

Monthly Report, February 28, 2025

Reports are posted on the State Library of Ohio website at

<https://library.ohio.gov/about/publications/state-librarian-reports>

Updates from the State Librarian

- On February 11, State Librarian Mandy Knapp gave testimony on the State Library's budget to the Ohio House Committee on Workforce and Higher Education. She outlined the budgetary needs of the organization and explained the agency's use of federal funds. We have received positive feedback on the impact of the testimony and are tentatively optimistic about State Library funding.
- In February, the State Library completed the biannual State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAA) survey. This survey shares many similarities to the Public Library Survey. The data is useful to the federal and state executive and legislative branches of government, state library agencies, library and public policy researchers, the public, journalists, and others.
- Mandy is well underway in her Listening Tour to gather feedback on perceptions of the State Library throughout the Ohio library community. The Listening Tour has three phases: the first phase is to meet with staff at all levels at the State Library. The second phase is to meet with representatives from trusted partners and individuals who serve on advisory committees for the State Library. The third phase is to meet with other members of the Ohio library community. The Listening Tour is currently in phase one.
- Mandy and Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley had the exciting opportunity to meet with Executive Director Todd Kleismit and Operations Director Quanta Brown of the **America 250-Ohio Commission**. The 29-member commission is charged with preparing the state to participate in the United States of America's 250th anniversary which culminates on July 4, 2026. We shared materials from America's bicentennial and centennial. They were very interested in our materials.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

- IRS-certified AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will be at our location to provide free tax assistance each Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. This in-person service ends April 10 and requires a previously arranged appointment.
- The program is open to taxpayers of all ages. AARP membership is not required. Call AARP Foundation Tax-Aide at 614-547-2442 to schedule an appointment at the State Library location. Free tax preparation is also available at dozens of other locations; call 1-888-227-7669 to find out more.
- For more information about the program including taxpayer responsibilities and what to bring with you, visit the AARP website at <https://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org/>.

Announcements

[What's New](#) on the State Library website and distributed via email lists



- [Applications Open for LSTA Guiding Ohio Online Grant](#), February 19, 2025



- [Janet Ingraham Dwyer Receives 2025 Ohio Afterschool Network Ignite and Inspire Award](#), February 24, 2025



- [The State Library of Ohio Will Launch a New Library Services System in June](#), February 27, 2025

Choose to Read Ohio

- The 2025 [Choose to Read Ohio](#) (CTRO) booklist features 20 notable titles for all ages and reading levels, encompassing fiction and nonfiction and a variety of geographic and cultural interests.
- The CTRO Advisory Council creates a [readers' toolkit](#) for each CTRO book, featuring author biographies, discussion questions, activities, and resources to engage curiosity and explore themes in depth. Toolkits for all 155 books selected to CTRO since its inception in 2009 are available for free download on the CTRO website. Starting with the 2025 CTRO booklist, toolkits are being published as webpages instead of PDFs for accessibility and findability.
- ***The Voice in the Hollow*** by Will Hillenbrand has been named the tenth annual [Floyd's Pick Book Award](#) winner, awarded by the CTRO Advisory Council in memory of children's literature expert, advocate, and librarian Floyd Dickman.
- The Floyd's Pick Book Award is given annually to a book written by an Ohio author or illustrated by an Ohio illustrator that is representative of high-quality literature created for children. It aims to carry on the legacy of Floyd Dickman's joyful work to support and share children's literature.
- The CTRO Advisory Council has also selected two Floyd's Pick Honor Books for 2025: ***My Thoughts Have Wings*** by Maggie Smith, illustrated by Leanne Hatch, and ***The Yellow Bus*** by Loren Long.
- Contact [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with any questions about CTRO and Floyd's Pick.

Guiding Ohio Online

- The application window is currently open for the State Library of Ohio's LSTA Guiding Ohio Online (GOO) grant. The GOO grant supports public libraries serving rural populations in Ohio by providing funds to hire a contracted technology/digital literacy trainer for their community. GOO applications will remain open through Sunday March 23. For more information on the GOO grant initiative visit <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/guiding-ohio-online>.
 - A drop-in open office hour devoted to questions regarding Guiding Ohio Online was hosted on February 25 by Anne Kennedy, Jeff Regensburger, and Evan Struble.

