Message from the State Librarian

Recently we asked our past and present grantees to highlight the impacts of federal Library Services and Technology Act(LSTA) grants and—Wow! I can't tell you how moving these videos are. From safeguarding our Ohio cultural heritage to helping our babies become readers to helping students engage with new technology, I couldn't be more proud of the work we do together.

Please take a moment to take a look at the videos on the State Library's social media channels and see our librarians make a real change in our Ohio communities. I challenge you to leave with a dry eye.

Library Director Sarah Frump and State Librarian Mandy Knapp in front of Carnegie Public Library in Washington Court House
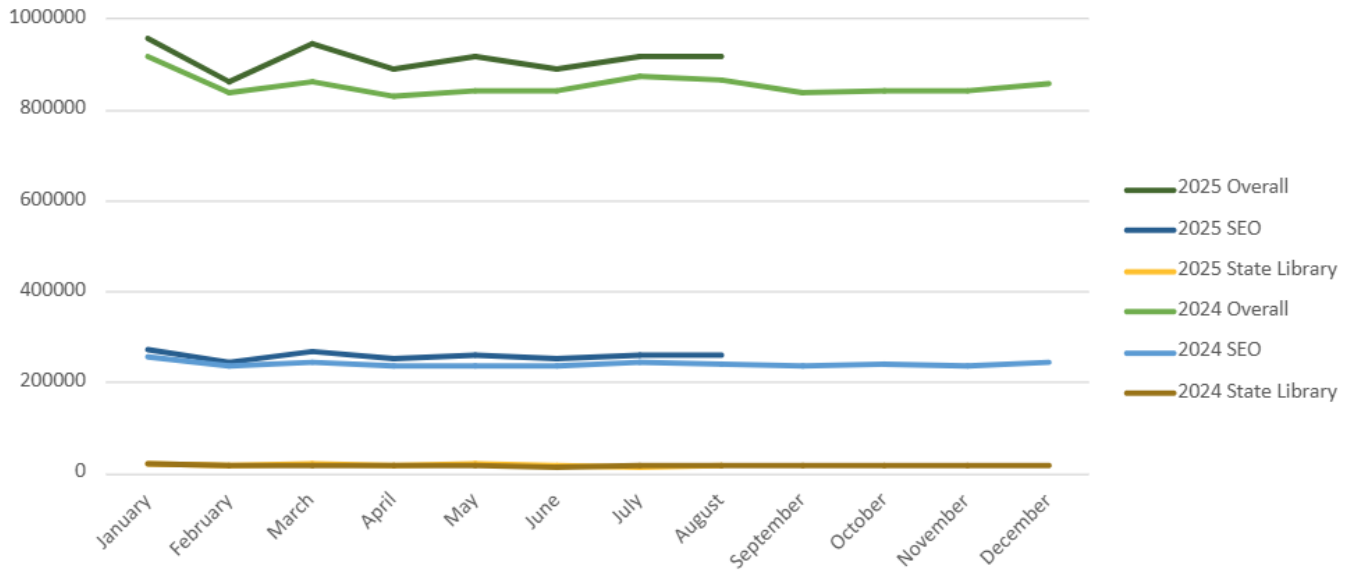
Highlights

♦ State Librarian Mandy Knapp was interviewed by PBS Books on the literary heritage of Ohio—the episode should come out this October!

♦ Mandy attended the Geneva Public Library Expansion Grand Opening. The new expansion has a makerspace funded in part by federal funds awarded by the State Library.

