

Monthly Report, December 31, 2024

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

- Representatives from the State Library toured a potential new location for the Library on December 9. There are many positive aspects to this space but there are also several unknowns that are currently being investigated. Ryan Burley is the State Library's project lead for this initiative.
- Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) is hosting Voices for Libraries 2025 on March 5-6, 2025, in Washington, D.C. This event provides an opportunity for library advocates from every state to travel to Washington to talk with legislators about the importance of libraries and to advocate for support. Due to space constraints, state delegations will be limited to eight people. Kirstin Krumsee is the State Captain for Ohio. She and Mandy Knapp will work together to strategically build Ohio's delegation.
- At its December 16 meeting, the State Library Board awarded more than \$170,000 in LSTA Competitive Grants to Ohio libraries.
- The SEO Service Center added three new public libraries to the SEO Consortium in December: Mt. Gilead, Bucyrus, and Galion. The SEO Consortium is now 103 members strong.

Announcements

Website – What's new announcements



- [Libraries Invited to Apply for 2025 Collection Development Grant](#), December 3, 2024



- [ILEAD Ohio Returns in 2025](#), December 4, 2024



- [15 Public Libraries Awarded Know Your Flow Ohio Grant](#), December 16, 2024



• [State Library Awards Over \\$170,000 in LSTA Competitive Grants](#), December 16, 2024

Government Documents

- The State Library of Ohio is a Congressionally designated depository for U.S. Government Publications and the official Ohio government documents depository. If you have questions about Government Documents, feel free to contact Government Documents Librarian/Regional Depository Coordinator Elissa Lawrence with at questions at elawrence@library.ohio.gov.

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 nine-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.
 - Applications for the 2025 iteration of ILEAD Ohio will open later in January; look for a forthcoming announcement on the various library listservs
 - An [ILEAD Ohio information session](#), led by State Library and OhioNet staff, was held on Thursday, December 19. The session was recorded and can be viewed at any time.
 - If you have any questions regarding ILEAD Ohio, please contact Erin Kelsey, Library Consultant, at ekelsey@library.ohio.gov or 614-644-6889.

Know Your Flow Ohio

- The State Library of Ohio, in partnership with the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) Region 6, is pleased to announce the [Know Your Flow Ohio \(KYFO\) Grant](#) program. The purpose of the KYFO Grant is to help public libraries address period poverty for patrons within their communities. The application period for this grant closed on November 17, and applications were reviewed. The following [fifteen public libraries were awarded](#) the grant:
 - Ashland Public Library
 - The Brumback Library
 - Bucyrus Public Library
 - Columbiana Public Library
 - Conneaut Public Library
 - Germantown Public Library
 - Huron County Community Library
 - Mary Lou Johnson Hardin County District Library
 - Mechanicsburg Public Library
 - Medina County District Library



- Mentor Public Library
- Pickaway County District Public Library
- Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County
- Williams County Public Library
- Wornstaff Memorial Public Library
- Each library selected will receive one menstrual product dispenser along with menstrual hygiene supplies from Aunt Flow. As part of this special grant program, these libraries will also receive \$1,000 to acquire additional Aunt Flow supplies and create health programs focused on menstrual hygiene, education, and menopausal health information. Libraries are encouraged to collaborate with local public health districts, universities, clinics, and other healthcare providers to organize presentations, panels, programs, or outreach events. Educational resources can be found at [KnowYourFlow.Info](#), a platform created by the [NNLM Region 6](#) and Aunt Flow to enhance awareness of menstrual health.
- The Know Your Flow Ohio grant program is supported in-part with federal funding awarded to the State Library from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and in partnership with the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) Region 6.
- For more information about Know Your Flow, please contact our Adult Services Consultant [Katy Hite](#).

List of New Acquisitions



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

LSTA

- On Thursday, December 12, the State Library Board approved funding for LSTA Competitive Grant awards to eight Ohio libraries. This represents a total of \$176,762.00 in LSTA funds. Libraries awarded funding were Ashtabula County District Library, Bexley Public Library, Briggs Lawrence County Public Library, Clermont County Public Library, Jackson City Library, Mentor Public Library, Ohio Northern University, and Stark County District Library. More details on the Competitive Grant awards and proposals, visit <https://library.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/libs-2024competitive-grant>.
 - The LSTA Competitive Grant is the State Library of Ohio's largest grant, offering eligible libraries the opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000.00 in LSTA funds for projects that address one of three possible focus areas: Literacy, Library as Community Anchor, and Outreach and Engagement. Funded projects will commence on January 1, 2025, and be completed by August 31, 2025.



