

## Message from the State Librarian

Since becoming State Librarian around the first of this year, I have been on a Listening Tour to learn about perceptions of the State Library in the library community. The first phase of this plan was to meet with State Library staff to hear their feedback.

The State Library's staff take great pride in assisting libraries and Ohioans more broadly. Many staff mentioned a good work culture, where they feel listened to and valued. Areas for improvement include internal and external communication, concerns about funding and strategic planning. These themes were presented to staff at the April All-Staff meeting.

Next, I'll move on to Phase 2 of the Listening Tour, which is to meet with close partners and members of State Library's various advisory boards. I'm looking forward to getting out and seeing some beautiful libraries.



## Highlights

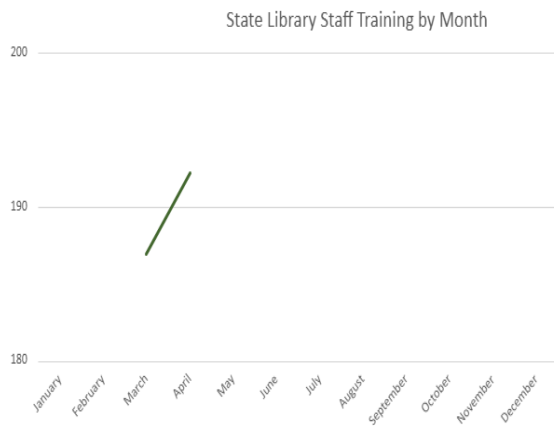
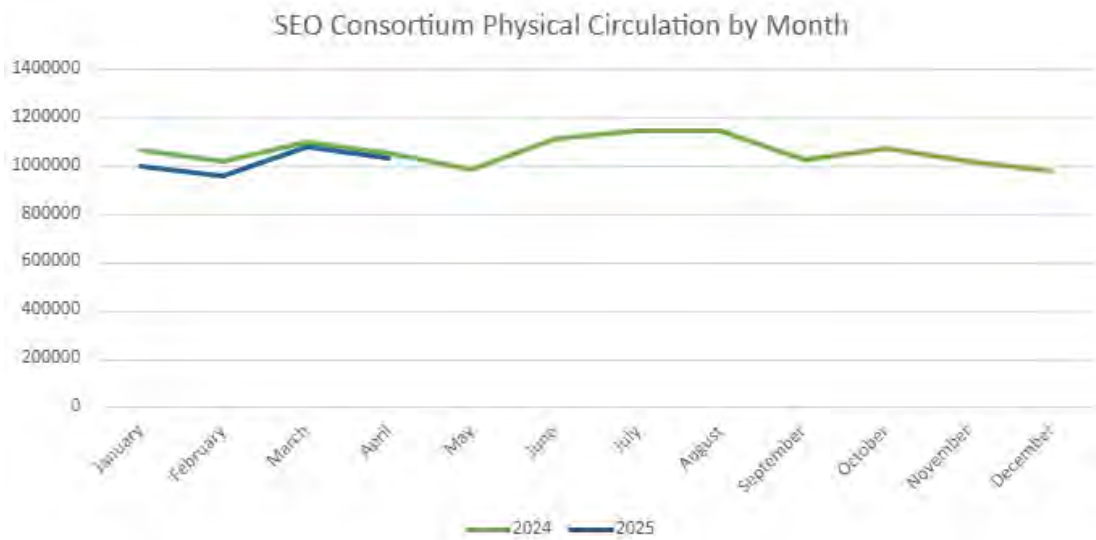
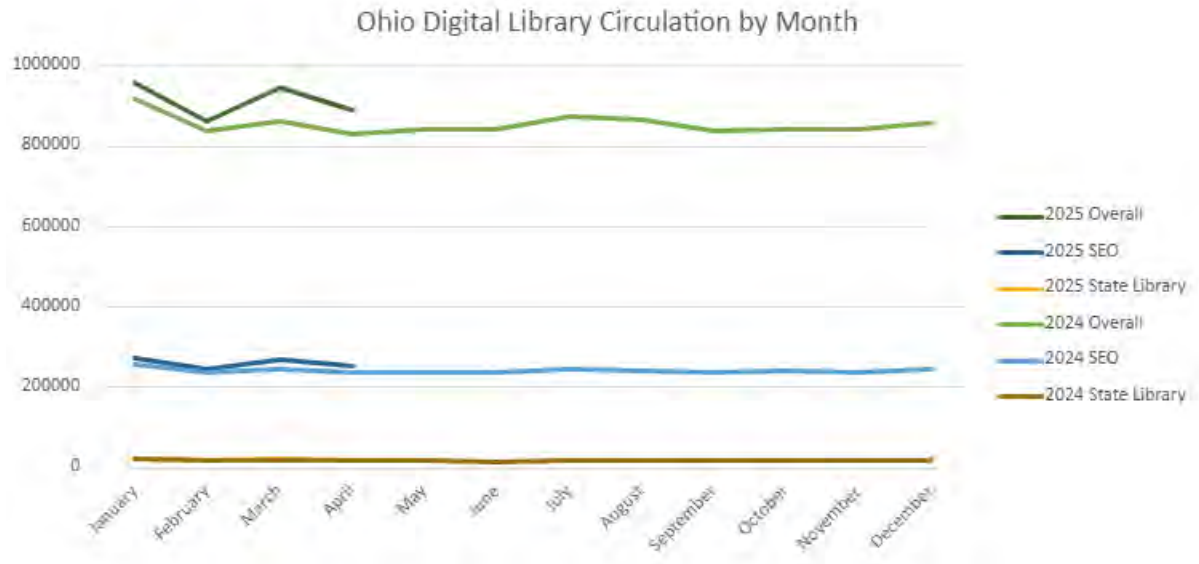
- ◆ The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) presented the John G. Lorenz award to Ohio for the timely and accurate completion of the FY 2024 SLAA survey. The SLAA survey is the only federal survey that collects information about State Library Administrative Agencies in the United States and their services to public libraries.
- ◆ On April 8, State Librarian Mandy Knapp, Library Consultant Kirstin Krumsee and dozens of library supporters across Ohio came to the statehouse for Ohio Library Council's Legislative Day to share the importance of libraries.
- ◆ On April 12, Mandy attended the opening of the new Louisville Public Library. Staff kindly gave a tour, and it was delightful to see how sensory equipment from an LSTA grant was thoughtfully and mindfully incorporated into the new story time space.
- ◆ On her listening tour, Mandy visited the Byesville Branch of the Guernsey County Library on April 23 and Olentangy Orange Middle School's school library on April 30.



