



Message from the State Librarian

This October, federal government operations were shut down. This marks the longest shutdown in our nation's history. As many of you are aware, the State Library has had to delay payments on awarded federal grants. We understand the challenges the ongoing federal government shutdown presents, and we want to thank our beloved libraries for your continued patience and resilience. While the situation remains unresolved as of this writing, there are encouraging signs that a solution is within reach. We remain hopeful that a resolution will come soon.

This month we also began the strategic planning process. In these uncertain times, it's important for us to know where to place our energy. I look forward to hearing your feedback in our upcoming survey.

On a happier note, I wanted to extend an invitation to all of you for our first Open House on December 11 from 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. at our Columbus location.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mandy Knapp".

Highlights

- ◆ State Librarian Mandy Knapp attended the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) annual gathering in Wilmington, Delaware.
- ◆ Mandy and the State Library Board attended the presentations from the ILEAD Ohio teams. It was wonderful to see the projects come to fruition.
- ◆ Mandy presented an update on the State Library at the NEO-RLS Open House.
- ◆ In October, Mandy's Listening Tour finished up with visits with the staff of Ohio State School for the Blind's library, Nordonia High School's library, Tiffin-Seneca Public Library, Otterbein University's Courtright Memorial Library, Westerville Public Library, MidPointe Public Library, and the Ohio History Connection.