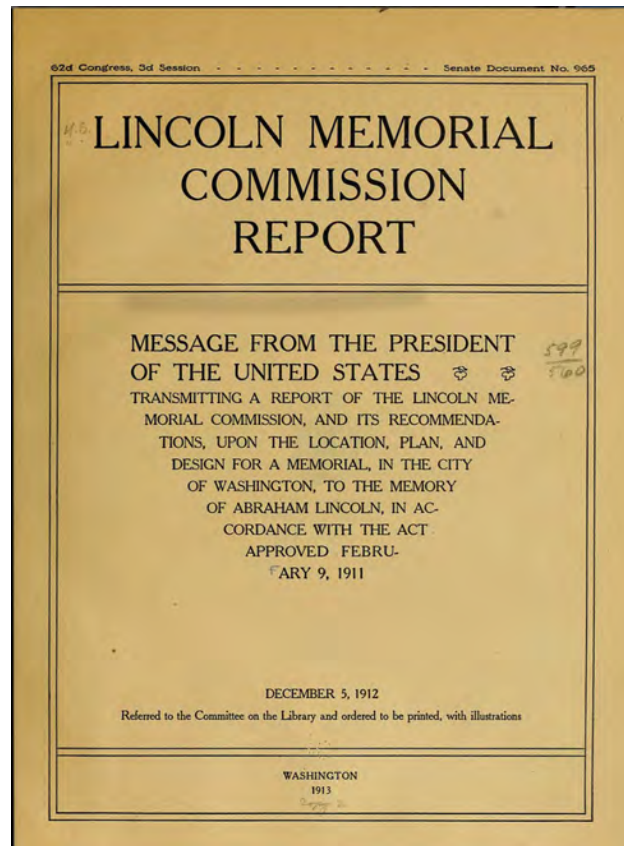
- If you have any questions regarding the funding or budget of Guiding Ohio Online, please contact the LSTA Office at LSTA@library.ohio.gov.
- If you have any questions regarding Guiding Ohio Online trainers (hiring, best practices, etc.), please contact Anne Kennedy, Technology Consultant, at akennedy@library.ohio.gov or by calling 614-466-1710.

ILEAD Ohio

- The State Library of Ohio and [OhioNet](#) are pleased to announce the return of [ILEAD Ohio](#) in 2025. ILEAD Ohio is a transformative 9-month program designed to develop the leadership and project management skills of library staff across the state. By working in teams to address real community needs, participants will gain hands-on experience in project management, team building, and community collaboration.
 - The application period for ILEAD Ohio 2025 has closed; applications are currently under review, and accepted teams will be notified in mid-March.
 - If you have any questions regarding ILEAD Ohio, please contact Erin Kelsey, Library Consultant, at ekelsey@library.ohio.gov or 614-644-6889.

Instagram

- State Library [posts](#) featuring items in our special collections and government documents collections in February included:



- o In recognition of Abraham Lincoln's birthday today we share some pages in a report from our government publications collection: "**Lincoln Memorial Commission Report: Message From The President Of The United States Transmitting a Report Of The Lincoln Memorial Commission, And Its Recommendations, Upon the Location, Plan, and Design For A Memorial, in the City of Washington, to the Memory of Abraham Lincoln, in Accordance With The Act Approved February 9, 1911.**" William Howard Taft was Chairman of the Lincoln Memorial Commission. Includes 10 images. Posted on February 12, 2025. https://www.instagram.com/p/DF_JOX_SHf9/?img_index=1



- o From our Special Collections: "**American Medicinal Plants: An Illustrated and Descriptive Guide to the American Plants Used as Homeopathic Remedies: Their History, Preparation, Chemistry and Physiological Effects**" by Charles F. Millspaugh (1854 – 1923); illustrated from drawings of each plant in situ, by the author. Published in 1884. Sharing this item does not constitute an endorsement by the State Library on the safety and effectiveness of the remedies included in this publication. Includes 8 images. Posted February 18, 2025. https://www.instagram.com/p/DGOTIBSSsPh/?img_index=2



