

Message from the State Librarian

September was another busy and fun month here at the State Library. However, unfortunately September ended with our country entering into a federal government shutdown status. Until a new bill or continuing resolution is passed, all “non-essential” activities of the federal government, including most operations of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), must cease.

That being said, the State Library is prepared. Due to the hard work of our fiscal department, we are in a good financial position for the short term when it comes to making payroll and paying for services and grants.

I believe in the work we do together. Even with these challenges ahead of us, we will do great things. Be well and take care.

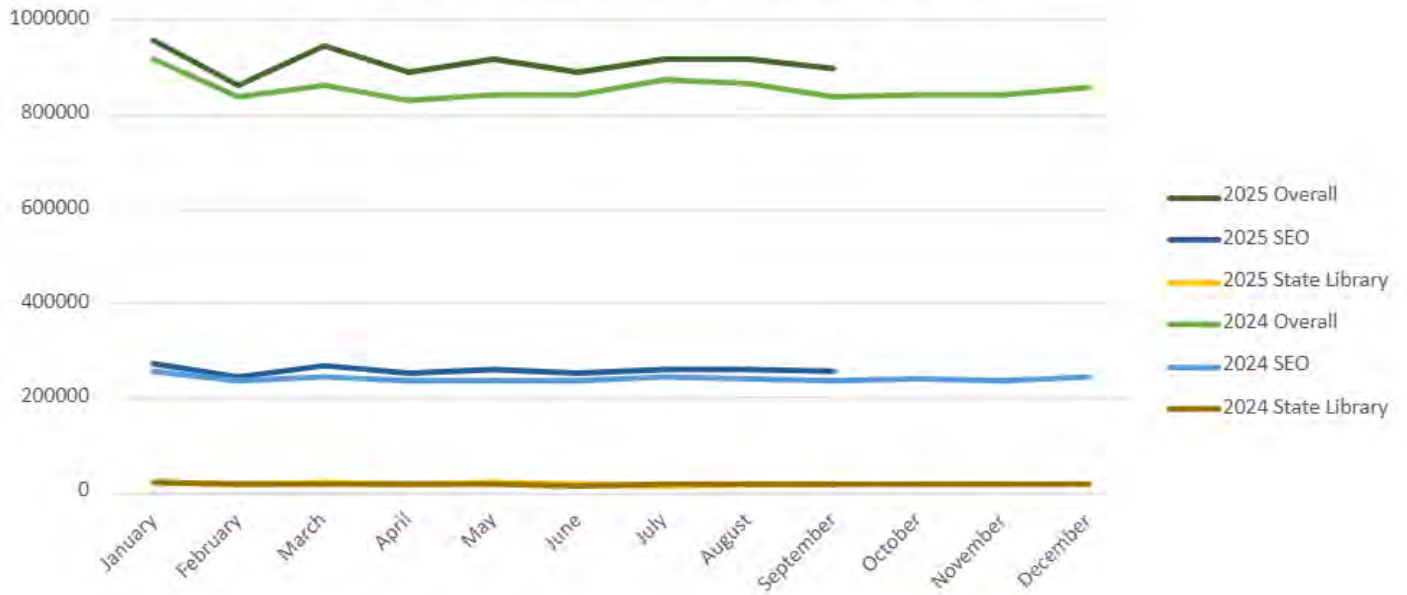



Highlights

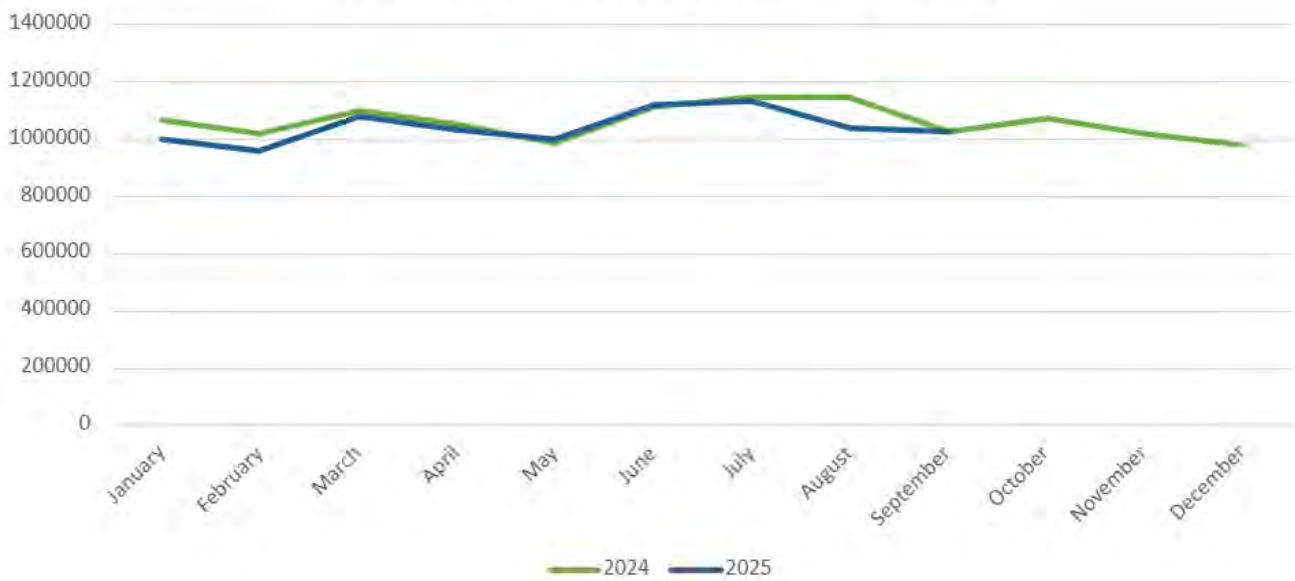