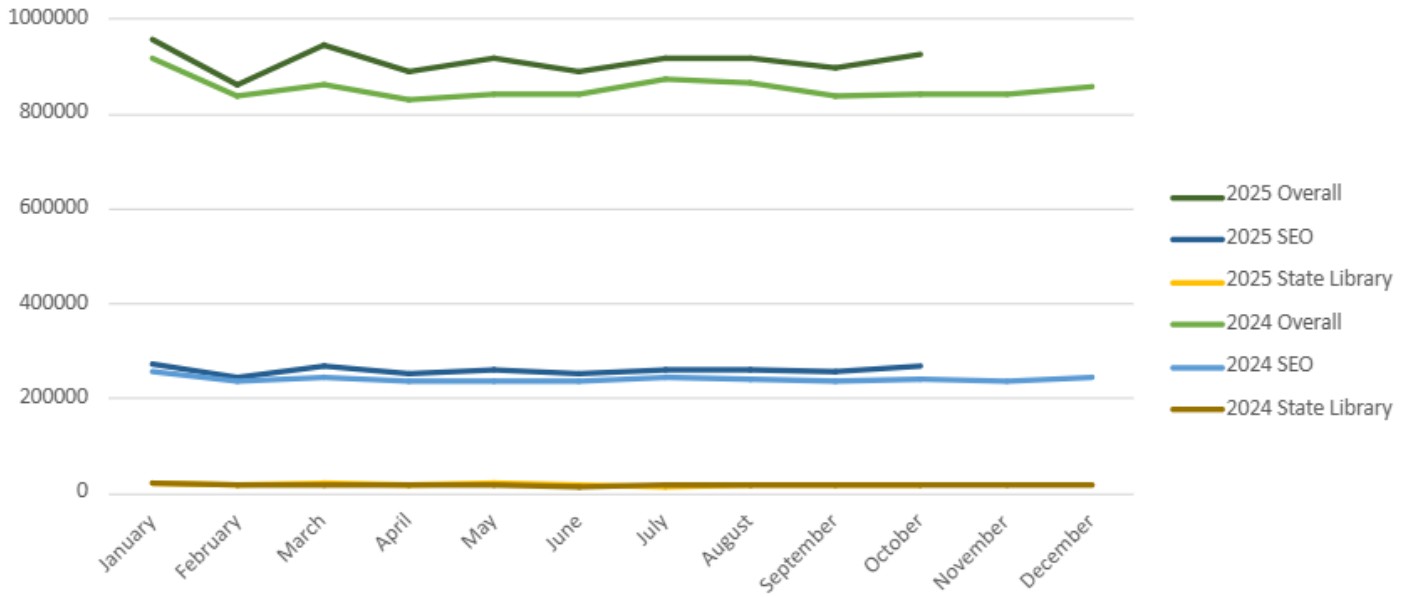


**State Librarian Mandy Knapp and
Director of Tiffin- Seneca Public Library
Matt Ross**

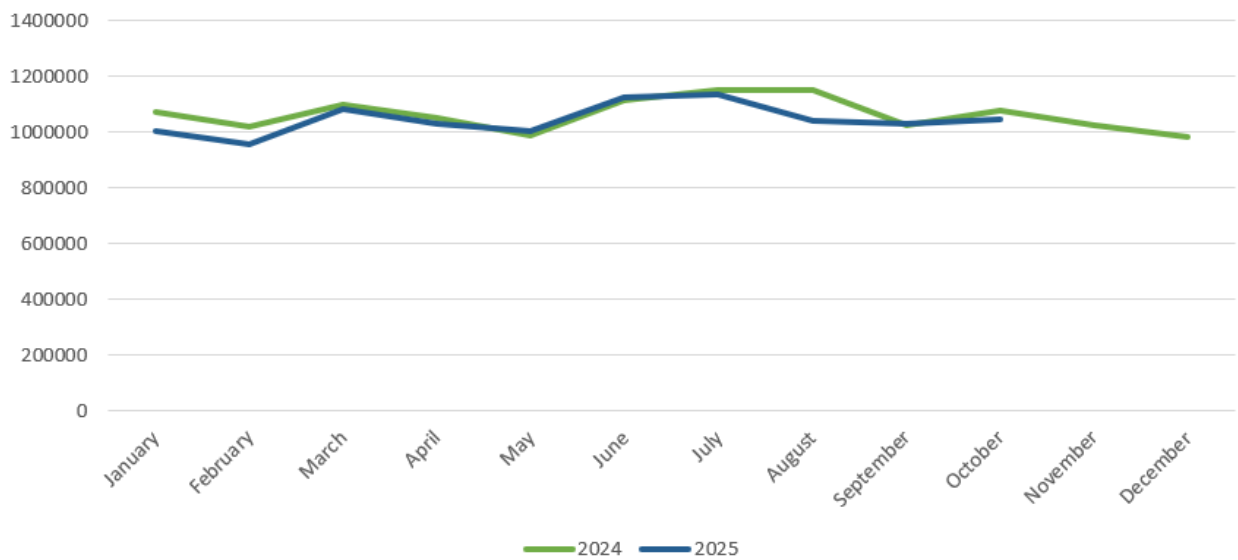


**State Librarian Mandy Knapp and
OhioNet Director Katy Mathews**

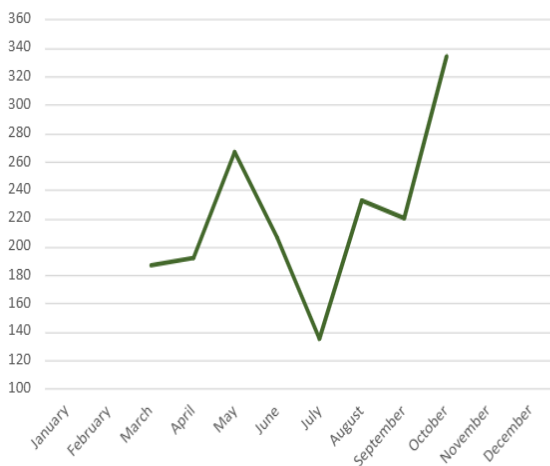
Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



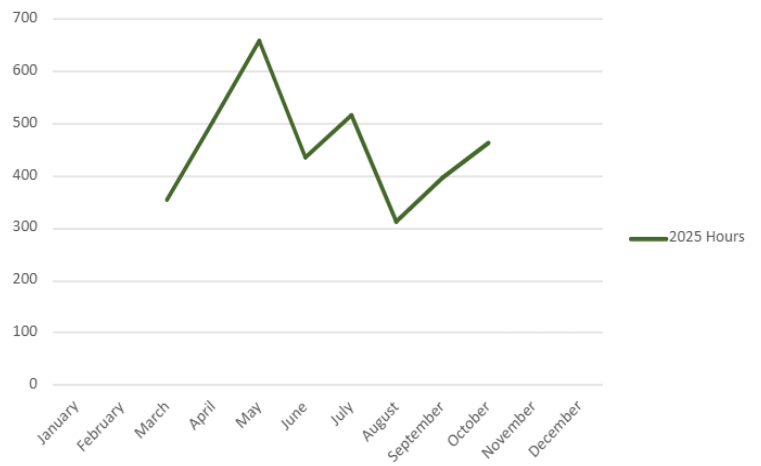
SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