- From our Special Collections: **Formes et Couleurs; Vingt Planches en Couleurs Contenant Soixante-sept Motifs Décoratifs**. 1920 - 1929 (Approximate) by Auguste H. Thomas. This is a portfolio of 20 decorative plates in the Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles, printed in vivid colors using the pochoir process. Pochoir is a stenciling technique used for reproducing original color artworks. From 1895 to 1935, it was utilized in France by renowned artists and craftsmen to create illustrated deluxe portfolios, books, limited-edition journals, as well as decorative and fine-art prints. Includes 4 images. Posted on February 25, 2025.
https://www.instagram.com/p/DGgiKZPSzCM/?img_index=3

List of New Acquisitions



- A list of print books, ebooks, and audiobooks recently added to the State Library's collection for February is available on our [website](#).

LSTA

- The State Library of Ohio awarded 29 **Celebrating Ohio Book Awards and Authors (COBAA)** grants in February. Awardees included 7 academic libraries, 8 public libraries, and 15 school libraries from across the state. The LSTA COBAA grant program provides these libraries up to \$2000 in funds to support collection development and collection-related program initiatives for their communities. The initiative supports the purchase of books by Ohio authors as well as books recognized by Ohio-based book award programs. Details regarding the COBAA grant can be found here: <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/cobaa>.
- A total of 6 **LSTA Open Grants** were awarded by the State Library of Ohio in February to the following institutions: Carroll County District Library, Elida Local Schools, Lloyd Library & Museum, the Northern Buckeye Educational Council, Sylvania Southview High School, and the University of Findlay. The LSTA Open Grant provides libraries up to \$4,999 in federal funds to support projects that align with a library's stated need and the [State Library of Ohio's LSTA Five-Year Plan](#).
- The application window for the State Library of Ohio's **LSTA Summer Library Program (SLP)** grant program closed on Tuesday, February 18. Applications that were received by the deadline are now under review by State Library of Ohio staff. The SLP grant program provides libraries up to \$2,000 to support library efforts to enhance their 2025 summer programs with library-led activities that spark creativity and learning, engage individuals of all ages, and benefit their communities. Award notifications will be made in mid-March. The grant project term will run April 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025. More information on the SLP grant initiative can be found here: <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/summer-library-program-grant>.
- Questions regarding the LSTA program should be addressed to Jeff Regensburger, Library Consultant/LSTA Coordinator, at LSTA@library.ohio.gov.

Meeting Rooms

- The State Library of Ohio provides meeting rooms that can be booked by State of Ohio agencies and members of the library community. In February 426 hours of meetings were held in our 7 meeting spaces by these groups.
- Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our meeting rooms.

Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative

- The [Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative](#) (OCAI) is an original, self-paced, collection analysis tool for considering collections that empower children and young adult readers by respecting and appreciating what makes them different and the same. OCAI is a collaborative project of the State Library of Ohio and TeachingBooks.net. The project is funded in whole or in part with Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds, granted to the State Library of Ohio. [Register for access here!](#)
- Notable highlights from this impactful initiative:
 - Free for staff working in all types of Ohio libraries! It is available at no cost to you.
 - There are no time constraints for completing this program. Set your own goals and progress at your own pace.
 - Personalized support. You have access to a dedicated, full-time specialist for assistance at any time.
 - Unlimited access to a Collection Analysis Toolkit. This toolkit complements the collection development work you already have in place.
 - Unlimited access to a vetted collection of materials about children's & young adult books and authors.
 - Identifiable action steps. You will receive a custom Implementation Plan that outlines your collection development decisions and next steps.
- [Click here](#) to check out recorded workshops and webinars related to the Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative to learn more.
- Through February, OCAI has over 800 users in 88 of 88 Ohio counties!
- Erin Kelsey and TeachingBooks staff continue to host a slate of [thematic webinars and workshops](#), teaching users how to enhance their youth-focused library collections. Upcoming webinars and workshops for 2025 include:
 - Analyzing Nonfiction Collections with TeachingBooks
 - Learn about the unique aspects of using Collection Analysis Reports to examine your nonfiction titles. Wondering about how to organize an audit of your nonfiction collections? Curious why some of your nonfiction titles may not appear on TeachingBooks? Review the basics of uploading titles and generating reports as well as exploring how to use the data to inform the management of your nonfiction collections. This webinar is intended for public library staff, but open to anyone working with children's and young adult books.
 - Audience: Libraries & PK-12 | All Educators, Library Staff, and Administrators
 - When: Thursday, March 13, 3:30-4:30 p.m. EST
 - [Register Here](#)