- ◆ State Librarian Mandy Knapp attended OhioLINK’s quarterly Library Advisory Council Meeting.
- ◆ Mandy, Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley, and Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee met with Ohio Senator Kent Smith. He very much enjoyed our maps of Euclid!
- ◆ Mandy attended the Grand Opening of Madison Public Library’s new bookmobile Gus the Bus!
- ◆ In September, Mandy’s Listening Tour continued with visits to Stark County District Library, Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library, the director of America 250—Ohio, Kate Love Simpson Morgan County Library, Athens County Public Library, and meetings with members of the State Library’s Talking Book Consumer Advisory Committee.



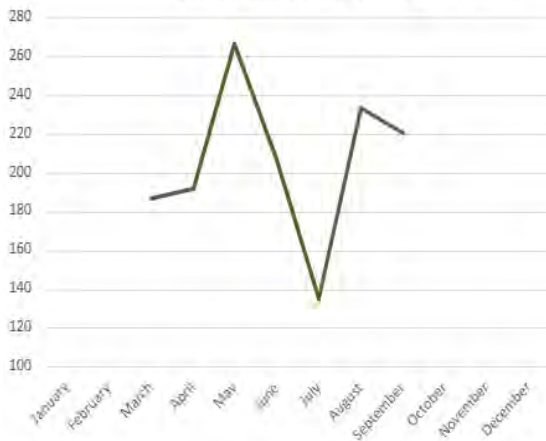
Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



