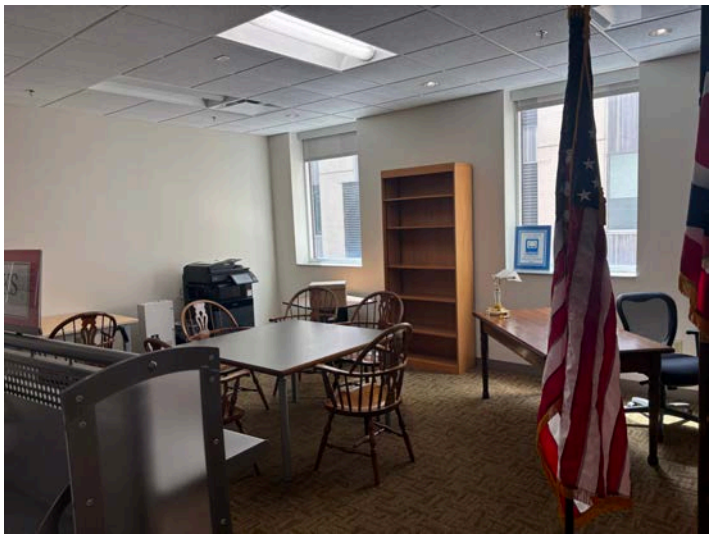
# State Library of Ohio

August 2026

## Message from the State Librarian

In August, the State Library truly began to settle in to its new homes in Columbus. This includes small items like arranging furnishing, hanging photos, repainting walls scuffed by the move, as well as larger plans like making plans for new workflows, discussing the future of services, and working towards our future.

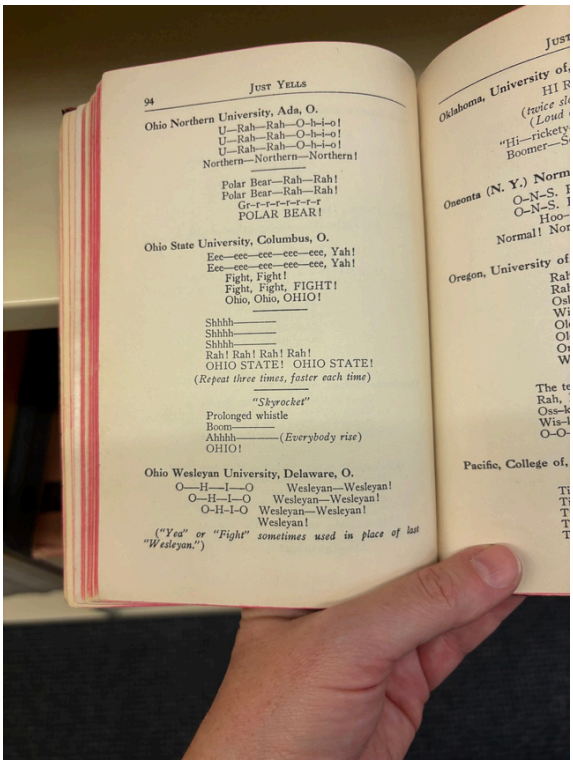
I am also pleased to share with you the State Library's Annual Report for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. This report highlights a year of growth, innovation, and expanded support for communities across Ohio. It details key initiatives such as improved digital services, strengthened partnerships, and efforts to increase accessibility to statewide resources. I am very proud of everything our staff has done to achieve these goals.



***State Library's Reading Room at 35 E. Chestnut begins to take shape.***

## Highlights

- After a thorough search and assessment, the Serving Every Ohioan Consortium has chosen Polaris as its next integrated library system (ILS). The projected start date is fall 2027.
- The Research Library's restart of service was mapped out and work has begun. New library card applications have started and RapidILL requests are set to previous parameters. Look for more updates soon!
- Progress was made on the evaluation of the current Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year Plan.



94 JUST YELLS

Ohio Northern University, Ada, O.
U—Rah—Rah—O-h-i-o!
U—Rah—Rah—O-h-i-o!
U—Rah—Rah—O-h-i-o!
Northern—Northern—Northern!

