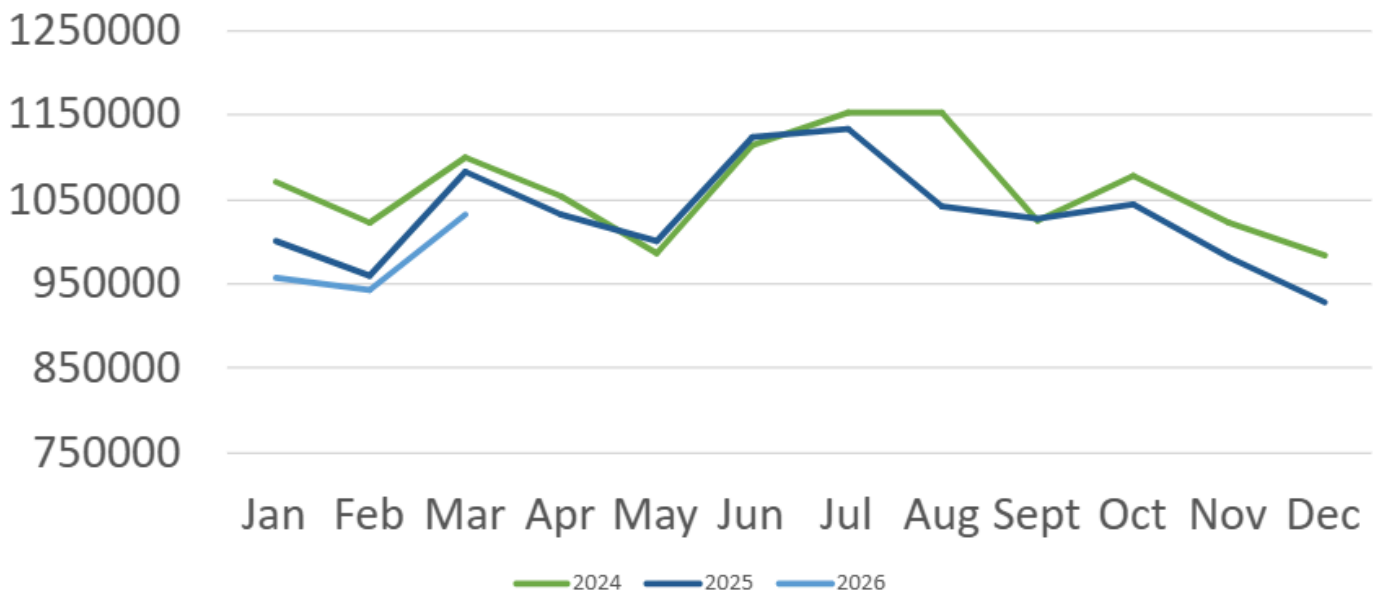


***Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee, Legislative Assistant Adrienne Cardulla, State Librarian Knapp, and Madison Public Library's Emerging Services and Technology Librarian Shawn Walsh in Washington, DC***

Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



## Library Services—March 2026

### *Move Preparations*

This month the Library Services team has been hard at work preparing for our upcoming move to a new facility. In partnership with other departments, the team has already packed over 700 boxes of materials. Staff have been working on weeding collections, emptying cabinets, and working on creating guidelines to assist with the movement of our nearly 2 million items.



***Library Services staff members packing up materials to help prepare for our move***

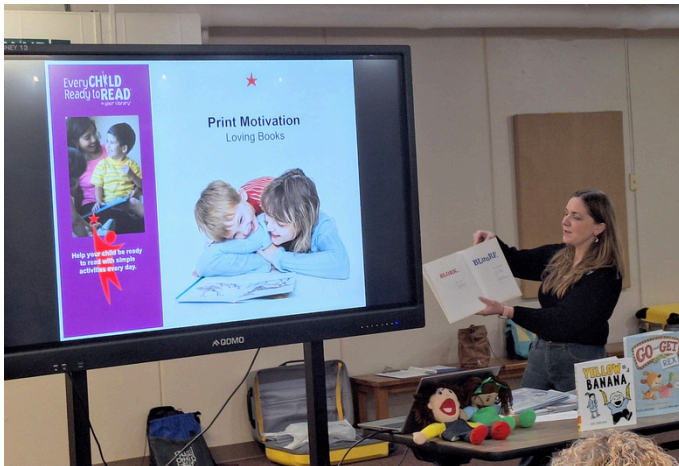


***OSU Professor & Head, Thompson Special Collections, Curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts, Eric J. Johnson, Ph.D. presenting to State Library Staff***