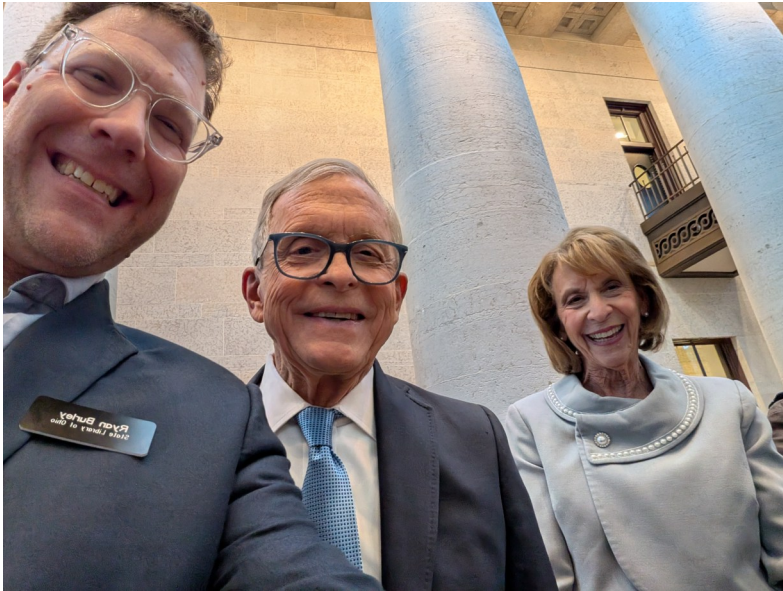
State Library Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



Library Services—October 2025



Director Burley with the Governor and First Lady

On October 16, the Ohioana Library held their Ohio Book Awards at the Statehouse. Governor and First Lady DeWine attended the event and we were able to speak to them about the State Library and show them some of our rare materials.



Medieval Scholar Dr. Johnson reviewing our rare books

On October 17, Dr. Eric J. Johnson, Professor and Head of Thompson Special Collections at OSU, visited our location at our invitation. Dr. Johnson is a medieval manuscript scholar and was able to identify that one of our manuscripts is from the 1200s.

“This program is a lifesaver. I was never a reader before it.” —Quote from a Talking Book patron



Director Burley speaking at the OhioNet Summit

OhioNet speech

On October 28, Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley was the featured speaker at the Sold out OhioNet Facilities Summit. He spoke about the work he has done relating to our current facility and our new facility search.

Fall CAC Meeting

On October 16, we held our Fall 2025 Talking Book Consumer Advisory Committee meeting. The committee is made of members from the National Federation for the Blind, American Council of the Blind, and other organizations. In the meeting we received helpful feedback from the CAC members about the new DA2 machines.

Library Programs & Development—October 2025



Left: Library consultants **Erin Kelsey** (background, right), **Jeff Laser** (background, left) and **Katy Hite** (not pictured) conducted a strategic planning activity with the staff of the **Burton Public Library**. Right: **Erin Kelsey** (background, center) leads a future-focused discussion with the **Mechanicsburg Public Library Board of Trustees**.

Library consultants **Katy Hite** and **Janet Ingraham Dwyer** are facilitating a tri-state cohort of Building Community-Based Summers, a three-month professional development opportunity that empowers library staff to develop summer services with community at the center.

Participating public library staff members work with Katy and Janet and each other to consider summer programs through a community-focused lens. The cohort includes teams from Ashland Public Library, Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, and Dayton Metro Library,

along with teams from two Indiana libraries and five Michigan libraries. The libraries were selected through a competitive application process. Cohort meetings began with an orientation in late-September, and is followed by weekly learning sessions through mid-December on “The Whys of Summer,” “Letting Go of Traditions,” “Connecting with Community,” “Summer Services Impact,” and other related topics.



The annual ODNFest event was held at the State Library of Ohio with more than 30 library professionals from across Ohio in attendance. While ODNFest rose from the work of the Ohio Digital Network and The Digital Public Library of America projects, the mini conference is open to any library staff member interested in digital topics. The featured speakers

and their presentation topics were: Erin McBrien and Rachel Weiher: “Looking at Vicarious Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care in Archives;” Rebecca Bakker: “When AI Takes Over: What We’re Gaining, What We’re Losing, and What Still Matters;” and Eira Tansey: “Digital Collections Documenting Climate Change.” Library consultant **Penelope Shumaker** served as