- Navigating the Early Literacy Landscape
 - Create and analyze collections of picture books to support early literacy. Enhance your reading program components with additional titles and resources that build background knowledge and broaden vocabulary. Reinforce concepts learned during the school year with diverse and engaging lists of titles for families. This webinar is intended for K-12 librarians and educators, but open to anyone working with children’s and young adult books.
 - Audience: Libraries & PK–12 | All Educators, Library Staff, and Administrators
 - When: Thursday, April 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m. EST
 - [Register Here](#)
- Finding Diverse Readalikes with Collection Analysis
 - It’s almost summer, and your copies of popular titles are already flying off the shelves. Explore ways to use the Collection Analysis Toolkit to find readalikes and create diverse, balanced recommendation lists and displays that meet community needs. Analyze, augment, and promote sets of titles to keep young readers engaged and reading. This webinar is intended for public library staff, but open to anyone working with children’s and young adult books.
 - Audience: Libraries & PK–12 | All Educators, Library Staff, and Administrators
 - When: Thursday, May 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m. EST
 - [Register Here](#)
- Additionally, Erin Kelsey and TeachingBooks staff continue to host drop-in [Office Hours](#), where interested parties can ask a quick question or learn more about the initiative.
 - Drop in Office Hours for 2025 are on Thursdays at 3:30-4:30 EST on the following dates:
 - March 20
 - April 17
 - May 15

Ohio Digital Library

- In the month of February, ODL patrons checked out 862,473 items. 2025 year-to-date checkouts stand at 1,820,106.
 - The most popular non-magazine title in February was *The Things We Leave Unfinished*, by Rebecca Yarros, a book that follows the journey of two broken souls, brought together by fate and haunted by their pasts. The most popular magazine title was *The New Yorker*.
- In mid-March 2020, ODL enabled the opportunity for Ohioans to take advantage of the OverDrive [Instant Digital Card](#). A user can sign up with their phone number and gain quick access to e-content via ODL. Users that sign up via the Instant Digital Card will be directed to their local library to fill out a physical library card. In February 2025, 4,094 registrations took place.
- Curious about what’s being checked out? Take a look at [the real-time checkouts and holds](#).

Ohio Digital Network [Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) Project]

- After the winter ingest, 42 Ohio institutions have contributed over 416,000 records to DPLA through ODN.
- SAVE THE DATE: ODNFest 2025 will be held on Tuesday, September 30! Complete details will be shared soon.

- Penelope Shumaker is available to speak to libraries and cultural heritage institutions about DPLA and ODN. For details, contact Penelope at pshumaker@library.ohio.gov.
- For those interested in being a part of the ODN or who want to learn more, please visit the ODN Website and subscribe to the ODN listserv: <https://lists.library.ohio.gov/mailman/listinfo/odn>.
- Questions on DPLA or the Ohio Digital Network should be addressed to Penelope Shumaker, pshumaker@library.ohio.gov.

Ohio Ready to Read

- Ohio Ready to Read (ORTR) 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.
- [Early Literacy 101](#) is a free, full-day (6 contact hour) 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](#). 2025 workshop dates will be announced in coming months. Public libraries may request to host an Early Literacy 101 workshop via the link above.
- Contact [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with any questions about ORTR.

Presentations

- Janet Ingraham Dwyer co-presented a mini-session on Ohio book awards at the Ohio Council of English Language Arts Teachers (OCTELA) Conference on February 21. Janet and co-presenter Liz Deskins, Adjunct at the Kent State iSchool, also staffed a display table for the Buckeye Children's and Teen Book Awards at OCTELA.
- Janet Ingraham Dwyer participated on a panel, "Libraries as Partners," at the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Summer Summit, an annual meeting of Ohio Summer Food Service Program sponsors, on February 24. Over 40 attendees attended this session, which also featured Nieca Nowels from Marysville Public Library and Amanda Toth from The Lane Libraries.
- On Monday February 17, Jeff Regensburger traveled to Toledo to present an overview of intellectual freedom concepts as they relate to libraries to the staff of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. This presentation was part of an All-Staff Development Day that covered a variety of topics of interest to staff.
- Katy Hite presented "Summer Reading, Not Just For Kids," an overview of Collaborative Summer Library Program and state resources, at the NEO-RLS Adult Summer Reading program on February 13.
- As part of her work with the Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative, Erin Kelsey, along with staff from TeachingBooks, led the webinar, "Supporting Book Purchasing Decisions with Collections Analysis" on February 13.