Polar Bear—Rah—Rah!
Polar Bear—Rah—Rah!
Gr-r-r-r-r-r-r-r
POLAR BEAR!

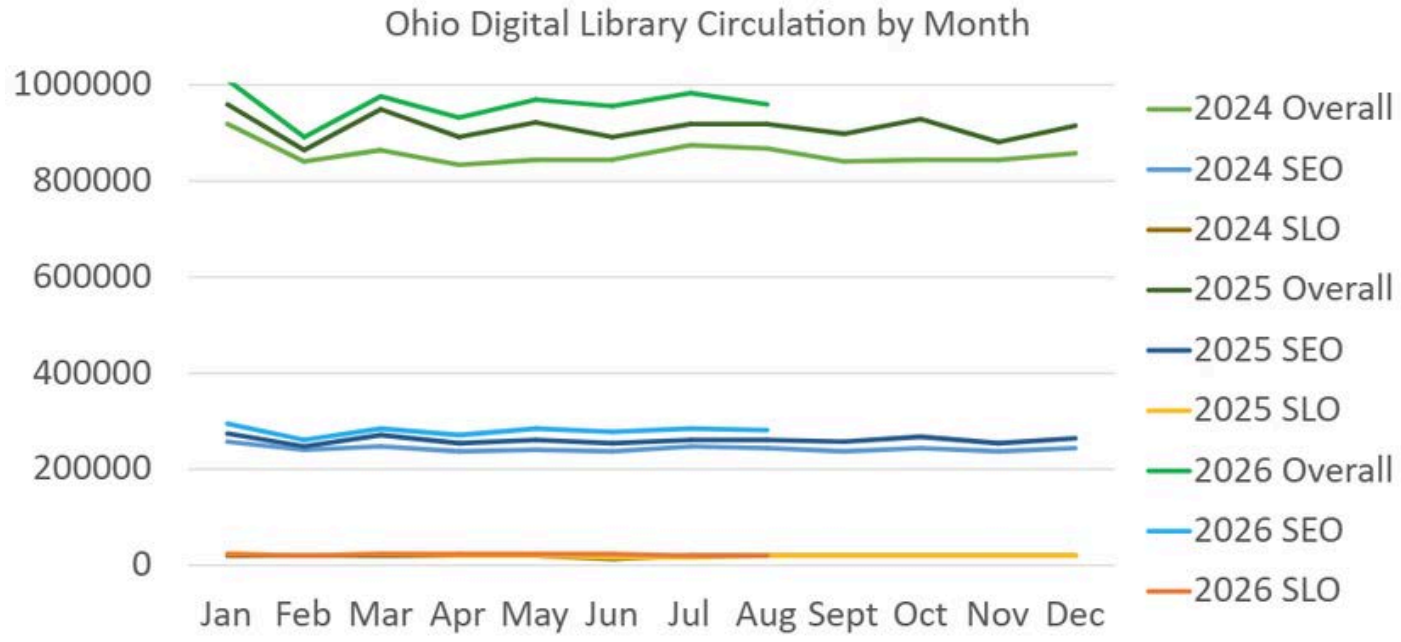
Ohio State University, Columbus, O.
Eee—eee—eee—eee—eee, Yah!
Eee—eee—eee—eee—eee, Yah!
Fight, Fight!
Fight, Fight, FIGHT!
Ohio, Ohio, OHIO!

