

State Library of Ohio

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States Program Implementation Evaluation FFY 2018 - FFY 2022

Evaluators:

Martha Kyrillidou, Ph.D.

Tom Hickerson, M.A.

William Wilson, M.L.S.



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Date: March 29, 2022

Commissioned by: State Library of Ohio

Wendy Knapp, Agency Director



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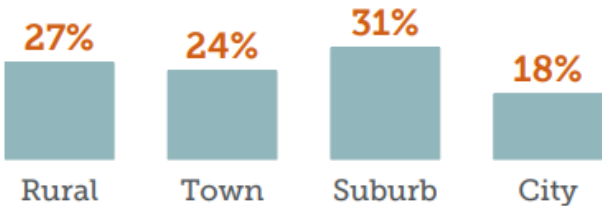
This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

Summary Introduction

The 2019 Public Libraries Survey (PLS) reported that Ohio had a total of 251 public library jurisdictions employing 2,872.43 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff categorized as librarians (2,057.05 FTE are reported as having an American Library Association [ALA] accredited Master’s degree); similarly, the Academic Libraries Survey (ALS) reported that 145 institutions of higher education employ 702.23 FTE librarians. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics’ (NCES), Elementary/Secondary Information System (EISI), Ohio’s 1,037 public school districts employ 803.17 full-time librarians. Total FTE library staff is about 9,111 in 772 public library outlets, and the largest number of libraries (31%) are in suburban environments (also see Appendix K).

Public Library Outlets by Locale



Given Ohio’s population of 11,799,448¹, the state’s annual Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States² program allotment from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) of approximately \$ 5³ million per year translates into \$ 0.44⁴ per person on an annual basis. LSTA funds alone are inadequate to meet the library and information needs of Ohio’s approximately 11.8 million residents. The State Library of Ohio’s (SLO) challenge is to find ways to make \$ 0.44 per person transformative in terms of library services; to leverage a relatively small amount of money to accomplish major results by strategically deploying funds and leveraging other public and private monies in support of high-quality library and information services.

There are four goal statements in the **State Library of Ohio Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Plan 2018-2022**. They are:

GOAL 1: Engaging and empowering learning experiences. The State Library of Ohio supports programs and experiences that assist libraries in preparing individuals to be active learners and full participants in the local communities and the global society.

¹ United States Census Bureau, Decennial Census (April 1, 2020)
² The report will refer to the Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States program simply as LSTA throughout this report
³ Four year LSTA Grants to States allotment average ((FFY [Federal Fiscal Year] 2018 State Allotment + FFY 2019 State Allotment + FFY 2020 State Allotment + FFY 2021 State Allotment) / 4)
⁴ Four year LSTA Grants to States allotment average / United States Census Bureau Decennial Census (April 1, 2020)

GOAL 2: Community anchor institutions. The State Library of Ohio promotes libraries as strong community anchors that enhance civic engagement, cultural opportunism and economic vitality.

GOAL 3: Discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage. The State Library of Ohio supports exemplary stewardship of library collections and promotes the use of technology to facilitate discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage.

GOAL 4: Sustain access to knowledge. The State Library of Ohio works to sustain and increase access to information and ideas.

Agency’s Internal Assessment and Evaluators’ Assessment

As part of the assessment process, the evaluators asked the State Library of Ohio Agency’s Director, Associate State Librarian for Library Development, the State Library of Ohio’s LSTA Coordinator and other key staff identified by the Agency Director and Associate State Librarian for Library Development to offer their joint appraisal of progress their agency had made toward achieving each of the four goals included in the State Library of Ohio’s 2018-2022 five-year plan. The evaluators prefaced their request for this internal assessment by noting the fact that the state was only three years into the implementation of the five-year plan. Consequently, it was acknowledged that it was unlikely that any of the goals would be completely or finally achieved.

Table 1 offers a summary of both the State Library of Ohio’s internal assessment and the evaluators’ conclusions.

Table 1 - State Library of Ohio’s and Evaluators’ Assessment of Achievement		
GOAL	State Library of Ohio’s Internal Assessment	Evaluators’ Assessment
GOAL 1: Engaging and empowering learning experiences. The State Library of Ohio supports programs and experiences that assist libraries in preparing individuals to be active learners and full participants in the local communities and the global society.	ACHIEVED	PARTLY ACHIEVED
GOAL 2: Community anchor institutions. The State Library of Ohio promotes libraries as strong community anchors that enhance civic engagement, cultural opportunism and economic vitality.	PARTLY ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED
GOAL 3: Discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage. The State Library of Ohio supports exemplary stewardship of library collections and promotes the use of technology to facilitate discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage.	ACHIEVED	PARTLY ACHIEVED
GOAL 4:Sustain access to knowledge. The State Library of Ohio works to sustain and increase access to information and ideas.	PARTLY ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED

Summary of Ohio Expenditures for FFY2018-FFY2020

Goal	Goal Title	Expenditures	Percentage
Goal 1	Engaging and empowering learning experiences	\$ 3,625,045.15	23.34%
Goal 2	Community anchor institutions	\$ 2,901,607.10	18.68%
Goal 3	Discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage	\$ 1,207,096.84	7.77%
Goal 4	Sustain access to knowledge	\$ 7,246,301.50	46.66%
	LSTA PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	\$ 549,121.41	3.54%
		\$ 15,529,172.00	100.00%

In reflecting on this pattern of judgments where the achieved and partly achieved are different for all four goals, we would like to mention that the staff agency self-reflections included commentary on CARES and ARPA supported activities as they were in support of these Goals. The LSTA evaluators have primarily focused on the evidence from the LSTA funds excluding CARES funding as instructed by IMLS and without having any data at hand regarding ARPA funded projects. This has resulted in an interesting pattern of slightly different judgments as to what is fully achieved and what is partly achieved.

GOAL 1: Engaging and empowering learning experiences. The State Library of Ohio supports programs and experiences that assist libraries in preparing individuals to be active learners and full participants in the local communities and the global society.

Goal 1 expenditures represent 23.34% of Ohio's total LSTA allotment for the FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 period. Below we summarize the projects with the largest amounts. In addressing learning, LSTA funds supported 70 Projects. Among these projects, a broad scope and diversity of endeavors were employed, but central to all projects was their application in support of all residents of the State of Ohio. Ensuring that all Ohioans are knowledgeable in their access and use of contemporary information resources and technologies was an essential element. In addressing this mission, principal attention was directed at students, from pre-kindergarten through high school, but also included families and adult learners. Particular focus was given to ensuring inclusion of those disadvantaged by their rural locale, income levels, physical disabilities, and racial or language differences. The evaluators conclude that the State Library of Ohio has **PARTLY ACHIEVED** Goal 1. The projects and activities under this goal satisfy all five objectives in the plan and despite the challenging circumstances of COVID-19, important adjustments were made to continue meeting Goal 1.

GOAL 2: Community anchor institutions. The State Library of Ohio promotes libraries as strong community anchors that enhance civic engagement, cultural opportunism and economic vitality.

Goal 2 expenditures represent 18.68% of Ohio's total LSTA allotment for the FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 period. In addressing the Community, LSTA funds supported 31 Projects. The evaluators

conclude that the State Library of Ohio has **ACHIEVED** Goal 2. These Goal 2 projects combined to address many elements of community engagement and community service, and placed libraries at the center of their communities. We believe that the focus can expand beyond rural representation to represent other types of diversity in a state that has rich racial and ethnic representation among other multi-cultural elements. The critical importance of mental health awareness is illustrated by libraries now employing social workers.

GOAL 3: Discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage. The State Library of Ohio supports exemplary stewardship of library collections and promotes the use of technology to facilitate discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage.

Goal 3 expenditures represent 7.77% of Ohio's total LSTA allotment for the FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 period. Goal 3 projects focus on preservation of and increased access to historic documents preserved via digitization or physical conservation. Born-digital government documents are also included in this effort. The evaluators conclude that the State Library of Ohio has **PARTLY ACHIEVED** Goal 3. These projects support digitization, including metadata preparation, which consumed 85% of the Goal's funding.

GOAL 4: Sustain access to knowledge. The State Library of Ohio works to sustain and increase access to information and ideas.

Goal 4 expenditures represent 46.66% of Ohio's total LSTA allotment for the FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 period. Goal 4 Projects fall into two primary areas. 75% of LSTA expenditures ensure an outstanding compilation of electronic resources, cost-effectively, for every Ohioan. Nearly all of the remaining 25% is dedicated to services for the blind and physically handicapped. The value of Goal 4 projects is captured in the feedback provided in the evaluators' survey:

The Ohio Digital Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled helped a large portion of our population during 2020 and 2021 especially when our public library offered limited access because of the pandemic. The Ohio databases help us provide additional information to our public where our resources are thin.

The evaluators conclude that the State Library of Ohio has **ACHIEVED** Goal 4. The Resource Sharing/Libraries Connect Ohio Databases the Ohio Digital Library are outstanding statewide collaborations involving all of the principal participants in information management and access in the state. Supporting a multi-type collaboration is expensive and noteworthy.

The pandemic witnessed a reduction in grant applications overall and more specifically the Open Grants and Competitive Grants. The State Library of Ohio pivoted to focus on remote education/virtual programming for continuing education initiatives. These virtual formats provide grant education, host LSTA grant-specific office hours, etc. The SLAA scuttled planned Census 2020 initiatives revolving around bringing patrons into physical library buildings to fill out the first fully-online Census. As a result of the travel ban, the visits to libraries by the LSTA Coordinator (or any State Library of Ohio staff) have not occurred in almost two years. These visits are not

just informational about grant opportunities or instructional (what is an outcome?), but incredibly reassuring to the applying library staff. Ensuring a positive grant experience is fundamental; establishing these relationships has been integral to advancing and promoting the LSTA program and will need more attention in the future.

Measuring Success focal areas and their corresponding intents

The Measuring Success focal areas are: Lifelong Learning, Information Access, Institutional Capacity, Economic and Employment Development, Human Services, and Civic Engagement. While SLO's Five Year Plan goals map particularly well to four of the six focal areas (Lifelong Learning, Information Access, Institutional Capacity, and Civic Engagement), many of the projects addressing these four also have complimentary benefits in the areas of Economic and Employment Development and Human Resources. Overall, the results achieved are in line with the national priorities associated with the Measuring Success framework and their corresponding intents. Appendix F provides a detailed mapping to LSTA focal areas and intents on a project by project basis.

Groups representing a substantial focus

The only project that meets the 10% threshold set by the IMLS Evaluation Guidelines is the *Resource Sharing / Libraries Connect Ohio Databases* project in Goal 4 that serves primarily the library workforce and accounts for 28.98% of the LSTA allotment

Process

SPR data is used to adjust and refine programs and to make decisions regarding priorities among projects; these data were shared with the evaluators; and, no amendments were made to the LSTA plan.

Methodology

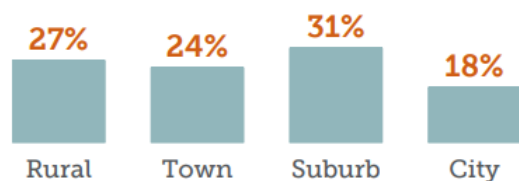
QualityMetrics, LLC, deployed a multi-faceted and rigorous mixed methods protocol for data collection. Thorough reviews of demographic data, quantitative PLS data, and SPR data formed the basis of our knowledge from the RFP response onward. Data gathering included: (a) interviews with agency staff members; (b) interviews with project managers of various SPR-reported projects and activities; (c) focus group discussions with project teams; (d) focus group discussions with project and activity beneficiaries; and (e) responses to a broad-based short survey for library staff and stakeholders with some knowledge of and engagement with LSTA-funded activities; this survey primarily collected qualitative contextual information about past activities and future needs. Triangulation and shared working environments enhanced the quality of the evaluation.

EVALUATION REPORT

Evaluation Introduction

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Public Library Outlets by Locale



Total FTE library staff is about 9,111 in 772 public library outlets, and the largest number of libraries (31%) are in suburban environments.

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There are four goal statements in the **State Library of Ohio Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Plan 2018-2022**. Each of the goals is stated below and LSTA-funded activities carried out in support of the goal are described. Finally, the evaluators' assessment of whether each goal has been achieved, partly achieved, or not achieved is presented.

GOAL 1: Engaging and empowering learning experiences

The State Library of Ohio supports programs and experiences that assist libraries in preparing individuals to be active learners and full participants in the local communities and the global society. Following are the titles of the projects and the total amount of LSTA FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 funding that was expended on activities undertaken in support of Goal 1.

PROJECT TITLE	THREE YEAR (FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020) EXPENDITURE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE TOTAL
Public Library Statistics	\$ 1,162,998.41	7.49%
Planning and Continuing Education (ex CARES)	\$ 907,259.79	5.84%
Youth Services Initiative/Consulting	\$ 329,981.30	2.12%
Regional Library System Program Support	\$ 231,770.28	1.49%
Summer Reading Program Grant Initiative	\$ 111,188.00	0.72%
Celebrating OH Book Awards & Authors grant program	\$ 111,124.51	0.72%
Summer Library Program	\$ 88,952.19	0.57%
Library Leadership Ohio	\$ 51,273.92	0.33%
Subgrants	\$ 630,496.75	3.89%
GOAL SUBTOTAL	\$ 3,625,045.15	23.34%

Goal 1 expenditures represent 23.34% of Ohio's total LSTA allotment for the FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 period. Below we summarize the projects with the largest amounts. In addressing Goal 1 - Learning, LSTA funds supported 70 Projects. Among these projects, a broad scope and diversity of endeavors were employed, but central to all projects was their application in support of all residents of the State of Ohio. Ensuring that all Ohioans are knowledgeable in their access and use of contemporary information resources and technologies was an essential element. In addressing this mission, principal attention was directed at students, from pre-kindergarten through high school, but also included families and adult learners. Particular focus was given to ensuring inclusion of those disadvantaged by their rural locale, income levels, physical disabilities, and racial or language differences.

Public Library Statistics (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 7.49% of the LSTA allotment): The State Data Coordinator uses Counting Opinions LibPAS (Library Performance Assessment System for States/Provinces) to collect data from Ohio's 251 public libraries as part of the national PLS (Public Library Survey) and as required by the Ohio Revised Code. All 251 public libraries in Ohio submit data to the PLS. The State Library has been partnering with the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) to count usage of statewide databases. OPLIN provides statewide data numbers for all 251 library systems and ensures that these numbers are counted in the same way across Ohio.

Data from the public library survey is widely used for many purposes at the local, state, and national level, including other libraries, the State Auditor's office, local media outlets, library organizations, and federal agencies for comparisons and for determining program eligibility. Counting all of the statewide database usage in the same way ensures the most accurate information possible.

Planning and Continuing Education (excluding CARES) (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 5.8% of the LSTA allotment): Three Library Development Consultants were available to work with libraries in developing strategic plans. Through this program public libraries receive assistance with the planning process, resulting in long-range plans addressing the needs of the community. One of the consultants is available to work with libraries on space planning initiatives, thereby assisting libraries to utilize their facilities in a manner that will address the goals of their strategic

plan and meet community needs. Another consultant works to facilitate partnerships among libraries and other education providers to improve the capacity of libraries to offer learning opportunities to their staff that are high quality, easy-to-access, and cost-effective.

In space planning, libraries seek to improve programs and services and become a community hub. This was accomplished by assessing and making recommendations on developing inviting spaces for targeted areas in the library, such as children's areas, teen areas, and local history rooms.

Space Planning	2018	2019	2020
# of evaluations and/or plans funded	15	8	9
# of funded evaluations and/or plans completed	15	3	4

Consultants assist public libraries with strategic planning, developing community surveys, compiling data, and conducting focus groups, but the individual library must compile their own Plan.

Strategic Planning	2018	2019	2020
# of evaluations and/or plans funded	20	14	20
# of funded evaluations and/or plans completed	8	3	5

General Consulting inquiries are received in the areas of space design, strategic planning, and continuing education.

General Consulting	2018	2019	2020
Total # of consultation/reference transactions	90	75	90

ILEAD USA - Ohio is a biennial program that teaches library professionals to work with each other, develop their leadership skills, and use participatory and emerging technologies to solve a clear problem in their community. There were 16 participants in the 2019 ILEAD cohort.

The 2020 addition of the Homelessness training has been immensely successful. This training has also been popular among academic and special libraries as well.

Youth Services Initiative (Consulting) (2018,2019, and 2020 represents 2.12% of the LSTA allotment): LSTA funds contribute support for a Library Development Consultant; statewide resources and individualized support to assist library staff who provide services to the children, teens, and families of communities across Ohio; and the consultant's manager (Associate State Librarian) and a support-staff member. This project includes activities like Choose to Read Ohio, a statewide initiative supporting Ohio authors, illustrators, and readers; Ohio Ready to Read, a statewide resource network to facilitate early literacy activities in libraries; and the Buckeye Children's and Teen Book Award, a statewide readers' choice award for grades K-12.

The Youth Services Library Consultant is also available to answer questions received via phone and email. Questions range from the very simple to complex matters, often resulting in a visit being made to a library. The Consultant also provides information to children's and teen services staff through a weekly news update and other postings to statewide listservs.