LPD Staff Spotlights

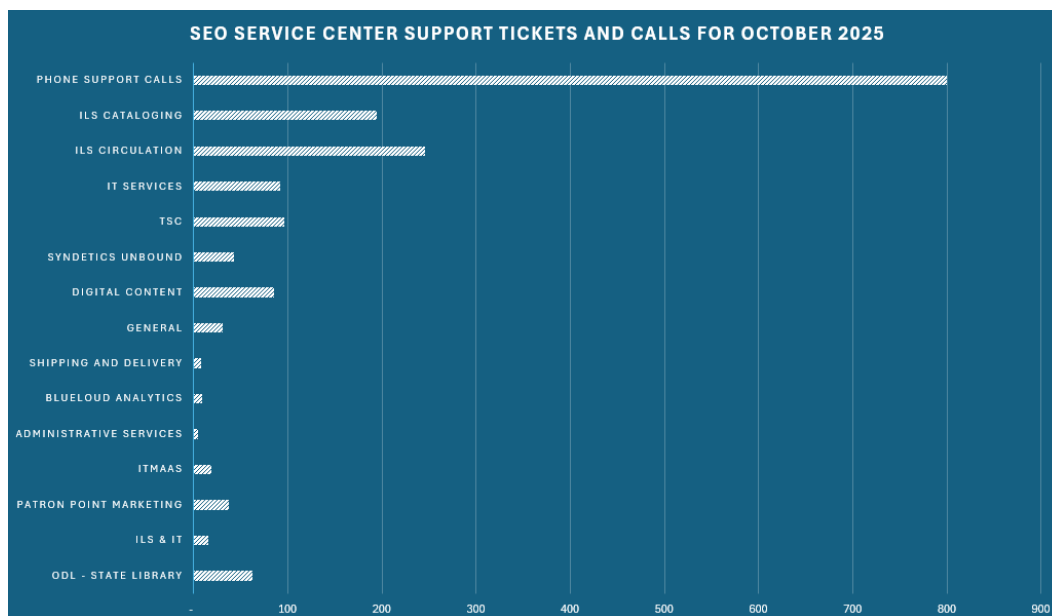
LPD Staff Spotlights

The State Library of Ohio hosted a virtual Reimagining School Readiness Workshop on October 14 with 19 library staff members in attendance. Led by Library Consultant **Penelope Shumaker** and Pam Brockway (Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County), participants received materials in advance of the workshop that equipped them to engage in hands-on activities and discussions.

Associate State Librarian **Evan T. Struble** led the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) Board of Trustees through a visioning exercise. Through group facilitation skills and strategic planning discussion prompts, the OPLIN Board was challenged to consider how the organization might grow and change in the coming years, while still providing the excellent services for which it’s currently known.

emcee and provided an update on current DPLA goings-on, as well as facilitated guided discussions. Participants commented on their program evaluations that they enjoyed the opportunity for collaboration and candid talks, as well as gathering in person to informally network with other digital collection librarians.

SEO Service Center—October 2025



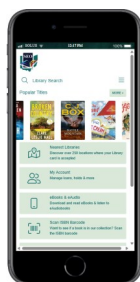
The SEO Service Center team answered over 1,700 tickets and customer calls during the month of October.

Key service highlights include:

- **Visits** to Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County and Normal Memorial Public Library
- **Hosted** a Patron Point Info Session for 32 attendees
- **Hosted** the annual SEO Directors Meeting

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

- Over 1.04 million items were circulated.
- 8,823 new users were created.
- 197,216 holds were created and 201,153 holds were filled.



Mobile App Stats

	2024	2025	% Change
New Devices	4,316	2,187	-49% ↓
Holds Placed	28,592	34,008	19% ↑
App Launched	80,311	91,842	14% ↑
Searches	85,600	88,983	4% ↑

Niche Academy usage showed:

- Strong engagement with **staff tutorials** (3,758 views) and the **online catalog tutorial** (831 views)
- Lower engagement with the **Technical Services Committee** (25 views) and **ASL Storytime**



Patron Point

Patron Point Marketing e-mails showed:

- Heavy use in **Announcement and Newsletters** being sent (295,876 emails)
- Medium use in **Birthday/Anniversary** campaigns (2,919 emails)
- Light use of **Winback** (175 emails) and

News—October 2025



October 1, 2025: [Continuing Education Cohort Opportunity in Digital Curation](#)



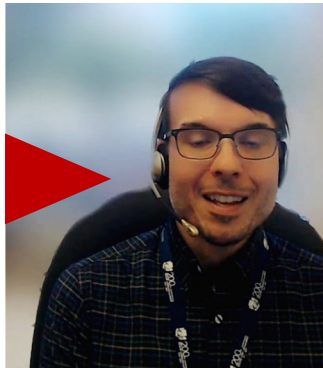
October 1, 2025: [Part 4 - How the State Library Uses Federal IMLS LSTA Dollars to Fund Work of State Library Consultants](#)



October 2, 2025: [Part 5 - How the State Library Uses Federal IMLS LSTA Dollars to Help Fund SEO](#)



October 8, 2025: [Part 6 - How the State Library Uses Federal IMLS LSTA Dollars for Grants to Libraries](#)



October 14, 2025: [Spotlighting IMLS LSTA Grantees Perry County District Library and The Ohio State University Libraries](#)



October 17, 2025: [Spotlighting IMLS LSTA Grantees Greene County Public Library and MidPointe Library System](#)



October 24, 2025: [Spotlighting IMLS LSTA Grantees Carnegie Public Library - Washington Court House and East Palestine Memorial Library](#)



October 29, 2025: [Spotlighting IMLS LSTA Grantees America's Packard Museum and Otterbein University's Courtright Memorial Library](#)