- The State Library of Ohio's LSTA Celebrating Ohio Book Awards and Authors (COBAA) grant application window opened on Tuesday, December 3. The COBAA grant program invites Ohio libraries to apply for up to \$2,000 in grant 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. COBAA applications close on Sunday, January 12. Details regarding the COBAA grant can be found here: <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/cobaa>.
- The application period for Cycle 2 of the State Library of Ohio's LSTA Open Grant initiative closed on Tuesday, December 3. State Library staff will review applications in January and recommend not more than six projects for funding. LSTA Open Grant projects will begin on March 1, 2025, and be completed by August 31, 2025. For more information on the Open Grant initiative, visit: <https://library.ohio.gov/libraries/grants/open-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 December, 383 hours of meetings were held in our 7 meeting spaces by groups including the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and many others.
- Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our meeting rooms.

Meetings

- Marsha McDevitt-Stredney coordinated the Library PR Communications & Marketing Interest Group quarterly virtual meeting on December 16, 2024. She led a round-robin discussion for State Library marketing professionals across the country to share their work, successes, and challenges in 2024.
 - This interest group is a community of practice hosted by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA). Members of the group shared processes and strategies for increasing awareness and use of reference services and collections. The purpose of this community of practice is to provide a forum to exchange best practices and discuss trends, challenges, and initiatives in public relations, communications, and marketing for state libraries and the libraries they serve.

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 December, 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 are in the process of being scheduled.
- 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 in the process of being scheduled.

Ohio Digital Library

- In the month of December, ODL patrons checked out 858,026 items. The total for 2024 stands at 10,256,648 checkouts—a [record-breaking year for ODL circulation!](#)
 - The most popular non-magazine title in December was *Pretty Girls*, by Karin Slaughter—a perpetually-popular thriller. 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 December 2024, 3,762 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]

- The application period for the State Library's Library Juice Academy Digital Curation Cohort program closed on November 8. Applications were reviewed, and the following individuals were selected:
 - Colleen Badenhop, Greene County Public Library
 - Shelby Beatty, Sinclair Community College
 - Stephanie Bricking, Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library
 - Catherine Cubera, University of Cincinnati
 - Eugénie Fortier, Oberlin College



- Elizabeth Grauel, University of Dayton - University Libraries
- Grace Hammond, Delaware Area Career Center (Career Technical Education High School)
- Valerie Lines, Bowling Green State University
- Lisa Longenecker, Case Western Reserve University
- Tori Otten, Warren County Records Center & Archives
- Tracie Pickett, Shaker Heights Public Library and University of Akron Libraries
- Emily Rebmann, Oberlin College
- Polly Reynolds, Hudson Library & Historical Society
- Katy Scullin, Ohio History Connection
- Lisa Wood, The Ohio State University Medical Heritage Center
- This initiative provides 15 Ohio library staff members or cultural heritage professionals from Ohio the chance to complete coursework and earn a Digital Curation Certificate from Library Juice Academy.
- Enrollment costs for each participant will be covered by federal funding awarded to the State Library from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
- 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 Memory

- [Ohio Memory](#) is the collaborative statewide digital library program of the Ohio History Connection and the State Library of Ohio. On this free [website](#), you can explore digital content from over 390 cultural heritage institutions representing all 88 of Ohio's counties covering a wide range of topics from prehistory to present day.
- If you have questions about this program, you can contact our Digital Initiatives Librarian Shannon Kupfer-Trausch at trausch@library.ohio.gov.

Ohio Ready to Read

- Ohio Ready to Read provides library-oriented resources on the [science of reading](#), including webinar recordings, articles, and other tools to help public librarians and library workers learn about the science of reading and ways that public libraries support reading acquisition. 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 Ohio Ready to Read.

Presentations

- Erin Kelsey co-led the online workshop “The Power of TeachingBooks Resources” as part of her work with the Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative.

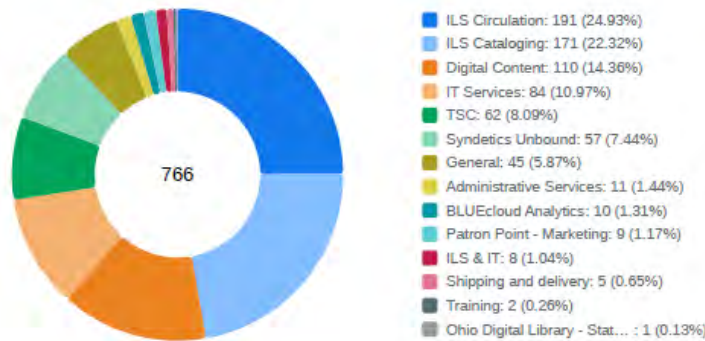
Reference Services

- In December we provided research assistance to State Agencies, Businesses, Universities and to the public. Here are some of the organizations that we served this month:
 - Ohio Attorney General
 - Ohio Board of Pharmacy
 - Ohio Board of Regents
 - Ohio Civil Rights Commission
 - Ohio Department of Administrative Services
 - Ohio Department of Aging
 - Ohio Department of Health
 - Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
 - Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
 - Ohio Department of Transportation
 - Ohio Department of Youth Services
 - Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