General Consulting	2018	2019	2020
Total # of consultation/reference transactions	192	239	215

Additionally, LSTA funds covered attendance cost for two Ohio librarians to attend the YALSA Transforming Teen Services national training, along with the Youth Services Consultant, in October (2019). The program was a train-the-trainer professional development opportunity and the State Library of Ohio is now using the content to facilitate a 4week/6-hour online course for teen librarians. To date, 30 librarians have completed the course. The consultant also participates in national initiatives to support and improve youth services library activities. In FFY2020, these included participation as an advisor and state representative to two IMLS-funded projects, Story-times for School Readiness and Project VOICE, and as chair for the Collaborative Summer Library Program Child and Community Well-Being Committee.

Regional Library System Program Support (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 1.49% of the LSTA allotment): Under this special grant program, the State Library provided up to \$19,996 in federal dollars to each of the four Regional Library Systems (RLS) to support programs and services related to continuing education, innovative technology, or services to special populations. Continuing Education is the primary mission of the RLS, and webinars on topics such as pandemic fatigue, overcoming fear, and general professional development for library staff were provided.

Continuing Education Workshops	2018	2019	2020
# of workshops/webinars conducted by the Regional Library Systems	108	124	124

Circulating collections continue to be of importance to a variety of libraries of varying size and location. RLS purchased book titles, video games, and technology components to update and augment circulating collections in the areas of STEM/STEAM, Early Literacy, Video Games, Memory kits, Sign Language, Telecommuting, and Book Discussion. The Ohio RLS also purchased laptops and software to work at home and accommodate patrons during the pandemic.

Purchases of Books, Video Games, and Technology Components	2018	2019	2020
# of hardware acquired	132	135	135
# of software acquired	6	6	6
# of print materials acquired	0	34	34
# of electronic materials acquired	89	89	89
# of audio/visual units acquired	0	39	39

Summer Reading Program/Summer Library Program Grant Initiative (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 0.72% of the LSTA allotment): In 2018, public libraries were able to request up to \$1500 in federal dollars to purchase program materials, supplies, and/or contractual services to facilitate activities offered to the community during the 2019 summer reading program/summer library program. All public libraries were eligible to participate, and twenty-one grants were

awarded. Though not required to incorporate it in their programming or utilize LSTA funds toward it, the 2019 Summer Library Program (SLP) theme was A Universe of Stories. Programs ranged from musical storytime with adaptive toys to programming a giant piano keyboard (one that you can walk on) with laptops.

In 2019, public libraries were able to request up to \$1500 in federal dollars to purchase program materials, supplies, and/or contractual services to facilitate activities offered to the community during the 2020 summer reading program/summer library program. Though not required to incorporate it in their programming or utilize LSTA funds toward it, the 2020 SLP Program theme was Imagine Your Story. Programs ranged from meeting animals from the Newport Aquarium to learning how to make princess crowns.

Most Ohio public libraries were able to offer SLP in 2020, and those that didn't, made their decisions thoughtfully and with public safety in mind. A large majority of survey respondents said they considered their 2020 SLP a success. Libraries implemented many new emergency practices, such as grab-and-go activity kits and outdoor passive programs like scavenger hunts and chalk walks, that were so successful they will become standard practice. Library staff creativity, flexibility, and resilience made it possible for Ohio's libraries to engage, support, and comfort their communities.

Under a special grant program, public libraries were able to request up to \$1,500 to purchase program materials, supplies, and/or contractual services to facilitate activities offered to the community during the 2021 summer reading program/summer library program. All libraries were eligible to participate, and twenty-one grants were awarded.

Summer Reading Program/Summer Library Program Grant Initiative	2018	2019	2020
# of grants awarded	21	21	21
# of programs offered	138	83	156
Average # in attendance per session	34	25	
# of presentation/performances offered	111	52	154
Average # in attendance per session	76	37	

Children and teens who participated in the summer reading programs benefited from the many engaging activities which promote literacy development and student learning and help to counter summer slide. Summer library programs enhance lifelong learning and provide meaningful, enjoyable experiences available to everyone in the community.

Celebrating Ohio Book Awards and Authors Grant Program (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 0.72% of the LSTA allotment): This special grant initiative enables grantees to expand their collection to include more Ohio book award winners and Ohio authors, expanding community engagement and awareness of the state's rich literary offerings and award programs. A maximum grant of \$1500 was provided to each grantee in 2018 and 2019. 38 libraries in 2018 and 13 in 2019 were granted funds to purchase collection materials based on the curated list of

titles. In 2020, a maximum grant of \$2,000 was provided to each grantee, and 28 libraries were granted funds to purchase collection materials based on the curated list of titles.

Grants to Acquire Ohio Book Awards and Authors	2018	2019	2020
# of grants awarded	38	13	28
# of print materials acquired	3,193	1,107	2,523
# of electronic materials acquired	0	80	422
# of audio/visual materials acquired	111	0	25

The popularity of this initiative led to its being offered again in 2021, remaining focused on collection development as many libraries need to fill gaps in their aging or damaged collections.

Summer Library Program (2018 and 2019 represents 0.57% of the LSTA allotment): The State Library's Youth Services Consultant oversees statewide support for the Summer Library Program (SLP) at public libraries. The State Library is a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) and distributes manuals and other resources to all Ohio public libraries. The four Regional Library Systems, under contract, provide SLP workshops, outlining SLP themes, programming ideas, and marketing initiatives. The Youth Services Consultant then administers an end-of-summer evaluation survey.

Each year the State Library contracts with each RLS to provide workshops to librarians in their region. These workshops allow librarians to share ideas and programming, and 8 workshops were offered each year in 2018 and in 2019.

Public library systems (228 of them) shared their 2019 SLP results through the annual statewide evaluation survey. They reported a total of 477,349 people participating in a 2019 summer library program, including 310,808 children, 65,526 teens, and 101,015 adults. The survey respondents also reported total attendance at Ohio library programs and events related to SLP of 1,100,010, including 783,957 attendees at children's programs, 61,631 at teen programs, 115,392 at adult programs, and 149,030 at all-ages programs. Public library systems (60 of them) reported serving summer meals/snacks at one or more library locations in 2019, either through the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or other means. An additional 12 systems reported that they were not feeding sites but provided library services (e.g. outreach programming, SLP materials, library card sign-ups, bookmobile stops, etc.) to one or more SFSP sites in their community. According to a count from the Ohio Dept. of Education, 146 individual library locations served as SFSP sites in 2019. Ohio's public libraries' summer library programs positively impact hundreds of thousands of individuals statewide.

Library Leadership Ohio (2019 and 2020) represents 0.33% of the LSTA allotment): The purpose of Library Leadership Ohio (LLO) is to develop future leaders for all types of Ohio libraries, to help Ohio library staff become leaders in the communities they serve, and to encourage Ohio librarians and library professionals to work collaboratively to support the

mission of the State Library and the purposes of LSTA within their institution. Thirty-two (32) individuals plus a 6 member steering committee, participated in the three-day program held from July 15 - 17, 2020. The program was held via Zoom due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Forty-six individuals, plus an 8 member steering committee, participated in the six-day program held from July 13 - August 5, 2021 via Zoom.

Understanding Goal 1 and its Subgrants (3.89% of the LSTA allotment)

Capacity Building: In realizing Goal #1, more than half of the total number of projects focus on student education and technology, but more than half of Goal funding is devoted to capacity building. Capacity building projects ranged from professional and leadership development to statewide services. Exemplary is the Public Library Statistics gathered for 251 Ohio public libraries. The State Data Coordinator uses this data internally to assess current library services in Ohio and develop reports to answer individual questions posed by librarians and others. Counting all of the statewide database usage in the same way ensures the most accurate information possible for successful retrieval of electronic information.

Student Education: Projects range from significant pre-K education efforts to a broad range of K-12 initiatives. STEM and STEAM education efforts are prominent, along with introduction to VR, audiovisual, and makerspace technologies. The 25% that are explicitly student education are further augmented by digital literacy projects, which frequently have a community audience as well, and by Ohio author and other arts projects which seek to instill interest in reading and writing and also introduce a variety of cultural perspectives. Youth Services projects are also focused on students. Particular attention is given to summer programs in an effort to compensate for summer learning loss and augment STEM/STEAM opportunities within libraries.

Technology: These projects represent 25% of Goal #1 initiatives and are often intrinsically tied with student education efforts. They are further augmented by digital literacy training, frequently directed at the broader community, which is essential in ensuring every Ohioan the capacity to employ digital tools and networking in their education, career, and communication.

Conservation: Projects included the restoration of the Globe Theater model at Cleveland State University and digitization of historic photographs.

Inclusive Needs: In seeking to address the learning needs of all residents, special projects included: immigration and citizenship services, enhancing the ESL collection in Logan County, and Dayton Metro Library bringing the exhibit "Undesign the Redline" to the Main Library in downtown Dayton. The exhibit focuses on the use of redlining maps in the 1930s as an explicitly racist mechanism to define desirable/undesirable neighborhoods, and the exhibit highlights how those actions created the wealth and opportunity gaps that exist today.

Goal 1 Learning Projects represent a creative array of statewide and local initiatives involving a rich combination of dedicated partners. It is impressive that the State Library was able to adjudicate and manage these many critical endeavors - and in the time of the pandemic.

A-1. To what extent did SLO’s Five-Year Plan activities make progress towards Goal 1?

The evaluators conclude that the State Library of Ohio has **PARTLY ACHIEVED** Goal 1. The projects and activities under this goal satisfy all five objectives in the plan and despite the challenging circumstances of COVID-19, important adjustments were made to continue meeting Goal 1. This goal emphasizes “engaging and empowering learning experiences” and it allows room for library staff to learn in order to be able to support their community members in their learning. In the overall scheme of things, however, Goal 1 supports two very important projects for “library” learning – *Public Library Statistics* and *Planning and Continuing Education* - which jointly account for more than half of the funding that goes in Goal 1. The rest of the funds are largely dispersed in smaller subgrants whose cumulative impact on engaging and empowering learning experiences is not captured in a way that would allow us to declare that this goal is fully achieved. We believe that this goal can benefit from sharing evaluative practices among the subgrants and the two major statewide projects so that the connections of how they interact to fulfill Goal 1 is readily and explicitly captured. For example, the connection between the statewide *Youth Services Initiative/Consulting* and the related subgrants is more readily apparent compared to the connections between *Public Library Statistics* and *Planning and Continuing Education* and subgrants, and *most importantly the impact of that relationship on Learning as it extends from the libraries to community members and partners.*

GOAL 2: Community anchor institutions

The State Library of Ohio promotes libraries as strong community anchors that enhance civic engagement, cultural opportunism and economic vitality. Following are the titles of the projects and the total amount of LSTA FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 funding that was expended on activities undertaken in support of Goal 2.

PROJECT TITLE	THREE YEAR (FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020) EXPENDITURE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE TOTAL
SEO Center	\$ 1,198,644.92	7.72%
Guiding Ohio Online grants to Ohio libraries	\$ 858,032.49	5.53%
Guiding Ohio Online administration	\$ 126,992.12	0.82%
Mobile Lab /On Demand Training	\$ 107,391.89	0.69%
Mental Health First Aid Grant initiative	\$ 104,792.25	0.67%
Subgrants	\$ 505,753.43	3.15%
GOAL SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,901,607.10	18.68%

Goal 2 expenditures represent 18.68% of Ohio’s total LSTA allotment for the FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 period. In addressing the Community, LSTA funds supported 31 Projects. These projects were primarily in five areas of focus:

1. Consortial support for commonly supported library systems and services, some statewide in nature and others through the forming of regional consortia;
2. Digital literacy, particularly in rural areas of the state;

3. Mental health awareness and support services;
4. Expanding physical access to libraries; and
5. Historic preservation initiatives.

SEO Center (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 7.72% of the LSTA allotment): The purpose of this project was to support activities of the Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Center. This support provides an Integrated Library System for 93 library systems in 243 locations in 47 counties with a population of 1.7 million. The SEO Library Center serves as the central administration for the support and maintenance of the required software and services. This saves the member libraries costs associated with hosting and maintaining a single-site system and the need for staff with specialized technical skills. Collectively, these savings are over \$6.1 million annually.

Historically, the SEO Library Center has been able to provide technology training via their Mobile Lab. However, due to the pandemic and continued travel restrictions within Ohio, these trainings were suspended within FFY20. During the 2020-2021 calendar years, the SEO Library Center shifted their focus from maintaining a floating collection to statewide resource sharing. As such, the SEO Library Center is a circulation hub for library materials of all types, for all types of libraries across Ohio. For this period, total circulation was 16,455,111.

Guiding Ohio Online Grants to Ohio Libraries (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 5.53% of the LSTA allotment): Guiding Ohio Online is an LSTA and locally funded program that places digital literacy trainers in rural Ohio libraries to deliver training through computer classes, one-on-one computer assistance, outreach, and volunteer recruitment. The vision is for every Ohioan to be able to fully participate in online government, search and apply for jobs online, understand the risks and benefits of internet finance, connect with family online, and protect personal information in the digital age.

The implementation period for year five of the Guiding Ohio Online project was October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. During that time, digital literacy trainers contracted through the participating public libraries provided digital literacy training in areas of Ohio hardest hit by poverty and joblessness. Trainers continued to be resilient, changing tactics from providing in-person training to providing online training. By providing funding for digital literacy trainers, the State Library of Ohio seeks to enhance the image of libraries as premier providers of 21st century learning and as a vital hub of connecting the community to the world.

Guiding Ohio Online Administration (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 0.82% of the LSTA allotment): Guiding Ohio Online is an LSTA and locally funded program that places technology trainers in rural Ohio public libraries to deliver digital literacy training. In administering the project, a Library Development Consultant oversees the Guiding Ohio Online Program, with support from the Associate State Librarian for Library Development, as well as the LSTA Coordinator (library consultant) and Continuing Education Coordinator (library consultant). This work included releasing an application to eligible public libraries, selecting the participating libraries, and reviewing quarterly financial and narrative reports from participating libraries.

Trainers provide digital literacy training in areas of Ohio hardest hit by poverty and joblessness. In 2018, 8,025 consultations and reference transactions were conducted. In 2019, 7,814 were conducted. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital literacy trainers strove to continue to provide training to library patrons virtually and, once libraries began to reopen their buildings, in-person in a safe and socially distant manner.

Mobile Lab/On Demand Training (2018 and 2019 represents 0.69% of the LSTA allotment): The Serving Every Ohio Library Center (SEO) maintains and operates On-Demand Training for Ohio library staff and patrons. Libraries across the state can request the trainer visit their library and provide hands-on training with the latest technology. On-Demand Training uses iPads, laptops, 3D printers, a laser engraver, and a vinyl cutter and printer, with training provided by SEO staff. During FFY18, the On-Demand Training Program provided a total of 89 classes, and 1,277 individuals benefited from the classes. During the federal fiscal year (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020), the On-Demand Training Program provided 15 classes to 140 individuals, a significant decrease caused by staff turnover and public health issues.

Additionally, the SEO Center maintains and operates the SEO Digi Hub, where SEO staff provide training on the digitization equipment to library staff, schools, and non-profit organizations. The Digi Hub provides a private location with no distractions, wireless internet access, digitization equipment, and an attached computer to view and crop images, calibration sheet to help with glare, gloves, and necessary materials to scan items. In 2019, despite the pandemic, 59 items were digitized, for a total of 2,299 scans.

Mental Health First Aid Grant Initiative (2018) represents 0.67% of the LSTA allotment): Under this special program, libraries were able to request up to \$4,999 in federal funds to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), Youth Mental Health First Aid, or Gatekeeper training to staff, community members, and/or community organizations. Trainers had to be National Council of Behavioral Health Certified Instructors for Mental Health First Aid. The initiative was geared toward public libraries.

Although there were some challenges in implementing this particular project, the State Library remains proud and pleased with the number of people who received this important and timely training (see Appendix M for detailed statistics).

Understanding Goal 2 and its Subgrants (3.15% of the LSTA allotment)

Support for shared systems is often realized through central maintenance of a common system. The SEO (Serving Every Ohioan) manages a common Integrated Library System used by 93 library systems in 243 locations, in 47 counties serving a population of 1.7 million. Similarly, OPLIN (Ohio Public Library Information Network) provides “web kits” or websites for many libraries (not just SEO members). Drupal is the software employed for the webkits, and during FFY18 and FFY19, OPLIN received grant funds to work with an outside contractor to migrate the 80 Ohio public libraries from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 and finally to Drupal 9. Regional consortia have also been enabled by LSTA funding. One example includes the Columbiana County Consortia Project. Through the formation of PLUS (Public Libraries Uniting in Service), a shared

Polaris ILS consortium consisting of five public libraries joining to expand access to materials and resources throughout the individual library service areas and Columbiana County. Beginning December 1, 2020, PLUS patrons have statewide access to materials through lending and borrowing partnerships with SearchOhio and OhioLINK, services that the smaller libraries were unable to afford individually. Within this Goal, there are multiple instances of consortial subgrants enhancing patron services through shared access and expanded interlibrary loan capabilities, while achieving cost savings.

Digital literacy was principally addressed by Guiding Ohio Online Grants to Ohio Libraries, an LSTA and locally funded program that places digital literacy trainers in rural Ohio libraries to deliver digital literacy training through computer classes, one-on-one computer assistance, outreach, and volunteer recruitment. The vision is for every Ohioan to be able to fully participate in online government, search and apply for jobs online, understand the risks and benefits of internet finance, connect with family online, and protect personal information in the digital age.