Reference Services

- In February we provided research assistance to State Agencies, Businesses, Universities and to the public. Here are just a few of the organizations, business and agencies that we served this month:
 - Canal Fulton Public Library
 - Ohio Attorney General
 - Ohio Department of Aging

- Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Royal Canin Incorporated
- Supreme Court of Ohio

Reimagining School Readiness

- The State Library of Ohio is proud to support the [Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit](#), a suite of research-backed resources created for library staff to help families prepare children ages birth to 8 years for success in school and in life. The toolkit was developed by the [Bay Area Discovery Museum](#) in collaboration with the California State Library and the Pacific Library Partnership.
- The State Library of Ohio will host an in-person Reimagining School Readiness workshop on April 30. More information and registration for the event can be found [here](#).
- Please keep an eye on the various library listservs and traditional communication channels for additional workshop announcements and registration openings.
 - These workshops cover such topics as:
 - key findings from current cognitive and developmental psychology research
 - the implications of those findings for library staff's daily work
 - practical ready-to-implement ideas for activities
 - resources for staff training and for parents/caregivers
 - If your library is interested in hosting a Reimagining School Readiness training for your staff, contact Penelope Shumaker, pshumaker@library.ohio.gov.
- Additional information about this initiative can be found [here](#). Questions regarding Reimagining School Readiness should be addressed to Penelope Shumaker (pshumaker@library.ohio.gov).

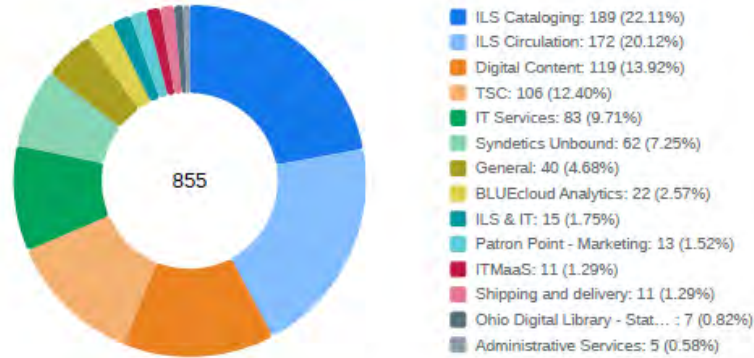
Return of Rare Ohio Historic Letters and Documents

- In 1974, the State Library of Ohio loaned the Ohio Historical Society (now Ohio History Connection) a sizable number of letters and documents from early Ohio governors to be microfilmed and to be returned in 1979. For reasons lost to time, the letters and documents were never returned.
- We are excited to share that on March 10, these one of kind materials will return to the State Library of Ohio. These documents include the personal letters of several famous Ohioans including Ethan Allen Brown, Daniel Decatur Emmett, Samuel Huntington, Jonathan Meigs, Jr, Arthur St. Clair and Thomas Worthington.
- Check out <https://ohiomemory.org/> to find rare and interesting historic Ohio documents digitized by the State Library of Ohio.

SEO Service Center

- Total automation consortium circulation for the past 30 days—**968,141**
- Total number of new users created in the past 30 days—**6,292**
- In-house periodicals filled—**1**
- Interlibrary loans initiated for the past 30 days—**734**
- Total number of support tickets created for the previous month—**855**
- Support tickets logged with Integrated Library Software (ILS) vendor SirsiDynix—**13**

