State Library of Ohio

October 2026

Message from the State Librarian

October is a busy month for library professionals across Ohio: it's conference season! State Library staff have presented sessions, facilitated discussions, and learned a lot from our colleagues across the state and even across the country. Thank you to our staff for sharing your expertise!

This year I was honored to be the keynote speaker at the Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) Conference. The theme of this year's conference was "Perserving the Past, Empowing the Future." In addition to my keynote, I was able to attend several very informative sessions on social history, preservation/conservation, and library catalog reports. But, as with all conferences, the true joy was being with other library and information professionals.



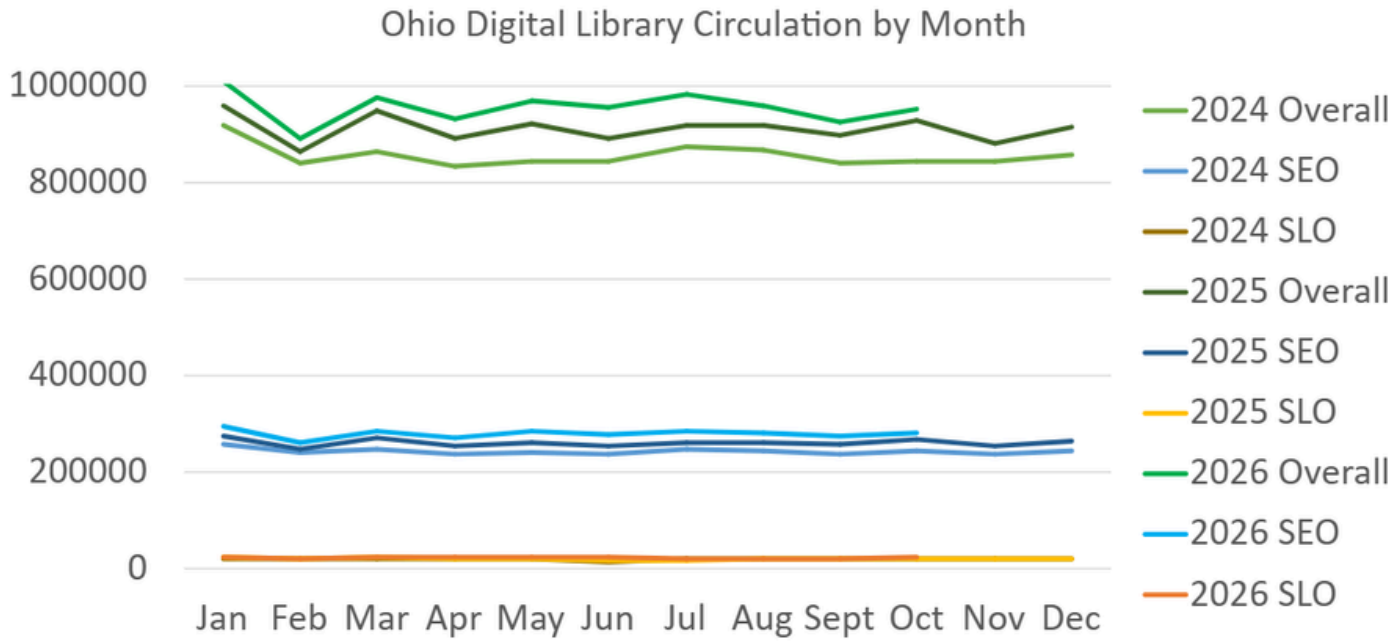
State Library's Library Relations Manager Heather Miller, Napoleon Public Library Director Sarah Boeglin, and State Librarian Mandy Knapp.