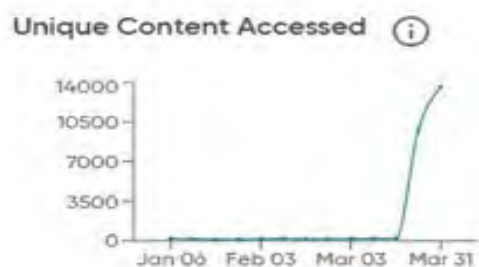
**State Librarian and Louisville Public Library director Brock Hutchison**



**A warm welcome at the Olentangy Orange Middle School**



## Library Services—April 2025



*O'Reilly Online Learning Increased Usage*

The Library Services Department outreach efforts have shown results in April in positive feedback and increased usage of our premium resources. **State Rep. Thad Claggett, Chair of the House Technology and Innovation Committee**, and his committee members have been using our **O'Reilly Learning Database** since our training in March and due to this we have seen a large increase in the usage of this resource ever since our meeting. (See graph above.)

We also received this positive message from Mercer County District Libraries IT Manager Eric Lochtefeld :



“I was recently appointed to the Mercer County Board of Elections and last week attended a Swearing-In Ceremony hosted by the Secretary of State at the Statehouse with over 40 new election officials. Before the ceremony, Representative Claggett gave a prayer that began with a story of [Deputy Director Burley] recently sharing some old and rare books with him. He was very positive about his interaction with you and the impression you made. It is always great to hear libraries being spoken about in a positive way at the Statehouse.”

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*“Wow!! This is incredibly helpful. Thank you so much. I can hardly wait to share this with my colleagues! Please express our thanks to the reference librarians that put this together.”* **America 250-Ohio Commission Executive Director Todd Kleismit’s compliment for our reference librarian’s research help**



*April 14 Tour for Women’s Connection Group*

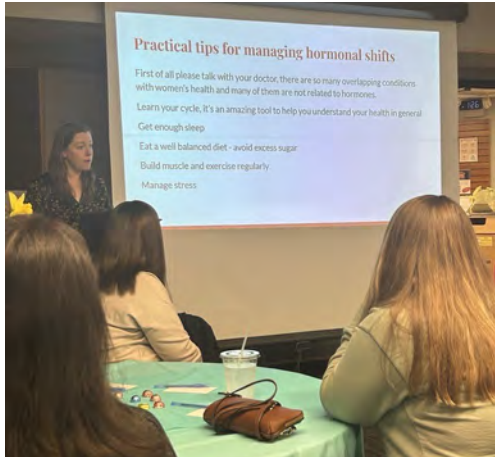
On April 8 Kevin Osborne, Head of Network Services Section for the **National Library Service**, visited our location and toured our operations.