♦ In August, Mandy's Listening Tour continued with visits to University of Cincinnati Libraries, Mary Lou Johnson Hardin County District Library, Logan County Libraries, Carnegie Public Library (Washington Court House), and Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library, and meetings with members of the State Library's Talking Book Consumer Advisory Committee.
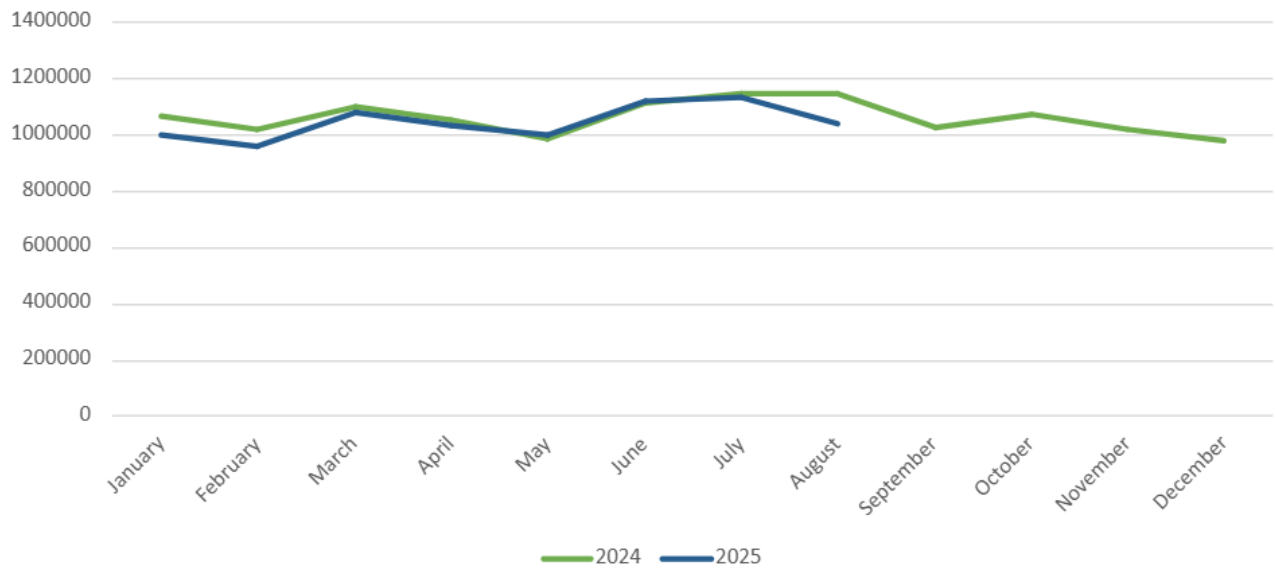

University of Cincinnati Dean and University Libarian Liz Kiscaden, State Librarian Mandy Knapp, and Associate Dean Brian Gray
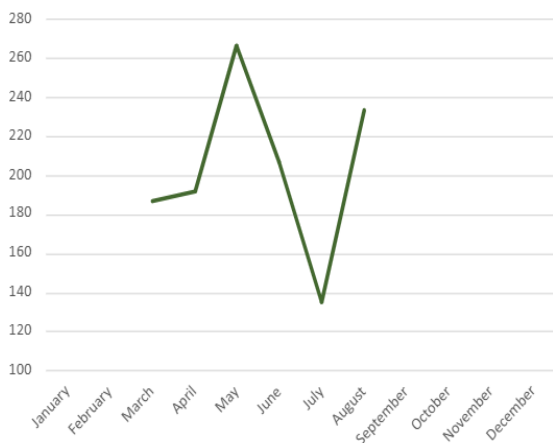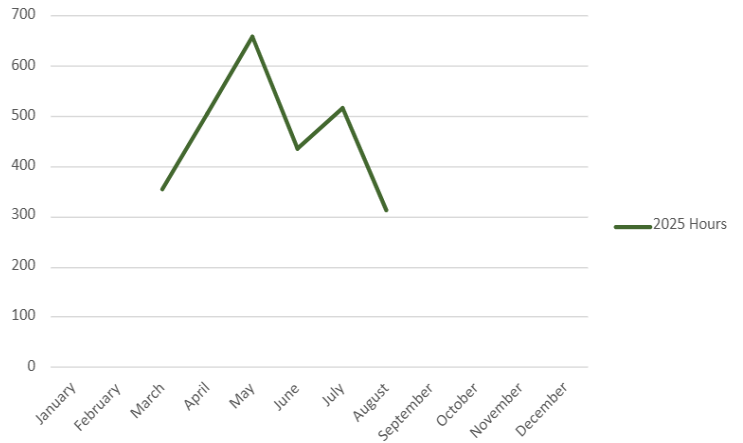
Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month