Mental health issues in public libraries were significantly addressed by the Mental Health First Aid Grant Initiative. Under this special program, libraries were able to request up to \$4,999 in federal funds to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), Youth Mental Health First Aid, or Gatekeeper training to staff and/or community organizations. Although there were some challenges in implementing this particular project, the importance of such endeavors is unquestioned. As part of the LSTA funded Critical Conversations series designed for all levels of staff across multi-type libraries, the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System held a day-long program entitled “Mental Health Awareness: Libraries Create Safe Zones for Customers and Staff,” including three primary speakers whose presentations concentrated on helping attendees better understand the basic facts, myths and crisis handling tips for those dealing with mental health issues, and then how to deal with the compassion fatigue, fear, and anxiety many staff experience after dealing with those with mental health issues.

Physical access to library services remains important to patrons, and LSTA subgrants supported creative solutions addressing this need. These included the Amesville Locker Library Project, the Expanding Accessibility - Hanover Library-In-A-Box Project, and the Library on the Lake Project. Evidence suggests that these imaginative alternatives are appreciated and well used by patrons in underserved areas.

Historic preservation is important in sustaining a sense of community and in making rare documents more widely accessible. Goal 2 projects include the Preserving Pike's Past: Saving the 1884 Property Ownership Map Project restored a historical map of Pike county created in 1884. This was done to preserve the county's history as well as preserve the information on the map for those researching land claims and genealogy. Building digitization capacity is particularly important in such efforts. The Mobile Digitization for Community Memory Projects in Northeast Ohio planned for the development and testing of curriculum and training materials for MLIS students and institutional volunteers at five public libraries. Project staff were to evaluate the effectiveness of curriculum and training materials by using IMLS-defined performance measures. Although these planned activities were not completed due to COVID-19 restrictions,

project staff aim to complete these activities when such restrictions have been lifted. Additionally, SEO Center maintains and operates the SEO Digi Hub, where SEO staff provide training on the digitization equipment to library staff, schools, and non-profit organizations.

Examples of Goal 2 projects seeking to address other aspects of community include: (1) The OhioLINK Library Diversity Initiatives Project, an effort to develop a more diverse workforce for Ohio academic libraries. Grant funding was used for stipends for 10 student workers from under-represented populations at 9 libraries, and training/professional development programs were delivered for 31 supervisors, mentors, and library directors at participating libraries; (2) The Bexley Art Library Project created a circulating library of original artworks by regional artists, offering anyone with a Bexley library card the opportunity to check out an original work of art, just like a book, and experience it in their home; and (3) The Take 5: A Youth Services Dialogue Project was initiated by the Youth Services Consultant at the State Library of Ohio, in collaboration with teen services librarians, as an annual event and ongoing dialogue on new ideas and creative approaches for people who work with teens and youth in libraries, museums, arts organizations, and other learning environments. The eighth annual event, “Take 5: We’re All in This Together,” focused on community and collaboration, gaining awareness of the challenges young people face and helping them build resilience, and exploring mindfulness and creativity, as well as learning directly from teens.

A-1. To what extent did SLO’s Five-Year Plan activities make progress towards Goal 2?

The evaluators conclude that the State Library of Ohio has **ACHIEVED** Goal 2. These Goal 2 projects combined to address many elements of community engagement and community service, and placed libraries at the center of their communities. We believe that the focus can expand beyond rural representation to represent other types of diversity in a state that has rich racial and ethnic representation among other multi-cultural elements. The critical importance of mental health awareness is illustrated by libraries now employing social workers at the national level.

GOAL 3: Discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage

The State Library of Ohio supports exemplary stewardship of library collections and promotes the use of technology to facilitate discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage. Following are the titles of the projects and the total amount of LSTA FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 funding that was expended on activities undertaken in support of Goal 3.

PROJECT TITLE	THREE YEAR (FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020) EXPENDITURE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE TOTAL
Digitization	\$ 1,006,709.44	6.48%
Conservation Grants	\$ 154,507.22	0.99%
Metadata Mini Grants	\$ 28,670.18	0.18%
VR Field Trip Lab	\$ 4,999.00	0.03%
Cataloging the World War I Servicemen Portrait Collection	\$ 4,999.00	0.03%

Consultant support for Ohio Preservation Council	\$ 4,999.00	0.03%
Conservation of bound volumes related to Ohio Wesleyan Female College	\$ 2,213.00	0.01%
GOAL SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,207,096.84	7.77%

Goal 3 expenditures represent 7.77% of Ohio's total LSTA allotment for the FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 period. Goal 3 projects focus on preservation of and increased access to historic documents preserved via digitization or physical conservation. Born-digital government documents are also included in this effort.

Digitization (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 6.48% of the LSTA allotment): The purpose of this project is to help support statewide digital services initiatives focusing on the preservation of historical knowledge and cultural heritage. This goal is being realized through digitization of rare and unique older government documents held by the State Library of Ohio and the harvesting of current government documents, often born-digital. Additionally, consultants in the Library Programs and Development Department assist libraries across the state in identifying resources in their collections which would benefit by being digitized and help them evaluate and understand metadata tools and digital repositories. These materials are incorporated into Ohio Memory, a collaborative project with the Ohio History Connection.

Ohio Memory was launched in March 2009 and is the primary repository for both born-digital and digitized content for the State Library. Priority for digitization is given to rare materials from the State Library's collection, enabling greater access to these records. Each year, nearly 25,000 items, representing more than 125,000 pages of unique State Library materials have been scanned in and are now available online through both Ohio Memory and the State Library catalog. Additionally, more than 360 cultural heritage organizations from all 88 Ohio counties, contribute to Ohio Memory.

State Library staff also participate in a variety of statewide digital initiatives. The State Library of Ohio administers the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) service hub for Ohio, known as the Ohio Digital Network (ODN). The DPLA Consultant and Metadata Librarian also provided informational and training webinars; phone and in-person consultations were also provided. As of February 2022, there were more than 280,000 items from 34 Ohio institutions in DPLA.

The Metadata Librarian served as the DPLA Metadata Working Group Co-Chair. This working group created a Harmful Language statement for the Black Women's Suffrage DPLA website and presented in 2 webinars for DPLA addressing the statement. The Metadata Librarian served on the DPLA Inclusion, Equity, Diversity, Access and Social Justice (IDEAS) task force. This task force authored DPLA's IDEAS statement. Through digitization and training initiatives, collaborative creation of Ohio Memory, and professional leadership statewide and nationally, the State Library of Ohio has established a critical presence in documentary preservation.

Conservation Grants (2018 and 2019 represents 0.99% of the LSTA allotment): The State Library partnered with the Ohio Preservation Council (OPC) on the development of a special grant program. In order to be eligible, libraries had to attend a Basic Conservation workshop developed by OPC and hosted by the State Library of Ohio. Following the workshop,

participants could request up to \$4,999 in federal funds to conserve a unique item in their collection.

Conservation Grants	2018	2019
# of libraries receiving conservation grants	15	17
# of items conserved, relocated to protective storage, rehoused, or for which other physical preservation actions taken	27	3,007
# of items reformatted, migrated, or other digital preservation	0	318

Items conserved included a bible printed in 1531, an ancient Chinese manuscript, an Alexander Hamilton letter, a historical hotel registry, leather medical saddlebags from the 1800's, 300 rolls of architectural and structural drawings from 1886, a photographic collection illustrating the creation and development of a local area Technical School, and early illustrated botanical books.

This project ensured the long-term preservation and accessibility of these rare artifacts and cemented the cooperative partnership between the State Library and the Ohio Preservation Council. Additionally, as smaller projects such as these are often a low priority for library administrations, it is important to remain vigilant and flexible when considering the content and direction of future grant initiatives.

Metadata Mini Grants (2020 represents 0.18% of the LSTA allotment): This new grant initiative is designed to empower libraries to prepare their collections for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). Libraries could apply for up to \$4,999 in LSTA funds to prepare collections for DPLA. If awarded, libraries could use grant funds to pay metadata contractors, vendors, or obtain other services (including digitization) needed to ensure the collection(s) meet the Ohio Digital Network and the DPLA Metadata Application Profile. It is important to recognize that these niche projects often fall outside the budget priorities of most libraries, and grants such as this should remain active and support research and accessibility to all. Of the seventh awarded mini grants, three created digital content and the other four described or remediated items (the latter include Wright State University's Wright Brother's Photograph Collection, Case Western University's Cleveland Play House Production Photographs Collection, and Cleveland State University's William Wynne Photographic Collection).

VR Field Trip Lab (2018 represents 0.03% of the LSTA allotment): The intent of this project was to introduce Louisville City School students to Virtual Reality (VR) in preparing them for future assignments and possible career paths. Thanks to this grant, students were able to visualize and manipulate abstract concepts such as astronomy and anatomy in a way that traditional texts and field trips cannot. Building on the successful STEM activities available to the students in the library, students were able to explore national parks, learn about animals in the wild, and fly a plane, all from the safety of the school library. All of these experiences have expanded the students' worlds literally and figuratively. Teachers and students both benefited from this project.

Cataloging the World War I Servicemen Portrait Collection (2018 represents 0.03% of the LSTA allotment): Cincinnati Museum Center staff performed a comprehensive inventory, description, and condition assessment of a collection of 2,625 World War I Servicemen Portraits (SC#77)

with the expected benefit of increasing access to the rich photographic and genealogical information contained in the portraits. The target audience is broad and includes internal museum staff, school children, genealogists, academic scholars, news reporters, documentary filmmakers, historians, and family members of the veterans.

This has been achieved by creating a finding aid which will be made available through the Cincinnati History Library and Archives Digital Library in the near future. The LSTA grant funded cataloger applied standardized descriptive information and completed item level descriptive records for the 2,625 photographs and a finding aid with a box and folder inventory of all the subjects, which is keyword searchable. The cataloger conducted a preservation assessment, including condition reporting to determine whether or not an item needs immediate conservation treatment. All photographs are now housed in acid free, buffered archival folders and boxes appropriate to their individual sizes. While staff do not have data on usage of material yet, there is data on sharing information about this collection and the LSTA grant on social media. The data show that the press release reached 3,860 people on Facebook and 1,941 people on Twitter, and an interview with Margaret Breidenbaugh, the LSTA contract cataloger, reached 2,395 people on Twitter and 429 people on LinkedIn.

Consultant Support for Ohio Preservation Council (2018 represents 0.03% of the LSTA allotment): The Ohio Preservation Council's (OPC) mission includes providing access to information related to the preservation of cultural heritage resources. The OPC website is the primary point of access for members, students, professionals, and the general public, providing communication regarding workshops, meetings, and grant opportunities. The website also contains information about presenting at state and national conferences and managing professional development grants made possible through member dues. The grant supported the migration/creation of a new website that contains informational resources in support of cultural heritage across Ohio. This migration provided vital support to OPC's mission to provide a network for preservation education and to support preservation activities in the state of Ohio.

Conservation of Bound Volumes Related to Ohio Wesleyan Female College (2020 represents 0.01% of the LSTA allotment): At Ohio Wesleyan University, several bound volumes from their collection that contain unique and vital evidence of early women's education at Ohio Wesleyan (ca. 1850s-1880s) were selected for treatment. These volumes were selected based on their condition, usage, historical value, and the breadth of information on related topics that they provide. Conservation treatment was conducted by The Ohio State University Library Conservation Unit. In addition, conservation supplies and equipment were acquired in order to carry out an in-house assessment, cleaning, and rehousing of 67 16mm film reels.

Understanding Goal 3

Digital preservation is the principal means supported in realizing Goal 3. Over 85% of Goal 3 LSTA funding is dedicated to this purpose. Priority has been given to the digitization of rare and unique older government documents held by the State Library of Ohio and to the harvesting of current government documents, often born-digital. Additionally, staff in the Library Programs and

Development Department assist libraries across the state in identifying resources in their collections which would benefit by being digitized and help them evaluate and understand metadata tools and digital repositories. These materials are incorporated into Ohio Memory, a collaborative project with the Ohio History Connection, a joint presence on the Web which includes digitized and born-digital materials contributed by both agencies. Each year, nearly 25,000 items, representing more than 125,000 pages of unique State Library materials have been scanned in and are now available online through both Ohio Memory and the State Library catalog. Additionally, more than 360 cultural heritage organizations from all 88 Ohio counties, contribute to Ohio Memory.

The State Library also leads Ohio's participation in the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) via the Ohio Digital Network (ODN). The DPLA Consultant and DPLA Metadata Librarian from the State Library spoke at various professional development opportunities throughout the state, as well as across the country. The Consultant and Metadata Librarian also provided informational and training webinars, and phone and in-person consultations.

Physical conservation of historic documents was supported by grants to the Cincinnati Museum Center and to the Ohio Wesleyan University. At the Cincinnati Museum Center, the Cataloging the World War I Servicemen Portrait Collection Project enabled staff to perform a comprehensive inventory, description, and condition assessment of a collection of 2,625 World War I Servicemen Portraits, increasing access to the rich photographic and genealogical information contained in the portraits. The target audience is broad and includes internal museum staff, school children, genealogists, academic scholars, news reporters, documentary filmmakers, historians, and family members of the veterans.

At Ohio Wesleyan University, several bound volumes from their collection that contain unique and vital evidence of early women's education at Ohio Wesleyan (ca. 1850s-1880s) were selected for treatment. These volumes were selected based on their condition, usage, historical value, and the breadth of information on related topics that they provide. Conservation treatment was conducted by The Ohio State University Library Conservation Unit. In addition, conservation supplies and equipment were acquired in order to carry out an in-house assessment, cleaning, and rehousing of 67 16mm film reels.

Consultant support was provided by a grant to the Ohio Preservation Council (OPC). OPC's mission includes serving as a resource for libraries across Ohio. The OPC website is the primary point of access for members, students, professionals, and the general public, providing communication regarding workshops, meetings, and grant opportunities that support the organization, as well as the field of preservation. This grant supported the migration/creation of a new website that contains informational resources in support of cultural heritage across Ohio. Successful migration to a more accessible and sustainable platform as well as the production of training videos to assist future members of the leadership in web maintenance was critical.

An exception to the Goal 3 focus on digital preservation and artifactual conservation is the VR Field Trip Lab Project. The intent of this project was to introduce Louisville City School students to Virtual Reality (VR) in anticipation of their needing it for future assignments and possible

career paths. Thanks to this grant, students were able to visualize and manipulate abstract concepts such as astronomy and anatomy in a way that traditional texts and field trips cannot.

Through digitization and training initiatives, collaborative creation of Ohio Memory, and leadership statewide and nationally, the State Library of Ohio has established a critical presence in documentary preservation and in expanded public accessibility to cultural heritage.

A-1. To what extent did SLO’s Five-Year Plan activities make progress towards Goal 3?

The evaluators conclude that the State Library of Ohio has **PARTLY ACHIEVED** Goal 3. These projects support digitization, including metadata preparation, which consumed 85% of the Goal’s funding. The majority of these funds were expended in digitizing state records held by the State Library, but support and training for other libraries to digitize was included. The annual contributions to Ohio Memory is a resulting outcome. The State Library actively leads Ohio’s participation in DPLA, and Ohio has a strong presence there. Conservation support is minor and isolated. We believe that this goal needs an inclusive strategic plan and seems like an ideal means to address cultural preservation for more diverse communities.

GOAL 4: Sustain access to knowledge

The State Library of Ohio works to sustain and increase access to information and ideas.

Following are the titles of the projects and the total amount of LSTA FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 funding that was expended on activities undertaken in support of Goal 4.

PROJECT TITLE	THREE YEAR (FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020) EXPENDITURE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE TOTAL
Resource Sharing/Libraries Connect Ohio Databases	\$ 4,500,000.00	28.98%
Talking Book Program	\$ 1,106,210.33	7.12%
Ohio Digital Library	\$ 933,807.80	6.01%
Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled	\$ 702,000.00	4.52%
Increasing Access to Lucasville Area History	\$ 2,242.00	0.01%
Troy-Miami County Public Library Wifi project	\$ 2,041.37	0.01%
GOAL SUBTOTAL	\$ 7,246,301.50	46.66%

Goal 4 expenditures represent 46.66% of Ohio’s total LSTA allotment for the FFY 2018 – FFY 2020 period. Goal 4 Projects fall into two primary areas. 75% of LSTA expenditures ensure an outstanding compilation of electronic resources, cost-effectively, for every Ohioan. Nearly all of the remaining 25% is dedicated to services for the blind and physically handicapped. The value of Goal 4 projects is captured in the feedback provided in the evaluators’ survey:

The Ohio Digital Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled helped a large portion of our population during 2020 and 2021, especially when our public library offered limited

access because of the pandemic. The Ohio databases help us provide additional information to our public where our resources are thin.

Resource Sharing/Libraries Connect Ohio Databases (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 28.98% of the LSTA allotment): The purpose of this project is to support the Ohio Web Library. The critical problem that this project addresses is the need for electronic information to support patrons using school, public, and academic libraries. Electronic resources are expensive and while some libraries in the state provide a high level of access to resources, others simply cannot afford them or do not have the expertise to support this kind of collection. The three statewide information network providers (INFOhio, OPLIN, and OhioLINK) have come together in this project to provide a common set of reference resources to every user of every school, public or academic library in Ohio that will be accessible within the library, at home, or at work. The goals established by the three partnership organizations are: to guarantee that Ohio residents will have a core set of information resources necessary to compete in the global economy and improve their quality of life as we move into the 21st century; to provide this resource to all Ohio residents regardless of where they go to school or live; and to maximize the efficiency of the investment in necessary information resources.

