



Message from the State Librarian

September was another busy month for State Library. Overall, the month was characterized by productive operations conducted in a measured and efficient manner. Substantial progress was made on our new FY 2026-2027 Action Plan, including the delivery of a new book drop for the Columbus facility.

This month, all state agencies received guidance for putting together the next biennial budget. Our leadership team is working hard to demonstrate the importance of libraries and how the State Library's operations play a key role in our state.

Also this month, we worked to update our Pandemic plan and Continuity of Operations plan. These plans outline how we will maintain services in the event of a calamity.

Highlights

- The SearchOhio consortium directors met and solidified plans for a Memorandum of Understanding between individual libraries and the State Library.
- The Research Library's restart of service was mapped out and work continues.
- A vendor was select to evaluate the current Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year Plan.
- Priority Dispatch, the vendor for statewide delivery, has been sold to Priority Courier Experts (PCE). No disruptions in service are anticipated.
- State Librarian Mandy Knapp visited the Muskingum Public Library System.

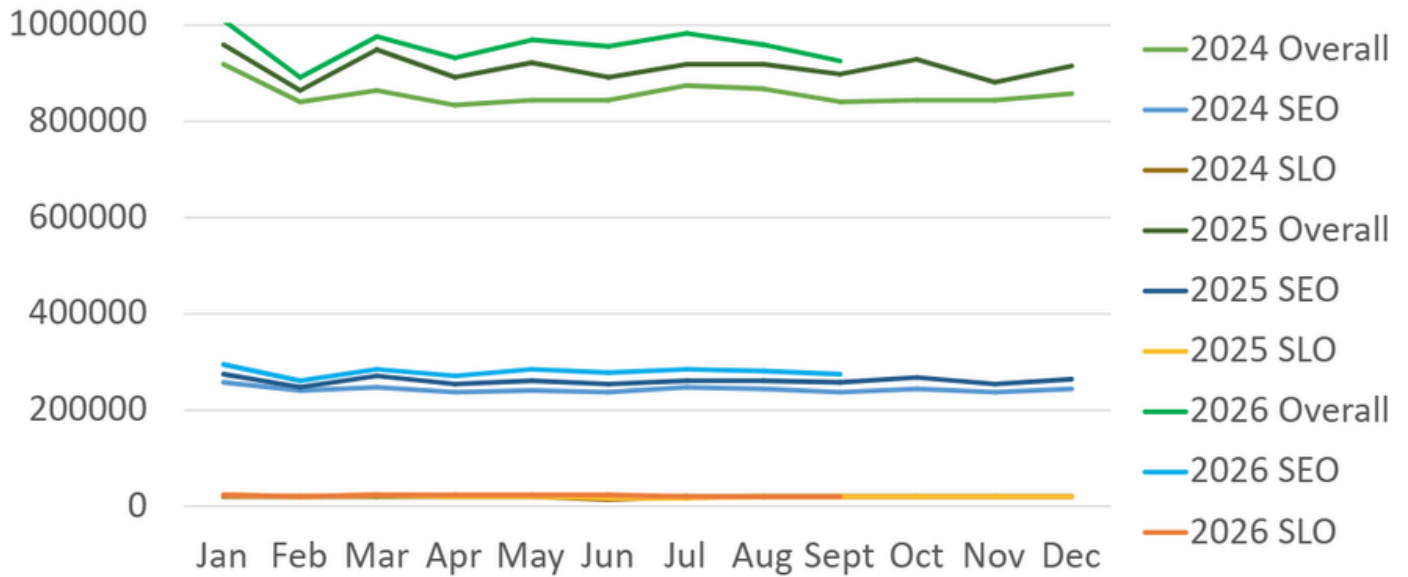


Muskingum County Public Library Director Stacey Russell, State Librarian Mandy Knapp, and Assistant Director Stephanie Freas.

