

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES:

Helping Arkansans learn, work, and thrive



2026

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES by the numbers



187

Arkansas
Public Libraries



9

Bookmobiles
providing access



395,312

Total Hours of
Operation Annually



1,618

Library
Employees



1,514,456

Library Card
Holders



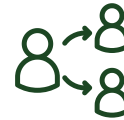
6,912,716

Library Visits
in 2024



1,236,012

Reference
Transactions



50,243

Instances of
Interlibrary Lending



11,855,948

Total Uses of
Library Collection



5,678,784

Print Books and
Serials Circulation



2,241,287

eBooks
Circulation
(digital books)



1,941,906

Audiobooks
Circulation



729,704

Uses of Public
Computers



3,494,021

Wireless
Sessions*



1,040,180

Total Attendees
to Programs



2,316

Kindergarten
Readiness Programs



200

Computer Coding
Programs



355

GED Prep
Programs



356

Workforce Readiness
& Employment
Programs



194

College or Technical
School Readiness
Programs

*Results reflect the self-reported data from participating libraries of the 2024 survey
More information on the Public Library Survey can be found at www.imls.gov*

**Not all libraries can report wireless sessions.*

THE LIFE OF AN ARKANSAS LIBRARY USER



2,316 Kindergarten Readiness Programs
12,064 Programs for Ages 0-5



11,955 Programs for Ages 6-11
3,288,891 Circulation of Materials for Children
92 Coding Programs



6,699 Programs for Ages 12-18
362,716 Circulation of Materials for Tween/Teens
80 Coding Programs
94 Programs to support those seeking employment
96 Programs focused on college or career readiness
107 Programs designed for those seeking to complete their GED



993 Programs for Adults
2,027,177 Circulation of Materials for Adults
262 Programs to support those seeking employment
100 Programs focused on college or career readiness
249 Programs designed for those seeking to complete their GED



5,740 programs offered by libraries off-site in their communities
186,205 Arkansans attended offsite library programs
21,990 publicly-organized events on library property
4,292 All ages programs
170,831 Attendees to all ages programs
6,912,716 Visits to Libraries
729,704 Uses of Public Computers

AND MORE...

Demand for services keeps increasing. We started working with FedEx to establish a package drop-off center in the library for our patrons and small business owners. We get a small stipend, but without the dropoff center, our patrons would have to drive 45 minutes just to drop off a package.

Central Arkansas Rural Library Director

WORK LEARN thrive

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

made possible by the IMLS, Grants to States program, and the Library Services and Technology Act

Arkansas Traveler

Arkansas Traveler provides **high-quality, reliable research databases** and learning resources to public libraries, colleges & universities, citizens, public, private, and homeschool students. These databases are purchased with LSTA funding from the Grants to States Program. State Library staff work to **negotiate per-capita pricing** that allows all Arkansans to receive access to these databases. This means that business owners and economic development professionals also have access to high-quality industry and trend reports that support Arkansas's business community and small business owners. **If each library in Arkansas were to subscribe to these resources individually, the cost to the taxpayer would be \$4.8 million. The Traveler program cost is \$850,000, resulting in \$47 million in savings annually. The program offers other savings benefits to public institutions.**

“On top of the resources we need in Traveler, the Arkansas State Library’s purchase of these databases allows us to receive additional discounts through the program’s vendors. This makes our money go further.”

- An Arkansas academic librarian at a four-year institution

Mockingbird Lending Network

The Mockingbird Lending Network is provided to Arkansas Libraries through the utilization of LSTA funds. **This resource allows Arkansans to search a single site to locate materials across 133 libraries in Arkansas and have items mailed to their home library.** The network is comprised of public libraries, academic libraries, private college libraries, and special libraries. Libraries are able to join the grant-sponsored network to expand access to a wide variety of materials. Resource sharing through the system promotes good stewardship of public funds.

‘We love Mockingbird. We would have never been able to offer our patrons this many books! We always wanted to offer interlibrary loan, but the services are all too expensive and our budget is just too tight.’