The pandemic cast a bright spotlight on how absolutely essential this type of common, statewide access to premium content is. While usage is dramatically down in most cases, it arguably did not fall nearly as much as some might have feared, given that the public library computers were largely unavailable for most of the year, that teachers were stretched to the breaking point trying to balance remote and hybrid learning, and that direct, in-person research assistance by librarians and media specialists was almost completely cut off. The pandemic even drove increased usage in resources encouraging personal development, such as language learning and auto repair.

The funding sources, missions, and goals of the different types of libraries (academic, k-12, and public) can discourage collaboration, as the needs of each of their service populations diverge so radically. This type of project facilitates a tight, sustainable collaboration that is healthy for all organizations and for all the library users throughout the State.

Ohio Digital Library (2018, 2019, and 2020 represents 6.01% of the LSTA allotment): The Ohio Digital Library is a digital consortium of 182 Ohio libraries. The libraries share a collection of digital media that includes eBooks, audio books, magazines, music and video. This statewide project helps libraries provide these services at a considerable savings. The State Library of Ohio acts as Project Manager and contracts with OverDrive, Inc. The State Library and SEO (Serving Every Ohioan library center) staff provide support to individual libraries, communicate with the vendor(s), facilitate new member registration, provide resource materials for member libraries, and coordinate the purchases for the consortium. The State Library pays for the platform costs for the Ohio Digital Library, and each member library puts 4.5% - 5% of their collection development budget (ranging from \$190 to \$103,000) toward content. The table below captures financial contributions and performance data on the collections the Ohio Digital Library provides.

Ohio Digital Library	2018	2019	2020
# of electronic materials acq.	75,602	95,217	207,480
Total # of items circulated	5,477,224	6,450,670	7,121,940
LSTA funds	\$ 305,160	\$ 246,335	\$ 382,313
Participating libraries funds	\$ 1,775,825	\$ 1,682,552	\$ 1,458,543
<i>Purchased copies</i>	<i>59,158</i>	<i>56,300</i>	<i>122,843</i>
Advantage funds (single library collection copies)	\$ 722,525	\$ 1,250,751	\$ 1,720,388
<i>Advantage copies</i>	<i>16,444.00</i>	<i>38,914</i>	<i>84,637</i>

LSTA funding is a relatively small contribution and it mostly covers funds towards the Holds Manager account; in addition to the shared purchased copies funds which declined over the course of the three year period we are examining, “Advantage” funds increased; these funds support the purchasing libraries’ patrons initial access to copies enriching the collection even further (where less than 1 out of 3 copies was an Advantage purchased copy in 2018, within two years, by 2020, 2 out of 3 copies was an Advantage copy). This purchasing pattern shows the demand driven by popular titles in this collection.

Talking Book Program (represents 7.12%) and The Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (represents 4.52%): Ohio maintains a unique approach to its implementation of the Library of Congress’ (LOC) National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) program (see Appendix L). Services to the visually impaired and to other individuals who are unable to use standard print materials are supported through two separate and recurring LSTA projects. What is known as the Talking Book Program (TBP), is housed at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus. The Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (formerly the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled), operates out of a building owned and operated by the Cleveland Public Library.

In over-simplified terms, the Talking Book Program coordinates services to the print disabled statewide, acts as a machine lending and repair agency, and works with local libraries, institutions, and advocacy/ support organizations. The Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD) is identified on the NLS website as Ohio’s “Regional Library” in the NLS network and serves as the distribution agent for talking books and Braille as well as coordinating the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) program in the Buckeye State. This hybrid approach, while unusual, seems to work remarkably well. Frankly, the evaluators expected to find significant duplication of effort. To the contrary, what we discovered were two organizations, which share a unified vision and goal, that have worked out how they can complement each other rather than replicate each other.

The two separate agencies share a Keystone/KLAS automation system with a single client database. Patrons of the program work with TBP on issues and assistance related to equipment

and with OLBPD in regard to content. The two organizations cooperate and coordinate with each other on a regular basis and TBP convenes a Talking Book Program Consumer Advisory Committee on a regular (normally quarterly) basis. As the SPR describes it:

“The Committee’s membership includes representatives from the Ohio chapters of the National Federation of the Blind, the American Council of the Blind, the Veterans Association (or a similar organization), and an organization representing the Physically Disabled such as Opportunities of Ohioans with Disabilities or the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council...”

TBP maintains close relationships with many of the public libraries in the state and, in fact, has contracts with more than sixty entities (mostly public libraries but with a handful of social service agencies as well) to serve as machine sub-lending organizations. Some of these entities lend physical machines while others handle registrations and serve as local points of contact.

The Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled manages an extraordinary number of content transactions ranging from the physical lending of Braille books to digital cartridges for use on specialized NLS equipment (secured from TBP) and from downloaded audio and refreshable Braille to magazines of local interest that are recorded in state. The FFY 2020 SPR reported 582,317 circulations of materials of all types. OLBPD staff handled almost twenty-thousand (19,882) consumer phone calls and almost five-thousand (4,835) emails during the same period. OLBPD is extremely active in promoting the BARD program. Ohio ranks fourth in the nation behind only California, Florida and Texas in BARD audio circulations and is second only to California in BARD Braille downloads.

The pandemic period has been an extremely active one for OLBPD. Staff has been working to complete the LOC-initiated “recall” program of single title per cartridge media and has been implementing the Duplication-on-Demand (DoD) service that places multiple titles on a single cartridge and eliminates the need for maintaining huge collections of physical items.

Space permitted within this report does not allow for the chronicling of all of the exceptional attributes of OLBPD; however, following are just a few:

- Monthly book discussion sessions
- Development and implementation of an OLBPD version of any specialized reading program launched by Cleveland Public Library
- Use of professionals who had worked in the recording industry and broadcasting school students to record content of local interest (mostly home-based)
- Development of specialized and non-traditional Braille documents
- Extensive efforts to streamline work processes

Finally, it should be noted that the Talking Book Program and the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled were awarded the American Council of the Blind of Ohio’s (ACB-Ohio) 2021

Community Service Award. The Community Service Award recognizes efforts to enhance the lives of Ohioans with vision impairment or low vision.

In short, with the exception of a few minor disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, TBP and OLBPD together have achieved and exceeded the Goal 4 (Access) objectives set forth in Ohio's 2018 - 2022 LSTA Plan.

A-1. To what extent did SLO's Five-Year Plan activities make progress towards Goal 4?

The evaluators conclude that the State Library of Ohio has **ACHIEVED** Goal 4. The Resource Sharing/Libraries Connect Ohio Databases the Ohio Digital Library are outstanding statewide collaborations involving all of the principal participants in information management and access in the state. Supporting a multi-type collaboration is expensive and noteworthy. Also, services for the blind and physically handicapped are substantial and well organized, expending 25% of the Goal 4 total for a much needed and valued service. If there is a caution to be placed on this goal is that the support of the databases should have some contingency plans in the event the LSTA funding disappears and ensure that all types of libraries have a shared sense of what is important in times of plenty, as well as in times of financial scarcity. In combination, the Goal 4 projects ensure availability of critical information resources and enable blind and physically disabled Ohioans to also share in rich information access.

Retrospective Assessment Questions A-2 and A-3

A-2. The Measuring Success focal areas are: Lifelong Learning, Information Access, Institutional Capacity, Economic and Employment Development, Human Services, and Civic Engagement. While SLO's Five Year Plan goals map particularly well to four of the six focal areas (Lifelong Learning, Information Access, Institutional Capacity, and Civic Engagement), many of the projects addressing these four also have complimentary benefits in the areas of Economic and Employment Development and Human Resources. Overall, the results achieved are in line with the national priorities associated with the Measuring Success framework and their corresponding intents. Appendix F provides a detailed mapping to LSTA focal areas and intents on a project by project basis.

Lifelong Learning is largely addressed by GOAL 1 projects and 30% of the 70 projects are student (pre-K to 12) education projects, while another 10% are youth services projects, largely focused on learning. An additional 30% are technology projects, many which provide an introduction to computing technologies for students and adults. Goal 2 projects also address Lifelong Learning. Particularly significant, *Guiding Ohio Online Grants to Ohio Libraries*, an LSTA and locally funded program that places digital literacy trainers in rural Ohio libraries to deliver digital literacy training through computer classes, one-on-one computer assistance, outreach, and volunteer recruitment. The *Working Towards A Smarter Ohio: Supporting Family Engagement Through a Strong Preschool-Library Partnership* focused on providing high-quality preschool education for children from low-income families.

Information Access is supported by a diverse range of projects ranging from regional catalogs augmenting local access and interlibrary loan services to Goal 2 projects enhancing physical access to library materials. Information access for particular user communities included *Adult Educational Programming for New Americans and Immigrants*, *Outreach to Logan County's Latino Community*, and *American Sign Language Storytimes*. Critically important projects broadening access are Goal 4 projects for the blind and physically handicapped.

Institutional Capacity building projects range from professional and leadership development to support for major operational infrastructure support, both statewide and regionally. Major Goal 1 projects include *Public Library Statistics* gathered for 251 Ohio public libraries used to assess current library services statewide and the Planning and Continuing Education project through which libraries receive assistance in strategic planning and continuing education Goal 2 projects include both statewide and regional consortial sharing of technological infrastructure.

Economic and Employment Development is not a focal area particularly focused on, but many of the digital literacy initiatives make positive contributions to all three of the intents identified there.

Human Services also benefit from digital literacy initiatives but specifically benefited from the *Mental Health First Aid Grant* initiative. Under this special program, libraries were able to request up to \$4,999 in federal funds to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), Youth Mental Health First Aid, or Gatekeeper training to staff and/or community organizations.

Civic Engagement benefited substantially from educational initiatives, but was also supported by Ohio author presentations and by digitization and conservation initiatives focused on the preservation of diverse cultural heritages.

A-3. The only project that meets the 10% threshold set by the IMLS Evaluation Guidelines is the *Resource Sharing / Libraries Connect Ohio Databases* project in Goal 4 that serves primarily the library workforce and accounts for 28.98% of the LSTA allocation. *Talking Book Program*, which is essentially Ohio's implementation of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled program, approaches, but does not quite reach the 10% expenditure threshold identified by IMLS (represents 7.12% of the LSTA allotment); in combination with the *Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled* (4.52% of the LSTA allotment), they do meet the threshold. This program reaches several categories of individuals with disabling conditions. Primary among these categories are individuals with visual impairments; however recent changes in eligibility requirements and the certification process have resulted in additional clients with other print and reading disabilities.

Process Questions B-1, B-2, and B-3

B-1. Primary uses of the SPR data include research, determining new grant initiatives, updating current grant initiatives, fiscal forecasting, etc. More specifically, the State Libraries uses the SPR to determine how and where in the State, the Guiding Ohio Online program should

concentrate its support for rural areas and which sites fit its programmatic criteria and better aligning the consistency of its support for the four Regional Library Systems; also, how to update the Celebrating Ohio Book Awards & Authors grant timeframe to reach more school libraries. Generally, the SPR data provides a means of enhancing accountability for the use of LSTA funds, and is provided to QualityMetrics, LLC to assist in their evaluation. PLS information is used to determine which libraries serve areas under-counted in the 2020 Census and to determine appropriate rates of library contribution to the Ohio Digital Library.

B-2. There were no modifications made to the Five-Year Plan.

B-3. Data derived from the SPR is used internally for planning and evaluation purposes. This includes evaluating and reshaping of existing grant initiatives and in the creation of new grant initiatives. It also provides trend lines for grant interest including statewide logistics. Procedurally, it contributes to process enhancements, such as the adoption of online applications, and improved marketing. Externally, it provides reporting information for various advisory councils, legislative bodies, and news organizations. Professionally, it contributes in conferring with SLAA counterparts across the country and in assisting the LSTA Coordinator in making professional and public presentations.

PLS data is the foundation for Libraries by the Numbers - a resource developed by State Library of Ohio staff. Libraries by the Numbers is used, in particular, by State Library of Ohio Strategic Planning Consultants. The most recent Evaluation influenced the State Library of Ohio LSTA Department to "break down barriers" and create online application forms; to date, almost all grant initiatives include an online application form. Additionally, the LSTA Coordinator accepted numerous speaking engagement requests (in-person, pre-pandemic, virtually mid-pandemic) to increase awareness of grant availability. The LSTA Coordinator continues to work with the Director of Marketing to provide effective and event-specific marketing tools (such as a flier with current grant offerings, but designed with specific conference(s) goers in mind).

Methodology Questions C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4

C-1. A competitive RFP was issued and Quality Metrics was the chosen independent evaluator firm due to the extensive experience they have in this area.

C-2. QualityMetrics, LLC, deployed a multi-faceted and rigorous mixed methods protocol for data collection. Thorough reviews of demographic data, quantitative PLS data, and SPR data formed the basis of our knowledge from the RFP response onward. Our initial interaction created a space for the SLO to deposit additional data and files and reflect on the program. After a series of Zoom calls (first with SLO representatives at the beginning of the evaluation process and secondly, later in the process, to discuss whether goals had been achieved, partially achieved, or not achieved, we stayed in touch with the agency to resolve questions that emerged from the data collection and to solicit additional information. Data gathering included: (a) interviews with agency staff members; (b) interviews with project managers of various SPR-reported projects and activities; (c) focus group discussions with project teams; (d) focus group discussions with project and activity beneficiaries; and (e) responses to a broad-based

short survey for library staff and stakeholders with some knowledge of and engagement with LSTA-funded activities; this survey primarily collected qualitative contextual information about past activities and future needs.

COVID-19 presented special circumstances, and a number of considerations had to be taken into account to complete our research. The pandemic, due to its travel restrictions and social distancing limitations, necessitated many changes in how evaluation work is done and how we engage policymakers and program managers.⁵ We replaced face-to-face interviews with remote interviews and desk-based methods, paying attention to (a) maximizing use of technology; (b) securing engagement while reaching out to the most marginalized populations (small and rural libraries, and, in particular, users of talking books services); and (c) enhancing triangulation to validate remote data.⁶

While no on-site visit to the State Library was conducted during this evaluation period, Dr. Martha Kyrillidou visited the state agency prior to this evaluation cycle as an adjunct professor at Kent State University (at that time KSU had offices in the state library building). Virtual (Zoom) one-on-one interviews were held with the agency chief and with key staff engaged in LSTA work and in specific projects carried out under the LSTA Five-Year Plan. The Five-Year Evaluation is a summative assessment, and as such, the availability of the SPR data was of critical importance.

Furthermore, the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 have strengthened the state library agency role. During this time of crisis, the state library was the source of answers for its communities and the profession as a whole. The SLAA responded to this need by holding frequent and regular conversations and meetings with various groups, elevating the importance of the LSTA activities even while they were being disrupted by the pandemic. Creative solutions were identified in most instances, as many programs had to turn to virtual delivery for most of the pandemic period. In some ways, the impact of recording virtual programming is more evident and more readily documented. However, we do run the risk of minimizing the adverse effects of virtual programming on marginalized communities, which were often more difficult to reach during the COVID-19 crisis.

The toll on the mental health of our communities has also been evident during the pandemic, as its restrictions have established new norms for in-person interaction. Student learning and well-being have been precarious due to the disruption of the education life cycle.⁷ However, opportunities to help students catch up with unfinished learning were plentiful, and state library agencies also augmented their grants by offering opportunities to school libraries. Of special note, the collaborative subgrants offered to school libraries in Ohio are a noteworthy development. In contrast, and due to the fact that community behaviors were frequently monitored during the pandemic, respondents felt overly surveyed in many instances; despite

⁵ OECD/DAC and IEO/UNDP (2020) [Guidance Note: Good practices during COVID-19](#); UNICEF Evaluation Office (2020) [Technical Note: Response of the UNICEF Evaluation Function to the COVID-19 Crisis](#); WFP Office of Evaluation (2020) [Technical Note for \(Planning and Conducting Evaluations During COVID-19\)](#); UNFPA Evaluation Office (2020) [Adapting evaluations to the COVID-19 pandemic](#); UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (2020) [Event planning and implementation during COVID-19](#); ILO Evaluation Office (2020) [Implications of COVID-19 on evaluations in the ILO](#); FAO Office of Evaluations (2020) [Risk analysis and guidance for the management and conduct of evaluations during international and national level COVID-19 crisis and restrictions](#).

⁶ UNFPA Evaluation Office (2020) [Adapting evaluations to the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

⁷ The impact of the pandemic on K-12 learning loss has been documented approximately leaving students with five month of learning loss in math and four months of learning loss in reading; the effects are larger for historically disadvantaged students. See Sarah Mervosh, "[The pandemic hurt these students the most](#)." In print "Pandemic widened U.S. Educational Gap into a Gulf, Research Suggests." July 28, 2021, Section A, Page 13.

the survey and other data gathering fatigue, the survey we launched in Ohio gathered responses from 173 respondents.

The Web-based survey targeting the library community was conducted between January 4, 2022 and February 6, 2022. This survey provided considerable qualitative information, as well as some additional quantitative information. Additional corroborative evidence from comments collected in the survey served to triangulate the previously gathered evidence.

