



Message from the State Librarian

April is a month to celebrate libraries and our staff who make our libraries possible. I am so grateful for the staff at the State Library.

This month, State Library staff has been working incredibly hard to make the relocation of our Columbus facility a success, showing dedication, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to serving our state. Every day they bring energy, creativity, and problem-solving skills to ensure the transition is smooth and thoughtful. Their willingness to jump in wherever needed, support one another, and keep the big picture in mind is truly inspiring. I am grateful for their resilience and the pride they take in their work as we move our organization forward.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Mandy Knapp, the State Librarian of Ohio.

Highlights

- In April, State Librarian Mandy Knapp visited the Centennial Library at Cedarville University, the Greene County Public Library, the National Library Service for the Blind's Multistate Center East, the Liberty Center Public Library, and the Museum and Welcome Center of Fulton County.
- Staff worked hard to prepare for the Columbus relocation.
- The State Library's strategic plan is taking shape. The State Library Board set high level goals at the March Board Meeting.
- Progress was made on securing a Library Services Platform (LSP) for the Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) consortium.

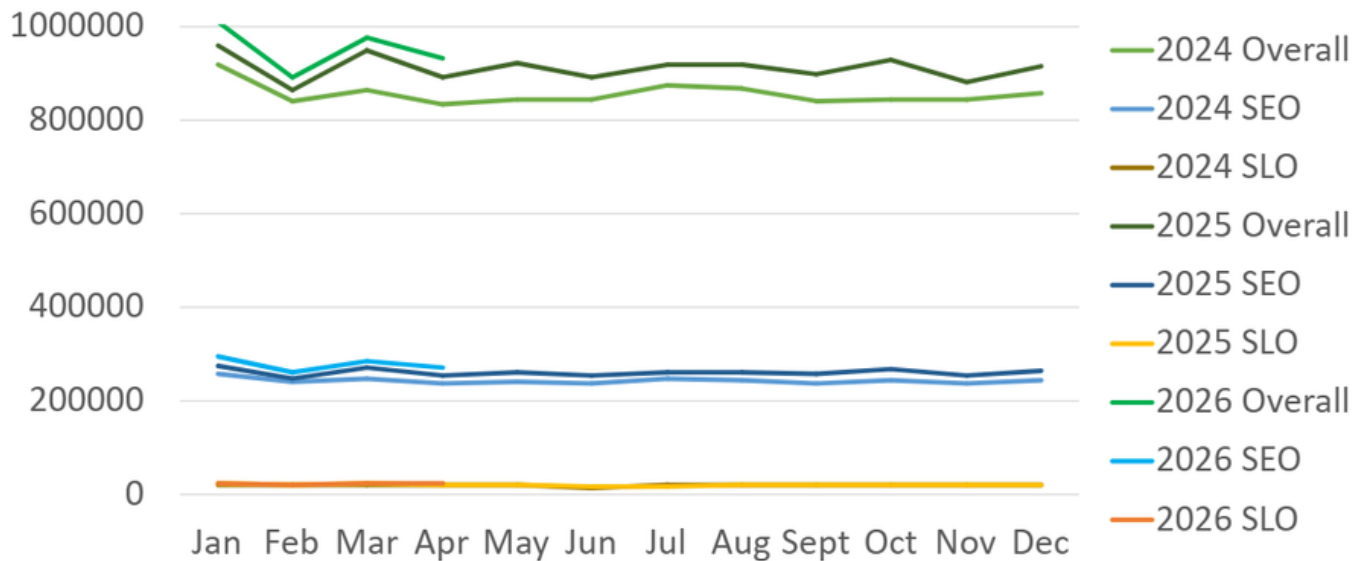


Pallets of boxed library materials line the State Library's hallways

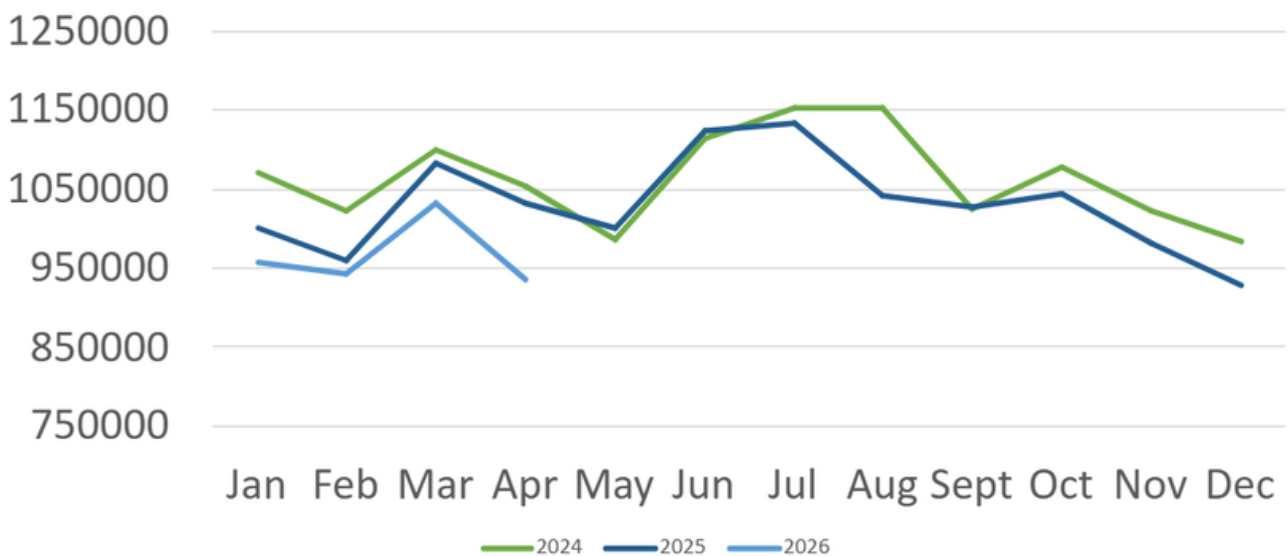


State Librarian of Ohio Mandy Knapp and State Librarian of Kentucky Densie Lyons visit the National Library Service for the Blind's Multistate Center East. The books are Braille books that the center interlibrary loans.

Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



***Training hours higher this month due to Staff In-Service Day

Library Services—April 2026

Ohio Public Health Conference

This month, Talking Book Supervisor Angelyn Hellman and Library Consultant Katy Hite provided health related reading lists, “find an Ohio Public Library” information, and information on the Talking Books Program to Ohio Public Health Conference attendees which include Public Health Commissioners and other public health staff from all around the state of Ohio.



Talking Book Supervisor Angelyn Hellman at the State Library Table at the Ohio Public Health Conference



The Library Services department has packed over 2,000 boxes of materials.

Packing for the move