### **Rare Book Presentation**

This month Ohio State Libraries, Curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts Eric J. Johnson, Ph.D. visited the State Library and presented at our Columbus All Staff meeting. Professor Johnson presented on the many unique holdings of OSU libraries and shared some rare items with our staff. He has also done research into the 2 medieval manuscripts in our collection. Dating one to the early 1200's which was written by Monks from Cistercian Order.

## Library Programs & Development—March 2026



***On March 4th, library consultants Penelope Shumaker (right) and Janet Ingraham Dwyer (not pictured) facilitated Ohio Ready to Read’s Early Literacy 101 workshop in Wapakoneta, where attendees learned about early brain development and how it relates to library programming.***

### **LSTA Conservation and Preservation Grant**

The State Library of Ohio, in partnership with the Ohio Preservation Council (OPC), is pleased to announce the availability of federal Library Services and Technology Act (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 or 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. All analog formats, including book and paper, object, and artwork are appropriate. Under this special program, prospective applicants must attend the workshop on May 19th, 2026, or submit the opt-out form indicating they attended the May 2025 workshop by May 19th, in order to submit a grant application. Full details about the grant program can be found here.

### **Consultants On the Road**

Library consultant Janet Ingraham Dwyer and Choose to Read Ohio Advisory Council member Liz Deskens presented a session on Ohio authors and Ohio-based book awards at the Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (OCTELA) conference in Newark.

Library consultants Katy Hite and Jeff Regensburger presented sessions on identifying community partners/mapping assets and LSTA grants, respectively, as part of OhioNet’s “Boom and Bust: Libraries Navigating Economic Change in Their Communities” event, held in Chillicothe.

Library consultant Penelope Shumaker served on a panel as part of a presentation titled, “What’s Next? The Future of MDPN’s Learnings” as part of the Michigan Digital Preservation Network’s IMLS Grant Activities Symposium in Lansing.

### ODL By the Numbers

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

#### **Total checkouts:**

974,943 (2,872,078 YTD)

#### **Record broken:**

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 37,702 checkouts were recorded--the largest-ever daily amount in ODL history!

#### **Support:**

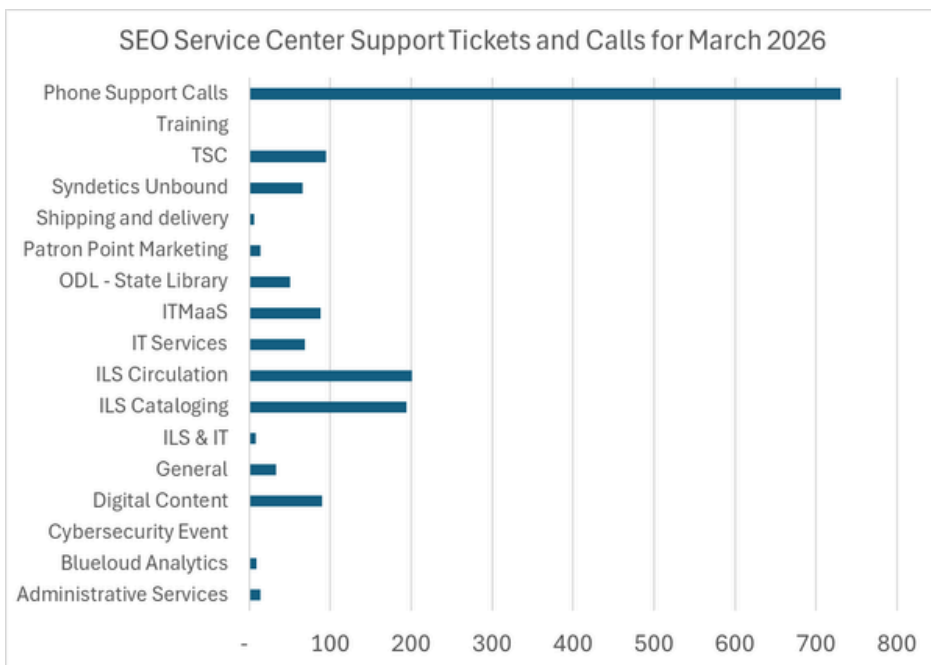
144 support tickets were submitted and answered in February.

