

Message from the State Librarian

February is the shortest month of the year, but it was full of excitement at the State Library. We made so much progress on many of our key initiatives such as facilities, strategic planning, and enhanced resource sharing. Additionally, this month we announced the availability of some of our signature grant programs, including the Summer Library Program grant.

I also had the opportunity this month to meet with other library leaders from across the country at the Knight Foundation Library Leaders Conference. It always strikes me that although our communities are unique and different, many of our struggles are the same. It's together that we'll make progress.



Highlights

- In February, State Librarian Mandy Knapp visited the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, the Supreme Court Law Library, and the Southwest Public Libraries Grove City Library.
- Mandy presented as part of a panel on changes to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) at the Knight Foundation Library Leaders Conference.
- Additional progress was made towards a new facility for the States Library's research collection in Columbus.
- Important work was done to finalize the State Library's strategic plan.



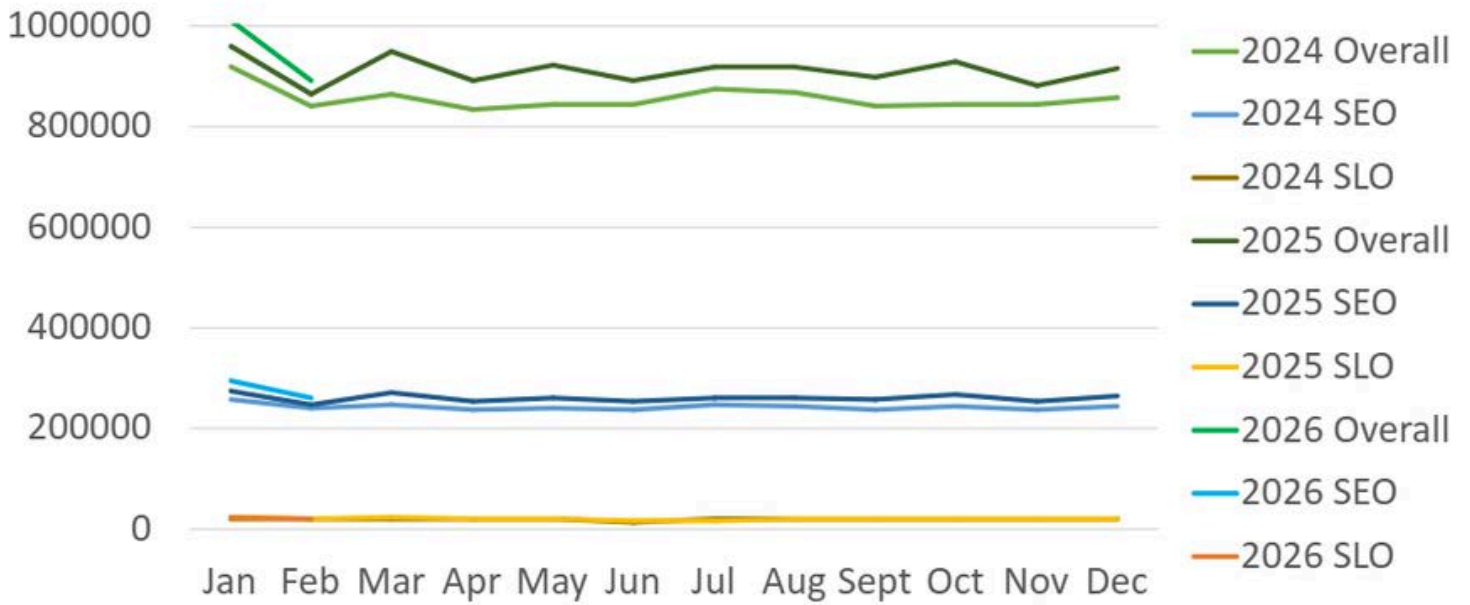
Executive Director of Sherman House Museum Michael Johnson and Decorative Arts Center of Ohio Executive Director Jason Crabill looking at Senator John Sherman items from the State Library's collection