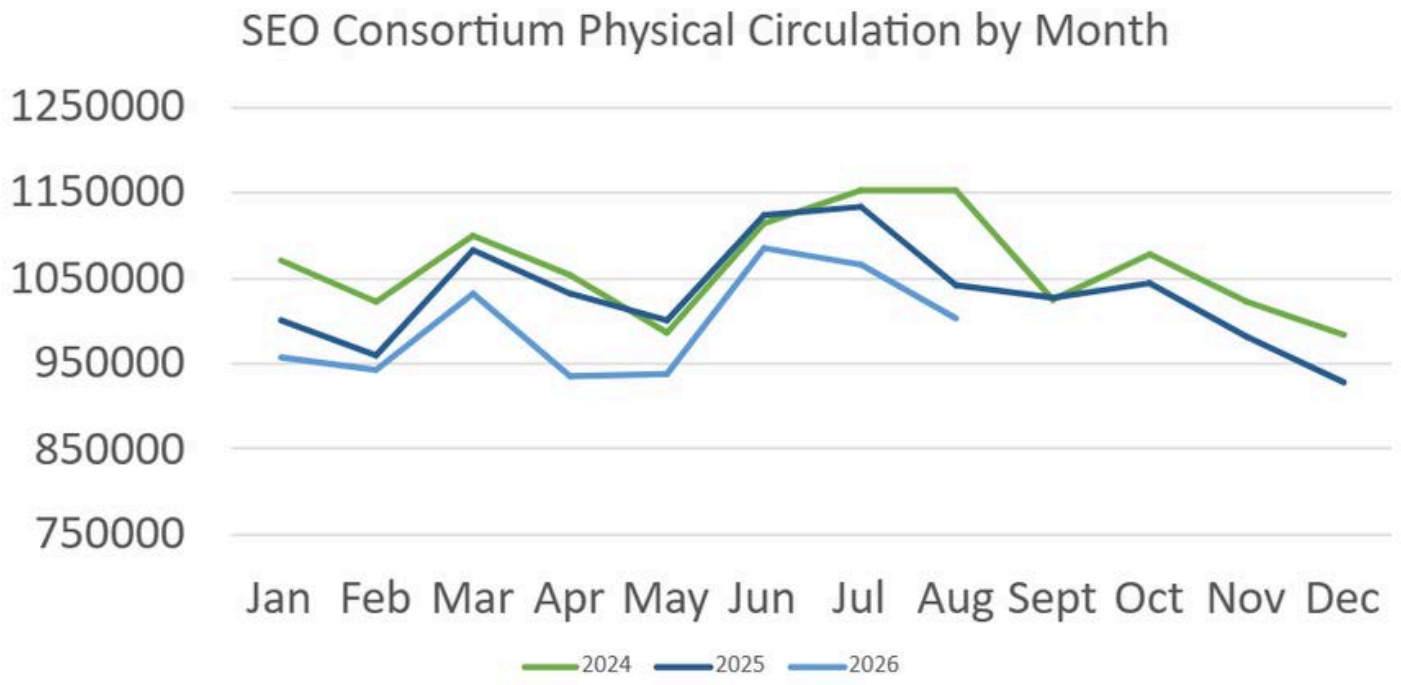
Shhhh———
Shhhh———
Shhhh———
Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!
OHIO STATE! OHIO STATE!
(*Repeat three times, faster each time*)

*"Skyrocket"*
Prolonged whistle
Boom———
Ahhhh———(*Everybody rise*)
OHIO!

Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, O.
O—H—I—O Wesleyan—Wesleyan!
O—H—I—O Wesleyan—Wesleyan!
O-H-I-O Wesleyan—Wesleyan!
Wesleyan!
(*"Yea" or "Fight" sometimes used in place of last "Wesleyan."*)

***From the Research Library's collection: "Just Yells: A Guide for Cheerleaders" (1927) instructs cheerleaders on school-specific chants***


Ohio Digital Library Circulation by Month
1000000
800000
600000
400000
200000
0
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec
2024 Overall
2024 SEO
2024 SLO
2025 Overall
2025 SEO
2025 SLO
2026 Overall
2026 SEO
2026 SLO


SEO Consortium Physical Circulation by Month
1250000
1150000
1050000
950000
850000
750000
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec
2024
2025
2026

Staff Training by Month
325
275
225
175
125
75
Jan Mar May Jul Sept Nov
2025 Hours
2026 Hours

Cooperative Partnership Meetings by Month
700
600
500
400
300
Jan Mar May Jul Sept Nov
2025 Hours
2026 Hours

## Presentation to Veterans' Group Board

This month we had the opportunity to present to the Board of **Vietnam Veterans of America: Buckeye State Council.** We spoke with them about the varied work that the State Library of Ohio does to support state agencies, Ohio libraries, and Ohio residents. We also spoke about our federal and state document depositories and shared some of the rare documents from the St. Clair papers and shared our upcoming grant work which will involve digitizing this rare collection of manuscripts.

