AGENDA
Arkansas State Library

November 13, 2026
Arkansas State Library - Bessie Moore Conference Room
900 W. Capitol Ave,
Little Rock, AR 72201
10:00 AM

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Action Agenda**

1. Minutes - August 14, 2026
2. Election of Board Officers for 2027
3. State Aid / Scholarships
    a. State Aid to Public Libraries: Distributions Approval
    b. New Scholarship Applications
    c. Recommendations for Scholarship Assistance
    d. Draft Administrative Rules: State Aid to Public Libraries

III. **Act 372 Discussion**

IV. **Reports**

1. Administrative and Agency Funding Report, SFY2027/FFY2026
2. Director and Staff Reports

V. **Public Comments**

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MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Second Quarter, 2026-2027
November 13, 2026

The Arkansas State Library Board convened on August 14, 2026, in the Bessie Moore Conference Room at the Arkansas State Library. Board members present were Clay Goff, Jack Fortner, and Sydney McKenzie, with Lynlee McMillan and Annette Bailey attending via Zoom. Board member Emmaline Pilkington was absent. Staff members present were State Librarian Jennifer Chilcoat, Deputy Director Kristen Cooke, and Brooke Crawford. Also present were Aaron Lowrey with the Office of Attorney General and Arkansas Department of Education Chief Legal Counsel Daniel Shults.

Goff called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. The first item of business was the approval of the minutes from the May 8, 2026, regular meeting. McKenzie moved that the minutes be approved. Fortner seconded, and the motion passed.

Chilcoat presented the First Quarter FY2027 State Aid Payment. McKenzie made a motion to distribute the payment, seconded by McMillan. The motion passed.

Shults presented revised draft Administrative Rules for State Aid to Public Libraries, incorporating the changes he made in response to board discussion at the May meeting, as well as needed clarifications identified in public comments. Changes made by Shults prior to this meeting were limited to items not in conflict with recommendations made by the board during the May discussion. Changes included clarification about requirement to spend monies allotted to multi-county systems in a way that will equitably benefit all member counties; revising language in the Rules to account for libraries that are not required to be governed by a board; clarifying the timeframe for reporting local library budgets to ASL; clarifying that quarterly expenditure reporting can be done at a category level, rather than reporting all individual transactions; and limiting the requirement for a Trustee's Report to libraries that are already required by law to submit one to their local government.

Chairman Goff opened further discussion about the Rules. Discussion topics included clarifying language about the level of assurance that libraries are required to provide in keeping promotions and advertisements, including displays, free of sexually explicit materials; the status of educational materials like general encyclopedias; adjusting documentation requirements to avoid duplication of items already provided as part of the financial audit process; clarifying that the recipient of the State Aid is the entity which must submit its audit and strategic plan, not any individual libraries within that entity. Librarians in attendance were invited to speak at various times within the discussion to provide feedback about proposed revisions.

The Board took a ten-minute break. Upon return, a motion was made by Fortner to send the Draft Administrative Rules: State Aid to Public Libraries on to public comment as revised. McKenzie seconded. The motion passed.

Scholarship applications from Christina Danos of the Eureka Springs Carnegie Public Library and Mary Spears of the Faulkner County Library were presented. A motion was made by McKenzie, seconded by Fortner to approve the scholarship applications.

Brooke Crawford, Administrative Services Manager, presented the State General Revenue and the Federal LSTA Revenue spreadsheets. Federal closeout is September 30, 2026. Crawford gave an update on agency funding as well as budgeted staff.

Staff reports were presented. Chilcoat gave an update on the evaluation for the Five-Year Plan 2023 - 2027. Chilcoat had the opportunity to attend the IMLS Library Convening 250 in Atlanta. Denise Meli is the director of the Cleburne County Library in Heber Springs and Maggie Hall has been named the director of the Sharp County Library. The systemwide director for White River Regional Library, which recently moved its headquarters from Mountain View to Calico Rock, is Racheal Foster.

Deputy Director Kristen Cooke reported attending the Library Statistics Woking Group Meeting to review and refine proposed data elements for the 2027 survey. The national ballot has been sent to all states for the final voting period. The 2026 Arkansas Public Library Survey is under revision, and training is being developed. The 2026 survey will launch in January 2027. Cooke covered the Statewide Sharing and Engagement report on behalf of Taylor McKinney. Cooke shared the outreach work of McKinney and gave updates on the Mockingbird Lending Platform. Wann covered the reports for Library Development, updating the board on consulting services, summer reading workshops, training sessions for public library staff, weekly webinars, reading programs for public libraries, and consulting for the federal E-Rate program. Wann presented 2026 Arkansas Gems posters design to the board members. Distribution of the poster to the Arkansas Libraries will begin in late September, after its debut at the National Book Festival. Marlin gave her report for the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, including the LBPD quarterly newsletter, outreach events, and circulation. LBPD's Summer Reading Program kicked off June 15 and ran through August 11. McGuire presented the work of Information Services. McGuire provided Basic Reference Training for frontline staff at Pope County Library in August. At the beginning of July, Information Service switched to a new platform, LibAnswers, to provide virtual reference services.

Katie Walton covered Sarah Lipsey's report for the Collection Management Division and Jennifer Razer's report for Digital Services. Razer's last day with the State Library was on August 13. Lipsey has begun taking on some of Razer's duties during the vacancy. A cataloging position in Digital Services is also vacant. Walton gave her report for Acquisitions. Acquisitions staff completed its portion of the FY2026 budget closeout of state funds well ahead of all deadlines. This budget supports the State Library's collection of books, periodicals, and online databases for State Employees.

Chilcoat covered the remainder of the items in the board packet, which included no additional action items. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by McKenzie, seconded by Fortner. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

_____ _____

Approval Date Jennifer Chilcoat, State Librarian

Shults presented revised draft Administrative Rules for State Aid to Public Libraries, incorporating the changes he made in response to board discussion at the May meeting, as well as needed clarifications identified in public comments.

Arkansas State Library Board
Report of the Nominating Committee

After correcting technical difficulties, the Nominating Committee of the Arkansas State Library Board met on September 25, 2026, at 11:19 a.m. to select a slate of officers for 2027. The meeting was held via Zoom, and a public viewing area was provided in Meeting Room B of the Arkansas State Library.

In attendance were Committee members Jack Fortner and Annette Bailey, as well as Board Secretary Jennifer Chilcoat. Fortner acted as committee chair.

The committee's charge was to make a recommendation to the board for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. Clay Goff, current Board Chairman, was nominated by Fortner to serve another term as Chair. Fortner nominated Sydney McKenzie to serve another term as Vice-Chair. Bailey concurred.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Chilcoat
Board Secretary

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Headquarters Lib.	Tax Unit	2024 Est Population	Per Capita @ 1.22301848	Multi-co. region	Base Amount	Total FY2027	First Qtr. Payment	Second Qtr. Payment	Third Qtr. Payment	Fourth Qtr. Payment
Arkansas Co. Lib.	Arkansas Co.	16,050	19,629		18,000	37,629	9,407	9,407	9,407	9,408
Ashley Co. Lib.	Ashley Co. less Crossett	13,478	16,484							
Ashley Co. Lib.	Crossett (city) (Ashley Co.)	4,506	5,511							
Ashley Co. Lib. Total		**17,984**	**21,995**		**18,000**	**39,995**	**9,999**	**9,999**	**9,999**	**9,998**
Baxter Co. Lib.	Baxter Co.	43,007	52,598		18,000	70,598	17,650	17,650	17,650	17,648
Boone Co. Lib.	Boone Co.	38,636	47,253		18,000	65,253	16,313	16,313	16,313	16,314
Calhoun County Library	Calhoun Co.	4,690	5,736		15,000	20,736	5,184	5,184	5,184	5,184
Clark Co. Lib.	Clark Co.	20,920	25,586		18,000	43,586	10,896	10,896	10,896	10,898
Cleburne County Library	Cleburne Co.	25,646	31,366		18,000	49,366	12,341	12,341	12,341	12,343
Columbia Co. Lib.	Columbia Co.	22,024	26,936		18,000	44,936	11,234	11,234	11,234	11,234
Conway Co. Lib.	Conway Co.	21,422	26,200		18,000	44,200	11,050	11,050	11,050	11,050
Crawford Co. Lib. System	Crawford Co.	62,258	76,143		18,000	94,143	23,536	23,536	23,536	23,535
Garland Co. Lib.	Garland Co.	99,902	122,182		18,000	140,182	35,045	35,045	35,045	35,047
Hempstead Co. Lib.	Hempstead Co.	19,105	23,366		18,000	41,366	10,341	10,341	10,341	10,343
Independence Co. Lib	Independence Co.	38,345	46,897		18,000	64,897	16,224	16,224	16,224	16,225
Jackson Co. Lib.	Jackson Co.	16,673	20,391		18,000	38,391	9,598	9,598	9,598	9,597
Jefferson Co. Lib.	Jefferson Co. Total less Pine Bluff	24,887	30,437							
Jefferson Co. Lib.	Pine Bluff (city) (Jefferson Co.)	38,785	47,435							
Jefferson Co. Lib. Total		**63,672**	**77,872**		**18,000**	**95,872**	**23,968**	**23,968**	**23,968**	**23,968**
Lafayette Co. Lib.	Lafayette Co.	6,015	7,356		15,000	22,356	5,589	5,589	5,589	5,589
Lawrence Co. Lib.	Lawrence Co.	16,305	19,941		18,000	37,941	9,485	9,485	9,485	9,486
Lonoke Co. Lib.	Lonoke Co.	76,389	93,425		18,000	111,425	27,856	27,856	27,856	27,857
Marion Co. Lib.	Marion Co.	17,593	21,517		18,000	39,517	9,879	9,879	9,879	9,880
Newton Co. Lib.	Newton Co.	7,026	8,593		15,000	23,593	5,898	5,898	5,898	5,899
Ouachita County	Camden (city) (Ouachita Co.)	10,116	12,372							
Ouachita County	Ouachita Co. Total less Camden	11,568	14,148							
PL of Camden and Ouachita Co.		**21,684**	**26,520**		**18,000**	**44,520**	**11,130**	**11,130**	**11,130**	**11,130**
Pope Co. Lib.	Pope Co.	64,829	79,287		18,000	97,287	24,322	24,322	24,322	24,321
Prairie County Library	Prairie County	7,935	9,705		15,000	24,705	6,176	6,176	6,176	6,177
Searcy County Library	Searcy County	7,836	9,584		15,000	24,584	6,146	6,146	6,146	6,146
Sharp County Library	Sharp Co.	18,130	22,173		18,000	40,173	10,043	10,043	10,043	10,044
Union Co. Lib.	El Dorado (city)	16,657	20,372							
Union Co. Lib.	Union Co. Total less El Dorado	20,351	24,890							
Union Co. Lib. Total		**37,008**	**45,261**		**18,000**	**63,261**	**15,815**	**15,815**	**15,815**	**15,816**
Washington Co. Lib.	Washington Co. (less Fayetteville)	163,050	199,413		18,000	217,413	54,353	54,353	54,353	54,354
White Co. Reg. Lib. System	White Co.	79,091	96,730		18,000	114,730	28,682	28,682	28,682	28,684
Total Single County Libraries		**1,033,225**	**1,263,653**	**-**	**489,000**	**1,752,653**	**438,163**	**438,163**	**438,163**	**438,175**
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib.	Franklin Co.	17,586	21,508	12,000						
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib.	Johnson Co.	26,172	32,009	12,000						
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib.	Logan Co.	21,457	26,242	12,000						
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib.	Yell Co.	20,134	24,624	12,000						
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib. Total		**85,349**	**104,383**	**48,000**	**18,000**	**170,383**	**42,596**	**42,596**	**42,596**	**42,595**
Carroll & Madison Co. Lib. System	Carroll Co.	28,968	35,428	12,000						
Carroll & Madison Co. Lib. System	Madison Co.	17,865	21,849	12,000						
Carroll & Madison Co. Lib. System Total		**46,833**	**57,278**	**24,000**	**18,000**	**99,278**	**24,819**	**24,819**	**24,819**	**24,821**
Central Arkansas Lib. System	Little Rock (city) (Pulaski Co.)	204,774	250,442							
Central Arkansas Lib. System	Perry Co.	10,251	12,537	12,000						