Validity and reliability analysis traditionally reflect a positivist worldview, and in a qualitative naturalistic approach, they are being redefined by some divergent views on whether and how one ensures quality and rigor in qualitative inquiry. The notion that naturalistic inquiry needs to exhibit quality, rigor, and trustworthiness has gained more traction nowadays. The quality and rigor of the phone interviews conducted by the evaluators in the LSTA evaluation of SLO has been enhanced by references to external Web site links, Google Maps, and internal triangulation. In some instances, interviewees have been asked to allow recording of the conversation (with assurances of confidentiality by the evaluators). At other times, two evaluators have attended focus groups or conducted interviews jointly. Shared note-taking was available in real time through shared access to Google Docs and Google Drive. This approach has allowed evaluators to refine their inquiry and tailor it as knowledge of SLO was refined from one interaction to the next. Recorded conversations also allowed the evaluators to reflect upon and modify their interpretations in a reliable manner. The validity of the inquiry was strengthened with the informed selection of the subjects by SLO's leadership team and staff.

C-3. Numerous small-group virtual sessions and telephone interviews were conducted with librarians and other persons with knowledge of LSTA-funded initiatives in Ohio. The focus groups and interviews provided both qualitative evidence and context that supplemented a review of agency-supplied statistical data and information and data submitted in the form of the State Program Reports (SPRs). Interviewees shared their knowledge of LSTA utilization, enhancing interactions and depth and quality of the conversations. Furthermore, principal investigators Martha Kyrillidou, Tom Hickerson, and Bill Wilson conducted joint interviews and group sessions and shared and discussed their observations in order to develop a shared understanding of the meaning of the library experience in Ohio and how it was supported by SLO with LSTA support. At least two investigators, and sometimes all three of them, participated in each one of the agency interviews, allowing for the concept of triangulation to be implemented as evaluators debriefed and compared interpretations and understandings.

C-4. Below is a non-exhaustive list of dissemination methods:

- Ohio library listservs (those hosted by the State Library of Ohio and those not).
- Grant-specific press releases.
- Presentations (in-person pre-pandemic, mostly virtual mid-pandemic).
- Publicly posted State Library of Ohio Board reports.
- Publicly posted State Library of Ohio monthly reports.
- Posts to the State Library of Ohio's website.
- Articles in "Ohio Libraries Quarterly" publication.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Acronyms

ACS - American Community Survey
ACDL - Ashtabula County District Library
ALAO - Academic Library Association of Ohio
ARPA - American Recovery Plan Act
BAL - Bexley Art Library
BARD - Braille and Audio Reading Download
BPL - Bexley Public Library
CARES - Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act
CLLA - Cleveland Law Library Association
COBAA - Celebrating Ohio Book Awards and Authors Grant
COOL - Consortium of Ohio Libraries
COP - Community of Practice
CSLP - Collaborative Summer Library Program
CSU - Cleveland State University
DML - Dayton Metro Library
DPLA - Digital Public Library of America
ELL - English Language Learners
EISi - Elementary/Secondary Information System
EPL - Euclid Public Library
E-Rate - the schools and libraries universal service support program
FFY - Federal Fiscal Year
FTE - Full Time Equivalent
GOO - Guiding OH Online
HCDPL - Holmes County District Public Library
ILS - Integrated Library System
IMLS - Institute of Museum and Library Services
LCL - Licking County Library
LCPL - Leetonia Community Public Library
LLO - Library Leadership Ohio
LPLS - Lorain Public Library System
LSTA - Library Services and Technology Act
MGOL - Mother Goose on the Loose
NAAL - National Assessment of Adult Literacy
NCES - National Center for Educational Statistics
NEO-RLS - Northeast Ohio Regional Library System
NLS - National Library Service
NORWELD - Northwest Regional Library System

OBE - Outcome-Based Evaluation
OCLC - Online Computer Library Center
ODN - Ohio Digital Network (DPLA Hub)
OELMA - Ohio Education Library and Media Association
OLBPD - Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled
OLC - Ohio Library Council
OPAC - online public access catalog
OPC - Ohio Preservation Council
OPLIN - Ohio Public Library Information Network
OVLC - Ohio Valley Library Consortium
PLS - Public Library Survey
PLUS - Public Libraries Uniting in Service
PLYMC - Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County
POP - Patron Outreach Project
PPL - Pickerington Public Library
RML - Reed Memorial Library
ROI - return-on-investment
SEO - Serving Every Ohioan
SERLS - Southeast Regional Library System
SLAA - State Library Administrative Agency
SLP - Summer library program
SPR - State Program Report
STEAM - Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics
STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
SWON - Southwest Ohio Regional Library System
TPL - Twinsburg Public Library
VR - Virtual Reality

Appendix B: Interviewees/ Focus Groups

Interview	Stakeholder	Title	Date
#1	Wendy Knapp	State Librarian	1/12/2022
#2	Cindy Boyden	LSTA Coordinator	1/12/2022
#3	Evan Struble	Associate State Librarian for Library Development	1/4/2022
#4	Shannon Kupfer-Trausch	Digital Initiatives Librarian	2/2/2022

Focus Group	Stakeholders	Date
#1	Goal 4 Focus Group (3 people)	1/26/2021
#2	Talking Books (Tracy Grimm and Will Reed)	1/19/2022
#3	LSTA Advisory Council (4 people)	1/21/2022
#4	Library Development Group (6 people)	1/25/2022
#5	Subgrants via zoom (5 people)	2/1/2022
#6	Subgrants via zoom (6 people)	2/2/2022
#7	Subgrants via zoom (2 people)	2/3/2022
#8	Library needs in Ohio - FG #1 Organizations (7 people)	2/9/2022
#9	Regional Library Directors (3 people)	2/9/2022
#10	LLO Advisory Council (3 people)	2/10/2022
#11	Library needs in Ohio - FG #2 (4 people)	2/10/2022

Appendix C: Bibliography of Documents Reviewed

State Agency Sources

- SPR data (FFY 2018-2020)
- Stats Over Time (FY 2018 - 2020)
- Agency website and social media
- LSTA Plan 2018-2022
- LSTA Evaluation 2013-2017

Akron Public School STEM Project - Additional Materials

- Student 1 -Readiness-Seal-Form.pdf
- Student 2-Readiness-Seal-Form.pdf
- Student 3 - Readiness-Seal-Form.pdf
- Student 4 - Readiness-Seal-Form.pdf
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y30XbVvwCT8>Federal Government Publications

Social Media

Facebook Pages:

Take 5
Ohio Ready to Read

Twitter hashtags and handles:

#ILEADUSA
#LLO18
#LLO20
#LLO21
@ILEAD_USA
@OLBPD

Federal Agency Data Sources

- Institute of Museum and Library Services, [State Program Report \(SPR\) report](#)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services, [Public Library Statistics](#)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services, [State Profiles](#)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services [“Grants to States” Conference](#)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services, [State Library Administrative Agency Survey](#)
- National Center for Education Statistics, [Academic Libraries](#)
- National Center for Education Statistics, [Elementary and Secondary Information System](#)
- United States Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#) (April 1, 2020)

Evaluation Resources and COVID-19

- OECD/DAC and IEO/UNDP (2020) [Guidance Note: Good practices during COVID-19.](#)
- UNICEF Evaluation Office (2020) [Technical Note: Response of the UNICEF Evaluation Function to the COVID-19 Crisis.](#)
- WFP Office of Evaluation (2020) [Technical Note for Planning and Conducting Evaluations During COVID-19.](#)
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Other Resources

- Ethel Himmel and William J. Wilson. The Functions and Roles of State Library Agencies. American Library Association, Chicago, 2000.
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services. 2021. [Functions and Roles of State Libraries: 2000 and 2020.](#) Washington, DC: Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services. (2021). [The Use and Cost of Public Library Materials: Trends Before the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#) Washington, DC: The Institute.
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services. 2021. [Understanding the Social Wellbeing Impacts of the Nation's Libraries and Museums.](#) 2021 Report. Washington DC: Institute of Museum and Library Services.
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- Measures that Matter: [Workforce Development Literature Review.](#) January 12, 2021.
- Pelczar, M., Frehill, L. M., Nielsen, E, Kaiser, A., Hudson, J., & Wan, T. (2021). [Characteristics of Public Libraries in the United States: Results from the FY 2019 Public Libraries Survey.](#) Institute of Museum and Library Services: Washington, D.C. Results from the SDC E-Resources Survey (received January 2022).
- Sarah Mervosh, "[The pandemic hurt these students the most.](#)" In print "Pandemic widened U.S. Educational Gap into a Gulf, Research Suggests." *New York Times*, July 28, 2021, Section A, Page 13.
- The School Librarian Investigation: Decline or Evolution? <https://libslide.org/>

Appendix D: Focus Group Questions

Focus groups

General Questions

1. What stands out as being the most effective use of LSTA in Ohio over the last three years?
2. Are there specific examples of projects that you think were the most impactful on the lives of the citizens of Ohio?
3. Are there specific changes in how LSTA funds should be expended in the future? Are there new or emerging needs that are unmet that need to be addressed?

Potential Follow-up Questions

1. What type of programs work for library patrons and staff, in general?
2. What type of programs work for public library patrons, school and academic library clientele, and library staff specifically?
3. What do non-participating libraries and borderline participants need to be able to participate in, grant funded projects or statewide programs?
4. How will the library patrons and library staff be satisfied with the delivery of services?
5. What programs will result in cost savings for participating libraries?

Outcome Questions

1. Will more patrons use the library services because of the grant programs?
2. Will there be an increase in community involvement in relation to the grant programs?
3. Will customer service improve due to staff training from LSTA funded events?
4. Will the statewide programs enhance libraries' abilities to serve patrons?

Interview guidelines

1. Introductions (include that you are working for QualityMetrics, a library consulting firm headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland, established in 2016). Ask them to tell you a bit about themselves.
2. Ask their familiarity with LSTA program. If they are unfamiliar you can provide some or all of the below info -
 - a. *The Library Services and Technology Act's (LSTA) "Grants to States" program is the single largest source of ongoing federal funding for libraries. Many states spend funds on a combination of statewide initiatives and on subgrants awarded to individual libraries to enable them to launch innovative efforts or to extend services to populations that are difficult to reach.*
 - b. *The LSTA program requires that each state conduct an evaluation of its LSTA program every five years. These evaluations are overseen by the Institute of*

Museum and Library Services but are conducted by independent evaluators. QualityMetrics was selected to conduct the state-level evaluations for nine states in the Northeast and our company is also working with more than a dozen additional states and territories. The results of our review are due to be submitted to IMLS in March of 2022.

3. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT WORK FOR THE SLAA (who manage a project):
 - a. Ask them to talk about the particular grant/s they worked with. Allow them to lead the conversation in an exploratory fashion. Ask follow up questions.
 - b. Identify where there are materials or data from their projects that it would be useful for us to see.
4. FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT WORK FOR THE SLAA (high level stakeholder):
 - a. Go through the plan goal by goal, remind them of the goal wording and the percent of funds the state spent on it, get their reflections on progress toward each goal.
 - b. Are there any future needs we should be emphasizing in the evaluation?
5. FOR SLAA STAFF on specific projects:
 - a. Ask them to talk about the particular programs they are responsible for
 - b. Let them know the data available (SPR, output, etc.) and verify that there is no other data or materials they have that would be helpful to us. If they only listed outputs in the SPR outcomes data, ask about plans for outcome data in the future.
 - c. What do you see as the needs moving forward for the next seven years?
6. ALL: What impact have you seen LSTA dollars have on your state?
7. ALL: Is there anything you think we should have asked that we didn't?

Appendix E: Web-Survey Instrument

Ohio LSTA Survey 2021

WELCOME

Every five years, each state library administrative agency in the nation is required to conduct an independent evaluation of its implementation of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) "Grants to States" program. This evaluation must be submitted in order to qualify for ongoing Federal funding. We'd like your help in assessing the impact of the LSTA program on your library and on the people that your library serves.

You are invited to share your thoughts and ideas by answering three short questions. The survey should take you no more than ten minutes to complete. The first question asks you to look back over the last few years and to consider how the LSTA program has benefited libraries and library users. Second, we'd like to invite you to think about the future and to suggest new ways in which you think LSTA funds should be invested (please note LSTA funds cannot be used for building facilities or for lobbying purposes). Finally, we want to give you an opportunity to offer any other observations about Ohio's LSTA program (positive or negative). Thank you in advance for helping the State Library of Ohio serve your community better!

BACKGROUND

Ohio receives approximately \$5 million in LSTA funds from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services each year. The largest portion of this funding (about 47%) has been allocated to support *Access*, with programs such as:

- [Statewide Resource Sharing](#)
- [Libraries Connect Ohio Databases](#)
- [Talking Book Program](#)
- [Ohio Digital Library](#)
- [Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.](#)

The second largest portion (23%) supports *Learning*, with programs such as:

- Space Planning and [Strategic Planning Consultation services](#)
- [Continuing Education](#)
- [Youth Services initiatives](#)
- Supporting a statewide [Summer Library Program](#)
- four [Regional Library Systems](#)
- [Public Library Statistics](#)

The third largest portion (22%) of the budget supports *Community*, with programs such as:

- [Serving Every Ohian Center \(SEO\)](#)
- [Guiding Ohi Online](#) grants to Ohio libraries
- [Mental Health First Aid Grant](#) initiative.

The last portion (8%) of the budget supports *Content*, with programs such as:

- [Digitization](#)
- [Celebrating Ohio Book Awards & Authors](#) grants
- [Conservation Grants](#).

LSTA dollars are used to supplement state and local funds and to foster creativity and innovation in meeting the needs of Ohio's existing and potential library users.

1) Have you received grants with LSTA funding since 2018?

- Yes
- No

2) The period we are evaluating is 2018-2022. Think back over the past few years (2018 on). Which, if any, of the LSTA-supported programs mentioned on the last page, or additional ones not mentioned so far, have had the greatest impact on your library and on the people your library serves? How is library service in your community better because of the investment of LSTA funds?

LOOKING FORWARD

3) Soon we will be writing our next LSTA Five Year Plan. Look ahead to 2023 - 2027. Are there changes in the way that LSTA dollars are invested that you think would significantly improve library services in Ohio? If so, what are they and why do you think that the change(s) would make a difference. *(Note that LSTA funding cannot be used for building facilities or for lobbying purposes.)*

OTHER COMMENTS

4) Please feel free to offer any additional comments about Ohio's LSTA program. What do you like or dislike about the program? What could be improved? *(Note that your responses are confidential and comments will not be identified with an individual or with a specific library.)*

OPTIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

5) The library that I represent is:

- A public library
- A school library
- An academic library
- A county law library
- A special library
- Other (Please specify below.)

If you responded "Other" to the question above, please specify the type of library you represent in the text box provided below.

6) Choose the role that best represents the majority of your work:

- Director
- Manager or Department Head
- Youth Services staff
- Adult Services staff
- Technical Services staff
- Circulation/ILL staff
- Technology Specialist
- Library Trustee
- Other (Please specify below.)

If you responded "Other" to the question above, please specify your role in the library you represent in the text box provided below.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us.