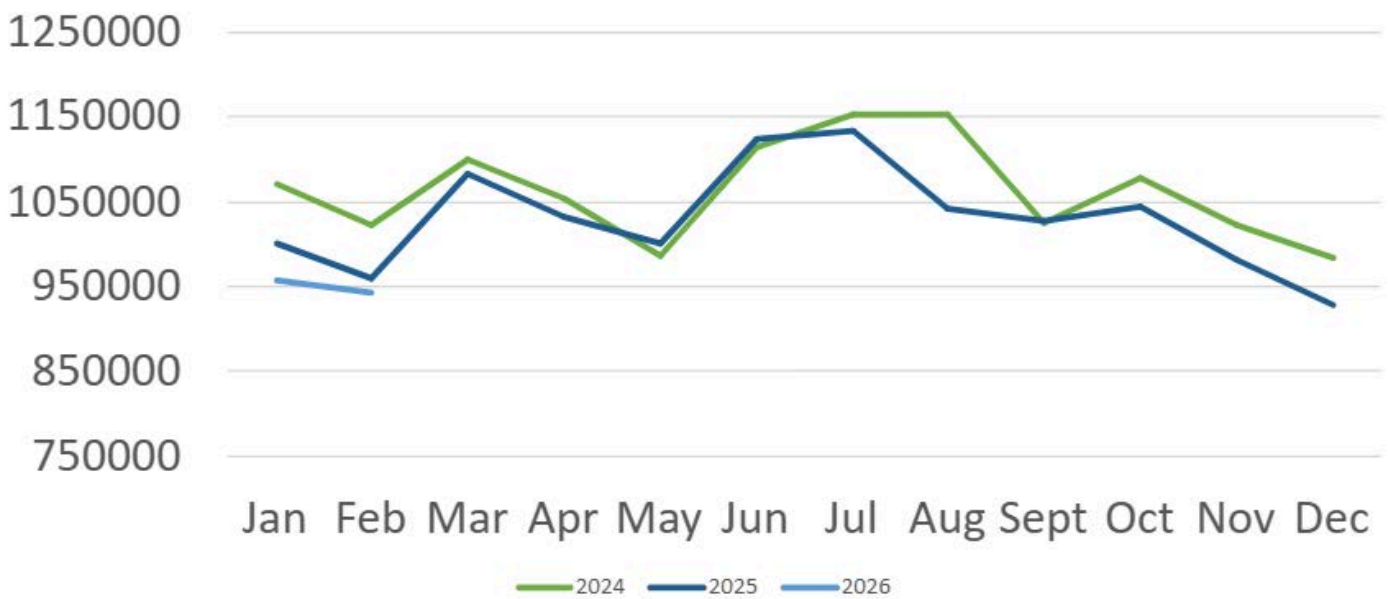
Staff of Southwest Public Libraries and State Librarian Mandy Knapp

- Mandy and Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley were filmed by the America 250-Ohio Commission staff. They discussed the Arthur St. Clair letters. Arthur St. Clair was the Governor of the Northwest Territory, which now makes up Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. These letters were purchased by the state legislature for the State Library in the 1870s.

Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month



SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month



Staff Training by Month



Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month



Library Services—February 2026

Meeting with State Representative Odioso

On February 11 Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley and Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee had the honor of meeting with State Rep. Mike Odioso (R-Green Twp.) We shared the role of the State Library of Ohio with the representative and outlined the positive impact that our organization has on our state.

We also shared some of our rare materials with Rep. Odioso including including items relating to the history of his home district. It was a great meeting and we appreciate the Representative taking the time to meet with us.



Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley and Legislative Liaison Kirstin Krumsee meeting with State Rep. Mike Odioso (R-Green Twp.)



Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley presenting to Sustainable Ohio. Many CEOs, executives, and leaders from Ohio environmental and recycling companies were in attendance.

Outreach presentations

This month Library Services staff did multiple presentations for state agencies, non-profits, and other groups. We presented to Sustainable Ohio (a non-profit connected to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency), the Ohio Department of Health leadership team, the staff of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Capital Chapter, sharing our story and resources available from the State Library.

Library Programs & Development—February 2026



On February 19, library consultants Jeff Laser (left, background), Erin Kelsey, and Katy Hite worked with staff at Wright Memorial Public Library on a future-focused activity as part of the State Library's strategic planning process.

Guiding Ohio Online

Applications are now open for the State Library's [Guiding Ohio Online LSTA Grant](#). This initiative allows public libraries serving rural populations to hire a dedicated technology trainer as an independent contractor, serving in either a full- or part-time capacity. Technology trainers can assist with computer instruction, technology-focused community outreach, one-on-one instruction, and other technology-related duties.

LSTA funding covers 75% of the project costs; the remaining 25% must come from a local cash match. The grant period runs from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Applications are due on March 22, and application drafts can be submitted for feedback by March 11.

State Library consultants will host a [drop-in office hour](#) on March 11 at noon to answer questions about the program. Questions regarding LSTA grants can also be sent to LSTA@library.ohio.gov at any time.

Summer Food Service Program

Many libraries in Ohio and around the USA participate in the [Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP, now branded as SUN Meals), a USDA-funded program that provides free meals and snacks to children ages 0-18 in communities with high levels of need.

In 2025, 176 Ohio library locations served as SUN Meals sites. This is up from 152 library sites in 2024 and is the highest-ever number of Ohio library sites participating in SFSP. 12.3% of all Ohio SFSP sites in 2025 were library sites. This is the highest-ever proportion of libraries to all other sites.

This was the fifth summer that at least one out of every ten SFSP sites in Ohio was a public library.

Libraries and SUN Meals are a great fit. [Learn how to become a SUN Meals site or support SUN Meals sites in your area](#). Contact Library Consultant [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with questions.

ODL By the Numbers

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

Total checkouts:

888,686 (1,896,955 YTD)

The audiobook format has a slight edge over ebook: 393.5K vs. 392.7K, respectively.

Support:

102 support tickets were submitted and answered in February.