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

*The Perfect Divorce*, by Jeneva Rose (audiobook)

Curious about what’s being checked out? Take a look at the [real-time checkouts and holds](#).

## SEO Service Center—March 2026



### Quick Takeaways:

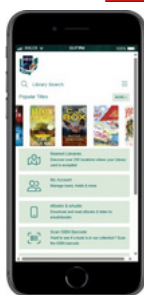
- Phone Support Calls (731) dominate overall volume.
- ILS work (Circulation + Cataloging 395) represents a major share of operational demand.
- IT Services + ITMaaS (96) and TSC (95) continue to be significant service drivers.

### Key service highlights include:

- **The SEO ILS & IT Teams** hosted an Open Office Hour on Cybersecurity Essentials with **31 attendees**.
- **Two library visits** – St. Clairsville Public Library and Dally Memorial Library

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

- Over **1,042,082** items were circulated.
- **193,123** holds were created, and **196,393** holds were filled.
- **6,587** new users were created
- **580** interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- **939** support tickets were created, with **16** relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats	2025	2026	% Change
New Devices	3,450	<b>2,277</b>	<b>-34%</b>
Holds Placed	31,743	<b>36,588</b>	<b>15%</b>
App Launched	89,519	<b>96,258</b>	<b>8%</b>
Searches	96,435	<b>94,025</b>	<b>-2%</b>



- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views - **1,599**
- Online Catalog Patron Tutorial views - **720**
- Patron ASL Storytime views - **6**



- Heavy use in Announcement and Newsletters being sent (**371,137 emails**)
- Medium use in Birthday/Anniversary campaigns (**2,961 emails**)
- Light use of Winback (**226 emails**) and Coming of Age (**1,261 emails**) campaigns

## News—March 2026



### **Ohio Deaf History Month**

March 1, 2026: The State Library of Ohio Board recently passed a resolution proclaiming the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15, 2026, as Ohio Deaf History Month.



### **State Library Awards \$18,877 in 2026 LSTA Open Grants to Four Libraries**

March 5, 2026: Pickerington Public Library, Germantown Public Library, Monroeville Public Library, and Rock Creek Public Library have been awarded federally funded Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Open Grants from the State Library of Ohio.



### **Registration is open for Take 5: “REVO” - the Re-evolution of Teen Services**

March 11, 2026: Take 5 is an annual, librarian-led event on new ideas and creative approaches in teen services.



### **State Library Awards \$64,775 in 2026 LSTA Celebrating Ohio Book Awards and Authors (COBAA) Grants**

March 13, 2026: Thirty-eight Ohio libraries have been awarded federally funded Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Celebrating Ohio Book Awards and Authors (COBAA) Grants from the State Library of Ohio.



### **State Library Board Selects Two Exceptional Ohio LSTA Grantees**

March 19, 2026: State Library Board recognized two Exceptional Grantees for their innovative use of federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and awarded by the State Library.



### **Ohio LSTA Conservation & Preservation Grant 2026**

March 23, 2026: The State Library of Ohio, in partnership with the Ohio Preservation Council (OPC), is pleased to announce the availability of federal Library Services and Technology Act (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.



### **State Library of Ohio to Assume Administration of SearchOhio Consortium**

March 23, 2026: The State Library and the Westerville Public Library are collaborating closely on the transition which is expected by January 2027.