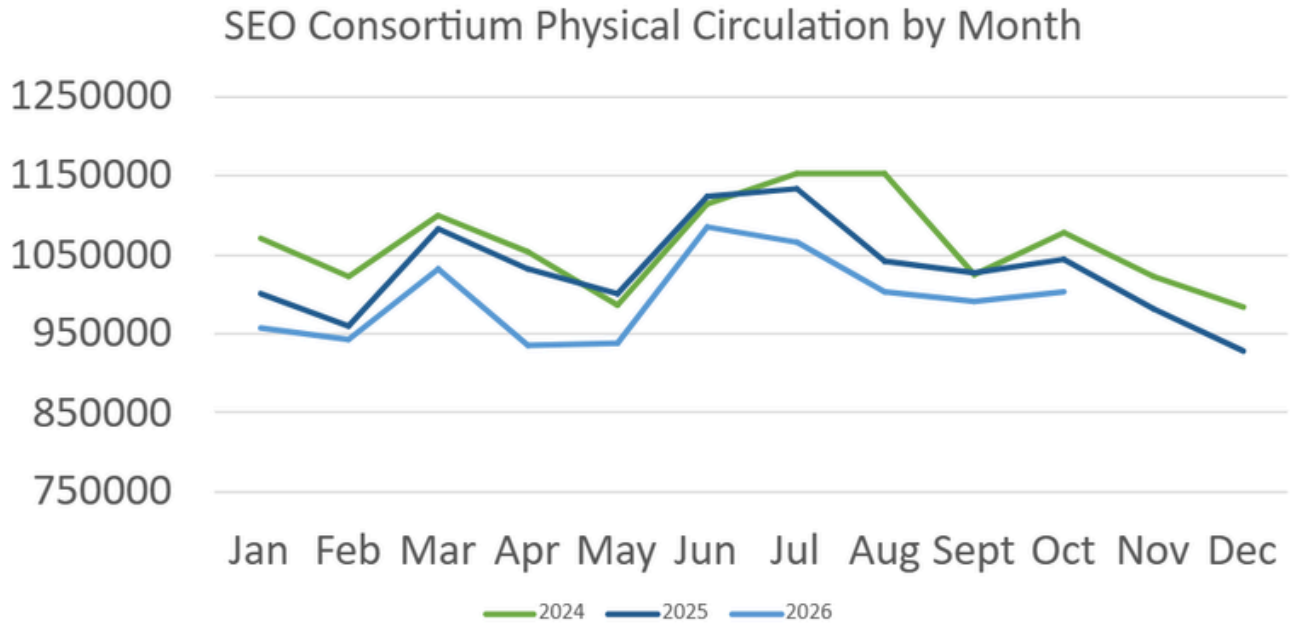
Highlights

- State Librarian Mandy Knapp visited the Napoleon Public Library, the McComb Public Library, and the school library at the Robert H. Jamison School in the Cleveland Metropolian School District.
- Director of Consortial Services Jay Miley and other state library staff attended the Innovative User Group Ohio Meeting to update the library community on SearchOhio and learn about upcoming improvements from the vendor.
- Mandy attended the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies Conference, the Ohio Library Council Convention and Expo, and the Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) Conference.



State Librarian Mandy Knapp attends an author visit at the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.


Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month
1000000
800000
600000
400000
200000
0
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec
2024 Overall
2024 SEO
2024 SLO
2025 Overall
2025 SEO
2025 SLO
2026 Overall
2026 SEO
2026 SLO


SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month
1250000
1150000
1050000
950000
850000
750000
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec
2024
2025
2026


Staff Training by Month
325
275
225
175
125
75
Jan Mar May Jul Sept Nov
2025 Hours
2026 Hours


Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month
700
600
500
400
300
Jan Mar May Jul Sept Nov
2025 Hours
2026 Hours

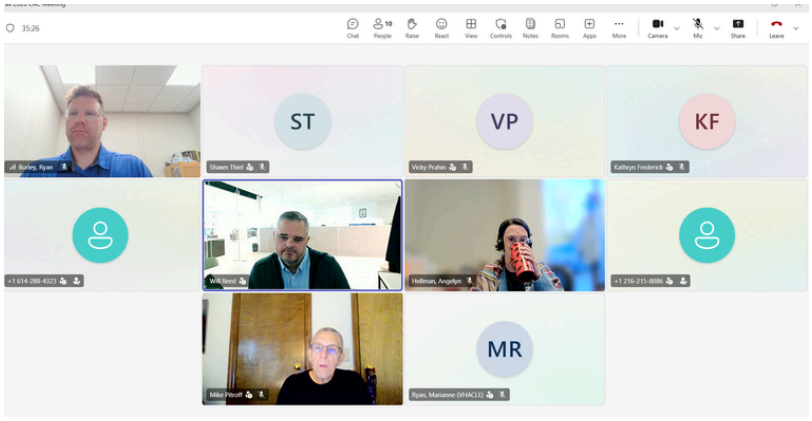
Library Services—October 2026

Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) Annual Conference

Talking Book Program Administrator Angelyn Hellman had a table at the ABOS Annual Conference which was October 12-14 in Columbus, Ohio. Angelyn was able to speak with library outreach staff from Ohio and other states about the Talking Book Program and promote the program. Attendees loved seeing the DA2 Talking Book Machine and the NLS braille eReader in person.