Most popular book title:

The Perfect Divorce, by Jeneva Rose (audiobook)

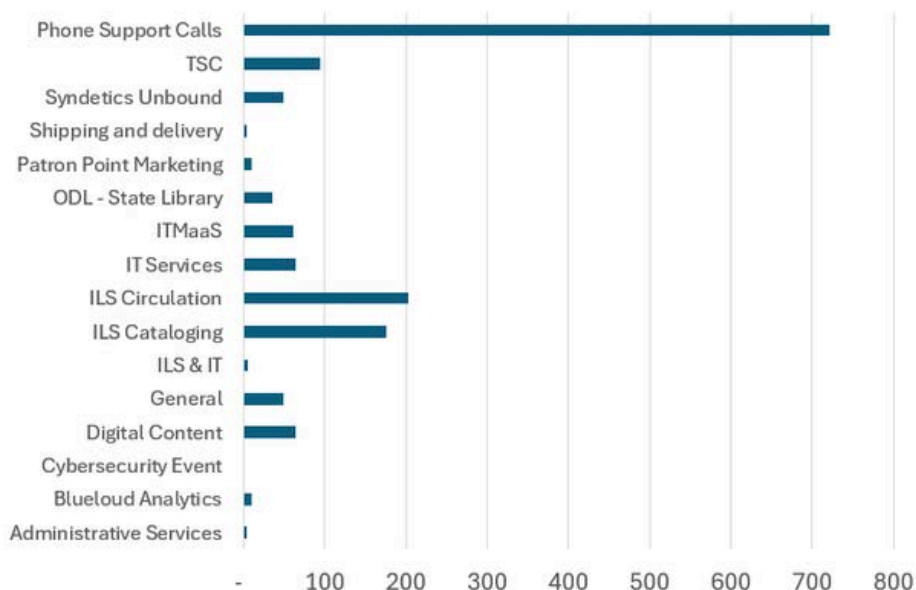
Most popular magazine title:

The New Yorker

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

SEO Service Center—February 2026

SEO Service Center Support Tickets and Calls for February 2026



Quick Takeaways:

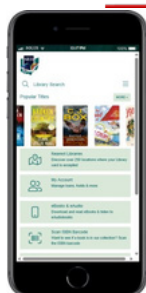
- Phone Support Calls (722) dominate overall volume.
- ILS work (Circulation + Cataloging 379) represents a major share of operational demand.
- IT Services + ITMaaS (127) and TSC (94) continue to be significant service drivers.

Key service highlights include:

- **SEO ILS staff** held an open office hour introducing the new bounced e-mail handling.
- **Three library visits** – Hardin Northern Public Library, Mechanicsburg Public Library, and Alger Public Library

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

- Over **942,768** items were circulated.
- **177,150** holds were created, and **184,683** holds were filled.
- **6,198** new users were created
- **543** interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- **834** support tickets were created, with **17** relayed to the software vendor.



Mobile App Stats	2025	2026	% Change
New Devices	3,661	2,099	-43%
Holds Placed	340,735	31,960	4%
App Launched	84,200	87,080	3%
Searches	92,061	86,034	-7%



- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views - **1,559**
- Online Catalog Patron Tutorial views - **736**
- Patron ASL Storytime views - **4**



- Heavy use in Announcement and Newsletters being sent (**350,137 emails**)
- Medium use in Birthday/Anniversary campaigns (**2,783 emails**)
- Light use of Winback (**253 emails**) and Coming of Age (**1,169 emails**) campaigns



Library Leadership Ohio Is Back!

February 1, 2026: The State Library of Ohio and OhioNet are pleased to announce Library Leadership Ohio (LLO) 2026. The Library Leadership Ohio program spans nearly 30 years and includes hundreds of alumni in a variety of positions in libraries across Ohio and across the country. LLO supports great libraries by developing great leaders. Offering exceptional programs focused on personal development and transferable leadership skills, LLO fosters connections and collaboration within Ohio's library community.

Applications Open for Guiding Ohio Online LSTA Grant

February 19, 2026: The State Library of Ohio invites eligible public libraries to apply for the Guiding Ohio Online LSTA grant—this is an opportunity for libraries to expand technology services and strengthen digital skills in their communities.

Guiding Ohio Online is a competitive LSTA grant program designed specifically for public libraries serving rural populations. The grant enables these libraries to hire a dedicated technology trainer to deliver hands-on support in communities where it is needed most.

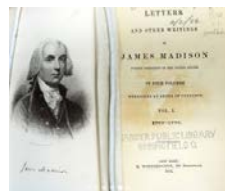
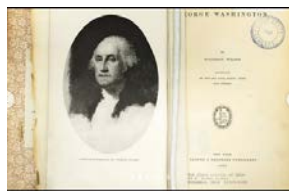


Instagram

@statelibraryohio features unique items in our collections



February 13, 2026: On display now: A small group of books by or about our founding fathers...George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DU8WGjzjRiD/>



February 19, 2026: Books on display by or about U.S. Presidents 6 – 13: John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, James K. Polk, Zachary Taylor, and Millard Fillmore
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DU8WGjzjRiD/>