Central Arkansas Lib. System	Pulaski Co. Total less LR & NLR	131,937	161,361	12,000						
Central Arkansas Lib. System Total		**346,962**	**424,341**	**24,000**	**18,000**	**466,341**	**116,585**	**116,585**	**116,585**	**116,586**
Crowley Ridge Reg. Lib.	Craighead Co. Total less Jonesboro	33,468	40,932	12,000						
Crowley Ridge Reg. Lib.	Jonesboro (city) (Craighead Co.)	82,384	100,757							
Crowley Ridge Reg. Lib.	Poinsett Co. Total less Trumann	14,875	18,192	12,000						
Crowley Ridge Reg. Lib. Total		**130,727**	**159,882**	**24,000**	**18,000**	**201,882**	**50,470**	**50,470**	**50,470**	**50,472**
East Central Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Cross Co.	16,194	19,806	12,000						
East Central Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Woodruff Co.	5,808	7,103	12,000						
East Central Arkansas Reg. Lib. Total		**22,002**	**26,909**	**24,000**	**18,000**	**68,909**	**17,227**	**17,227**	**17,227**	**17,228**
Faulkner-Van Buren Reg. Lib.	Faulkner Co.	131,611	160,963	12,000						
Faulkner-Van Buren Reg. Lib.	Van Buren Co.	16,152	19,754	12,000						
Faulkner-Van Buren Reg. Lib. Total		**147,763**	**180,717**	**24,000**	**18,000**	**222,717**	**55,679**	**55,679**	**55,679**	**55,680**
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Cleveland Co.	7,367	9,010	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Dallas Co.	6,076	7,431	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Grant Co.	18,546	22,682	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Hot Spring Co.	33,313	40,742	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Saline Co.	131,252	160,524	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.		**196,554**	**240,389**	**60,000**	**18,000**	**318,389**	**79,597**	**79,597**	**79,597**	**79,598**
Mississippi/Crittenden Co. Lib.	Blytheville (city) (Mississippi Co.)	12,359	15,115							
Mississippi/Crittenden Co. Lib.	Crittenden Co. Total less West Memphis	23,095	28,246	12,000						
Mississippi/Crittenden Co. Lib.	Mississippi Co. Total less Blytheville	25,736	31,476	12,000						
Mississippi/Crittenden Co. Lib. Total		**61,190**	**74,837**	**24,000**	**18,000**	**116,837**	**29,209**	**29,209**	**29,209**	**29,210**
Northeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Clay Co.	14,112	17,259	12,000						
Northeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Greene Co.	46,928	57,394	12,000						
Northeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Randolph Co.	19,040	23,286	12,000						
Northeast Arkansas Reg. Lib. Total		**80,080**	**97,939**	**36,000**	**18,000**	**151,939**	**37,985**	**37,985**	**37,985**	**37,984**
Ouachita Mountains Reg Lib	Montgomery Co.	8,510	10,408	12,000						
Ouachita Mountains Reg Lib	Polk Co.	19,434	23,768	12,000						
Ouachita Mountains Reg Lib Total		**27,944**	**34,176**	**24,000**	**18,000**	**76,176**	**19,044**	**19,044**	**19,044**	**19,044**
Phillips-Lee-Monroe Reg. Lib.	Lee Co.	8,104	9,911	12,000						
Phillips-Lee-Monroe Reg. Lib.	Monroe Co.	6,415	7,846	12,000						
Phillips-Lee-Monroe Reg. Lib.	Phillips Co.	14,661	17,931	12,000						
Phillips-Lee-Monroe Reg. Lib. Total		**29,180**	**35,688**	**36,000**	**18,000**	**89,688**	**22,422**	**22,422**	**22,422**	**22,422**
Scott-Sebastian Reg. Lib.	Scott Co.	9,837	12,031	12,000						
Scott-Sebastian Reg. Lib.	Sebastian Co. Total less Fort Smith	39,528	48,343	12,000						
Scott-Sebastian Reg. Lib. Total		**49,365**	**60,374**	**24,000**	**18,000**	**102,374**	**25,594**	**25,594**	**25,594**	**25,592**
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Bradley Co.	9,935	12,151	12,000						
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Chicot Co.	9,272	11,340	12,000						
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Desha Co.	10,321	12,623	12,000						
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Drew Co.	16,935	20,712	12,000						
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Lincoln Co.	12,868	15,738	12,000						
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib. Total		**59,331**	**72,563**	**60,000**	**18,000**	**150,563**	**37,641**	**37,641**	**37,641**	**37,640**
Southwest Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Nevada Co.	8,004	9,789	12,000						
Southwest Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Pike Co.	10,027	12,263	12,000						
Southwest Arkansas Reg. Lib. Total		**18,031**	**22,052**	**24,000**	**18,000**	**64,052**	**16,013**	**16,013**	**16,013**	**16,013**
Tri-County Reg. Lib.	Howard Co.	12,387	15,150	12,000						
Tri-County Reg. Lib.	Little River Co.	11,626	14,219	12,000						
Tri-County Reg. Lib.	Sevier Co.	15,735	19,244	12,000						
Tri-County Reg. Lib.		**39,748**	**48,613**	**36,000**	**18,000**	**102,613**	**25,653**	**25,653**	**25,653**	**25,654**
White River Reg. Lib.	Fulton Co.	12,546	15,344	12,000						
White River Reg. Lib.	Izard Co.	14,291	17,478	12,000						

White River Reg. Lib.	Stone Co.	12,785	15,636	12,000						
White River Reg. Lib. Total		**39,622**	**48,458**	**36,000**	**18,000**	**102,458**	**25,615**	**25,615**	**25,615**	**25,613**
Total Regional Libraries		**1,380,681**	**1,688,598**	**528,000**	**288,000**	**2,504,598**	**626,150**	**626,150**	**626,150**	**626,152**
Ash Flat Public Library	Ash Flat	1,172	1,433		5,000	6,433	1,608	1,608	1,608	1,609
Bella Vista Public Library	Bella Vista	33,274	40,695		12,000	52,695	13,174	13,174	13,174	13,173
Bentonville Public Library	Bentonville	61,791	75,572		12,000	87,572	21,893	21,893	21,893	21,893
Fayetteville Public Library	Fayetteville	103,134	126,135		12,000	138,135	34,534	34,534	34,534	34,533
Forrest City Public Lib.	Forrest City	12,340	15,092		18,000	33,092	8,273	8,273	8,273	8,273
Fort Smith Public Lib.	Fort Smith	90,507	110,692		12,000	122,692	30,673	30,673	30,673	30,673
Gentry Public Library	Gentry	4,672	5,714		5,000	10,714	2,678	2,678	2,678	2,680
Gravette Public Library	Gravette	3,826	4,679		5,000	9,679	2,420	2,420	2,420	2,419
Iva Jane Peek Public Library	Decatur	1,723	2,107		5,000	7,107	1,777	1,777	1,777	1,776
North Little Rock Public Lib.	North Little Rock	64,498	78,882		12,000	90,882	22,721	22,721	22,721	22,719
Pea Ridge Community Library	Pea Ridge	10,190	12,463		12,000	24,463	6,116	6,116	6,116	6,115
Rogers Public Lib.	Rogers	75,639	92,508		12,000	104,508	26,127	26,127	26,127	26,127
Siloam Springs Public Library	Siloam Springs	20,075	24,552		12,000	36,552	9,138	9,138	9,138	9,138
Trumann Public Library	Trumann	7,425	9,081		12,000	21,081	5,270	5,270	5,270	5,271
Texarkana Public Lib.	Texarkana	28,897	35,342		18,000	53,342	13,335	13,335	13,335	13,337
West Memphis Public Lib.	West Memphis	23,538	28,787		12,000	40,787	10,197	10,197	10,197	10,196
Total City Libraries		**542,701**	**663,733**	**-**	**176,000**	**839,733**	**209,933**	**209,933**	**209,933**	**209,932**
Grand Total		**2,956,607**	**3,615,985**	**528,000**	**953,000**	**5,096,985**	**1,274,246**	**1,274,246**	**1,274,246**	**1,274,259**

Fifth Payment (optional) is the distribution of the remainder of the reserves held for scholarships, multi-county regionals and Base awards. (Director discretion).