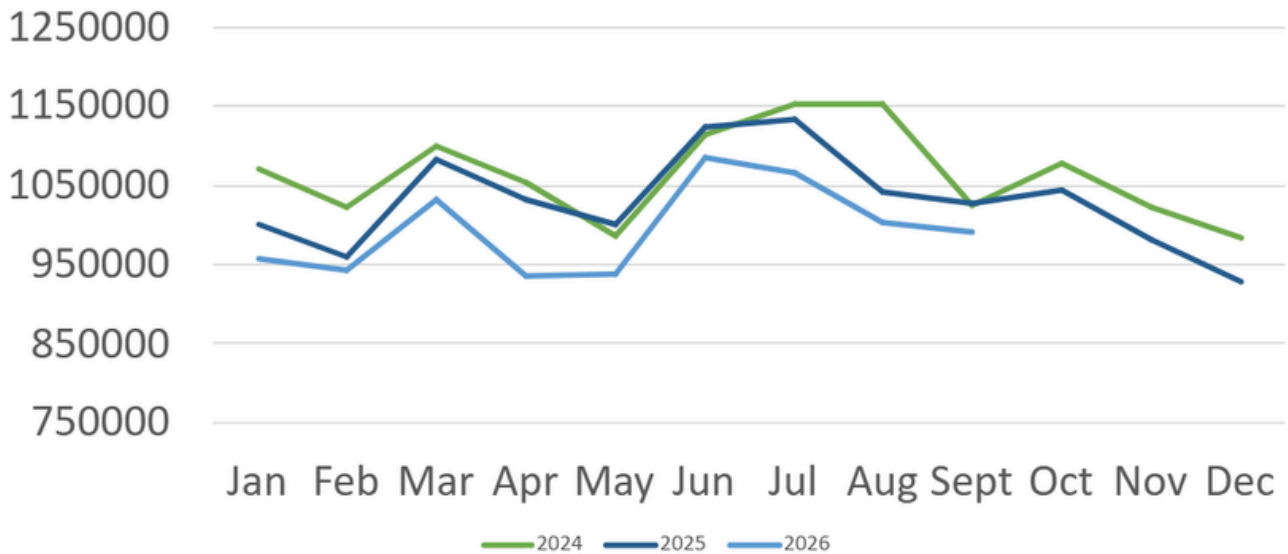


State Library statewide delivery team: Eric Schrecengost, Heather Miller, Jamie Pardee, and Becky Hill distributing over 7,000 new mesh bags to every main library location across Ohio.

Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



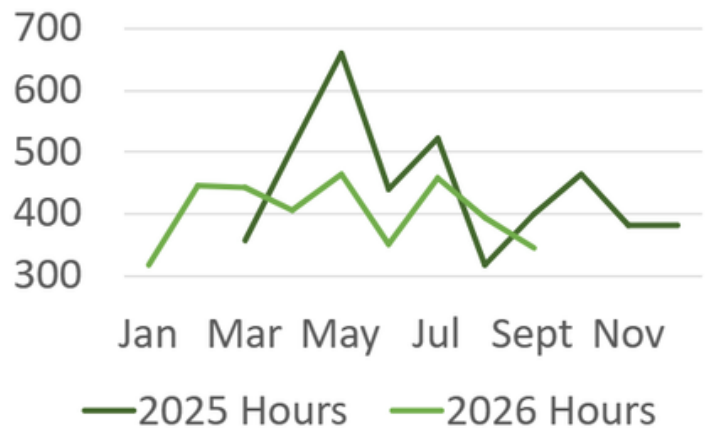
SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



Library Services—September 2026

Meeting with Senator Blackshear

On September 24 Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley and Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee had the honor of meeting with Senator Willis E. Blackshear who represents Ohio's District 6.

We spoke with the Senator about the State Library's recent move to a new location and the many services and benefits we provide to the State of Ohio. The Senator shared that he loves libraries and holds his office hours at several of the Dayton Metro Library branches.