State Library of Ohio Table at the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) national conference



Screenshot of the Fall 2026 Talking Books Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting

Fall 2026 Consumer Advisory Commitee Meeting

On October 22 the State Library of Ohio and OLBPD held our Fall 2026 Talking Book Program Consumer Advisory Committee meeting. Members of the Committee come from a variety of backgrounds and include leaders from the American Council of the Blind of Ohio and National Federation of the Blind of Ohio. The group also includes staff at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that work with blind and print disabled veterans, Talking Book users, and staff from public libraries and the Ohio State School for the Blind. The Consumer Advisory Committee advises the State Library on the Talking Book Program.

Library Programs & Development—October 2026





Library Consultants Janet Ingraham Dwyer and Katy Hite presented a session at the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Conference in Columbus. Library Consultants Penelope Shumaker and Jeff Regensburger visited Oak Harbor Public Library, a recipient of a 2025 LSTA Grant used to preserve a historic bellows.

Library Consultants on the Road
Library Consultants Katy Hite, Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Erin Kelsey, Anne Kennedy, Jeff Laser, Jeff Regensburger, and Penelope Shumaker, along with Associate State Librarian Evan T. Struble, attended the Ohio Library Council Convention & Expo in Sandusky, Ohio. Katy, Erin, and Jeff L. presented a session on strategic planning, spotlighting the services of the State Library; Anne and Erin shared about the Guiding Ohio Online program; Penelope provided a refresher/update session on the Ohio Digital Network; Jeff R. and Evan led a program on grantwriting; and Evan co-presented a session providing general State Library updates. In addition to the formal presentations, the consultant team spent time working at the State Library's vendor booth, sharing more informally about services the State Library has to offer. While at the conference, we also celebrated Janet Ingraham Dwyer's selection as the 2026 OLC Hall of Fame Librarian—a testament to her hard work and dedication to working with youth and teen services library staff around the state.

ODL By the Numbers

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

Total checkouts:
950,685 (9,541,447 YTD)

Preferred format:
In October, audiobooks reigned supreme with nearly 443K checkouts. Ebooks were next (388K) followed by magazines (120K).

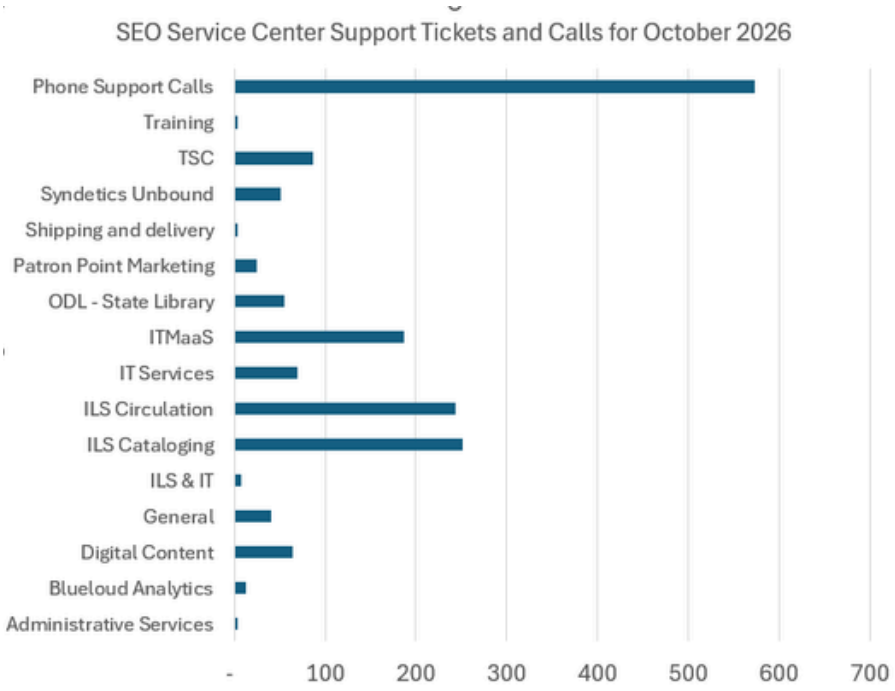
Support:
112 support tickets were submitted and answered in October.