Does Not Qualify:	Total Released for FY2027 State Aid		5,246,985
Sulphur Springs	Reserved for Scholarships	(150,000)	
	Multi-County Regionals	(528,000)	
	Base Amount	(953,000)	
	Total Designated	(1,631,000)	
	Balance for Per Capita Distribution		3,615,985
Source:	3,615,985/2,956,607=		1.22301848

https://arstatedatacenter.youraedi.com/scripts/subcountyestimates.php
AR Data Center - 2024 estimates

ACTUAL:	**As of:**	**10/31/2026**
	State Aid:	1,274,243
	Scholarships:	14,850
	Amt Paid Out	1,289,093
	Adjustments	-
	Balance	3,957,892

Multi-County Regionals are based on July 1st status.
Only positive changes to the payout amounts are permitted during the year due to recipient budget expectations.

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Arkansas State Library
Scholarship Assistance Application

Instructions: Complete this form to apply for State Aid funds to underwrite a scholarship award from your library to an employee who has been admitted to the graduate program in an ALA-accredited library school. Attach to this form all appropriate documentation, such as a letter of admission from the library school, a letter of agreement from the employee who will benefit from the local scholarship award, and a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the local library board at which the application was approved.

APPLICANT

State Aid grant funds are requested to underwrite a scholarship award from this public library to an employee who has been admitted to a graduate program in an accredited library school. The applicant library agrees to award the full amount of the scholarship award to the employee. The employee has agreed to provide transcripts as evidence of credits earned each semester and to remain on the job for a period of one (1) year following grant of aid. If these conditions are not met, the applicant library agrees to refund to the State Library all grant funds paid under this award.

Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library
Applicant Library Name

1600 S Main Street
Mailing Address

Pine Bluff, AR 71601-4902
City/State/Zip Code + 4 digit extension

Kgreen@pinebluffibrary.org
Email Address

870-534-4802 — Phone Number
870-247-2613 — Fax Number

Nancy Oudin
Name of Library Board Chair (PLEASE PRINT)

Nancy Oudin — Signature of Library Board Chair or Official Designee
8/14/2026 — Date

AGREEMENT

I have applied to my employer for a scholarship grant. I am enrolled in a graduate program in an accredited library school and have completed the first twelve (12) hours credit. Supporting documents are attached. I have agreed to furnish transcripts at the end of each semester as evidence of credits earned, to remain employed in an Arkansas public library for at least one year following grant of aid and to fulfill any local requirements. If I do not fulfill these agreed conditions, I understand that I must repay to the applicant library all funds paid to me from this award.

Kimberly Green
Participant Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Kimberly E. Green — Participant's Signature
8/11/2026 — Date

RECOMMENDATION

I have reviewed this application and the supporting documents. I recommend that the State Library Board ( ) approve ( ) deny this application.

Signature of State Librarian — Date

ACTION TAKEN

In a regular meeting of the State Library Board held on _____ the Board voted to ( ) approve ( ) deny this application.

Signature of State Library Board Chairman — Date

August 11, 2026

Arkansas State Library Board
900 W. Capital Ave
Suite 100
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Board Members:

When I graduated with my Master of Arts degree in History in 2023, I never imagined myself working in a library. Now, I have worked at the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System for three years and it has been the most rewarding career imaginable. As a result, I started my Master's in Library and Information Science at the University of Southern Mississippi and I would like to express how much I enjoy this field and working to complete this degree. I have gained valuable knowledge in my education since beginning at USM and the skills I have learned about librarianship I see reflected each day in my job as a branch manager.

My career in libraries has shown me this has been my calling since I was a young reader visiting my library in Springdale, AR. Now, I have the privilege to show others the joy of a library. My love for reading, accessibility, and lifelong learning has only continued to flourish working with my patrons and showing them the possibilities of a library. I have been fortunate enough to watch young readers learn to read, gain knowledge about the power, and importance of literacy. I have seen the power of libraries in people who weren't aware of everything the library could offer them, for free.

The MLIS program has taught me how to better be an asset to my library and patrons through programming and community involvement. It has shown me the importance of community partnerships, conversations, and laughter. One of my favorite things I have done in the library is bring old recipes to life in cooking class, and interpret early 1900s recipes and compare them to modern day. My time at USM is helping me navigate budgets, book ordering, cataloging, and everything that encompasses librarianship. I have been committed to ensuring literacy and accessibility to my patrons to highlight the power of a library. Thank you for taking the time to read my scholarship application.

Thank you,

Kimberly E Green

Kimberly Green

Pine Bluff/Jefferson County
Library
System

600 South Main Street · Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Web: pinebluffilibrary.org
Phone: 870.534.4802
Fax: 870.534.8707

August 11, 2026

Arkansas State Library

Dear Members of the Scholarship Selection Committee:

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Kimberly Green, White Hall Branch Manager for the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System, for acceptance into the MLS Scholarship Assistance Program. Kimberly has successfully completed the required 12 credit hours and is fully eligible to participate in the program.

Since joining our library system in 2023 as a circulation clerk, Kimberly has been nothing short of exceptional. She consistently demonstrates professionalism, initiative, leadership, and a genuine commitment to serving our patrons and community. Her dedication and outstanding performance have distinguished her in every position she has held.

During her three years with our library system, Kimberly progressed from circulation clerk to programmer, Genealogy Manager, and ultimately White Hall Branch Manager in June 2026. Her remarkable professional growth reflects her willingness to embrace new responsibilities, expand her knowledge, and serve wherever she is most needed. In her current leadership role, she continues to demonstrate the sound judgment, dependability, and passion for public service necessary to operate a successful library branch.

I am confident that Kimberly will complete her Master of Library Science degree with high honors. She is deeply committed to the profession of librarianship and has consistently demonstrated the discipline, determination, and academic ability required to succeed in a rigorous graduate program. The knowledge and skills she gains through her studies will not only advance her professional development but also strengthen the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System and enhance the services we provide to our communities.

Kimberly is exceptionally deserving of this scholarship, and I recommend her without reservation. Thank you for considering her application and for supporting the continued education and development of dedicated library professionals.

Sincerely,

Ricky Williams
Library Director
Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System

Arkansas State Library
Scholarship Assistance Application

Instructions: Complete this form to apply for State Aid funds to underwrite a scholarship award from your library to an employee who has been admitted to the graduate program in an ALA-accredited library school. Attach to this form all appropriate documentation, such as a letter of admission from the library school, a letter of agreement from the employee who will benefit from the local scholarship award, and a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the local library board at which the application was approved.

APPLICANT

State Aid grant funds are requested to underwrite a scholarship award from this public library to an employee who has been admitted to a graduate program in an accredited library school. The applicant library agrees to award the full amount of the scholarship award to the employee. The employee has agreed to provide transcripts as evidence of credits earned each semester and to remain on the job for a period of one (1) year following grant of aid. If these conditions are not met, the applicant library agrees to refund to the State Library all grant funds paid under this award.

Saline County Library
Applicant Library Name

1800 Smithers Dr.
Mailing Address

Benton, AR 72015
City/State/Zip Code + 4 digit extension

rebeccag@salinecountylibrary.org
Email Address

(501) 778-4766 (501) 778-0536
Phone Number Fax Number

Richard McKeown
Name of Library Board Chair (PLEASE PRINT)

Signature of Library Board Chair or Official Designee 8/14/26
Date

AGREEMENT

I have applied to my employer for a scholarship grant. I am enrolled in a graduate program in an accredited library school and have completed the first twelve (12) hours credit. Supporting documents are attached. I have agreed to furnish transcripts at the end of each semester as evidence of credits earned, to remain employed in an Arkansas public library for at least one year following grant of aid and to fulfill any local requirements. If I do not fulfill these agreed conditions, I understand that I must repay to the applicant library all funds paid to me from this award.

Rebecca Griffin
Participant Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Participant's Signature 9/2/26
Date

RECOMMENDATION

I have reviewed this application and the supporting documents. I recommend that the State Library Board ( ) approve ( ) deny this application.

Signature of State Librarian Date

ACTION TAKEN

In a regular meeting of the State Library Board held on_____the Board voted to ( ) approve ( ) deny this application.

Signature of State Library Board Chairman Date

9/02/2026

Letter of Intent

Arkansas State Library

c/o Jennifer Chilcoat

jennifer.chilcoat@ade.arkansas.gov

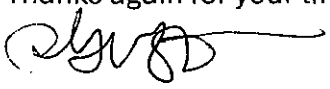
To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your consideration of my application for the Arkansas State Library Scholarship Assistance Program.

When I was hired by the Saline County Library eight years ago as a part-time Youth Service assistant, I didn't know I was setting down a path that would change my life. Over the years, as I've worked in a variety of library roles, I found a pull beyond a love of books that has kept me progressing deeper and deeper into the library world. Libraries provide people with the resources, opportunities, and support they need to learn, grow, make informed decisions, and connect with one another, regardless of their background or circumstances. Being a part of such a work makes me feel like I'm contributing good into the world. A love of serving my community and a strong belief that freedom of information and equitable access to knowledge for all are cornerstones of a thriving community have led me to work toward my MLIS.

Pursuing my Master of Science in Information at Florida State University will allow me to strengthen my knowledge and skills as a librarian and better aid the communities that depend on libraries. I want to continue growing professionally so that I can make a meaningful and lasting contribution to my library and the people it serves. This degree will not only advance my career, but will also help me become a more knowledgeable, capable, and effective advocate for access to information and the vital role libraries play in our communities.

Thanks again for your time and attention to my application. I look forward to your decision.