Appendix F: Measuring Success Crosswalk Table

OHIO Measuring Success Focal Areas and Intent 114 projects total	Goal 1: Learning (70 projects)				Goal 2: Community (31 projects)				Goal 3: Content (7 projects)				Goal 4: Access (6 projects)			
Lifelong Learning																
Improve users' formal education	2				1											
Improve users' general knowledge and skills	43				6				2				1			
Information Access																
Improve users' ability to discover information resources	6				1				2				1			
Improve users' ability to obtain and/or use information resources	2				3				2				3			
Institutional Capacity																
Improve the library workforce	9				7											
Improve the library's physical and technological infrastructure					4								1			
Improve library operations	5				5											
Economic & Employment Development																
Improve users' ability to use resources and apply information for employment support																
Improve users' ability to use and apply business resources																
Human Resources																
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family or household finances																
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal or family health & wellness																
Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their parenting and family skills																
Civic Engagement																
Improve users' ability to participate in their community					3											
Improve users' ability to participate in community conversations around topics of concern	3								1							

Appendix G: Targeted Audiences Crosswalk Table

OHIO Target Population Served		Library Workforce (current and future)	Individuals Living Below the Poverty Line	Individuals who are unemployed/underemployed	Ethnic or Minority Populations	Immigrants/Refugees	Individuals with Disabilities	Individuals with Limited Functional Literacy or Information Skills	Families	Children (aged 0-5)	School-aged Youth (aged 6-17)	General (aged 18-64)	Senior (aged 65+)
4.1 Resource Sharing/Libraries Connect Ohio Databases	YES												

Appendix H: Expenditure Tables

OHIO LSTA PROJECT EXPENDITURE SUMMARY											
Goal 1	State Goal	PROJECT TITLE/ Activities	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2018 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2019 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2020 LSTA EXPENDITURE	THREE YEAR (FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020) EXPENDITURE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE WITHIN GOAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE TOTAL
	Learning	Public Library Statistics	X	X	X	\$ 319,450.00	\$ 348,279.88	\$ 495,268.53	\$ 1,162,998.41	32.08%	7.49%
		Planning and Continuing Education (ex CARES)	X	X	X	\$ 319,609.35	\$ 313,200.00	\$ 274,450.44	\$ 907,259.79	25.03%	5.84%
		Youth Services Initiative/Consulting	X	X	X	\$ 81,485.64	\$ 84,182.03	\$ 164,313.63	\$ 329,981.30	9.10%	2.12%
		Regional Library System Program Support	X	X	X	\$ 79,352.12	\$ 84,332.16	\$ 68,086.00	\$ 231,770.28	6.39%	1.49%
		Summer Reading Program Grant Initiative	X	X	X	\$ 24,263.00	\$ 30,211.00	\$ 56,714.00	\$ 111,188.00	3.07%	0.72%
		Celebrating OH Book Awards & Authors grant program	X	X	X	\$ 50,434.53	\$ 17,854.27	\$ 42,835.71	\$ 111,124.51	3.07%	0.72%
		Summer Library Program	X	X		\$ 40,972.59	\$ 47,979.60		\$ 88,952.19	2.45%	0.57%
		Library Leadership Ohio		X	X	\$ -	\$ 23,185.76	\$ 28,088.16	\$ 51,273.92	1.41%	0.33%
		Bloom Carroll HS STEAM Lab		X		\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	1.38%	0.32%
		Digital Equity and Inclusion for Seniors			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	1.38%	0.32%
		iStream to the exStream	X			\$ 48,975.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,975.00	1.35%	0.32%
		Felix & Fiona: A Musical Experience for Third Grade Reading	X			\$ 47,925.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,925.00	1.32%	0.31%
		Akron Public School STEM Project			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,691.00	\$ 45,691.00	1.26%	0.29%
		Active Learning for Information Literacy		X		\$ -	\$ 30,427.00	\$ -	\$ 30,427.00	0.84%	0.20%
		Traveling Museum Partnership	X			\$ 28,843.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,843.00	0.80%	0.19%
		Expand STEM Educational Opportunities	X			\$ 23,929.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,929.00	0.66%	0.15%
		Strengthening School Readiness Support to Families and the Community Through the Public Library	X			\$ 16,174.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,174.00	0.45%	0.10%
		Ohioana Book Festival	X	X	X	\$ 4,999.00	\$ 4,999.00	\$ 4,999.00	\$ 14,997.00	0.41%	0.10%
		AWE Computers		X	X	\$ -	\$ 3,422.00	\$ 9,961.00	\$ 13,383.00	0.37%	0.09%
		STEAM, Careers, and Business Incubator			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,033.00	\$ 12,033.00	0.33%	0.08%
		Early Literacy Outreach Collection	X			\$ 11,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,250.00	0.31%	0.07%
		Grab & Go STEM/STEAM Club			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00	0.29%	0.07%
		Books by the Banks : 2018/2019 Teen Scene	X	X		\$ 4,950.00	\$ 4,950.00	\$ -	\$ 9,900.00	0.27%	0.06%
		3D Print Design Outreach Program			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 9,800.00	0.27%	0.06%
		Northeast Ohio Regional Library System: Emerging Technology Symposium	X	X		\$ 4,729.00	\$ 4,998.00	\$ -	\$ 9,727.00	0.27%	0.06%
		STEAM Family Engagement		X		\$ -	\$ 9,577.00	\$ -	\$ 9,577.00	0.26%	0.06%
		Connected Learning Through Digital Skills			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	0.21%	0.05%
		Building Community with the works of authors Jason Reynolds	X			\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.14%	0.03%
		Virtual Summer Camp		X		\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.14%	0.03%
		Ohio Center for the Book Technology & Collection Enhancement		X		\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.14%	0.03%
		Enrichment Bundles Project			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ 4,999.00	0.14%	0.03%
		Undesign the Redline			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ 4,999.00	0.14%	0.03%

OHIO LSTA PROJECT EXPENDITURE SUMMARY										
State Goal	PROJECT TITLE/ Activities	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2018 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2019 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2020 LSTA EXPENDITURE	THREE YEAR (FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020) EXPENDITURE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE WITHIN GOAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE TOTAL
	Virtual Author Visit			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ 4,999.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Walk With Me: A Community Adventure in Literacy			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ 4,999.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Coding4Kids		X		\$ -	\$ 4,997.00	\$ -	\$ 4,997.00	0.14%	0.03%
	STEAM/Maker Space at the Homer Public Library			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,997.00	\$ 4,997.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Imagination Unlimited - 2nd Grade Fiction Reading Support Program		X		\$ -	\$ 4,989.00	\$ -	\$ 4,989.00	0.14%	0.03%
	VR Technology project		X		\$ -	\$ 4,984.00	\$ -	\$ 4,984.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Catapulting Readers to Success	X			\$ 4,970.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,970.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Countywide Mock Caldecott		X		\$ -	\$ 4,967.00	\$ -	\$ 4,967.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Greenville PL Keckler Exhibit support			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,946.00	\$ 4,946.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Exploring Immersive Experiences with Virtual Reality		X		\$ -	\$ 4,939.00	\$ -	\$ 4,939.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Globe Theatre Model Restoration	X			\$ 4,933.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,933.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Digital Storytelling for Social Change facilitators workshop		X		\$ -	\$ 4,920.00	\$ -	\$ 4,920.00	0.14%	0.03%
	Whisper Room	X			\$ 4,848.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,848.00	0.13%	0.03%
	Heroes With and Without Capes	X			\$ 4,839.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,839.00	0.13%	0.03%
	Anatomy in Clay		X		\$ -	\$ 4,834.00	\$ -	\$ 4,834.00	0.13%	0.03%
	Media Production Studio at Bloom Carroll High School			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,787.00	\$ 4,787.00	0.13%	0.03%
	An Equal Chance Through Literacy	X			\$ 4,660.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,660.00	0.13%	0.03%
	Destination Truth - K-2 Non-fiction support program	X			\$ 4,615.12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,615.12	0.13%	0.03%
	Wild About My Library	X			\$ 4,520.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,520.00	0.12%	0.03%
	Adult Educational programming for new Americans and immigrants	X			\$ 4,466.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,466.00	0.12%	0.03%
	Directors' Retreat - a training program	X			\$ 4,455.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,455.00	0.12%	0.03%
	Early Literacy at the Christiansburg Library	X			\$ 4,393.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,393.00	0.12%	0.03%
	Technology to Strengthen Educational Opportunities for Disadvantaged Populations		X		\$ -	\$ 4,272.00	\$ -	\$ 4,272.00	0.12%	0.03%
	Teen Gardening Project			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,259.00	\$ 4,259.00	0.12%	0.03%
	Sentinel-Tribune digitization project	X			\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	0.11%	0.03%
	VR (Virtual Reality) for Van Wert		X		\$ -	\$ 3,820.00	\$ -	\$ 3,820.00	0.11%	0.02%
	Literature with a Listening Heart	X			\$ 3,816.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,816.00	0.11%	0.02%
	Sensory story-time	X			\$ 3,787.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,787.00	0.10%	0.02%
	Mother Goose on the Loose literacy workshop	X			\$ 3,302.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,302.00	0.09%	0.02%
	STEM for Everyone	X			\$ 3,140.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,140.00	0.09%	0.02%
	Outreach to Logan County's Latino Community	X			\$ 3,070.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,070.00	0.08%	0.02%

OHIO LSTA PROJECT EXPENDITURE SUMMARY											
	State Goal	PROJECT TITLE/ Activities	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2018 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2019 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2020 LSTA EXPENDITURE	THREE YEAR (FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020) EXPENDITURE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE WITHIN GOAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE TOTAL
		JazzLit - increasing literacy in young children with Jazz	X			\$ 2,998.15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,998.15	0.08%	0.02%
		American Sign Language (ASL) Storytimes		X		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,886.00	\$ 2,886.00	0.08%	0.02%
		Celebrate Reading, Author Day & Family Night	X			\$ 2,527.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,527.00	0.07%	0.02%
		Writing for All - Creating a Writer's Makerspace and author visit with Bryan Bliss	X			\$ 2,485.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,485.00	0.07%	0.02%
		e.E. Charlton-Trujillo author visit	X			\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	0.05%	0.01%
		Stepping Up 2021			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,336.85	\$ 2,336.85		
		Students Succeed with the College Library Experience		X		\$ -	\$ 314.63	\$ -	\$ 314.63	0.01%	0.00%
		GOAL SUBTOTAL				\$1,189,964.50	\$1,110,632.33	\$1,324,448.32	\$ 3,625,045.15	100.00%	23.34%
Goal 2	Community	SEO Center	X	X	X	\$ 322,156.46	\$ 547,494.38	\$ 328,994.08	\$ 1,198,644.92	41.31%	7.72%
		Guiding Ohio Online grants to Ohio libraries	X	X	X	\$ 276,160.60	\$ 310,757.76	\$ 271,114.13	\$ 858,032.49	29.57%	5.53%
		Guiding Ohio Online administration	X	X	X	\$ 24,055.27	\$ 39,772.93	\$ 63,163.92	\$ 126,992.12	4.38%	0.82%
		Mobile Lab /On Demand Training	X	X		\$ 73,302.54	\$ 34,089.35	\$ -	\$ 107,391.89	3.70%	0.69%
		Mental Health First Aid Grant initiative	X			\$ 104,792.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 104,792.25	3.61%	0.67%
		Columbiana County Consortia project		X		\$ -	\$ 91,426.00	\$ -	\$ 91,426.00	3.15%	0.59%
		Expanding Accessibility - Hanover Library-In-A-Box Project	X			\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	1.72%	0.32%
		OPLIN Drupal Migration: Phase III		X		\$ -	\$ 45,035.00	\$ -	\$ 45,035.00	1.55%	0.29%
		Take Five: A Youth Services Dialogue	X	X		\$ 17,773.82	\$ 17,783.98	\$ -	\$ 35,557.80	1.23%	0.23%
		MCLS Consortium			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	1.14%	0.21%
		Amesville Locker Library project	X			\$ 28,469.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,469.00	0.98%	0.18%
		OhioLINK Library Diversity Initiative			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,135.00	\$ 33,135.00	1.14%	0.21%
		Logan-Hocking County District Library ILS Consortia grant		X		\$ -	\$ 26,375.00	\$ -	\$ 26,375.00	0.91%	0.17%
		Automation grant for Leetonia Community PL	X			\$ 25,733.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,733.00	0.89%	0.17%
		Wilmington Public Library of Clinton County ILS Consortia grant		X		\$ -	\$ 20,552.00	\$ -	\$ 20,552.00	0.71%	0.13%
		ILS grant	X			\$ 20,142.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,142.00	0.69%	0.13%
		OPLIN Drupal Migration: Phases I - II	X			\$ 16,740.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,740.00	0.58%	0.11%
		Re-IMAGEing Collaboration event	X			\$ 11,050.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,050.00	0.38%	0.07%
		Columbiana County ILL project			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,437.00	\$ 8,437.00	0.29%	0.05%
		Critical Conversations	X	X	X	\$ 4,999.00	\$ 1,293.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 8,792.00	0.30%	0.06%
		Working towards A Smarter Ohio: Supporting Family Engagement Through a Strong Preschool-Library Partnership	X			\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.17%	0.03%

OHIO LSTA PROJECT EXPENDITURE SUMMARY											
			FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2018 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2019 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2020 LSTA EXPENDITURE	THREE YEAR (FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020) EXPENDITURE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE WITHIN GOAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE TOTAL
State Goal		PROJECT TITLE/ Activities									
		One Book, One County - Sam Quinones, Dreamland	X			\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.17%	0.03%
		Preserving Pike's Past: Saving the 1884 Property Ownership Map		X		\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.17%	0.03%
		Bexley Art Library		X		\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.17%	0.03%
		One Book, One County - Johann Hari, Lost Connections		X		\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.17%	0.03%
		Mobile Digitization for Community Memory Projects in Northeast Ohio		X		\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.17%	0.03%
		Library on the Lake		X		\$ -	\$ 4,995.00	\$ -	\$ 4,995.00	0.17%	0.03%
		Creating private learning spaces in McDonald Library				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,927.00	\$ 4,927.00	0.17%	0.03%
		News Literacy Training for Ohio Librarians		X		\$ -	\$ 4,835.63	\$ -	\$ 4,835.63	0.17%	0.03%
		Understanding Ourselves & Building Community			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	0.14%	0.03%
		Technology Center Creation		X		\$ -	\$ 2,558.00	\$ -	\$ 2,558.00	0.09%	0.02%
		GOAL SUBTOTAL				\$ 985,371.94	\$1,166,964.03	\$ 749,271.13	\$ 2,901,607.10	100.00%	18.68%
Goal 3	Content	Digitization	X	X	X	\$ 283,771.74	\$ 348,792.74	\$ 374,144.96	\$ 1,006,709.44	83.40%	6.48%
		Conservation Grants	X	X		\$ 74,763.00	\$ 79,744.22	\$ -	\$ 154,507.22	12.80%	0.99%
		Metadata Mini Grants			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,670.18	\$ 28,670.18	2.38%	0.18%
		VR Field Trip Lab	X			\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.41%	0.03%
		Cataloging the World War 1 Servicemen Portrait Collection	X			\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.41%	0.03%
		Consultant support for Ohio Preservation Council	X			\$ 4,999.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,999.00	0.41%	0.03%
		Conservation of bound volumes related to Ohio Wesleyan Female College			X			\$ 2,213.00	\$ 2,213.00	0.18%	0.01%
		GOAL SUBTOTAL				\$ 373,531.74	\$ 428,536.96	\$ 405,028.14	\$ 1,207,096.84	100.00%	7.77%
Goal 4	Access	Resource Sharing/Libraries Connect Ohio Databases	X	X	X	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$ 4,500,000.00	62.10%	28.98%
		Talking Book Program	X	X	X	\$ 345,974.87	\$ 365,065.29	\$ 395,170.17	\$ 1,106,210.33	15.27%	7.12%
		Ohio Digital Library	X	X	X	\$ 305,160.14	\$ 246,335.12	\$ 382,312.54	\$ 933,807.80	12.89%	6.01%
		Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled	X	X	X	\$ 234,000.00	\$ 184,000.00	\$ 284,000.00	\$ 702,000.00	9.69%	4.52%
		Increasing Access to Lucasville Area History			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,242.00	\$ 2,242.00	0.03%	0.01%
		Troy-Miami County Public Library Wifi project			X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,041.37	\$ 2,041.37	0.03%	0.01%
		GOAL SUBTOTAL				\$2,385,135.01	\$2,295,400.41	\$2,565,766.08	\$ 7,246,301.50	100.00%	46.66%

OHIO LSTA PROJECT EXPENDITURE SUMMARY											
	State Goal	PROJECT TITLE/ Activities	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2018 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2019 LSTA EXPENDITURE	FFY 2020 LSTA EXPENDITURE	THREE YEAR (FFY 2018, FFY 2019, FFY 2020) EXPENDITURE TOTAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE WITHIN GOAL	PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE TOTAL
		LSTA PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION				\$ 171,112.81	\$ 177,209.27	\$ 200,799.33	\$ 549,121.41		
		GRAND TOTAL				\$5,105,116.00	\$5,178,743.00	\$5,245,313.00	\$ 15,529,172.00		
		ALLOCATION				\$5,105,116.00	\$5,178,743.00	\$5,245,313.00	\$ 15,529,172.00		

Appendix I: Web-Survey Report

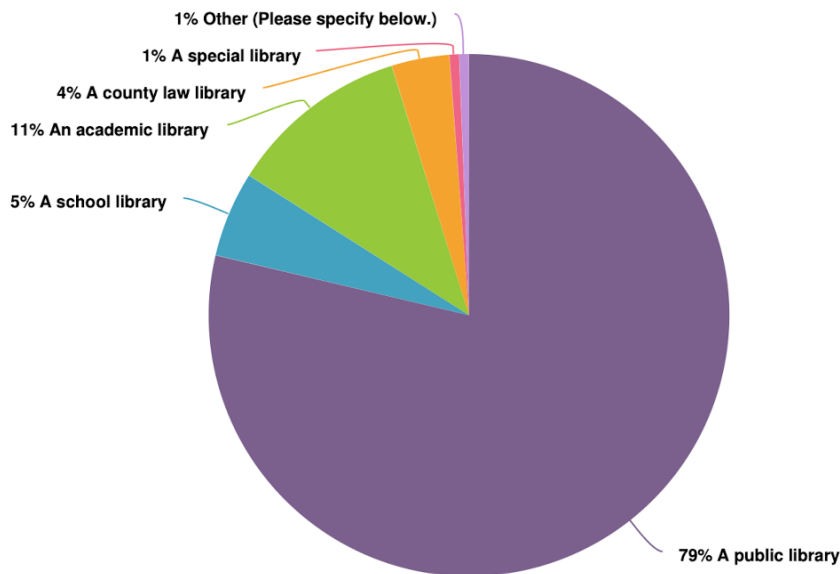
OH LSTA Survey Summary

https://reporting.alchemer.com/r/71852_61ba331fad5a22.28634713

Findings

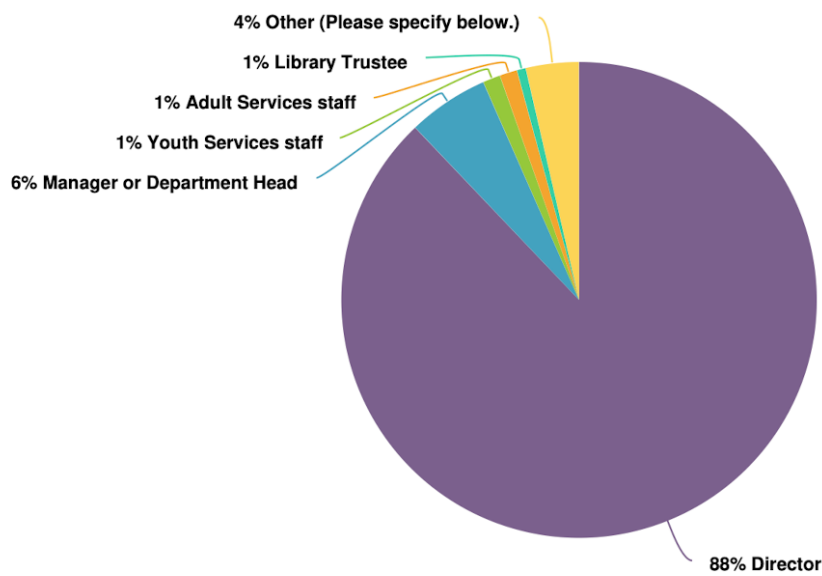
The survey received a total of 251 responses, 170 of which were complete and 81 of which were partially completed. As shown in Figure 1, 78.7% of respondents (133) work in public libraries, 11.2% of respondents (19) work in an academic library, 5.3% of respondents (9) work in a school library, 3.6% of respondents (6) work in a county law library, and 0.6% of respondents (1) work in a special library. 0.6% of respondents (1) indicated “other” which includes a regional library system.