This month, the Library Services Department has been hard at work preparing for our move to new locations. Staff have packed over 2,000 boxes of materials from our collection. We coordinated with EE Ward, Department of Administrative Services, and the Taggart Company to make sure the logistical components of the move stay on target and also that our new facilities are designed and set up correctly.

Library Programs & Development—April 2026



On April 20th, library consultants Janet Ingraham Dwyer (left) and Katy Hite (right) presented the session, “Summer and Beyond! Building Community-Centered Partnerships With Public Libraries” at the Ohio Museums Association Conference in Dublin, Ohio.

Summer Library Program Incentives Available

Several partners are again supporting Ohio public libraries’ Summer Library Programs with incentives and special offers:

*The [Ohio State Fair](#) provides a coupon for one free youth (5-18) admission to the State Fair. This incentive was emailed to public libraries in April.

*The Ohio Department of Natural Resources provides a certificate for \$10 off camping/lodging at [Ohio State Parks](#) for all ages. This incentive was emailed to public libraries in March.

*The [Ohio Renaissance Festival](#) provides a coupon for 50% off gate admission for all ages. Libraries submitted requests in March, and the coupons will be distributed in May.

*The [Greater Cleveland Aquarium](#) offers a specially discounted virtual program for libraries. Each booking of the “Virtual Aquatic Escape” program by an Ohio public library comes with two complimentary Aquarium admission passes that you can use as SLP prizes. [Learn more and book a program](#). This offer is available year-round.

Consultants On the Road

Library consultant Katy Hite, along with Angelyn Hellman, Supervisor of the Talking Book Program, staffed an informational booth at the Ohio Public Health Conference, sharing with attendees how library services can and do intersect with public health initiatives.

Library consultant Jeff Regensburger attended the annual IMLS Grants-to-States Convening in Deerfield Beach, Florida. Staff from state libraries that work with federal funds participated in educational sessions ranging from program evaluations, allowable costs, and general trends.

Library consultants Jeff Laser, Erin Kelsey, and Katy Hite held a strategic planning workshop for The Brumback Library’s Board of Trustees and leadership team. Participants were guided through a series of exercises to help envision the library’s future using some Appreciative Inquiry techniques.

ODL By the Numbers

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

Total checkouts:

930,315 (3,802,393 YTD)

Format preference:

Slightly more audiobooks (roughly 420K) than ebooks (401K) circulated in April. Magazines clocked in with 107K.

Support:

94 support tickets were submitted and answered in April.