Rebecca Griffin

SALINECOUNTYLIBRARY
www.SalineCountyLibrary.org

Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library
1800 Smithers Drive
Benton, AR 72015
501-778-4766

Mabel Boswell Memorial Library
201 Prickett Road
Bryant, AR 72022
501-847-2166

East End Branch Library
24005 Arch St. Suite 20
Hensley, AR 72065
501-315-3153

September 8, 2026

Arkansas State Library
900 W Capitol Avenue Suite 100
Little Rock, AR 72201

I, Amanda Mesas, am pleased to express my support for Rebecca Griffin for the Arkansas State Library Scholarship Assistance Application. I have had the pleasure of working with Becca as her supervisor where she currently acts as Adult Services Manager at the Saline County Library in Benton, Arkansas.

Becca manages our entire Adult Collection, the Adult programs throughout our 3 branches and oversees 5 direct reports. She is meticulously organized, consistently goes above and beyond expectations and holds herself to a very high standard. She has created spreadsheets and delighted us with statistics and is both detail oriented and creative.

She is well spoken and has a great personable, professional style in staff meetings and in our manager meetings as well. She has inspired positive change by working closely with her staff and encouraging them to provide better customer service to patrons, encouraging them to do their best work. I have noticed a marked increase in productivity and enthusiasm within the Adult Services department.

I strongly recommend her as a worthy candidate for this scholarship. She is dedicated to both creating amazing, relatable programs for our library patrons, as well as the needs of her family. She volunteers and works after hours on many occasions in order to support staff and follow through on her duties. I am confident she would make a positive impact afforded by the ASL Scholarship.

Should you require any further information or have questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mesas
Assistant Library Director
Saline County Library

Recommendation for Scholarship Assistance

Library Name	Individual Name	Library School	# of Hours --Fall 2026	Recommend Award in the amount of
Jackson County Library	Lisa May	LSU	3	$1,350
SEARLs	Hunter Bennett	U of OK	9	$4,050
Bentonville Public Library	Sarah Hanst	LSU	6	$2,700
Boone County Library	Angelia Mueller	U of OK	6	$2,700
CALS	Leland Goston	Drexel	6	$2,700
CALS	Tameka Lee	USC	6	$2,700
CALS	Eliza Borné	LSU	6	$2,700
Eureka Springs Carnegie Public Library	Christina Danos	UFS	6	$2,700
Faulkner County Library	Mary Spears	U of Alabama	6	$2,700
Saline County Library	Rebecca Griffin	Florida SU	6	$2,700
Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library	Kimberly Green	U of South MS	16	$7,200
Total			76	**$34,200**

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Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Code of Arkansas Rules.

Proposed Rulemaking

Title

Promulgated by:

Title 13. Libraries, Archives, and Cultural Resources
Chapter I. Arkansas State Library, Department of Education
Subchapter A. Generally
Part 4. Rules Governing State Aid to Public Libraries
Subpart 1. Generally

13 CAR § 4-101. Authority.

The Arkansas State Library Board enacts these rules pursuant to its authority in Arkansas Code § 13-2-201 et seq, Arkansas Code § 25-15-203, and Act 543 of 2025 §10(v).

13 CAR § 4-102. Eligible Entities.

(a) To be eligible to receive state aid from under this part, a public library must be a:

(1) County library that is organized in accordance with Arkansas Code § 13-2 401 et seq;

(2) Municipal library that is organized in accordance with Arkansas Code § 13-2-501 et seq;

(3) Regional library that is organized and operated in accordance with Arkansas Code § 13-2-901 et seq;

DRAFT

(4) Public library system composed of county and city libraries operating under an interlocal agreement that is organized and operates in accordance with Arkansas Code §§ 14-14-910 and 25-20-101 et seq; or

(5) Public library organized as a Public Body Corporate and Politic that is organized and operated in accordance with Arkansas Code § 25-20-201 et seq.

(b) A public library not described in subsection (a) is not eligible to receive state aid under this part.

(c)(1) A library described in subdivisions (a)(1) and (a)(2) that is also a part of a library system described in subdivisions (a)(3),(a)(4), or (a)(5) of this section shall not qualify to receive state aid directly as an individual library described in subdivisions (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(2) A library system described in subdivisions (a)(3), (a)(4), and (a)(5) of this section shall ensure that not less than ninety (90%) percent of the state aid distributed pursuant to 13 CAR § 4-111(a)(3) is;

(A) Used for the direct benefit of all public libraries in the system; or

(B) Allocated on a per capita basis to the libraries that make up the system and are described in subdivisions (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

13 CAR § 4-103. Determination of Compliance.

(a) An eligible public library that complies with the requirements of this part shall receive state aid as provided in this part.

(1) Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the last State Library Board meeting of the fiscal year the Arkansas State Library shall transmit to the members of the State Library Board:

(A) A list of all public libraries located in the State of Arkansas and described in section 13 CAR § 4-102 of this part;

(B) A recommendation to the State Library Board regarding whether each public library is eligible to receive state aid; and

(C) A detailed rationale for each public library not recommended for state aid.

(2) Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the last scheduled State Library Board meeting of the fiscal year the Arkansas State Library shall transmit to all eligible libraries:

(A) Notice of whether the public library was identified as eligible to receive state aid in Subsection (a)(1)(B); and

(B) The rationale provided to the State Library Board under subsection (a)(1)(C).

(3) A public library that is not recommended for funding may provide supplemental documentation and written analysis demonstrating that the public library satisfies the requirements of this part no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.

(b) The State Library Board shall determine whether each public library is eligible to receive state aid in the upcoming fiscal year in the last board meeting of the fiscal year.

(1) If the State Library Board determines that a public library is not eligible to receive funding under this part, the State Library Board shall give written notice stating the provision of this part that was the basis for the determination.

(2) The State Library Board shall provide the public library determined not to be eligible under this section a hearing under section 13 CAR § 4-104 of this part prior to the first distribution of funds.

(c) The determination that a public library is eligible for state aid under this part shall remain in effect until:

(1) The end of the fiscal year; or

(2) The State Library Board acts on new information which demonstrates the public library is no longer in compliance with the requirements of this part.

(d) If the State Library Board determines a public library is not eligible to receive funding under subsection (c)(2) of this section and the public library requests an appeal under 13 CAR § 4-104 of this part:

(1) The public library shall receive funding it would have otherwise received in the quarter its appeal is heard if the State Library Board concludes that the public

library was in compliance with the requirements of this part at the time the public library was initially determined not to be eligible for state aid.

(2) The public library shall not receive funding it would have otherwise received in the quarter its appeal is heard but shall receive future funding if the State Library Board concludes that the initial determination the public library was not in compliance with this part was correct at the time the determination was made but that the public library made changes so that it is in compliance with this part at the time its appeal is heard.

(3) The public library shall not receive funding for the remainder of the fiscal year if the State Library Board concludes that the public library is not in compliance with the requirements of this part.

(e) The State Library Board may exercise discretion to waive a requirement of this part for a period of up to twelve (12) months to correct a deficiency if:

(1) The waiver is in the best interest of the taxpayers served by the public library; and

(2) The deficiency requiring a waiver is not related to a failure to maintain sound financial practices.

13 CAR § 4-104. Right of Appeal.

(a) Upon determination by the State Library Board that a public library is not eligible to receive state aid under this part, the public library shall have the right to appeal that determination at the earlier of:

(1) The next scheduled meeting of the State Library Board; or

(2) A special meeting called to consider the appeal.

(b) Intent to appeal must be filed in writing with the Arkansas State Library not more than fifteen (15) days following receipt of notice that the public library was determined not to qualify for state aid under this part.

(c) All appeals shall be presented to the State Library Board in an open hearing, with the final determination to be made by the State Library Board.

(1) The public library shall be given ten (10) minutes to present information that demonstrates why the public library should be deemed eligible for state aid under this part;

(2) The director of the Arkansas State Library or the director's designee shall be given ten (10) minutes to present information that demonstrates that the public library does not qualify for state aid under this part.

13 CAR § 4-105. Governance.

(a) To qualify for state aid under this part, the governance of a public library shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The public library shall be governed by a board that complies with the requirements of state law applicable to that public library unless the public library is authorized by law to operate without a governing board;

(2) If governed by a board, the board shall meet not less than four (4) times per year;

(3) The public library shall conduct business in compliance with established bylaws and policies on file with the Arkansas State Library;

(4) The governing board of the public library, or other entity authorized by law to govern a public library, shall adopt written policies addressing the following:

(A) The development of the public library's collection of materials and resources;

(B) The consideration of challenges to materials and resources;

(C) Unattended children in the public library; and

(D) Computer use, as defined by Arkansas Code § 13-2-103.

(b)(1) To qualify for state aid under this part, each board member of a public library shall attend a board orientation program provided by the Arkansas State Library within six (6) months of the beginning of his or her first term of office.

(2) Board orientation may be completed virtually or in person.

13 CAR § 4-106. Local Funding

(a) To qualify for state aid under this part, a public library shall:

(1) Maintain one mill county or city library tax on real and personal property as authorized by Amendments 30 and 38 of the Arkansas Constitution; or

(2) Provide documentation demonstrating availability of funding in an amount equal to:

(A) The public library's current operations budget for one year; or

(B) The revenue that one mill of tax levied for the benefit of the public library would have generated in the prior tax year.

(b)(1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, a public library must maintain an annual operating budget equal to or greater than ninety five percent (95%) of the average of the three previous years' annual operating budgets.

(2) The following shall not be considered in determining whether the annual operations budget satisfies the requirements of this subsection:

(A) One-time capital funding outlays;

(B) Revenue from library fees and fines; and

(C) Income from endowments.

13 CAR § 4-107. Financial Accountability Requirements.

(a) To qualify for state aid under this part, the public library shall:

(1) Provide a completed audit for each fiscal year;

(2) Provide a strategic plan covering a three year period;

(3) Provide an annual report analyzing all programs, initiative, and outcomes as they relate to the strategic plan when submitting the Annual Public Library Survey;

(4) Provide an annual budget which identifies all sources of funding to the public library;

(5) Provide quarterly spending reports;

(6) Maintain sound financial practices; and

(7) Maintain operations that benefit the citizens served by the public library and are consistent with the purpose of a public library.