Total Tickets by Month



- ### Consortium Service Highlights

- The collections for Mt. Gilead, Bucyrus, and Galion Public Libraries became available to SEO members on February 18, 24, and 27, respectively.
 - The Library Software Support Team introduced two quality-of-life updates for the WorkFlows software: SMS address move and User Lost Card wizard.
 - Paula Clark hosted 1 Patron Point onboarding session for 2 member libraries with 3 attendees.
 - Paula hosted 1 WorldShare Interlibrary Loan training session for 3 member libraries with 7 attendees.
 - On February 6, Heather Miller completed ABLE 5: Introduction to Technical Services and Cataloging training.
 - On February 7, Heather completed ABLE 7: Introduction to Dewey Classification training.
 - On February 19, The Library Software and IT Support Teams hosted the Open Office Hour with 24 attendees.
 - On February 20, Heather met with the Montpelier Public Library Director.
 - On February 25, Heather met with the Evergreen Community Library Director.
 - On February 25, new garage doors were installed at the SEO Service Center facility.
 - The Library Software Support Team started the annual optional bill purge for member libraries.
 - On February 27, the SEO Advisory Committee met.

- ### Niche Academy Stats

- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views—**1,809**
 - Online Catalog Tutorial views—**1,049**
 - Technical Services Committee—**8**

Staffing

- The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce that Angelyn Hellman has joined our staff as Talking Books Supervisor. She is responsible for the Talking Book Program services at State Library, coordinating our efforts with Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD) and the National Library Service. Angelyn processes applications, provides customer service support to patrons and oversees the machine lending for Talking Book machines, Braille e-readers and accessories for the entire state of Ohio. Angelyn earned a Master of Archival Studies and Master of Library and Information Studies (MASLIS) from University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia and a Bachelor of Science from Kent State University.

Strategic Planning

- Libraries currently receiving strategic planning services from State Library consultants include:
 - Mansfield-Richland County Public Library
 - Briggs-Lawrence County Public Library
 - London Public Library
 - Logan-Hocking County District Library
 - Minerva Public Library
 - Canal Fulton Public Library
 - Portage county Public Library
 - Ashland Public Library
 - Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
 - Marvin Memorial Library
- If you have questions about the [State Library's strategic planning services](#), or would like to be placed on the waiting list for this service, please contact Evan Struble at estruble@library.ohio.gov.

Summer Food Service Program/SUN Meals

- 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. Besides the obvious benefits of addressing hunger and supporting vulnerable youth, SUN Meals participation benefits libraries through:
 - Access to new user groups, especially underserved and marginalized populations
 - Increased visibility of the library as a community asset
 - Opportunities for new partnerships
 - Positioning of the library as an important stakeholder in community well-being and positive child outcomes
 - Support for summer library programming through increased attendance
- If you are already a SUN Meals / SFSP site or have been in the past, work with your current/previous sponsor to prepare for summer 2025.
- If you want to become a SUN Meals site, the Collaborative Summer Library Program offers a thorough, clear how-to guide: [Libraries and Summer Food](#) provides a step-by-step for libraries interested in becoming SUN Meals sites, or otherwise getting involved in addressing child food insecurity during the summer.
- The State Library also offers a basic guide for Ohio libraries: 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.](#)

Take 5

- The 2025 Take 5 event will take place at the Main Library Annex, Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, on Friday, May 2. [Registration is open.](#) The cost is \$30, which includes lunch and light morning refreshments.
- The event will feature a participatory Nonviolent Communication mini-workshop with [Compassionate Communication Center of Ohio](#) coach and facilitator [Zach Yocum](#) and inspiration and wisdom from author, filmmaker, and educator [Donte Woods-Spikes](#), plus talk tables, a teens-and-librarians panel, and more.
- Take 5 is a day of dialogue and discovery for public library teen and youth services specialists, school librarians, and other youth advocates. Take 5 events feature active learning opportunities, speaker sessions with allies within and outside the library field, hands-on activities, and networking. Take 5 is a peer-to-peer event, planned and produced by collaborating librarians with support from host libraries.
- Take 5 is also supported by the State Library of Ohio with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The 2025 event is cosponsored by SERLS. [Learn more about Take 5.](#)

Tour



- On February 3, 2025, we welcomed the **Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC) Fellowship Program** Class of 2024-2025 for a tour of the State Library. The day began with a brief presentation about our services and resources for state employees. Each year participants in the LSC Fellowship Program visit the library as part of their professional development. View 10 photos posted to Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/p/DGBRV34xWjT/?img_index=1.