Legend:
- 2025 Overall
- 2025 SEO
- 2025 State Library
- 2024 Overall
- 2024 SEO
- 2024 State Library

SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month

Legend:
- 2024
- 2025

State Library Staff Training by Month

Legend:
- 2025 Hours

Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month

Legend:
- 2025 Hours

Library Services—August 2025

Director and Staff from The Ohio State University Press visit the State Library

On August 29 we welcomed Ohio State University Press Director Tony Sanfilippo and 7 of his staff to our location for a visit and tour. They were very excited learn about the State Library of Ohio's history and see our rare book collections. We also were able to show them several of their early publications from our State Documents collection that they hadn't seen previously!

This month we received our delivery of 744 **Digital Advanced Player 2s** from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. We are currently shipping these newly updated talking book players to our patrons all across Ohio!

"It's like an early birthday present." From a Talking Book patron who received their new DA2 Talking Book Player

On 8/3 we had the exciting opportunity to speak to the staff of the **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities: Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired**. We presented to around 50 of their staff about the State Library of Ohio's resources and the Talking book program. They asked great questions, and we were able to show off our braille e-readers and new **DA2 Talking Book player.**
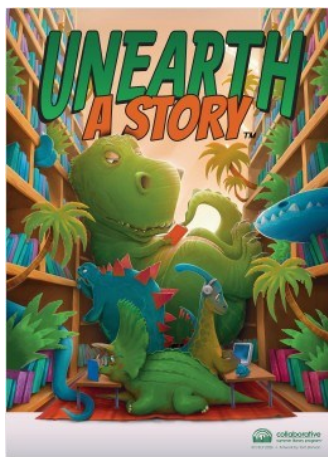
On 8/13 we welcomed the staff of **Southern State Community College's library** to our location for a tour of our facility and collections.

On 8/14 we promoted our Talking Book Program at the second annual **Accessible Ohio Conference & Expo**, which highlighted Ohio's commitment to accessibility and meaningful opportunities for individuals with disabilities. We were able to promote our services to a variety of conference attendees which included community leaders, cabinet directors, Ohioans with disabilities, and their families and employers.

In August we implemented Ex Libris **RapidILL service** as part of our LSP migration. This services provides us access to article and book chapter ILL requests from 650 Ex Libris Libraries and is integrated with our new Ex Libris Library Services Platform.

Library Programs & Development—August 2025

(Left) A preview of the 2026 Collaborative Summer Library Program artwork was shared with Library Consultant Janet Ingraham Dwyer and other attendees of the CSLP annual meeting on August 5th-6th. The artwork by Tom Bonson is in support of the 2026 CSLP theme, "Unearth a Story." (Right) Reimagining School Readiness workshop attendees at Licking County Library are guided through an exercise on practicing research-based strategies for engaging children about school preparedness.

The State Library of Ohio's **LSTA Competitive Grant** application window opened on August 18th. Applications will be accepted through October 20th, with awards being announced in December. The LSTA Competitive Grant offers eligible libraries the opportunity to apply for up to $50,000.00 in LSTA funds for projects that address one of three possible focus areas: Literacy, Library as Community Anchor, and Outreach and Engagement. Draft proposals may be submitted for feedback until October 5th. More information on the LSTA Competitive Grant can be found here.