Figure 1. The type of library in which respondents work



Respondents were then asked to indicate their role within their libraries. 87.9% of respondents (145) are library directors and 5.5% are managers or department heads (9). 1.2% of respondents (2) indicated that they are Adult Services librarians, 1.2% of respondents (2) indicated they are Youth/Children Services librarians, and 0.6% of respondents (1) indicated that they are a library trustee. 6 respondents indicated “other” which includes senior library administrator, deputy director, law librarian, school district library media coordinator, genealogy historical preservationist, and collection development. Figure 2 shows the overall breakdown of job roles.

Figure 2. Role of respondent in their library



Looking Back

The first question to survey respondents asked them to indicate which LSTA programs have had the most impact on their libraries and patrons. Seven main themes emerged from the responses including library capacity, library access, library content, technology, professional development, community connection/support, and COVID-19. Figure 3 below shows themes discussed in the responses. Respondents mentioned seven impactful LSTA programs. These include Serving Every Ohio Center (SEO), Summer Reading Programs, the Guiding Ohio Online grant, Ohio Digital Library, the Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled, and Connect Ohio Databases. Figure 4 below shows the number of respondents that mentioned each program as impactful to their libraries and/or patrons.

Figure 3. Main Themes

Main Themes

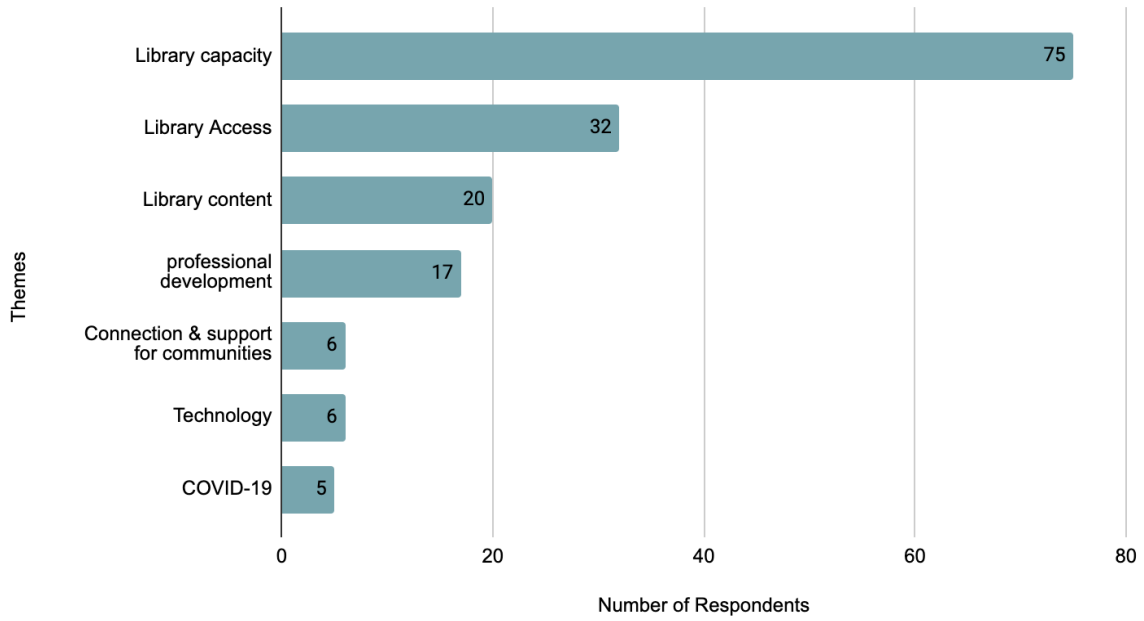
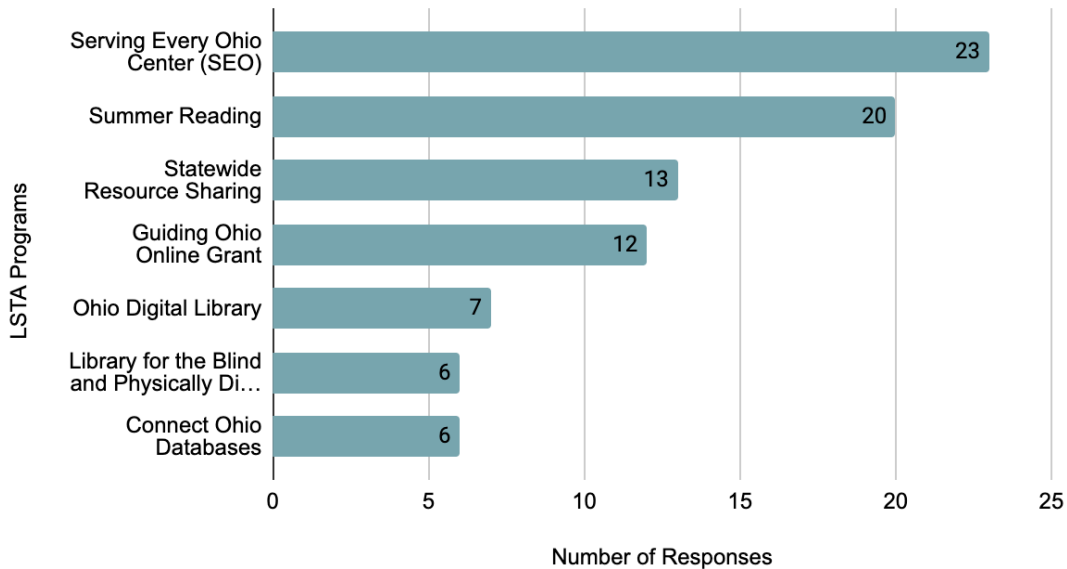


Figure 4. Impactful LSTA programs

Impactful LSTA Programs



Below are a selection of comments from respondents that reflect the main themes and impact of these LSTA programs.

The Ohio Digital Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled helped a large portion of our population during 2020 and 2021 especially when our public library offered limited access because of the pandemic. The Ohio databases helps us provide additional information to our public where our resources are thin.

The first thing that comes to mind is our funding received for our Summer Reading Program. We would not be able to facilitate a successful and enriching programming without these funds.

The Mental Health First Aid Grant provided resources to staff and community members interested in helping support the mental health of our community. This led to new partnerships within our community and it connected some patrons with resources to help their community. The Libraries Connect Ohio Databases program continues to connect our library with a variety of databases that serve community needs. It also connects our staff with the needed training to support patrons in the use of these databases.

Statewide Resource Sharing goes hand in hand with the service we receive as members of SEO. The consortium provides many more borrowing opportunities for our local patrons than we could ever provide.

We received the Summer Reading mini grant in 2021 to help us provide outreach to our community for storytimes on our bookmobile.

We have received the Guiding Ohio Online grant for the past two years. The GOO person provides technology classes, one-on-one training and help to patrons, and provides outreach in the community for technology needs. This has been a great help to the library and our patrons. Since Covid happened we have had less staff and those we do have are doing more, so our Goo person really is helpful. Without our GOO person, we would not be able to have as much one-on-one training with patrons or help as many people as we have with technology related questions.

Serving Every Ohioan Center (SEO) has the greatest impact on the community our library serves. SEO allows us to provide materials to our patrons through the consortium that we would not otherwise be able to.

Libraries Connect Ohio Databases - These databases are fantastic and really extend the amount of materials that we can offer our patrons. It allows us to offer world-class resources to folks who live in sheltered rural areas.

During the pandemic, Access through the Ohio Digital Library has been key for our patrons, particularly during the two months that the Library was closed to the public. We most often use the Learning resources, including continuing education for staff, the summer reading resources, public library statistics and graphics for our most recent levy campaign, and we recently joined our regional library system.

We are a member of the SEO consortium and have benefited through the resource sharing of materials. Our patrons have access to a great amount of materials and very appreciate this service.

We have received the Guiding Ohio Online grant and with it was able to have on staff a designated Technology Trainer position. She worked directly with our patrons to assist with technology issues on a daily basis in addition to building our digital presence that transcends our physical building.

In 2018 we received an Open Grant to fund a series of STEM programs for a range of ages. That grant enabled us to create relationships with program providers that remain strong to this day - the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Starlab and Gigalearn.

Looking Forward

Respondents were asked to think ahead to the years covered by the upcoming Five-Year Plan (fiscal years 2023 - 2027) and discuss changes in the way that LSTA dollars are invested that would significantly improve library services. Recommended changes mentioned more than once include addressing the recent Financial Literacy requirement for students, continued and increased focus on outreach services, continued funding for SEO as well as improvements.

Additional recommendations include:

- Staff training
- Digitization efforts

- A cloud service for library servers across Ohio
- Programs for technology literacy for staff and patrons
- Marketing library services to the public
- Additional funding to improve statewide delivery services
- Grants for interactive spaces
- Additional mental health services
- Internet connectivity across Ohio

Below are a selection of comments from respondents.

For many areas in Ohio, patrons still face connection to the web at home. Even with cell phones, many areas of our State do not have proper cell reception either. Personally, I live just outside the incorporation of the City of Coshocton, I am not offered faster internet speeds and the only cell connection I have is through my WiFi.

The grant process for librarians needs to be streamlined and made more straightforward. The application is hard to complete, especially for school librarians who are juggling classes and libraries, often writing grants in 20 minute chunks of time over weeks. If the application is so difficult to manage, I need to attend training and multiple feedback sessions before I can submit, there's just not enough time. I'm a successful grant writer, but this one's time to returns ratio is too costly for school librarians.

Continuing to pool resources for statewide sharing is very important to our Library. Although I understand that the funds can no longer be used for building libraries, many facilities constructed before the ADA guidelines were established need significant renovations to provide access and I wonder if there is the potential for if not construction cost, then at least the design services to be covered.

Broadband community collaborations; collections that offer digital access; specific focus on training that is remote in nature; support for libraries to build out options for more professional AV equipment including video equipment for creating content

Delivery service to the libraries needs to be enhanced, The system that is in place is lacking in efficiency and thus causing delay in services to Ohio library patrons.

I would like to see continued competitive funding for digitization projects, both to preserve copies of historic materials and to make little known resources available to the community and state.

Mental Health needs to be expanded; the pandemic has traumatized not only our staff but our customers. We are seeing more and more customers with adverse effects caused by the stress of the pandemic and our staff are also affected by the same trauma. Resources committed to mental health will potentially give staff tools to use in their personal lives along with de-escalation techniques to positively work with customers.

Our patrons continue to lack reliable, affordable internet access. Anyway, that LSTA funds could be used to help with connectivity would be very helpful.

Expanding the database offering would be a big advantage. I am sure there are resources that individual libraries purchase that might be bundled for cost savings. Improving state-wide delivery times, between lending libraries, would improve service to our community.

Ensuring that all libraries can offer the same level of service to their patrons - ie, negotiated print/fax/wifi universal pricing and reimbursements. I have moved from a larger system to a smaller system now to a rural standalone and the difference in access is stark.

I really wish SEO would update its ILS with something fitting this century. Koha or Evergreen (or any other open source) would be a much better fit for the consortium. It would be significantly cheaper to maintain and improve with fewer staff. Workflows is well beyond it's useful age. LSTA money could be used for a major improvement/migration project.

It would be nice to be able to request LSTA funding for brochures, newsletters, and a digital presence to promote library services and collections.

Additional Comments

This library has only applied for LSTA dollars once due to the rigid grant guidelines. My library board voted 18-years ago to not filter any of our public computers. Most LSTA grants are not available to us because of the requirement that the library be CIPA compliant. This requirement and having to provide matching funding has discouraged us from applying for LSTA grants.

I liked the recent change to the online application process. I would love to see more of the process move online, including the reports and budgets. It would be much easier to complete.

I don't have any grand ideas to improve ODL, but the current one user model isn't working for such a big state. The amount of money we spend goes up and up and up, but our local patrons are still struggling to get the new titles they want to read now, not in 6 months.

I appreciate that Ohio is always looking to share resources and items. I know we are all stronger because of the State Library's management of this funding.

We really need assistance in providing a wider variety of online resources.

The only things I don't like about the LSTA program are federal requirements in how the program has to be administered, so that can't be changed. The State Library staff does a great job of helping us through those requirements.

As someone at an academic library, I tend to think of this funding as not so much for me or for us to apply for--the funds are not well-promoted to academic libraries, in my opinion. How do we measure the impact of the awards or track the long-term benefit of particular awards? I would like to see broader training for librarians of any type across the state in areas such as leadership, budgeting, creating cultures of innovation and cultures that pursue and embrace change and diversity in hiring and in work practices.

Wish it would be used towards building improvements

The State Library constantly promotes its services and reaches out to the several types of library communities - I give them special credit for making sure academic librarians know that their institutions are also eligible for these programs. The State Library is an example of how individual leadership can make the difference between hapless bureaucracy... and good government.

Appendix J: Databases in Ohio

Prepared by Genya O’Gara, Library Consultant and VIVA Deputy Director

Background

Statewide database programs are a crucial service supported at various levels by the vast majority of state library programs across the United States.⁸ Meeting user needs in virtual as well as physical spaces is a critical component of state library services; even as physical visits and circulation decline at public libraries (a trend likely to be further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic), both the usage and availability of electronic resources has expanded.⁹

To understand the snapshot of the database resources and programs provided by the state agency, it is important to note that funding models for statewide databases have shifted considerably in the last few decades. For example, between 2000 and 2020 state libraries’ overall spending on statewide database licensing increased from 42.29 million to 74.04 million dollars (spent by 48 state libraries). Within this increase however, state libraries were very unlikely to be the sole source of support for statewide databases; in fact, in 2020 89.6 percent of statewide database licensing was carried out by multiple entities and funding sources.¹⁰ In an informal 2021 survey of state data coordinators, it was found that although the majority of states offer support for a statewide databases program (41 of 44 respondents), many of those are not managed through the state library (only 33 reported state library management). Thirty-six of these respondents also noted the existence of a local e-resource consortium in the state.

Often these statewide database programs are supported in part through LSTA funding, as well as state funding, library cost-shares, grants, and external, but often complementary, consortial programs.¹¹ Each statewide database program is approached, funded, and supported in slightly different ways. The following snapshots note where LSTA funds have likely supported a particular resource or platform to some extent, but they do not note what other funding or

⁸ The Institute of Museum and Library Services. 2021. Functions and Roles of State Libraries: 2000 and 2020. Washington, DC: The Institute of Museum and Library Services, p.14.; Results from the SDC E-Resources Survey.

⁹ The Institute of Museum and Library Services. (2021). *The Use and Cost of Public Library Materials: Trends Before the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Washington, DC: The Institute, p. 6.

¹⁰ The Institute of Museum and Library Services. 2021. Functions and Roles of State Libraries: 2000 and 2020. Washington, DC: The Institute of Museum and Library Services, p.14.; Results from the SDC E-Resources Survey, p.14.

¹¹ Results from the 2021 SDC E-Resources Survey

percentage of support this comprises, as this information is beyond the scope of the LSTA evaluation.

State:

Ohio

Project details/URLs:

- <https://imls-spr.imls.gov/Public/Details/82549> and <https://imls-spr.imls.gov/Public/Details/82996>
- <https://www.ohioweblibrary.org/>
- In FFY 2018 & FFY 2019, \$3,000,000 was spent on database resources, of \$9,935,536.89 total LSTA funds, comprising 30% of total LSTA expenditures.

1. Table of Resources:

**Additional resources available to State Library Employees may be found on the Ohio-DBs spreadsheet.*

Vendor/Provider	Resource	Vendor/Provider	Resource
Ebsco	Academic Search Complete	Ebsco	Science Reference Center
Ebsco	AHFS Consumer Medication Information	Ebsco	Small Business Reference Center
Ebsco	Alt HealthWatch	Ebsco	Sociological Collection
Ebsco	Biography Reference Bank	Ebsco	TOPICSearch
Ebsco	Business Source Premier	Ebsco	Vocational and Career Collection
Ebsco	Computer Source	Gale/Cengage	Chilton Library
Ebsco	Consumer Health Complete	Gale/Cengage	In Context: Elementary
Ebsco	EBSCOhost	Gale/Cengage	Kids Info Bits
Ebsco	Explora Primary Schools	LinkedIn	LinkedIn Learning with Lynda.com content
Ebsco	Explora Secondary Schools	LOC	Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
Ebsco	Fold3	OPLIN	What Tree Is It?
Ebsco	GreenFile	OPLIN	What's That Snake
Ebsco	Health Source: Consumer Edition	OPLIN	What's The Point?