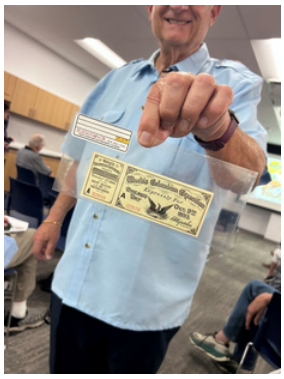
***State Librarian Mandy Knapp and Director of Library Operations Ryan Burley presenting to the Board of Vietnam Veterans of America: Buckeye State Council***

***State Library of Ohio Display at Ohio Veterans Convention***

## Ohio Veterans Convention

On August 8, Talking Book Supervisor Angelyn Hellman promoted the Talking Book program at the **Ohio Veterans Convention** at Ohio Union at The Ohio State University. This event brough together veterans, families, advocates, and partners for a daylong celebration of service and resources. Angelyn spoke with 93 attendees about the State Library of Ohio and the Talking Book program and promoted our services.

# Library Programs & Development—August 2026



***Library Consultants Jeff Laser and Erin Kelsey (pictured left; l to r) facilitate a strategic planning activity at Louisville Public Library. Library Consultant Katy Hite attended the Delaware County District Library's America250 program, "A Fair to Remember: The 1893 Chicago World's Fair" where artifacts were on display, including a ticket from the fair, still in excellent condition (pictured right).***

**Library Consultants on the Road**

As part of their strategic planning services, Library Consultants Katy Hite, Erin Kelsey, and Jeff Laser visited the Louisville Public LIbrary (facilitating three interactive workshops for staff, leadership team, and Board) as well as the Grove City branch of the Southwest Public Libraries (orientation meeting with director, Meredith Wickham).

Library Consultant Jeff Regensburger presented a session at the Ohio Library Employees Institute (OLEI) about having difficult conversations, and provided some tips and best practices for managing potential fallout. OLEI was facilitated by OhioNet, and is a reboot of the long-running Ohio Library Support Staff Institute (OLSSI).

Library Consultant Penelope Shumaker visited The Ohio State University's Knowlton School of Architecture Archive, as selections from this archive will soon be contributed to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) via the State Library's Ohio Digital Network.

ODL By the Numbers

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

**Total checkouts:**
958,409 (7,666,291 YTD)

**Format preference:**
Slightly more audiobooks (roughly 438K) than ebooks (408K) circulated in August. Magazines clocked in with 111K.

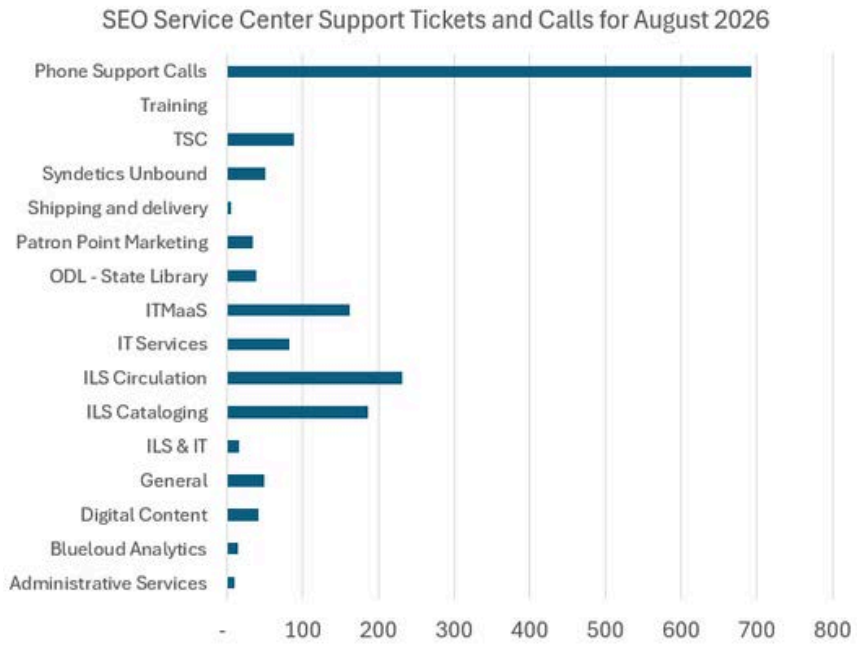
**Support:**
81 support tickets were submitted and answered in August.