(b)(1) The audit required under this section shall be conducted by:

(A) Arkansas Legislative Audit if the public library is subject to audit by Arkansas Legislative Audit; or

(B) A certified public accountant conducting an audit following generally accepted auditing standards if the public library system is not subject to a comprehensive legislative audit.

(2) The results of the audit, including any findings made during the audit, shall be submitted to the Arkansas State Library within ninety (90) days of completion.

(3)(A) A public library not subject to a comprehensive audit by Arkansas Legislative Audit shall submit the results of an audit, including any findings made during the audit, no later than April 30th.

(B) The audit submitted under subsection (b)(3) of this section shall:

(i) Be the most current audit available;

(ii) Cover a period of time not more than twenty-four (24) months prior to the date it is filed; and

(iii) Evaluate:

(*a*) All entities which comprise a public library; or

(*b*) Those entities that comprise the public library which are not subject to audit by Arkansas Legislative Audit if the Arkansas Legislative Audit results, including any findings made during the audit, are incorporated or provided separately within ninety (90) days of completion.

(c) The strategic plan required under this section shall:

(1) Be provided no later than April 30th of the year prior to the fiscal year in which the plan or any amendment to the plan takes effect;

(2) Describe the following:

(A) The intended goals of the library

(B) Financial planning necessary to achieve those goals; and

(C) Describe the role state aid and federal aid play in the strategic plan;

(3) Outline how the library will partner with and support all local schools and educational service cooperatives within the service territory of the library to prioritize literacy and improve reading achievement;

(4) Be adopted by the governing board of a public library or other entity authorized by law to govern a public library;

(5) Be based on sound financial practices; and

(6) Contemplate operations that are consistent with the purpose of a public library.

(d)(1) The draft annual budget, or current annual budget if no draft is yet available, shall be provided no later than April 30th of the year prior to the fiscal year in which the plan or any amendment to the plan takes effect;

(2) Any changes of more than ten percent (10%) in the funding level or allocation of funding in the annual budget shall be provided to the Arkansas State Library within ninety (90) days of adoption by the governing board or other entity authorized by law to govern a public library.

(e) The quarterly spending reports required under this section shall:

(1) Be submitted to the Arkansas State Library within ninety (90) days of the end of each quarter; and

(2) Provide clear records detailing the amount and purpose of all expenses organized by category involving funds provided under this part.

(f) Prior to finding that a public library does not qualify to receive state aid under subsection (a)(6) of this section, the State Library Board shall give the public library notice of the components of the strategic plan, policies, or spending practices which it finds to be a violation of this provision and allow the public library a period not less than thirty (30) days to make changes in order to remain eligible to receive state aid under this part.

13 CAR § 4-108. Personnel.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, to be eligible to receive state aid under this part, the public library's state aid shall be administered by a qualified director who meets the following requirements:

(1) Holds a bachelor's degree or graduate degree in a library science related program from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or Council on Higher Education Accreditation combined with not less than three (3) years of experience in public library administration; and

(A) The completion of not fewer than twelve (12) hours of postsecondary courses that include the following subject matter: Collection Development, Personnel Management, Library Technology, and Financial Management; or

(B) Completion of a training program approved by the Arkansas State Library that includes professional training related to the successful operation of public libraries in Arkansas; or

(2) Work experience in the field of library operations that was determined to be sufficient to substitute for the requirement under (a)(1) of this section if the work experience is determined to be sufficient by the entity with the authority to hire the director.

(b) A public library director who is employed at the time these rules are adopted shall have no more than two (2) years to:

(1) Meet the requirements of subsection (a)(1); or

(2) Obtain approval from the library's governing board that the director's work experience in the field of library operation is sufficient to substitute for the requirements of subsection (a)(1).

13 CAR § 4-109. Library Resources.

(a) In order to qualify for state aid under this part, a public library shall:

(1) Maintain a current collection of materials that provides quality resources for Arkansans based on the needs of the community;

(2) Take all reasonable steps to ensure the content of the collection complies with the requirements of Arkansas law and federal law;

(3) Take all reasonable steps to ensure a patron under the age of sixteen (16) may not check out materials that are sexually explicit materials or materials designated for adult readers by the publisher without parental consent;

(4) Not knowingly include sexually explicit materials in promotions or advertisements; and

(5) Take all reasonable steps to ensure the sexually explicit materials, as provided in subsection (b) of this section, are placed in a section designated for patrons eighteen (18) years old or older.

(b)(1) For the purposes of this part, sexually explicit materials include books, media, or any other material which contains images or description of:

(A) Sexual acts as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2246, as it existed on January 1, 2026;

(B) Sexual contact as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2246, as it existed on January 1, 2026; or

(C) Human genitalia.

(2) If a parent or guardian provides prior written authorization, a public library may provide age-appropriate information designed to prepare minors for the sociology of puberty to a minor person who is eleven (11) years of age or older.

13 CAR § 4-110. Records.

(a) In order to qualify for state aid under this part, a public library shall provide the following to the Arkansas State Library:

(1) The Annual Public Library Survey at the time designated by the Arkansas State Library;

(2) All other reports or documents requested in writing by the Arkansas State Library;

(3) Information and documentation necessary to determine that the library director satisfies the requirements of personnel described in 13 CAR § 4-108 of this part;

(4) Names and contact information of the library director and the members of the public library's governing board;

(5) A copy of the trustee's report required under Arkansas Code § 13-2-509, if applicable; and

(6) An annual assurance signed by the library director and the library board chair stating that the public library is in compliance with the requirements of this part on a form provided by the Arkansas State Library.

(b) Unless otherwise provided, documents required under this subsection shall be provided no later than April 30th prior to the fiscal year to which the document relates.

13 CAR § 4-111. Distribution of State Aid.

(a) State aid shall be distributed pursuant to the following provisions:

(1) Each qualifying public library shall receive a base allocation of aid that shall be the same amount for all qualifying public libraries under this part.

(A) The amount of the base allocation shall be set by the State Library Board.

(B) The total amount of the base allocation shall be not less than thirteen (13%) percent of the total appropriation for State Aid in the fiscal year in which the aid is distributed.

(2) The State Library Board may establish incentive programs in order to improve public libraries in Arkansas based on the policy goals of the State Library Board and consistent with the public policy of the State of Arkansas.

(A) Any incentive program established under this part shall not exceed five (5%) percent of the total appropriation for State Aid in the fiscal year in which the aid is distributed.

(B) Any incentive program shall have objective criteria that define whether a public library qualifies for the incentive program aid.

(3) The remaining funds appropriated for State Aid shall be distributed on the basis of the population within the political boundary which the public library serves to all qualifying public libraries in Arkansas according to the following provisions:

(A) When two qualifying libraries serve the same population, the population in question shall be allocated pursuant to the following:

(i) The population served by two libraries shall be counted entirely for the public library with a political boundary inside the political boundary of another qualifying public library.

(ii) The population served by two libraries shall not be counted for the public library with a political boundary extending outside the territory described in subdivision (a)(3)(A)(i) of this section.

(B) Population allocations shall be based on the most recent decennial census.

(b) State Aid shall be distributed to qualifying libraries, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, in quarterly distributions.

Placeholder for Act 372 Discussion

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STATE GENERAL REVENUE
EPA0100 BUDGET DISTRIBUTION FY2027
BY COMMITMENT ITEM
OCTOBER 15, 2026

COMMITMENT ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL APPRO.	FY Blocks	TOTAL BUDGETED	% OF TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENDED	BALANCE	% REMAINING
501:00:00	Reg. Salaries	$1,677,679	$13,411	$1,664,268	48.6%	$481,683	$1,182,585	71%
501:00:01	Extra Help	$10,000	$10,000	$0	0.0%	$0	$0	0%
501:00:03	Pers. Svcs. Matching	$631,390	$35,196	$596,194	17.4%	$164,159	$432,035	72%
	Total Salaries & Matching	$2,319,069	$58,607	$2,260,462	66.0%	$645,843	$1,614,619	71%
502:00:02	Operating Expenses	$1,125,091	$101,497	$1,023,594	29.9%	$349,134	$674,460	66%
505:00:09	Conf. & Travel	$10,000	$7,500	$2,500	0.1%	$0	$2,500	100%
512:00:11	Capital Outlay	$0	$0	$0	0.0%	$0	$0	0%
	Total M & O	$1,135,091	$108,997	$1,026,094	30.0%	$349,134	$676,960	66%
509:00:46	Books/Subscriptions	$230,000	$91,664	$138,336	4.0%	$41,344	$96,992	70%
	TOTALS	$3,684,160	$259,268	$3,424,892	100.0%	$1,036,320	$2,388,572	70%
	M&R paid to ASL account					$429	($429)	100%

FEDERAL LSTA REVENUE
FEL0100 FEL0200 BUDGET DISTRIBUTION FY2027
BY COMMITMENT ITEM
OCTOBER 15, 2026

COMMITMENT ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL APPRO.	TOTAL BUDGETED	% OF TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENDED	BALANCE	% REMAINING
501:00:00	Reg. Salaries	$459,024	$437,485	13.8%	$120,153	$317,332	73%
501:00:01	Extra Help	$22,000	$22,000	0.7%	$6,797	$15,203	69%
501:00:03	Pers. Svcs. Matching	$194,802	$173,544	5.5%	$47,033	$126,511	73%
	Total Salaries & Matching	$675,826	$633,029	19.9%	$173,983	$459,046	73%
502:00:02	Operating Expenses	$2,337,700	$2,337,700	73.6%	$197,580	$2,140,120	92%
505:00:09	Conf. & Travel	$145,000	$145,000	4.6%	$13,561	$131,439	91%
512:00:11	Capital Outlay	$60,000	$60,000	1.9%	$0	$60,000	100%
	Total M & O	$2,542,700	$2,542,700	80.1%	$211,142	$2,331,558	92%
	TOTALS	$3,218,526	$3,175,729	100.0%	$385,125	$2,790,604	88%

Fiscal Support Manager – Brooke Crawford

On-Going Projects:

Staff Information
Authorized staff: 36 (+2 Shared Services positions = 38 total staff)
Budgeted staff: 36 (Full-Time)
Current staff @ 10/15/25: 34 Full-Time, 2 Shared Services positions, 1 Extra Help, 2 Vacant Positions.