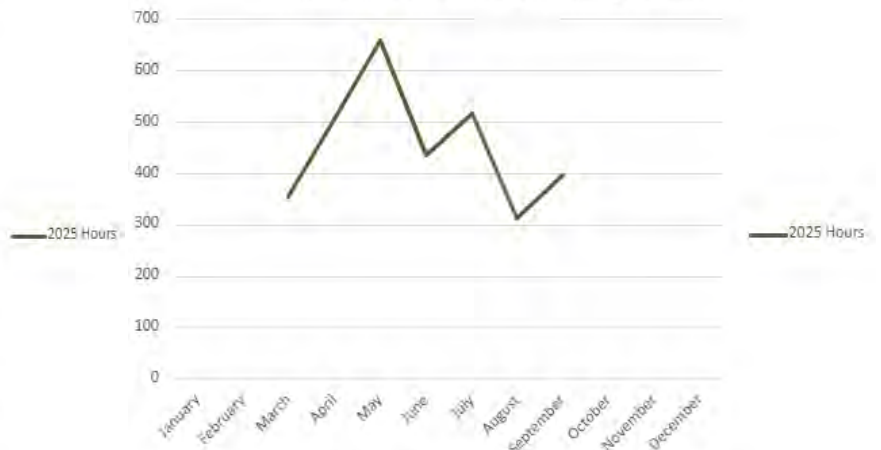
SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



State Library Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



Library Services—September 2025

On September 30 we had the honor of meeting with Senator Hearcel Craig, who serves in the leadership position of Assistant Minority Leader of Senate, at the Statehouse.

Senator Craig and his aides were very welcoming and excited to learn all about the State Library of Ohio.

We spoke with them about many aspects of the State Library including Library Programs and Development, SEO Service Center, our support of state employees, etc.

Senator Craig's jaw dropped when we showed him some of our rare government documents and he was so excited to see George Washington letters and other rare manuscripts. He was a great audience and was genuinely amazed by our 1679 King James Bible and other rare books.



*Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee and
Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley with
Senator Craig at the Statehouse*

“(I) can’t even explain what a godsend (the Talking Book program is).”—Talking Book user

Meeting with DRC Library Admin

On September 10 we met with Stacy Wicks who oversees the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections’ Librarians and Libraries. We talked about our current partnerships and how to strengthen our future collaborations. We also made a video presentation about the State Library of Ohio that Stacey showed to all of our DRC librarians in their September staff meeting.

Senate Minority Whip Kent Smith tour of State Library

On September 12 we gave Senator Kent Smith a tour of facility, showed him some of our rare materials, and spoke to him about the great work that State Library does for Ohioans.

Meeting OSU Conversation Director

On September 19 we met with Marcela Estevez, the Associate Director, Conservation and Collections Care at The Ohio State University Libraries to get advice on how to best preserve our collections of rare items and manuscripts.

DA2 machines

Talking Books staff have sent out over 200 of the newly released DA2 Talking Book machines to Talking Books users all across the State of Ohio. We have received many positive messages from our users regarding the new machines.

Bill Minckler, a Senior Project Manager at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, shared with us that he is currently working on an \$80 million project for the State of Ohio. He shared that he has been so pleased that he has been able to get a multitude of resources from the State Library which have helped him make this large and complex project a success!

Library Programs & Development—September 2025



(Teen Think Tank planning committee, L-R) Caitlin Ecker, Greene County Public Library; Valerie Laukhuf, Putnam County District Library; Sarah Amazing, Warren-Trumbull County Public Library; Janet Ingraham Dwyer, State Library of Ohio; Amy Burkard, Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County; Steve Moser, Dayton Metro Library, and Rachel Rausch, Delaware County District Library.

Youth Services Library Consultant **Janet Ingraham Dwyer** attended and spoke at the 23rd Teen Think Tank, a librarian-led workshop for teen services specialists held at Spark Fairborn, in Fairborn, Ohio, on September 19. Previous Teen Think Tank events have taken place around Ohio and online for well over a decade. (See photo above.)

Library Consultant/LSTA Coordinator **Jeff Regensburger** attended a half-day, virtual convening hosted by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on September 16. Information sessions included guidance on completing the annual

State Program Report, adhering to federal grant guidelines, and an overview of what to expect as each agency looks forward to crafting new five-year plans. Additionally, the event provided a great opportunity to learn from LSTA Coordinators doing this work in other states.