**Most popular book title:**
*The Calamity Club*, by Kathryn Stockett (audiobook)

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

Though it feels like summer 2026 just wrapped up, the 2027 Collaborative Summer Library Program manual access code will be distributed in October. The 2027 CSLP theme is Mystery with the slogan Mysteries Await at Your Library / Misterios te esperan en tu biblioteca and artwork by Laurie A. Conley featuring 2027 CSLP program mascot Inspector Whiskers (pictured, right). See the Ohio Summer Library Program website for resources to support summer planning year-round, and contact Youth Services Consultant Janet Ingraham Dwyer or Adult Services Consultant Katy Hite with any questions.

## SEO Service Center—August 2026




### Quick Takeaways:

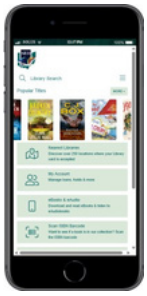
- Phone support calls (693) dominated overall volume.
- ILS work (Circulation + Cataloging 417) represented a major share of operational demand.
- IT Services + ITMaaS (244) and TSC (88) continue to be significant service drivers.

**Key service highlights include:**

- **Four library visits –** Brown Memorial Public Library, Kaubisch Memorial Public Library, Germantown Public Library, and Gratis Public Library

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

- Over **1,002,857** items were circulated.
- **192,680** holds were created, and **185,443** holds were filled.
- **10,476** new users were created.
- **570** interlibrary loan requests were initiated.
- **1,009** support tickets were created, with **9** relayed to the software vendor.



| Mobile App Stats | 2025 | 2026 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Devices | 2172 | **2147** | -1% |
| Holds Placed | 33,460 | **34,435** | 3% |
| App Lauched | 90,312 | **102,983** | 14% |
| Searches | 89,585 | **91,541** | 2% |

SEO Library Consortium Training Academy Powered by NICHE Academy

- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views: **1257**
- Online Catalog Patron Tutorial views: **500**

SEO Library Consortium Community Engagement Platform Powered by Patron Point

- Heavy use in Announcements and Newsletters being sent ( **360,718 emails**)
- Medium use in Birthday/Anniversary campaigns (**3,397 emails**)
- Light use of Winback ( **505 emails**) and Coming of Age ( **1,544 emails**) campaigns

## LSTA Competitive Grant Application Now Open

August 18, 2026: The State Library of Ohio is proud to support Ohio's libraries in developing programs and services that address the needs of their respective communities while remaining steadfast in their commitment to the values and principles of library service.

## Janet Ingraham Dwyer to Receive the 2026 Ohio Library Council Hall of Fame Librarian Award

August 24, 2026: The State Library of Ohio is proud to announce that Janet Ingraham Dwyer has been selected as the 2026 recipient of the Ohio Library Council (OLC) Hall of Fame Librarian Award. The OLC Hall of Fame Librarian Award recognizes library professionals whose careers have made an enduring impact on Ohio libraries and the communities they serve. This prestigious honor recognizes Janet's exemplary career of service, leadership, collaboration, mentorship, and dedication to Ohio's libraries.

## State Library Awards $25,437 in 2026 LSTA Open Grants

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