Ebsco	Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition	OUP	Oxford Research Encyclopedias
Ebsco	Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center	OUP	Very Short Introductions
Ebsco	Home Improvement Reference Center	ProQuest	African American Heritage
Ebsco	Literary Reference Center	ProQuest	Ancestry Library Edition
Ebsco	MAS Ultra: School Edition (for high school students)	ProQuest	HeritageQuest
Ebsco	MasterFILE Premier (popular magazines)	Transparent Language	Transparent Language Online
Ebsco	MEDLINE with full text (EBSCO)	Wiley	Cochrane Library
Ebsco	Middle Search Plus	World Book	Early World of Learning
Ebsco	Newspaper Source	World Book	World Book Kids
Ebsco	Points of View Reference Center	World Book	World Book Online
Ebsco	Primary Search	World Book	World Book Students
Ebsco	Professional Development Collection	World Book	World Book Timelines
Ebsco	Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection		American and English full text literature collections
Ebsco	Regional Business News		

2. Access/Scope/Population:

The [Ohio Web Library](#) (OWL) makes electronic resources available to all Ohio residents through school, public, and academic libraries, with the aim of ensuring a common set of reference resources is available to every Ohio user. As of 2019, Ohio had a population of 11.69 million residents. Access to these resources are provided and supported by three statewide groups, INFOhio, OPLIN, and OhioLINK, as well as the State Library of Ohio. The databases provided focus on core reference and research resources for business, education, and personal enrichment. These resources are particularly impactful at the primary and secondary schools, which have historically had inadequate funding in Ohio. In 2018 the resources supported were refreshed to include: Chilton Library, a suite of databases through EBSCOhost, Kids INFOBits, Oxford Research Encyclopedia, Transparent Language Online, Very Short Introductions, and World Book Online.

Database resources are accessible for Ohio users through their school, public, or academic library, in-person or remotely. State of Ohio employees may also access resources remotely using either their myOhio OH|ID or a State Library of Ohio library card. The OWL is funded through an LSTA grant through the State Library of Ohio as well as contributions from INFOhio, OhioLink, and OPLIN - a partnership referred to as Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO). LSTA funds comprise approximately 38% of the funding for the shared resources, with the remaining 42% provided by the LCO from their respective budgets.¹² LSTA funds also support the Ohio Digital Library, which provides downloadable audiobooks and ebooks to public libraries -- this service is completely separate from the research and reference resources provided through OWL and are not part of this analysis.

3. URLs:

Ohio-DBs spreadsheet constructed.

In addition to providing resources through individual library web sites, resources are made available through the following web-pages: <https://ohioweblibrary.org/sources/>;
<https://www.oplin.ohio.gov/database-list-and-title-content>;
<https://library.ohio.gov/collections/databases-a-z/#StateofOhioEmployees>

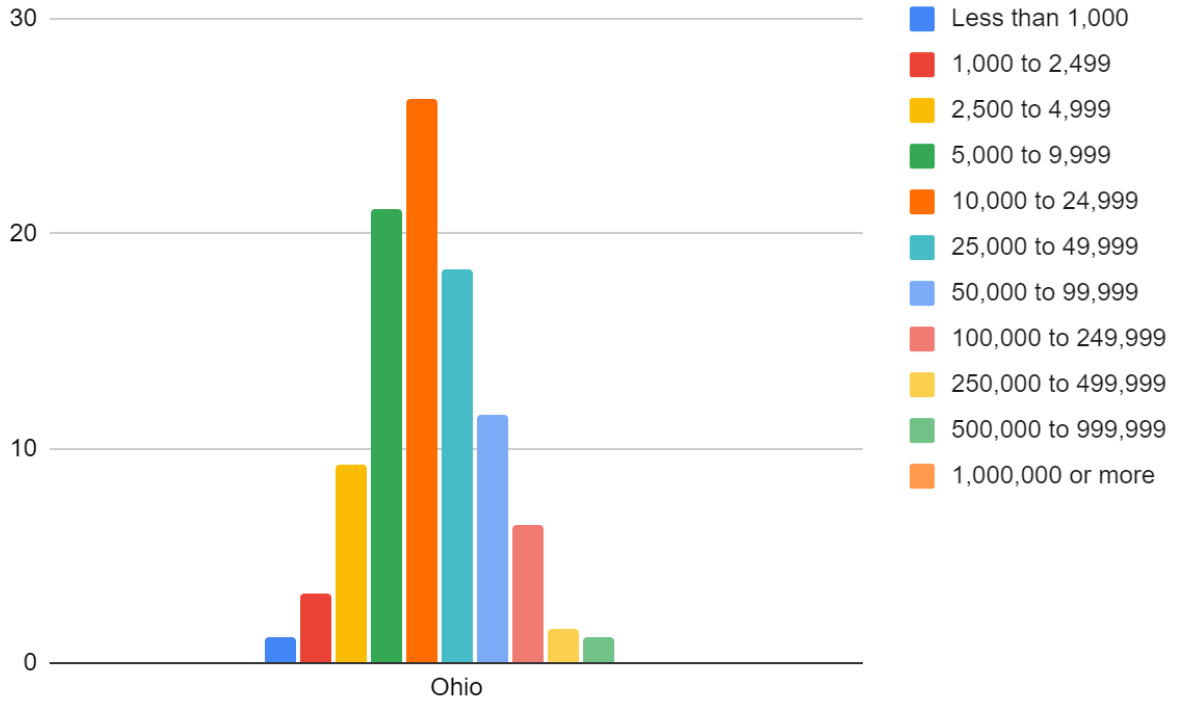
**Note: The Ohio-DBs spreadsheet is a compilation of three different lists of examined resources, including the Ohio Web Library resources; a database list provided by OPLIN of what is included in the Ohio Web Library (this list is slightly different than what is listed on OWL); and finally, the resources available to the State of Ohio Employees on their A-Z list, some of which overlap with OWL resources, some of which don't, and some of which it is unclear if the access is through the OWL EbscoHost collection, or a separate subscription. The resources highlighted in light yellow are confirmed to be funded, at least in part, through the LSTA program. Still needed are a list of which databases are provided through Ebsco, and which of the resources available on the State Library website are supported by LSTA funds.*

4. URLs usage:

Public libraries can directly pull their statistics by month (for up to the last 24 months) from the OPLIN Database Usage Reporting Tool: <https://stats.oplin.org/common/report/> Usage that is reported include regular searches and total item investigations. If public libraries need additional statistics they contact oplin: <http://support.oplin.org> . Academic libraries can get usage statistics through OhioLink: https://www.ohiolink.edu/content/ostaff_usage_statistics. Additional database stats and vendor contacts are made available here: <https://www.oplin.ohio.gov/statistics>

¹² Libraries Connect Ohio: <https://www.oplin.ohio.gov/lco>

Appendix K: Public Libraries and Population service areas



Percentage distribution of public libraries, by population of legal service area: FY 2019

Appendix L: Talking Books Data

OHIO	Oct. 1, 2017 - Sept. 30, 2018 FY 2018	Oct. 1, 2018 - Sept. 30, 2019 FY 2019	Oct. 1, 2019 - Sept. 30, 2020 FY 2020	Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021 FY 2021	TOTAL FY 2018 - FY 2021	Percentage Difference FY 2018 - FY 2021
Braille Readers (Individuals)	456	460	375	341	1,632	-25.22%
Cartridge Readers (Individuals)	9,380	9,335	7,749	7,488	33,952	-20.17%
BARD Braille Book Readers (Individuals)	224	214	206	194	838	-13.39%
BARD Audio Book Readers (Individuals)	1,316	1,320	1,392	1,351	5,379	2.66%
Braille Circulation (excluding magazines)	3,565	3,246	2,689	3,026	12,526	-15.12%
Cartridge Circulation (excluding magazines)	466,519	460,982	326,755	333,104	1,587,360	-28.60%
BARD Braille Downloads (Books Only)	14,287	9,210	26,316	29,720	79,533	108.02%
BARD Audio Downloads (Books Only)	122,661	136,262	149,383	164,384	572,690	34.01%
TOTAL Readers*	11,376	11,329	9,722	9,374		
TOTAL Circulation	607,032	609,700	505,143	530,234		
Estimated State Population	11,680,000	11,700,000	11,799,448	11,780,017		
Readers as a Percentage of State Population	0.10%	0.10%	0.08%	0.08%		
Circulation per Reader	53.36	53.82	51.96	56.56		

Statistic derived from data received from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled

Circulation figures do not reflect magazine or music circulation

Appendix M: Ohio Output Data

Ohio Output Data	2018	2019	2020
GOAL 1 Learning			
Public Library Statistics	\$ 319,450.00	\$ 348,279.88	\$ 495,268.53
<i>Public Libraries</i>	251	251	251
Planning and Continuing Education	\$ 319,609.35	\$ 313,200.00	\$ 274,450.44
Three Library Consultants work with libraries in strategic planning			
<i>Space Planning</i>			
Number of evaluations and/or plans funded	15	8	9
Number of funded evaluations and/or plans completed	15	3	4
<i>Strategic Planning</i>			
Number of evaluations and/or plans funded	20	14	20
Number of funded evaluations and/or plans completed	8	3	5
<i>General Consulting</i>			
Total number of consultations/reference transactions	90	75	90
NASA@My Library (funded by external grants)			
Librarians attending	20	20	0
Youth Services Initiative/Consulting	\$ 81,485.64	\$ 84,182.03	\$ 164,313.63
State Library Development Consultant supporting youth services statewide			
<i>General Consulting</i>			
Total number of consultation/reference transactions	192	239	215
<i>Public Libraries</i>	83	90	98
<i>Academic Libraries</i>	3	2	5
<i>SLAA</i>	11	20	16
<i>Consortia</i>	1	2	1
<i>Special Libraries</i>	1	1	0
<i>School Libraries</i>	11	5	4
<i>Other</i>	27	43	13
<i>Choose To Read Ohio (CTRO) Project</i>			
Library Consultant contributes in creating readers' toolkits for CTRO books	20	20	20
<i>Ohio Ready To Read (ORTR) youth literacy program</i>			
Early Literacy 101 workshop presented by Library Development Consultant	1	3	4
Early Literacy workshops presented by public librarians	3	0	0
Regional Library System Program Support	\$ 79,352.12	\$ 84,332.16	\$ 68,086.00
MATCHING-State	\$ 285,000.00	\$ -	\$ 395,000.00
MATCHING-Other	\$ -	\$ 319,440.00	\$ -
Total	\$ 364,352.12	\$ 403,772.16	\$ 463,086.00
Continuing education workshops conducted by Regional Library Systems	108	124	124
<i>Public Libraries</i>	68	186	186
<i>Academic Libraries</i>	14	56	56
<i>SLAA</i>	1	1	1
<i>Consortia</i>	0	4	4
<i>Special Libraries</i>	1	38	38
<i>School Libraries</i>	2	139	139
<i>Other</i>	3	0	0

Ohio Output Data	2018	2019	2020
Purchases of books, video games, & technology augmenting circ. collections			
# of hardware acquired	132	135	135
# of software acquired	6	6	6
# of print materials acquired	0	34	34
# of electronic materials acquired	89	89	89
# of audio/visual units acquired	0	39	39
Public Libraries	28	28	28
Academic Libraries	2	2	2
Celebrating OH Book Awards & Authors grant program	\$ 50,434.53	\$ 17,854.27	\$ 42,835.71
Matching - Other	\$ 213.60	\$ 45.40	\$ 576.17
Total	\$ 50,648.13	\$ 17,899.67	\$ 43,411.88
Acquisition grants to acq. Ohio Book Award winners & Ohio authors			
# of libraries receiving grants	38	13	28
# of printed materials acquired	3,193	1,107	2,523
# of electronic materials acquired	0	80	422
# of audio/visual units acquired	111	0	25
Summer Library Program Grant Initiative	\$ 24,263.00	\$ 30,211.00	\$ 56,714.00
Matching - Other	\$ 16,406.29	\$ 13,183.27	\$ 8,026.32
Total	\$ 40,669.29	\$ 43,394.27	\$ 64,740.32
Programming			
Grants to purchase program materials, supplies, and/or contractual services			
# of grants awarded	21	21	21
# of programs offered	138	83	156
Library Leadership Ohio		\$ 23,185.76	\$ 28,088.16
Program to develop future leaders and collaboration in State Library mission			
Attendees		32	46
GOAL 2 Community			
Project Titles			
SEO Center	\$ 322,156.46	\$ 547,494.38	\$ 328,994.08
Serving SEO libraries including admin., maintenance, software & services			
Support an Integrated Library System for 93 library systems in 243 locations			
Guiding Ohio Online Grants to Ohio Libraries	\$276,160.60	\$310,757.76	\$271,114.13
Matching - Other	\$94,139.07	\$94,139.54	\$91,952.39
Total	\$370,299.67	\$416,249.30	\$363,066.52
<i>Throughout the year, digital literacy trainers provided a variety of programs</i>			
# of times program administered	583	550	670
# of sessions in programs	226	271	
Average # in attendance per session	483	93	
Guiding Ohio Online Administration	\$24,055.27	\$39,772.93	\$63,163.92
Total # of consultations/reference transactions	8,025	7,814	13,378

Ohio Output Data	2018	2019	2020
Mental Health First Aid Grant initiative	\$ 104,792.25		
Matching - Other	\$ 1,518.00		
Total	\$ 106,310.25		
<i>Programming included Youth Mental Health First Aid & Gatekeeper training</i>			
# of programs administered	37		
# of sessions in the program	37		
Average # in attendance per session	18		
Mobile Lab /On Demand Training	\$ 73,302.54	\$ 34,089.35	0
# of times program administered	89	11	0
GOAL 3 Content			
Digitization	\$ 283,771.74	\$ 348,792.74	\$ 374,144.96
# of items digitized	23,473	24,865	25,975
# of presentations/performances administered	8	26	9
Conservation Grants	\$ 74,763.00	\$ 79,744.22	Not awarded
Matching - Other	\$ 7,622.65	\$ 6,026.07	Not awarded
Total	\$ 82,385.65	\$ 85,770.29	Not awarded
# of libraries receiving conservation grants	15	17	
# of items conserved, relocated, or rehoused	27	3,007	
# of items reformatted migrated, or other digital preservation actions taken	0	318	
GOAL 4 Access			
Resource Sharing/Libraries Connect Ohio Databases	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
Matching - State (OPLIN, InfoOhio, OhioLINK)	\$ 1,461,801.95	\$ -	\$ 1,456,933.12
Matching - Other	\$ -	\$ 1,390,995.84	\$ -
Total	\$ 2,961,801.95	\$ 2,890,995.84	\$ 2,956,933.12
<i>INFOhio staff deliver presentations to train people in Libraries Connect Ohio</i>			
# of times program administered	313	343	242
Total # of presentation hours	229.5	249	
Total # of people trained	5,557	7,628	4,356
<i>Ohio Web Library specialists train lib. staff re: resources based on region</i>			
# of times program administered	32	4	8
# of people trained	231	212	224
<i>OPLIN worked with pub. lib. communication staff to create kits for each res.</i>			
# of learning resources (e.g. toolkits, guides)	0	1	
Talking Book Program (SPR data)	\$ 345,974.00	\$ 365,065.29	\$ 395,170.17
# of Ohioans served	13,875	13,875	10,718
# of items circulated	2,440	2,440	2,964
# of software acq.	1	1	
# of pieces of equipment circulated	4,854	3,151	3,592
# of reading materials circulated by OLBPD	662,518	587,780	582,317
# of items downloaded	146,773	214,827	198,322

Ohio Output Data	2018	2019	2020
Ohio Digital Library (formerly OH e-book project)	\$ 305,160	\$ 246,335	\$ 382,313
Participating libraries funds	\$ 1,775,825	\$ 1,682,552	\$ 1,458,543
<i>Purchased copies</i>	59,158	56,300	122,843
Advantage funds (single library collection copies)	\$ 722,525	\$ 1,250,751	\$ 1,720,388
<i>Advantage copies</i>	16,444.00	38,914	84,637
<i>Total copies (purchased copies + advantage copies)</i>	75,602.00	95,214.00	207,480.00
Total # of items circulated	5,477,224	6,450,670	7,121,940
Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled	\$ 234,000.00	\$ 184,000.00	\$ 284,000.00
Matching - State	\$ 649,838.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 662,580.88
Matching - Other	\$ -	\$ 649,838.94	\$ -
Total	\$ 883,838.00	\$ 833,838.94	\$ 946,580.88
Total # of items circulated	662,518	578,780	582,317
Total # of ILL transactions	28	22	16
Total # of consultation/reference transactions	22,687	18,523	24,717
Total # of new items	8,981	2,584	
# of cartridges used in production	3,208	2,578	
# of audio/visual units (audio discs, talking books & other recordings acq.	48,683	2,584	3,094
# of cartridges used in repair or replacement	589	11,526	