Reports
FY26 Closing Book, SEFA, FY28-29 Biennial Budget – all complete
Working on LSTA26 closeout, SPR, FSR, Interim FSR

S/4HANA & Concur
Business Office staff have been very busy learning the new system, especially Concur, which is used to process all travel and invoices of purchase orders. There are still a few things we are learning but things have settled down and payment processing has been running a lot smoother.

State Vehicle
We are very excited to announce that we received approval to replace our 2012 Dodge Caravan with a 2026 Kia Carnival with our federal funds. The order has been placed with the dealership, and we expect to have delivery soon.

IT
Purchased several laptops for staff and several micro computers for the meeting rooms and public use areas. Currently working on switching out the old with the new!

Upcoming Projects**:**

Update procedures to reflect new system operations.

State Librarian – Jennifer Chilcoat

Federal Year-End Activities

The end of the federal fiscal year, which occurs on September 30, is always a very active time. Because we budget conservatively throughout the year, we use the remainder of federal funds to cover items that have been put on hold or to bolster any of our fifteen LSTA-funded programs to improve service and responsiveness to needs. One example of many is the additional funding provided for ADLC, which you will hear about in the Acquisitions report from Sarah Lipsey. Additional workshop materials were purchased for the Continuing Education, E-Rate, and Youth Services projects. We were also able to receive the appropriate permissions to purchase a new vehicle to replace a 2012 Dodge Caravan; that purchase had been planned throughout the year, barring any emergency expenditures that might have taken precedence. A 2026 Kia Carnival is now on order and will provide reliable transportation for our staff for site visits, offsite training and workshops, and other aspects of statewide service delivery.

ADA 2.2's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

In April 2027, new accessibility requirements will take effect as part of the Americans with Disabilities Act 2.2. While we traditionally think of accessibility in terms of physical spaces and websites, these new standards affect practically every resource we create, from PDFs and Word documents to PowerPoints, Facebook posts, and digital versions of the Arkansas Gems poster. Multiple staff members are a part of the effort to ensure compliance with the new guidelines, with individual staffers agreeing to educate themselves and serve as subject matter experts for the various platforms we use in our work. Information about helpful training opportunities is forwarded to staff, with an emphasis coming out of my office to attend all trainings relevant to platforms they use in their individual roles.

LSTA Five-Year Plan Evaluation

IMLS requires both a Five-Year Plan, and a subsequent independent evaluation of that plan, as a condition of receiving LSTA funding. The library consulting firm Constructive Disruption (CD) was hired as our independent evaluator for the 2023-2027 Plan. Kristen Cooke is serving as the Project Manager for this effort, while I am serving as the Project Sponsor. CD's proposed plan includes three different engagement techniques: a library community survey, strategic interviews, and focus groups. Entering the process, Cooke and I expanded the goals of the process to include not just completion of the required report, but also a forced ranking component within the community survey that would let us set financial and programmatic priorities in the event of changes, positive or negative, to our funding. Survey respondents are also asked to rate the value of individual LSTA projects, first to their own library, then to the state as a whole. Cooke will provide a logistical update in her report.

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) Annual Meeting

I attended the Fall Meeting of COSLA in Lawrence, KS, October 17 through 21. As a COSLA board member, I had an opportunity to lead a discussion about State Libraries' Key Priorities for the coming year, assist in preparing new State Librarians for their roles as part of an onboarding session, and to lead a Table Talk session titled *Avoiding the September Surprise: Managing Money Flow Throughout the Year*. Additionally, sessions featuring updates from IMLS leadership and *Libraries Role with AI*, as well as a visit to the Kansas State Library, were helpful and enlightening.

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Relocation to 900 W. Capitol Ave.

The Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) will be relocating to the Arkansas State Library facility on a permanent basis. The timeline is not yet set, but work is underway in earnest to devise a plan

that will meet the needs of ASL and PLSB staff, and to make sure that both agencies' physical and digital files and resources are protected.

Once we have been able to finalize details, we will hold an ASL all-staff meeting to share the updated plan, discuss the anticipated timeline and operational impacts, and address staff questions together.

Administrative Rules for State Aid

In addition to other preparations, we have adjusted budget priorities early in our federal fiscal year to accommodate Library Development's funding request for a contract to provide a Strategic Planning Workshop and assist with developing a Strategic Planning Toolkit. The all-day workshop, which will take place on December 7, will equip libraries to comply with requirements in the Administrative Rules for State Aid. The workshop and toolkit development will be led by an outside presenter with expertise in coaching small and rural libraries in the creation of a Strategic Plan. This was identified as a priority, since it is not an area of deep knowledge among our staff, whereas other areas of Rules are well within our internal expertise. All members of the ASL Board are invited; please notify me if you wish to attend.

White River Regional Update

The Sharp County Library has appointed a new director. Angela Haley has been with the system since 2012 at the Evening Shade Library. She has been in frequent contact with ASL staff to be sure she is ready to comply with PLS submittal, Rules for State Aid, and Act 372.

Grant Support

With multiple IMLS discretionary grant applications approaching November submission deadlines, we have been approached about supporting at least two individual applications. We review these requests with an eye toward the importance of the proposed work to our mandate and the library community at large, while taking staff capacity into account. One proposal is for a three-year project entitled *Rural Libraries' Role as Hubs of Adult Learning*. Should the grant be awarded, our work would be limited to suggesting rural libraries and practitioners for site visits, sharing study updates with Arkansas's public libraries, and assisting with connections to other state library agencies for the national survey. We have provided a letter of support for this application.

The second application is for a planning grant, and our involvement with the awardee would be more extensive—more of a partnership than a provider of occasional support. As you are aware, the University of Arkansas is developing a new Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program, which is scheduled to launch in Fall 2027. Their proposed two-year planning project would develop, pilot, and evaluate a practice-based LIS education framework connecting graduate coursework with authentic professional experiences, community engagement, and meaningful assessment. Their goal is to create a framework that supports our new MLIS program while remaining adaptable to other LIS programs and library environments. They want to ensure that the framework reflects the professional preparation and workforce needs of libraries across Arkansas, particularly rural and small libraries where staffing, resources, and community needs can vary considerably. Kristen Cooke and Jenn Wann are especially well-positioned to aid in this work, and both are already part of the conversations we have had with the U of A. We look forward to providing the input and expertise they are seeking to make the University's MLIS program impactful to both its student and the state as a whole.

Deputy Director – Kristen Cooke

Ongoing Projects

Program Oversight

Cooke continues to provide oversight and support of Library Development, the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, Information Services, and Statewide Sharing & Engagement.

Cooke is supporting several ongoing projects:

- Selection Committee 2027 ALL In Cohort (ASL)
- If All Arkansas Read the Same Book Evaluation Committee (ASL)
- Hiring Review: Library Assistant (ASL)
- Library Statistics Working Group (National)
- State Data Coordinator Mentor (National)

Library Services and Technology Act Independent 5-Year Evaluation

The LSTA 5-Year Evaluation project is on track for completion by deadlines set by IMLS. Invitations are being sent to a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in qualitative interviews, and the user survey is currently in the field. At last monitor, 200 responses were gathered exceeding the project plan's goal of 100 responses. This year's strategy deployed the survey through staff networks within their project's field in addition to a broad call for responses. Academic libraries were specifically included in the solicitation for this survey, as were K-12 school librarians. ASL staff distributed QR codes that linked to the survey at their conference sessions and in the exhibition hall at the Arkansas Library Association Conference to increase reach. As responses continue, evaluation contractor Constructive Disruption will continue to review documentation and files associated with the administration of the LSTA-funded projects at the Arkansas State Library.

University of Mississippi Libraries' Data Education Initiative

To better align with the schedules of academic librarians in Arkansas, the data education initiative funded by IMLS has been rescheduled for the Spring Semester. Registration will be open closer to the event date. The two-day intensive workshop will provide instruction and training in Open Refine, Data Cleaning, Unix, Git, and RegEx. The program will help facilitate the development of an increased number of skilled Data Librarians in the southcentral region.

2026 Arkansas Public Library Survey

The 2026 Arkansas Public Library Survey is being amended to reflect changes and any relevant additions to the instrument. Cooke is developing plans for in-depth training sessions for first-time submitters.

Engagement

Conference Presentation: Cooke presented at the Arkansas Library Association Conference in a session titled "Using Arkansas Public Library Data to Discover Trends and Identify Opportunities." The session explored federal and state data sets resulting from the Public Library Survey as well as other public data sets from interdisciplinary fields of psychology, economics, health care, and retail. The session was well attended.

University of Arkansas MLS Exploration (U of A): Cooke continues involvement with the University of Arkansas' exploration of an MLS degreed program. Jennifer Wann, Manager of Library Development, will also be involved as the exploration progresses through the grant application phase and beyond because of her expertise within the state, outside of the state, and her experience with training and development.

Winthrop Rockefeller Institute: Cooke is providing the Institute with PLS data reflecting meeting room use and the evolving data elements on the PLS that would support their efforts to create a directory of civic spaces in Arkansas. Cooke is helping distribute a direct call to county libraries to participate in survey on their civic spaces.

Libraries as Launchpads: Economic Pathways National Advisory Group: Creative Start-ups and the NM State Library Foundation have been awarded a planning grant for the Libraries as Launchpads: Economic Pathways project. "The project will document successful library-led business support programs and services, develop practical implementation guides and toolkits, pilot resources with libraries, and design a national digital platform where library workers can discover, adapt, and share effective approaches." Cooke has been invited to serve on the National Advisory Group for this grant.