On August 7th, five awardees for the State Library of Ohio's **LSTA Open Grant** were announced: Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County, Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, Highland County District Library's Hillsboro Public Library, and Henderson Memorial Public Library. The LSTA Open Grant initiative invites libraries to apply for up to $4,999 in federal funds to address a specific need within their community. Full information, including parameters and deadlines can be found here.

Many libraries nationally and in Ohio participate in **At-risk Afterschool Meals/Snacks** (a part of the CACFP: Child & Adult Care Food Program). This USDA-funded program provides free meals and snacks to children ages 0-18 in communities with high levels of need. Besides the obvious benefits of addressing hunger and supporting vulnerable youth, CACFP

participation benefits libraries through: access to new user groups, especially underserved populations; increased visibility of the library as a community asset; opportunities for new partnerships; positioning of the library as an important stakeholder in community well-being and positive child outcomes; and potential increased attendance at library programming.

If you want to become an CACFP site, see No Kid Hungry's Summer and Afterschool Meals in Libraries resource guide for basic information. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Office of Integrated Student Supports can help you identify a CACFP sponsor. Children's Hunger Alliance can also serve as sponsor for eligible sites across Ohio.
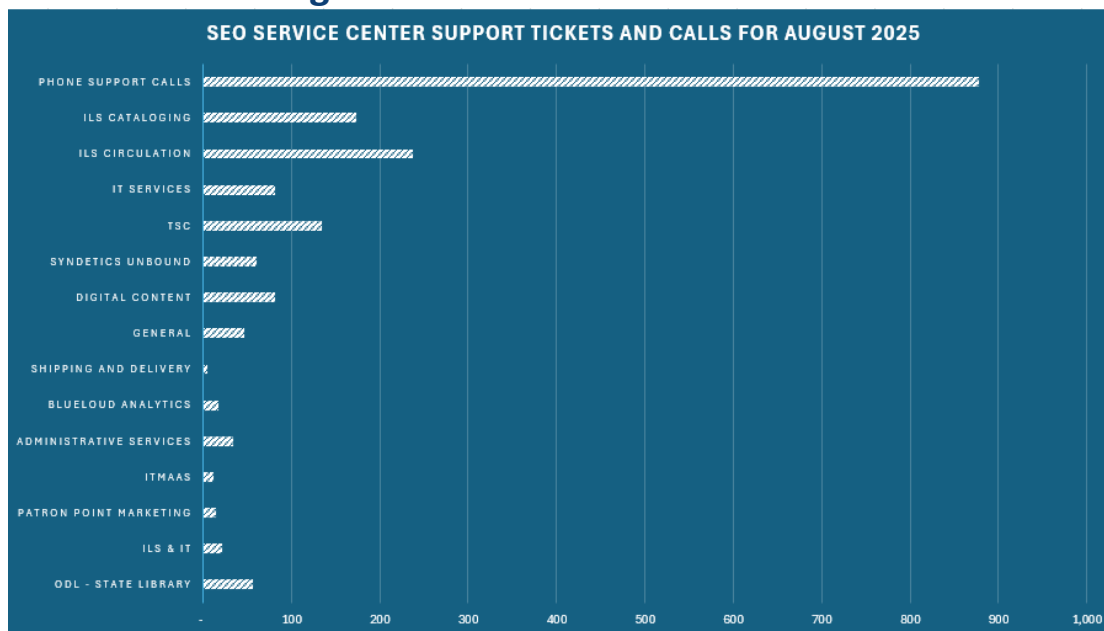
SEO Service Center—August 2025

SEO SERVICE CENTER SUPPORT TICKETS AND CALLS FOR AUGUST 2025

- PHONE SUPPORT CALLS
- ILS CATALOGING
- ILS CIRCULATION
- IT SERVICES
- TSC
- SYNDETICS UNBOUND
- DIGITAL CONTENT
- GENERAL
- SHIPPING AND DELIVERY
- BLUELOUD ANALYTICS
- ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
- ITMAAS
- PATRON POINT MARKETING
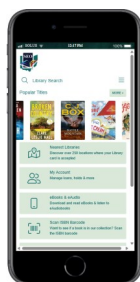- ILS & IT
- ODL - STATE LIBRARY

The SEO Service Center team answered over 1,851 tickets and customer calls during the month of August.