Associate State Librarian **Evan T. Struble** co-presented (alongside Don Yarman, OPLIN) a session on demystifying library acronyms as part of the Ohio Library Council's "New To Libraries Conference" on September 12 in Dayton, Ohio.

Ohio Digital Library (ODL) News

ODL is participating in the Hickman Holler Reading Club, an initiative spearheaded by singer-songwriter Tyler Childers. Tyler approached OverDrive with the idea to hold a book club on Libby during his current concert tour. Ohio has two spots on the tour at the beginning of October and libraries local to those locations will have a presence at each concert. Each month, one title selected by Tyler will be featured on the ODL page. This month's title is *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac.

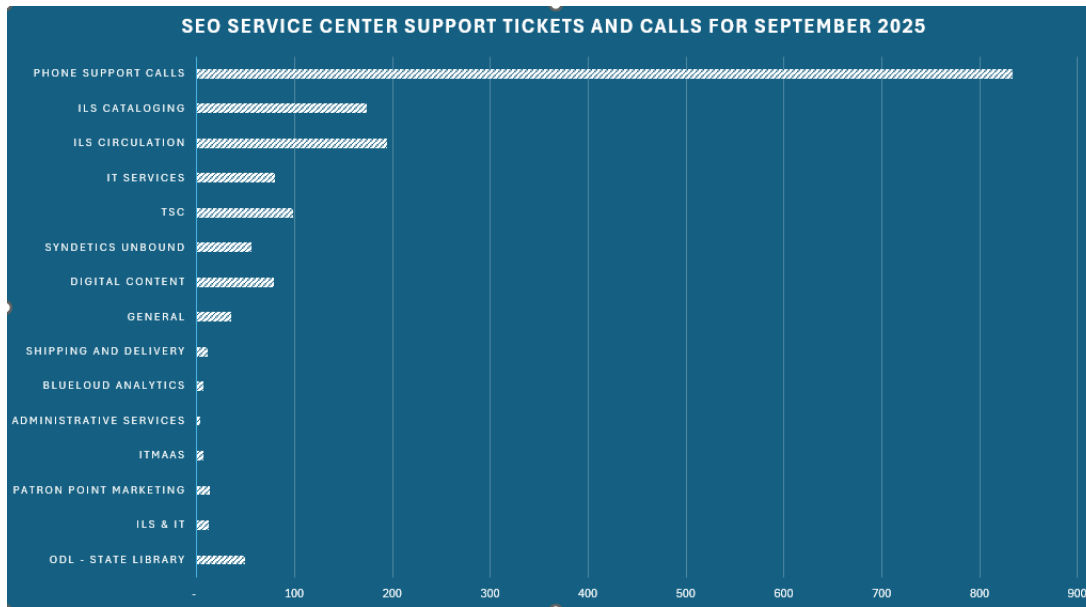
In September, a new holds system debuted. The term "deliver later" is now "suspend hold." If patrons make no decision after their first hold notification, the hold will be automatically suspended until the patron makes the decision to unsuspend it. For more information, read this article: [Everything you need to know about holds in the Libby app.](#)

Sixteen institutions [were awarded a total of \\$74,693 in federal funds](#) for **LSTA Conservation and Preservation Grants**. This grant, offered in partnership with the Ohio Preservation Council, provides up to \$4,999 in LSTA funds for libraries to conserve a single item or preserve a small, discrete group of items within their collections. The item(s) selected

for conservation/preservation should be unique, valuable (culturally or monetarily), and as a cultural artifact speak to the mission and values of the applying institution. The 16 institutions awarded the grant were: Archives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Museum Association, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Congregation Mishkan Or,

Fairport Harbor Public Library, Hudson Library & Historical Society, International Women's Air & Space Museum, Kenyon College, Miami University, Oak Harbor Public Library, Oakwood Historical Society, Ohio Wesleyan University Libraries, Rocky River Public Library, Shaker Historical Society, Westerville Public Library, and Wright State University Libraries.