On April 10 we held our Spring **Talking Book Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting** sharing updates and getting feedback from committee members. Library Services staff continued to do tours and presentations for organizations this month.

On April 14 we gave a tour to the **Women’s Connection Network**.

On 4/17 we gave a presentation to the **NORWELD board and Membership** meeting, speaking about our resources and state budgeting process.

## Library Programs & Development—April 2025



Left: Ashland Public Library hosted a Hormonal Health program as part of its Know Your Flow Ohio LSTA grant expenditures. Right: Mechanicsburg Public Library Director Rebecca Wilden (right) shows off her library's menstrual product dispenser, purchased with Know Your Flow Ohio LSTA grant funds, alongside Katy Hite, Adult Services Library Consultant at the State Library of Ohio (left).

**SAVE THE DATE:** The State Library of Ohio will be hosting the 7th Annual ODNFest in-person on **September 30, 2025**. ODNFest is an opportunity for library and museum digitization professionals to gather and explore current and relevant digitization topics. The ODNFest name comes from the Ohio Digital Network (ODN), Ohio's Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)'s service hub. Attendees do not have to be contributors to ODN participate or present at ODNFest. Registration will open this summer. Featured speakers for the event have been announced: Rachel Weiher, Macalester College Collections

archivist, and Erin McBrien, curator of Upper Midwest Literary Archives at the University of Minnesota, will lead the session, "Looking at Vicarious Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care in Archives."

Additionally, we are **seeking proposals** for programs on the topic of libraries and digitization, digital collections, digital curation, digital archiving and more. Program formats may include standard presentation, panel presentation, or poster session. Proposals will be accepted [via this form](#) until July 7, 2025.

Many libraries in Ohio and around the USA participate in the **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), now branded as SUN Meals**. This USDA-funded program provides free meals and snacks to children ages 0-18 in communities with high levels of need. If your library is already a SUN Meals/SFSP site or have been in the past,

work with your current/previous sponsor to prepare for summer 2025. If your library wants to become a SUN Meals site, the Collaborative Summer Library Program offers a thorough, clear how-to guide: [Libraries and Summer Food](#). The State Library also offers a basic guide for Ohio libraries: [library.ohio.gov/summer-food](http://library.ohio.gov/summer-food).

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce administers SUN Meals in Ohio. [Contact the ODEW](#) with questions or for assistance in identifying a potential sponsor. A non-congregate option for rural communities allows sites in rural-designated areas to provide grab-and-go meals. [Find out if your library is in a rural-designated area](#).