-A public librarian serving a rural Arkansas community

Arkansas Digital Library Consortium (ADLC)

The Arkansas Digital Library Consortium **provides access to e-books through a resource-sharing consortium.** The consortium represents **143 libraries across 54 counties.** This service is a **lifeline to rural libraries.** The majority of libraries in ADLC serve populations under 25,000. 18 libraries in the Consortium were unable to offer e-books to their communities before the formation of ADLC. **Arkansans borrowed more than 1.8 million items from ADLC in 2025.**

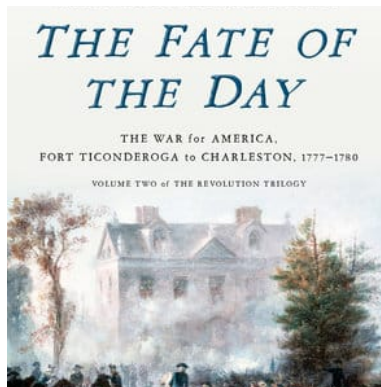
In 2025, the Arkansas State Library invests \$70,000 in LSTA funds in the consortium and the program yields more than \$695,000 in resources to every member library. Arkansans have access to 114,420 titles in the ADLC collection.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

made possible by the IMLS, Grants to States program, and the Library Services and Technology Act



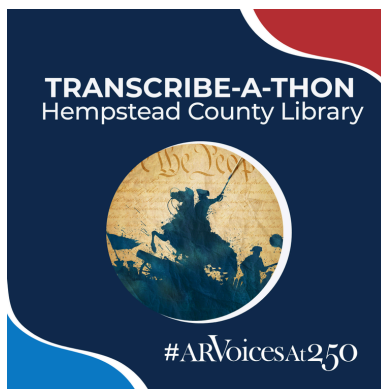
Arkansas Gems, Arkansas' book awards from the Arkansas State Library, boasted an America 250 themed promotion



Arkansas State Library selects *The Fate of the Day* as its statewide reading program title



Baxter County Library participates in a transcribe-a-thon with the Arkansas State Library, Library of Congress, and Arkansas TV



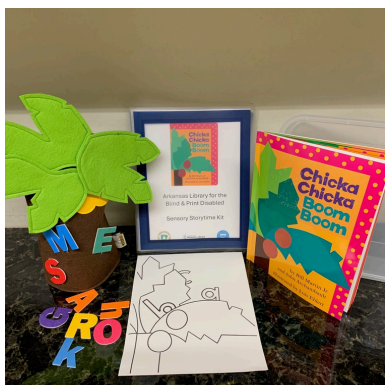
Hempstead County Library participates in a transcribe-a-thon with the Arkansas State Library, Library of Congress, and Arkansas TV



Arkansas State Library welcomes children into the celebration with storytime kits celebrating America and early literacy.

BUILDING LITERACY

for children and caregivers who have vision or print disabilities



Arkansas State Library is the only statewide Library for the Blind and Print Disabled in Arkansas. The library provides library services with the support of the National Library Service. LSTA Grants to States funding has allowed the Library to create Sensory Storytimes that allow children who are blind or print disabled to experience the gift of reading in an adaptive way designed just for them. These kits have now been deployed in every bookmobile in the state.

Other Statewide Support

Assessment Consulting, Library Administration Consulting, US Patent and Trademark Resource Center, Federal Documents Depository Library, Professional Development for Library Staff, State Documents Depository, Book Clubs, Summer Reading and Early Literacy initiatives

LSTA FUNDING IN ARKANSAS

Library Services and
Technology Act



Grants to States
Block Grant



Institute of Museum and
Library Services



State Library Administrative
Agency

Arkansas Awarded

\$2,151,698

in FY 25

34%

Maintenance of Effort

.69

Per Arkansan

*Based on 2025 Data
Center Population
Estimates of 3,114,791*

Contact Information

Department and Agency staff are available to assist with additional information needs.

library.arkansas.gov

ZACH JACOBS

Deputy Chief of Staff
Arkansas Department of
Education
Zach.Jacobs@ade.arkansas.gov

KRISTEN COOKE

Deputy Director
Arkansas State Library
Arkansas Department of Education
Kristen.Cooke@ade.arkansas.gov

JENNIFER CHILCOAT

Director
Arkansas State Library
Arkansas Department of Education
Jennifer.Chilcoat@ade.arkansas.gov