SEO Service Center

- Total automation consortium circulation for the past 30 days—**983,860**
- Total number of new users created in the past 30 days—**4,341**
- In-house periodicals filled—**4**
- Interlibrary loans initiated for the past 30 days—**449**
- Total number of support tickets created for the previous month—**766**
- Support tickets logged with Integrated Library Software (ILS) vendor SirsiDynix—**10**

Total Tickets by Month





- **Consortium Service Highlights**

- Bucyrus Public Library, Galion Public Library, and Mt. Gilead Public Library joined the SEO Library Consortium as the 101st, 102nd, and 103rd members.
- On December 2, Paula Clark onboarded staff from Rossford Public Library on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
- On December 4, Paula Clark onboarded Guernsey County District Public Library staff on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
- On December 4, SEO staff met with ByWater Solutions for an overview of Koha's administration.
- On December 5, Heather Miller met with the Preble County District Library Director.
- On December 5, SEO IT met with the agency's Technology Managers to discuss IT Managed Services (ITMAAS).
- On December 6, SEO staff met with Clarivate for an overview of Polaris administration.
- On December 11, Paula Clark onboarded staff from the Puskarich Public Library System on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
- On December 12, Jay Miley met with Dain McQuarrie, Patron Point Library Relations Manager, for a monthly touch base meeting.
- On December 17, SEO IT met the Freshworks Team to view a demo on Freshservice as a potential replacement for the current support desk software.
- On December 18, the SEO IT Team and State Library IT Manager visited the Guernsey County District Library branches in preparation for the IT Managed Service project launch in the new year. SEO and State Library will provide a fee-based service to manage IT Services for the Guernsey County District Library.
- On December 19, The SEO Management Team met with State Library Managers to discuss Lending services to incarcerated Ohioans during the OhioLINK platform change.
- On December 26, Paula Clark onboarded Mercer County District Library staff on the Patron Point Marketing Platform.
- On December 31, the SEO IT Team met to discuss the ITMAAS first steps for the Guernsey County District Library.

- **Niche Academy Stats**

- Serving Every Ohioan Staff Tutorials views—**694**
- Online Catalog Tutorial views—**724**
- Technical Services Committee—**1**
- ASL Storytime—**7**

Services for the Blind and Print Disabled

- Library services for the blind and print disabled in the United States are delivered through a network of libraries and agencies coordinated by the [Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled \(NLS\)](#). In partnership with the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD) at the Cleveland Public Library, the State Library of Ohio serves as the machine lending agency for the state providing playback equipment to eligible blind, visually impaired, and print disabled residents.
- Contact Ryan Burley at rburley@library.ohio.gov with any questions concerning the Talking Book Program.

Staffing

- Lisa Hickle retired from the State Library effective December 1, 2024, after 36 years of service to the residents of Ohio. Lisa began as an Account Clerk 3 in Fiscal Services in 1988, later became a Grants Coordinator 2 in 2000, was reclassified in 2008 to a Management Analyst working on collecting public library statistics, and finally worked as an Office Professional 2 starting in 2017, assisting patrons with the Talking Book Program.

Strategic Planning

- Libraries currently receiving strategic planning services from State Library consultants include:
 - Alexandria Public Library
 - Coshocton Public Library
 - Mansfield-Richland County Public Library
 - Briggs-Lawrence County Public Library
 - London Public Library
 - Logan-Hocking County District 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 Library Program

- The 2025 [Collaborative Summer Library Program](#) (CSLP) theme will be Art, with the slogan “Color Our World / Colorea Nuestro Mundo” and featuring artwork by [Mike Mullan](#).
- The **Regional Library Systems will host summer planning workshops** around the state in January-March. For a list of SLP workshops and links to register, go to <https://library.ohio.gov/ohio-summer-library-program> and click on the “Workshops and Webinar Recordings” tab.
- See the [Ohio Summer Library Program website](#) for resources to support summer planning, and contact [Janet Ingraham Dwyer](#) with any questions about SLP.

Take 5

- The 2025 Take 5 event will take place at the Main Library Annex, Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, on Friday, May 2. Details and registration will be posted on Ohio library listservs and to <https://library.ohio.gov/take5> in February 2025.



- 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 outside the library field, hands-on activities, and networking. [Learn more about Take 5.](#)