### Libraries and Literacy

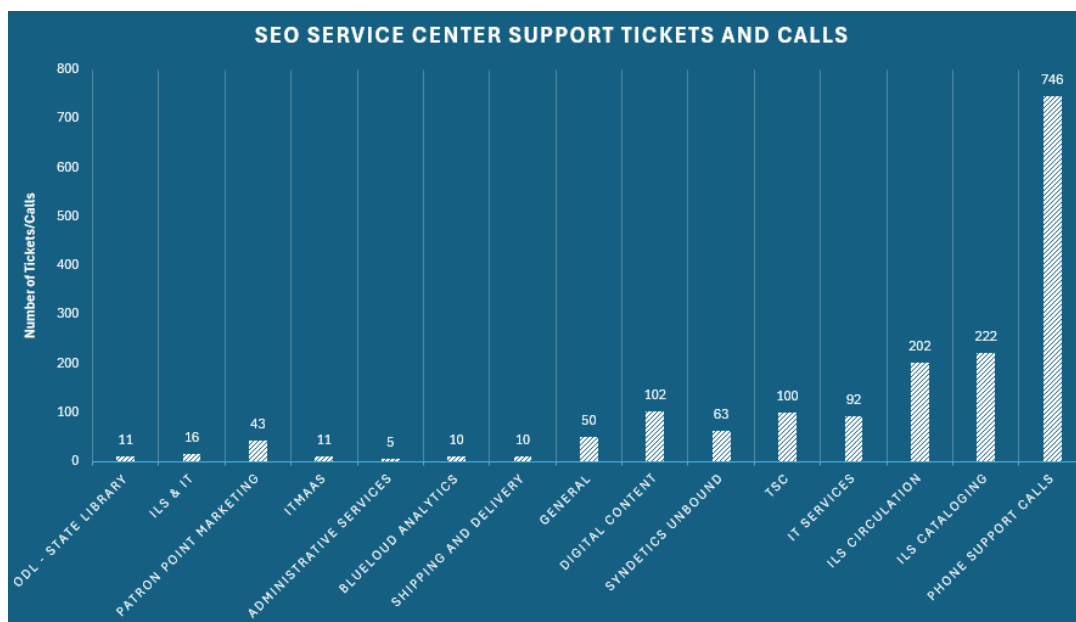
**Early Literacy 101** is a free, full-day hands-on workshop to help library staff build a firm foundation in early literacy. Participants learn how brain development impacts how young children learn; discover effective, research-based early literacy resources and activities; and explore how storytime supports early literacy. [Learn more about the workshop](#). Summer/Fall 2025 workshop dates will be announced beginning in June. Public libraries may request to host an Early Literacy 101 workshop via the link above.

### SCIENCE OF READING SUPPORT

Ohio Ready to Read provides library-oriented resources on the [science of reading](#), including webinar recordings, articles, and other tools. This resource collection is part of ORTR's [Kindergarten Readiness and Student Learning](#) guide for Ohio public libraries.



## SEO Service Center—April 2025



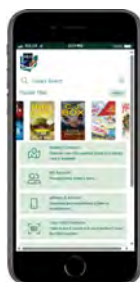
The SEO Service Center team answered over 1,600 tickets and customer calls during the month of April.

### Key service highlights include:

- The support team hosted **12 training sessions** on offered services.
- Visits** were made to 3 member libraries.
- SEO Libraries App **received an upgrade**.

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

- Over 1 million items were circulated.
- 7,444 new users created.
- 183,576 holds were created; 192,445 holds were filled.
- 556 interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- 940 support tickets were created, with 19 relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats	2024	2025	% Change
New Devices	3,100	4,417	↑ 42%
Holds Placed	25,087	28,587	↑ 14%
App Launched	71,690	84,585	↑ 18%
Searches	78,616	86,560	↑ 10%

### Niche Academy usage showed:

- Strong engagement with **staff tutorials** (531 views) and the **online catalog tutorial** (1,907 views).
- Lower engagement with the **Technical Services Committee** (31 views) and **ASL Storytime** (12 views) tutorials.



Patron Point

### Patron Point Marketing e-mails showed:

- Heavy use in **Announcement and Newsletters** being sent (435,180 emails)
- Medium use in **Birthday/Anniversary** campaigns (2,626 emails)
- Light use of **Winback** (144 emails) and **Coming of Age** (14 emails) of age campaigns.

## News—April 2025



### **This is National Library Week**

April 7, 2025: National Library Week is April 6 – 12, 2025

National Library Week is an opportunity to honor the valuable contributions of libraries and librarians in Ohio and across the nation, while also encouraging the use and support of these essential institutions.

State Librarian Mandy Knapp recorded the following message for National Library Week 2025: [View the recording.](#)



A message from State Librarian Mandy Knapp

### **State Librarian Announces Library Listening Tour**

April 16, 2025: Mandy Knapp outlines the reasoning and strategy for her library listening tour scheduled for 2025.

[View the recording.](#)

On April 23, 2025, State Librarian Mandy Knapp visited the Guernsey County District Public Library and met with GCDPL Director Michael Limer. The visit was part of her 2025 Ohio Library Listening Tour.



### **State Library to Limit Access to Accounts During Transition to a New Library Services Platform**

April 28, 2025: We recently announced an exciting change to our library services platform (LSP) this summer: we will be transitioning to Ex Libris's Alma-Primo. Beginning May 23, our existing patrons will have limited access to their State Library accounts and will not be able to borrow, request or renew physical library materials again until late June. This includes borrowing from the OhioLINK and SearchOhio consortium. Online resources, including library databases and the Ohio Digital Library, will remain available. In addition, registration for new library accounts will be suspended until late June.

[Read more.](#)