Legislative Liason Kirstin Krumsee, Senator Willis Blackshear and Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley meeting at the Statehouse.

Fall 2026 Federal Depository Library Conference

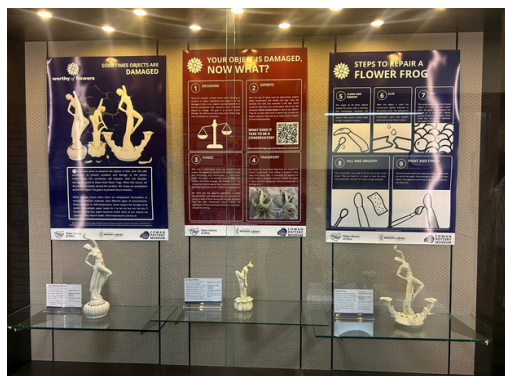
This month Government Documents Librarian and Regional Depository Coordinator Elissa A. Lawrence attended the Fall 2026 Federal Depository Library Conference in Washington, D. C.

Elissa serves on the Depository Library Council and advises the U.S. Government Publishing Office Director Hugh Nathaniel Halpern and Superintendent of Documents Scott Matheson on policy matters relating to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and access to U.S. Government information.



Group photo from the Fall 2026 Federal Depository Library Conference in Washington, D.C. Government Documents Librarian Elissa A. Lawrence (pictured 4th from the left) attended the event.

Library Programs & Development—September 2026



Rocky River Public Library used its 2025 LSTA Conservation & Preservation Grant funds to restore three Cowan Pottery figures (left); Library Consultant Janet Ingraham Dwyer (right) provided an Ohio testimonial to Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) annual meeting attendees.

Library Consultants on the Road

Library Consultants Penelope Shumaker and Jeff Regensburger visited three libraries that had successfully completed 2025 LSTA Conservation & Preservation Grant projects: Chalmers Library at Kenyon College, Fairport Harbor Public Library and Rocky River Public Library. Each project was unique, reflecting the mission and goals of the library and the community they serve, while supporting the State Library's LSTA Five-Year Plan by helping to preserve part of Ohio's artistic, historical, and cultural heritage.

Library Consultants Jeff Laser and Katy Hite conducted a strategic planning workshop for Weston Public Library staff. The consultants guided staff members through a series of activities including defining values, identifying needs, and envisioning the library's future.

Jeff Regensburger and Penelope Shumaker attended the Ohio Digital Interest Group (OHDIG) held at Worthington Public Library. They learned more about the Worthington Memory Project, and toured the [Orange Johnson House](#).

Library consultants Katy Hite and Janet Ingraham Dwyer attended the [Collaborative Summer Library Program](#) annual meeting in Chicago on September 21-23. Among other business items, CSLP state reps voted for 2029 program slogan and 2030 program theme. The slogan for the 2029 Nature-themed CSLP summer program will be

Curiosity Takes Root / La Curiosidad Echa Raices. The theme for the 2030 CSLP summer program will be Food. This slogan and this theme were also the top vote-getters in an earlier state-level survey, in which over 625 Ohio library workers participated, to provide direction for Ohio's vote.

Attendees at the CSLP annual meeting also previewed the manual, artwork, and products for the 2027 [Mysteries Await at Your Library](#) program. The 2027 manual access code will be emailed to Ohio public libraries in October.

ODL By the Numbers

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

Total checkouts:

924,471 (8,590,762 YTD)

Record-breaker:

September 29 set a new daily circulation record of 37,803 checkouts! (The previous record holder was March 10, 2026, with 37,702 checkouts.)

Support:

69 support tickets were submitted and answered in September.