Most popular book title:
The Witch, the newest thriller by Freida McFadden. (ebook)

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

The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce the Library Juice Academy Digital Curation Cohort program is returning in 2027. This initiative offers 15 Ohio library staff members or cultural heritage professionals the opportunity to complete coursework and earn a Digital Curation Certificate from Library Juice Academy. Participants will be selected through a competitive application process, with the State Library overseeing their enrollment in the six-course series. Federal funding awarded to the State Library from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will cover the enrollment costs for each participant. The award-winning Digital Curation Certificate from Library Juice Academy is crafted to develop skills in areas such as digitization, digital preservation, metadata creation, and beyond. Applications are due November 15th; click here to apply.

SEO Service Center—October 2026



Quick Takeaways:

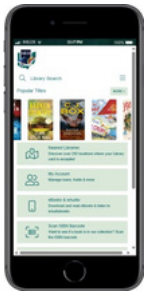
- Phone support calls (573) dominated overall volume.
- ILS work (Circulation + Cataloging 494) represented a major share of operational demand.
- IT Services + ITMaaS (256) and TSC (87) continue to be significant service drivers.

Key service highlights include:

- **Two library visits –** Napoleon Public Library and McComb Public Library

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

- Over **1,002,231** items were circulated.
- **182,025** holds were created, and **185,513** holds were filled.
- **7,792** new users were created.
- **554** interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- **1,105** support tickets were created, with **7** relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats	2025	2026	% Change
New Devices	2,187	**1,696**	-22%
Holds Placed	34,008	**35,984**	6%
App Lauched	91,842	**96,052**	5%
Searches	88,983	**96,409**	8%

SEO Library Consortium Training Academy Powered by NICHE Academy

- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views: **1,047**
- Online Catalog Patron Tutorial views: **602**

SEO Library Consortium Community Engagement Platform Powered by Patron Point

- Heavy use in Announcements and Newsletters being sent (**400,388 emails**)
- Medium use in Birthday/Anniversary campaigns (**3,528 emails**)
- Light use of Winback (**573 emails**) and Coming of Age (**2,925 emails**) campaigns

News—October 2026



Brian Perera Begins Service on State Library of Ohio Board

October 15, 2026: The State Library of Ohio welcomes Brian M. Perera as its newest Board Member. Appointed by the State Board of Education, he was sworn in today and began a five-year term on the State Library of Ohio Board. Perera presently serves as Senior Policy Advisor for ZHF Consulting with more than three decades of experience in state government, public policy, and higher education.



Marsha McDevitt-Stredney to Retire After 20 Years of State Library of Ohio Service

After two decades of dedicated service, Director of Marketing & Communications Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Ph.D., will retire on November 17, 2026. Throughout her tenure, Marsha has helped advance the State Library's mission through strategic, multi-platform communications, targeted marketing, and outreach initiatives that serve state government employees, Ohio's library community, and residents across the state.
The State Library Board passed a resolution at its October 15 meeting that recognizes her consistent leadership in developing and executing marketing strategies that support the State Library's mission and objectives. It also acknowledges the lasting contribution of her work to the State Library's growth, reputation, and mission-driven initiatives.



Janet Ingraham Dwyer to Retire After 17 Years of State Library of Ohio Service

Youth Services Library Consultant Janet Ingraham Dwyer will retire from the State Library of Ohio on November 30, 2026. For more than 35 years, Janet has exemplified what it means to possess a giving spirit and has put that spirit of service into practice throughout various roles in libraries.
Janet's hard work and passion have been noticed externally, as she was awarded the 2025 "Ignite and Inspire" Award from the Ohio Afterschool Network, and the 2023 OELMA Presidential Award for her high level of service to that organization. Most recently, Janet was named the 2026 OLC Hall of Fame Librarian "in honor of her extraordinary career of leadership, service, and dedication to Ohio's libraries. [Janet] has inspired and mentored library professionals, advanced innovative youth services, and championed early literacy initiatives that have strengthened libraries and communities across the state."