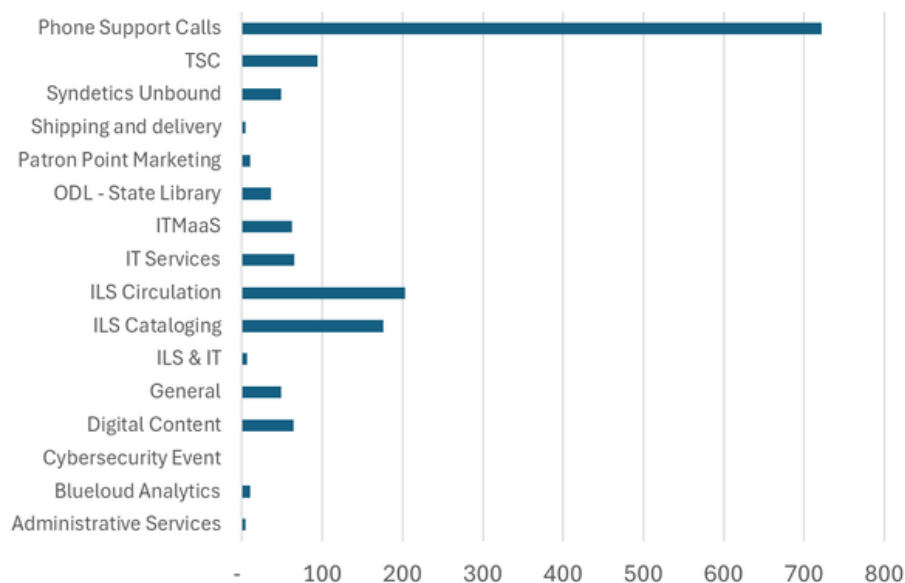
Most popular book title:

I Know You Saw Her, by Ann Girdharry (audiobook)

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

SEO Service Center—April 2026

SEO Service Center Support Tickets and Calls for April 2026



Quick Takeaways:

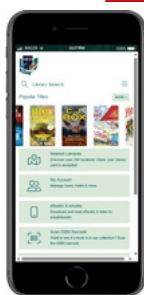
- Phone support calls (722) dominate overall volume.
- ILS work (Circulation + Cataloging 379) represents a major share of operational demand.
- IT Services + ITMaaS (62) and TSC (94) continue to be significant service drivers.

Key service highlights include:

- The ILS Support Team began offering the Round Prices and Bill to the Nearest 5 Cents service.
- **Three library visits** – Hardin Northern Public Library, Bucyrus Public Library, and Delphos Public Library

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

- Over **935,246** items were circulated.
- **172,453** holds were created, and **179,890** holds were filled.
- **6,429** new users were created.
- **642** interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- **821** support tickets were created, with 3 relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats	2025	2026	% Change
New Devices	3,661	2,099	-43%
Holds Placed	30,735	31,960	4%
App Launched	84,200	87,080	3%
Searches	92,060	86,034	-7%



- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views - **1,511**
- Online Catalog Patron Tutorial views - **561**
- Technical Services Committee - **4**



- Heavy use in Announcement and Newsletters being sent (**388,768 emails**)
- Medium use in Birthday/Anniversary campaigns (**2,975 emails**)
- Light use of Winback (**307 emails**) and Coming of Age (**1,124 emails**) campaigns



State Library of Ohio Opens an Exciting New Chapter: Moving to Modern, Central Ohio Locations

April 7, 2026: The State Library of Ohio is embarking on a new phase of transformation, building on a long legacy of planning and innovation to deliver outstanding library services today and for generations to come. As part of this initiative, staff offices are relocating to the heart of Columbus at 35 East Chestnut Street, while our priceless collections are moving to a specialized archival facility with state-of-the-art environmental controls at 1831 Deffenbaugh Court in Gahanna.



State Library Awards \$74,934 in 2026 LSTA Summer Library Programming Grants

April 10, 2026: Forty-eight Ohio libraries have been awarded federally funded Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Summer Library Program (SLP) Grants from the State Library of Ohio. Libraries may apply for up to \$2,000 in LSTA funding to support summer programming for children, teens, and adults.



Celebrate National Library Week April 19-25, 2026, with the theme "Find Your Joy"

April 20, 2026: National Library Week is an opportunity to recognize the important contributions of libraries and library staff throughout Ohio and across the country, while encouraging communities to use and support these essential hubs. It's also a time to celebrate library workers and reflect on the sense of discovery and joy that libraries bring to everyday life.



State Library of Ohio Staff Share Why Libraries Bring Them Joy

April 21, 2026: In celebration of National Library Week 2026, our staff took a few moments to share what brings them joy about libraries. In this video, staff members reflect on why they became librarians, what they love most about libraries, the rewards of helping patrons and colleagues, and some of their favorite items in our collections.