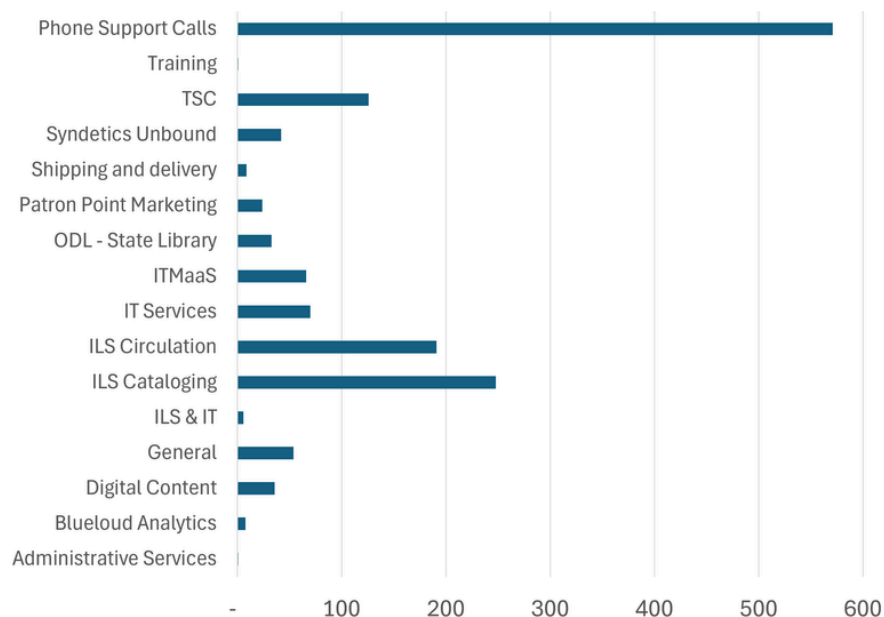
Most popular book title:

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, by J.K. Rowling (ebook)

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

SEO Service Center—September 2026

SEO Service Center Support Tickets and Calls for September 2026



Quick Takeaways:

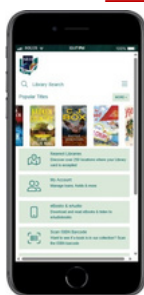
- Phone support calls (571) dominated overall volume.
- ILS work (Circulation + Cataloging 439) represented a major share of operational demand.
- IT Services + ITMaaS (136) and TSC (126) continue to be significant service drivers.

Key service highlights include:

- **Two library visits** – Pemberville Public Library and Caldwell Public Library

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

- Over **991,621** items were circulated.
- **188,554** holds were created, and **192,238** holds were filled.
- **11,167** new users were created.
- **558** interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- **916** support tickets were created, with **5** relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats	2025	2026	% Change
New Devices	2,179	1,688	-23%
Holds Placed	34,826	39,894	15%
App Launched	90,633	96,328	6%
Searches	90,497	89,069	-2%



- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views: **945**
- Online Catalog Patron Tutorial views: **572**



- Heavy use in Announcements and Newsletters being sent (**381,713 emails**)
- Medium use in Birthday/Anniversary campaigns (**3,439 emails**)
- Light use of Winback (**374 emails**) and Coming of Age (**2,543 emails**) campaigns



In Memory of F. Ward Murrey

September 10: The State Library of Ohio is saddened by the passing of F. Ward Murrey, a former member and President of the State Library of Ohio Board and former Director of the Southeastern Ohio Library Center [now the Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Service Center—a branch of the State Library of Ohio].

Ward devoted much of his professional life to strengthening library service across southeastern Ohio. Beginning as a part-time employee at SEO in 1961, he took on increasing responsibilities throughout his career and was appointed its director in 1979. He served in that role until his retirement in 1998.

Throughout his career, Ward was a strong advocate for libraries, with a particular commitment to the needs of small and rural libraries. His leadership reflected a deep belief in cooperation, resource sharing, and ensuring that libraries throughout Ohio had access to the services and resources they needed to serve their communities.

His commitment to Ohio libraries continued after his retirement. Mr. Murrey served on the State Library of Ohio Board from January 2008 through January 2012, including service as Vice President and President.