SEO Service Center—September 2025



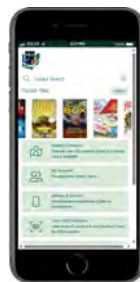
The SEO Service Center team answered over 1,656 tickets and customer calls during the month of September.

Key service highlights include:

- **Visits** to Holmes County District Public Library, Perry Cook Memorial Public Library, and New Madison Public Library
- Launched new webinars via Niche Academy focused on [Cybersecurity and Library Board of Trustees](#)

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

- Over 1.02 million items were circulated.
- 10,305 new users were created.
- 177,529 holds were created and 179,846 holds were filled.
- 558 interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- 823 support tickets were created, with 2 relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats

	2024	2025	% Change
New Devices	2,952	2,179	-26% ↓
Holds Placed	28,776	34,826	16% ↑
App Launched	80,311	90,633	18% ↑
Searches	86,304	90,497	14% ↑

Niche Academy usage showed:

- Strong engagement with **staff tutorials** (4,112 views) and the **online catalog tutorial** (1,208 views)
- Lower engagement with the **Technical Services Committee** (64 views) and **ASL Storytime** tutorials (8 views)

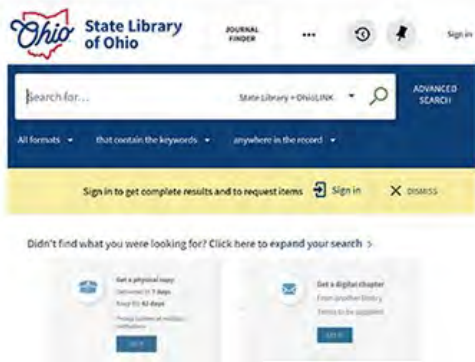


Patron Point

Patron Point Marketing e-mails showed:

- Heavy use in **Announcement and Newsletters** being sent (264,321 emails)
- Medium use in **Birthday/Anniversary** campaigns (3,119 emails)
- Light use of **Winback** (166 emails) and **Coming of Age** (5,131 emails) campaigns

News—September 2025



September 11, 2025: [State Library Enhances Services for State Employees](#)



September 16, 2025: [Former State Library Board President Passes](#)



September 18, 2025: [State Library to Host Talking Book Program Webinar: Free Library Service for Patrons Who Are Blind or Print Disabled](#)



September 26, 2025: [Sixteen Institutions Awarded Ohio Conservation and Preservation Grants](#)



September 5, 2025: [This Week We Spotlight IMLS LSTA Grantees Archbold Community Library and Selover Public Library](#)



September 12, 2025: [Spotlight Videos from Athens County Public Libraries and Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County](#)



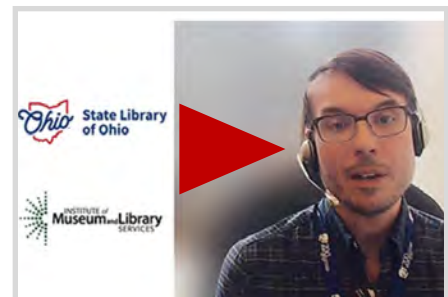
September 18, 2025: [This week, we proudly feature videos from two Ohio LSTA grantees: The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County \(PYLMC\) and The University of Akron, University Libraries](#)



September 30, 2025: [Spotlighting IMLS LSTA Grantees Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library and St. Marys Community Public Library](#)



September 22, 2025: [New Limited Video Series On How the State Library Uses Federal IMLS LSTA Funding to support Ohio's blind and print disabled residents](#)



September 24, 2025: [Part 2 - How the State Library Uses Federal IMLS LSTA Funding for Library Training and Development](#)



September 25, 2025: [Part 3 - How the State Library Uses Federal IMLS LSTA Funding for Statewide Access to eResources for All Ohioans at Public, School, and Academic libraries](#)