Key service highlights include:

- **Visits** were made to Galion Public Library and Gnadenhutten member libraries.

- SEO Request for Proposal work continues to progress—Library Software Platform

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

- Over 1.04 million items were circulated.
- 10,422 new users were created.
- 194,042 holds were created and 188,146 holds were filled.
- 469 interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- 951 support tickets were created, with 18 relayed to the software vendor.

Mobile App Stats	2024	2025	% Change
New Devices	4,164	2,245	-46% ⬇
Holds Placed	28,310	33,460	18% ⬆
App Launched	78,653	90,312	15% ⬆
Searches	86,313	89,585	4% ⬆

Niche Academy usage showed:

- Heavy engagement with **staff tutorials** (1,820 views) and the **online catalog tutorial** (1,3370 views)
- Lower engagement with the **Technical Services Committee** (2 view) and **ASL Storytime** (12 views) tutorials

Patron Point Marketing e-mails showed:

- Heavy use in **Announcement and Newsletters** being sent (280,053 emails)
- Medium use in **Birthday/Anniversary** campaigns (2,946 emails)
- Light use of **Winback** (157 emails) and **Coming of Age** (1,441 emails) campaigns

News—August 2025

New Video Series Showcases Libraries That Received Federally Funded Grants from the State Library
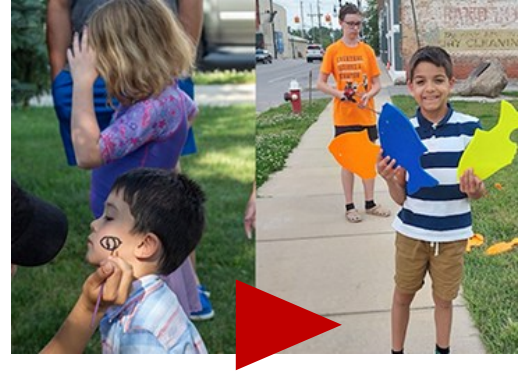
August 01, 2025: The State Library of Ohio is thrilled to introduce our new video series, which showcases the statewide impact of federal library funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). These featured videos were created by Hillsboro Public Library and St. Paris Public Library.

August 7, 2025: **Federal IMLS Funding Enabled the Starting Pointe Early Literacy Initiative at MidPointe Library System**

August 13, 2025: **Federal IMLS LSTA Funds Used for Conservation & Preservation Grant Awarded to Cleveland Public Library**

August 19, 2025: **Oak Harbor Public Library Enhanced Their Summer Library Programs Using Federal IMLS LSTA Funds Awarded by the State Library**

August 07, 2025: **Five Libraries Selected to Receive Open Grants totaling $21,679.00 in federal funds**
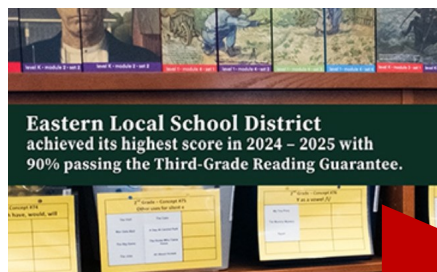

August 21, 2025: **Two Spotlight Videos from University Library at Muskingum University and McComb Public Library Illuminate the Crucial Impact of Federal Funding for Libraries from IMLS and Awarded by the State Library**

August 19, 2025: **Ohio Libraries Invited to Submit Proposals for the State Library of Ohio's 2025 LSTA Competitive Grant**

August 28, 2025: **Videos about Eastern Local School District and from the Ashtabula County Public Library District highlight the Vital Role of Federal Funding from IMLS and Awarded by the State Library for School and Public Libraries**