Arkansas Department of Health Chronic Diseases: Cooke continues to provide support to the ADH Chronic Disease program staff. Currently, the program is seeking to increase involvement with the Libraries with Heart Program which provides blood pressure cuffs and monitoring kits for libraries to make available to patrons. These resources allow patrons to gain access to devices to determine the correct size and brand appropriate for their needs. Cooke is providing program information to public libraries, including how to connect with the program’s resources.

Acronyms: ADE – Arkansas Department of Education; ALA – American Library Association; ArLA – Arkansas Library Association; ARSL – Association for Rural and Small Libraries; COSLA – Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; DESE – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education; FDLP - Federal Depository Library Program; GPO – Government Publishing Office; IDHI - Institute for Digital Health and Innovation (UAMS); IMLS – Institute of Museum and Library Services; LDD – Library Development District; LSWG – Library Statistics Working Group; PLA – Public Library Association; SDC – State Data Coordinator; SHLB – Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition

Librarian - Statewide Sharing and Engagement Coordinator - Taylor McKinney

On-Going Projects:

Statewide Sharing: Mockingbird

The Statewide Sharing and Engagement Coordinator held the first virtual training meeting on September 10th, covering library maintenance elements of the resource sharing software. The next training session will be held in November, due to numerous library events being held in October each year. Sessions will be in order to create an accessible knowledge base for participating libraries. The Statewide Sharing and Engagement Coordinator attended the SHAREit User Group Meeting on September 1st to learn about potential system enhancements. The vendor's "Sharing about SHAREit" trainings were paused for the summer while vendor representatives attended local library conferences.

Engagement

The Statewide Sharing and Engagement Coordinator attended the annual conference for the Association of Small and Rural Libraries in Montgomery, Alabama, where she attended sessions aimed at meeting community needs, library leadership, and outreach. The Statewide Sharing and Engagement Coordinator, along with the Information Services Manager, represented the Arkansas State Library at the Employee Benefits Fair held at the state capital on September 22nd and spoke to 98 State employees about services offered by the Arkansas State Library. She also met with the Center for the Book Coordinator to brainstorm monthly themes for the If All Arkansas Read the Same Book 2027 Reading Challenge, with input gathered from State employees at the Employee Benefits Fair.

Library Development Office – Jenn Wann
Amber Gregory, Janine Miller, Karen O'Connell, Ruth Hyatt

Library Consulting Services

The Library Development Office provides professional guidance, problem-solving, and capacity building for public libraries across Arkansas. Consulting services help local libraries make informed decisions, strengthen operations, and improve services for their communities. Consultations are provided by phone, email, and site visits. During the reporting period, topics included, but were not limited to:

Administration and Management – library board appointments and governance; bylaws; board committees; strategic planning process; Act 372 implementation questions; state aid eligibility and compliance; audit requirements; county library personnel and governance authority; procurement and construction contracting; disposal of library property; and new director support.

E-Rate, Broadband, and Digital Skills – Direct filing assistance and consultations provided to 10 library systems or independent libraries via 12 Zoom meetings during the current reporting period.

FY 2026 E-Rate AR library data as of 10/15/2026:

- Amount requested during filing window: $826,924.57
    - Funded: $660,058.35
    - Pending: $164,610.22

Friends of the Library – Friends of the Library finances; mergers of groups; and bylaws.

General Library Services – technology licensing and automation projects; legal resources for patrons; and collection development.

Youth Services – Summer reading 2027; circulating puppet kits; supporting Oral History month; and evaluating 2026 summer reading programs.

Continuing Education Services

ALL-In – The Arkansas Library Leadership (ALL-In) is a leadership development program for Arkansas library workers that combines strengths-based leadership, peer learning, and practical application over the course of a year. Built on adult learning principles, the program helps participants grow as leaders through reflection, collaboration, and real-world projects that benefit their libraries and communities. The application process is competitive, and applications are now being accepted for the fourth cohort of participants, which will begin in April 2027.

Workshops:

Financial Management for Public Library Administrators – This workshop provided participants with an overview of best practices for public financial management; revenue and expenses, key budgetary players at the local level, procurement regulations in the state of Arkansas, and record keeping. Held at the Arkansas State Library with 21 participants in attendance, 71% of participants strongly agreed and 21% agreed that applying what they learned at the workshop would improve library services at their library.

Library Directors' Summit: Meeting Facilitation – The 2026 Library Administrator Summit was held October 15, 2026, at the Garland County Library with 22 participants. The training focused on how to

design and facilitate meetings that are purposeful, engaging, and productive. Participants learned practical frameworks and facilitation techniques to improve participation, navigate group dynamics, and help teams move from discussion to effective action. In a post-workshop survey, 75% of participants strongly agreed and 25% agreed that applying what they learned at the workshop would improve library services at their library.

Summer Reading 2027 – The Coordinator of Youth Services is delivering seven (7) workshops throughout the month of October to prepare up to 140 youth services librarians for Summer Reading 2027. The 2027 theme is "Mysteries Await at Your Library." Workshops focus on theme interpretations, book lists, programming ideas, and craft activities that foster creativity, imagination, and critical thinking in children.

Training provided to public libraries by Library Development Staff:

Foundations of Librarianship x 1 -- educates paraprofessional and new library employees to the history and ethics of the profession of librarianship.

Public Library Board of Trustee Basics x 5 -- introduces Arkansas public library trustees to their governance responsibilities; open-meeting requirements; effective board practices; partnership with the library director; and community advocacy.

Weekly Webinars:

Thirteen webinars were held by PCI during the reporting period with 1,067 views of recorded, archived content in PCI by library workers in Arkansas.

Reading Programs for Public Libraries

Arkansas Center for the Book 2026 and 2027 Reading Challenges – The Center Coordinator, in collaboration with the Statewide Sharing Librarian, worked together to determine the 2027 reading challenge themes, which will launch soon. To close out 2026, readers are challenged to read a food-themed book in November and a prize winner in December.

If All Arkansas Read the Same Book – The Center has identified four authors/titles to consider for the 2027 program. Committee members commit to reading and scoring at least two titles prior to the selection meeting scheduled for December 16, 2026.

Library Book Club Lending Program – The Center is creating 2027 reading schedules for participating libraries. For this quarter, there were 1,028 readers, with October statistics still being reported to the Center; and there were 1,992 volumes shipped.

Library of Congress Center for the Book Updates – More than 80,000 people signed up for 2026 National Book Festival tickets. The Library of Congress Center for the Book will turn 50 in 2027, as it was established by Public Law 95-129 on October 13, 1977. The Library of Congress and the Center for the Book Affiliates Network are considering programming options to celebrate this, especially at the 2027 National Book Festival.

Special Projects & Partnerships

"National Book Festival Near You" Programs – Two programs took place this quarter; one with the North Little Rock Public Library System with author T.L. Simpson speaking about his book *Cope Field*,

and one with the Crawford County Library System with editors Karen Van Horn and Becky Bull speaking about *Eat Like the Hogs: A Collection of Favorite Recipes from Razorback Greats*.

Field Work

The Library Development team made thirteen field visits to public libraries in the reporting period. Visits by Library Development District were:

LDD 1 (Northwest Arkansas) x 7
LDD 2 (Northeast Arkansas) x 2
LDD 3 (Central Arkansas) x 2
LDD 4 (Southwest Arkansas) x 2
LDD 5 (Southeast Arkansas) x 0

Professional Service & Development

Amber Gregory continues her service on the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors and serves as the Chair of the Schools and Libraries Committee. Ms. Gregory has also achieved Level 1 Arkansas Government Manager (AGM) certification.

Janine Miller successfully fulfilled the requirements to become a Certified Group Facilitator through the Arkansas Public Administration Consortium. Ms. Miller's service on the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) concludes at the end of 2026.

Jennifer Wann chaired the Arkansas Library Association 2026 Annual Conference Programming Committee which is responsible for the selection process of breakout and poster sessions presented at the annual conference. Additionally, Ms. Wann presented a breakout session, *Setting Up Camp: Preparing for a Strategic Planning Process,* a poster session on ALL-In, and served on the Scholarship Committee.

Karen O'Connell continues to serve on the Core Preservation Section Leadership Team and co-chairs the Core Book & Paper Interest Group.

Ruth Hyatt presented two breakout sessions at the Arkansas Library Association 2026 Annual Conference: *Going Out with a Bang! America 250 Programing and Public Libraries* and *The Next Big Thing Could Be the Same Thing: How to Adapt Programs You Already Have Planned for a Different Age Group.*

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled – Natalie Marlin

On-Going Projects:

DA2 Software Update

The DA2 players received a software update on August 13, and staff underwent training to help support patrons with the change. Highlights of the new update include access to two third-party services that patrons often use: Bookshare and NFB-Newsline. The update also allows for better storage organization and sorting options.

NLS Web Player

The National Library Service (NLS) is adding a new way for patrons to listen to books. A web player is being developed by NLS that will allow patrons to stream BARD audio titles directly on the BARD website. The player features controls for volume, speed and book navigation and has a sleep timer. In the future, NLS plans for the titles to be synchronized across platforms to allow for more seamless listening. The web player will be launched to all BARD users on Monday, December 7, 2026.

Online Patron Enrollment Form

A new online enrollment form has been launched by NLS and is in the early stages of rollout. This online form allows for more seamless and efficient enrollment process while also importing data directly into our circulation system when a completed application needs to be input.

Circulation

From July 1 through September 30, LBPD circulated a total of 42,800 titles. Of this figure, 33,661 were by direct mail circulation of Audio titles, 30 were direct mail circulation of Braille titles, 88 were downloads from Bookshare and 9,021 were patron downloads from the Braille and Audio Reading program (BARD).

Reader Interaction Statistics

From July 1 through September 30, our Reader Advisors had a total of 8,576 patron interactions. Of those interactions, 2,467 were phone calls received, 1,548 were emails received and responded to, and 638 were voicemails received and responded to. Additionally, 26 were walk-in interactions, 704 were new patron outreach calls and 3,193 were work follow-up tasks. Work follow up includes curating a book order for a patron or searching for and providing reference information.

BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) Readership

There are 859 Library for the Blind readers registered with the NLS BARD program. Of those patrons, 515 actively download digital audio and braille books and magazines. From July 1 through September 30, the total number of downloaded BARD items was 9,021. Patrons read these items on 2,415 total registered mobile devices.

Information Services – Britni McGuire

Outreach

On September 22, Supervisor McGuire and Statewide Sharing and Engagement Coordinator Taylor McKinney attended the Annual State Employee Benefits Fair to share information about the Arkansas State Library with state employees. At the fair, we spoke with 98 state employees who stopped by our table to learn about the services that we offer to state employees and Arkansas citizens more broadly.

Staff Updates

Information Services hired a Library Specialist, Sarah Silliman, who started on Monday, October 12. Silliman now serves as the primary staff member responsible for monitoring the circulation desk, greeting patrons as they come in, directing phone calls, and will be cross trained to assist in the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.

Safety and Security Updates

On October 15, two security cameras were installed in public areas of the 1st Floor Reading Room to help Information Services staff monitor any safety concerns and Reading Room rule violations. An additional computer was added to the circulation desk to provide staff with a place to consistently stream the live video feed.

In addition, we have implemented a visitor sign-in sheet that requires patrons to check-in with a staff member when entering the Reading Room and allows staff to have an increased awareness of who is in the building at any given time.

Both procedures were implemented in an effort to increase staff safety and limit safety and security issues in these areas.

Library Manager of Collection Management – Sarah Lipsey

On-Going Projects:

Area Personnel

We've hired Madison Hough as the new Supervisor/Expert for the Digital Services unit. Madison previously served as the Asst. Director and Regional Services Coordinator for the Clinch River Regional Library in Tennessee. She has an impressive background in both outreach and technical services. Madison will begin in early December, and we look forward to welcoming her to our team.

We are currently in the process of filling the vacant cataloging position in the Digital Services unit, last vacated by Evelyn Uptigrove-Sartin upon her promotion to Librarian.

Digital Services Unit

During the personnel vacancies, the Digital Services unit continue to prioritize processing new documents and maintaining basic service levels.

Planned shifting projects involving the Federal Documents and Closed Stacks collections are being adjusted to best accommodate incoming staff from the Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB). Anticipated modifications to plans are not extensive and involve moving additional federal documents materials to the first-floor collections. This allows for the removal of shelves to create workspaces on the second floor while still preserving space for Closed Stacks, general materials processing, and repair.

ASL Website & Accessibility

We've selected an accessibility plug-in for our website. I continue to work with Tyler Arkansas to remediate a few outstanding portions of our website in anticipation of the rule from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that requires state government web content to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) by April 2027.

A second, final audit of our website to identify any outstanding issues is planned next quarter prior to the compliance deadline. Style and content creation guides for the website will be reviewed at that time.

Regarding accessibility compliance more generally, Acquisitions Supervisor/Expert Katie Walton and I are learning the respective skillsets for conducting accessible presentations and creating accessible documents. Upon proficiency, we plan to make ourselves available as first-wave cross trainers for our staff. This will create a consistent process to ensure ongoing compliance and staff awareness.

SirsiDynix System Upgrades

The Symphony ILS, Enterprise OPAC and related services have recently been upgraded to the latest versions.

Acquisitions – Katie Walton

On-Going Projects:

Acquisitions

Acquisitions staff worked with the Business Office to amend processes and internal documents after the S/4HANA migration. These tasks included updating the datasheet submitted with invoices, as well as updating account numbers, GL codes, and vendor numbers within SirsiDynix's Acquisitions module.

OPM announced a new goal setting and performance evaluation system. This provided an excellent opportunity to reassess departmental goals and priorities, ensuring they align with current organizational objectives while identifying areas for individual improvement and future growth.

Arkansas Digital Library Consortium

So far in 2026, we have had 1,509,258 checkouts from 57,205 unique users. There are 118,191 titles in the shared collection: 80,219 eBooks, 30,995 audiobooks, and 6,977 electronic magazines.

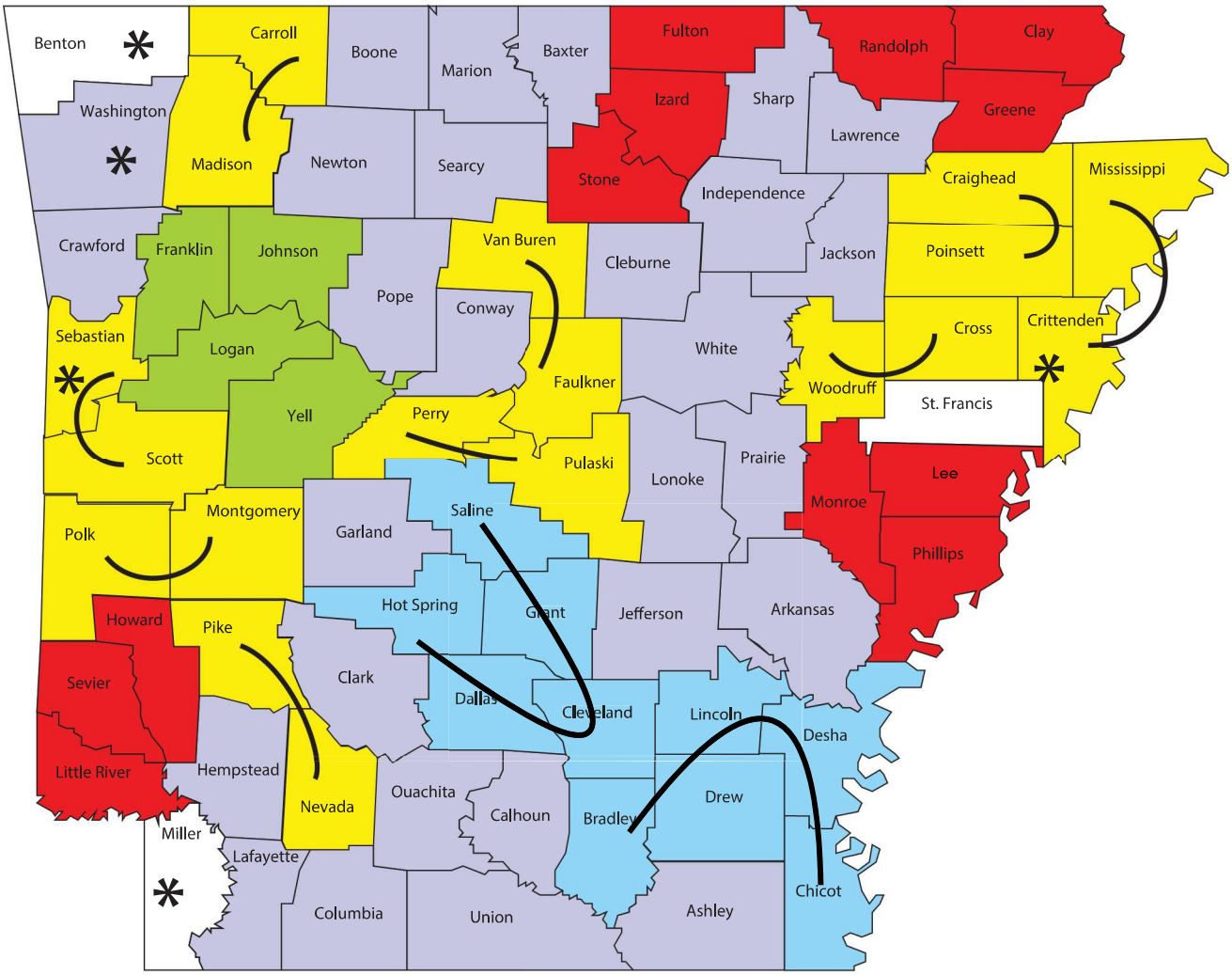
It has been a successful quarter for ADLC. Member libraries raised the full $30,000 for the magazine collection. The State Library was able to contribute $19,552 in federal funds at federal closeout, which allowed us to purchase a simultaneous use Blackstone Audio package, place orders to alleviate long wait lists, and eventually increase the Selection Committee's monthly budget.

During this quarter, I worked on a draft question for the AG's office regarding whether Act 372 applies to digital collections. The answer to this question will inform whether we need to re-evaluate any internal procedures within ADLC. BPD is also seeking guidance to stay in compliance with Act 372, so we plan to submit our questions together.

Arkansas Traveler Statewide Resources

I attended the Arkansas Library Association's annual conference in Hot Springs October 16-19. During the conference, I gave a presentation on the Traveler databases during one of the breakout sessions. Afterwards, one participant exclaimed, "I feel less anxious about the Traveler databases now." I also met with our ProQuest account representative, Michelle Hayes, to discuss future price increases. She couldn't provide exact quotes for our renewal rate, but the conversation was fruitful, and she hopes to provide us with the information we need by the end of the year. We have received price quotes from all the other Traveler vendors and are eager to receive the renewal rates from ProQuest. Having set numbers will allow the Traveler Advisory Committee to make a long range plan through July 2030.

Arkansas Public Library Systems



29 One-County System

1 Four-County System

9 Two-County System

2 Five-County System

4 Three-County System

3 No Countywide Library Tax

7 -* Independent City Library

Arkansas State Library LSTA Administration
February 5, 2026

Arkansas district map.ai

ARKANSAS STATE LIBRARY
RULES GOVERNING DISTRIBUTION OF
SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE
Effective May 29, 2023

1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1.01 These rules shall be known as Arkansas State Library Rules Governing the Distribution of Scholarship Assistance.

1.02 These rules are enacted pursuant to the Arkansas State Library's authority under Act 489, Acts of Arkansas 1979, Arkansas Code Anno. 13-2-201 et seq.

2.0 PURPOSE

2.01 It is the purpose of these rules to formalize a process already in existence and set reasonable guidelines to make scholarship assistance available to every public library in the state of Arkansas to address the education needs of public library staff working toward the ultimate goal of obtaining a master's degree in library and information science as defined in 3.03. These rules are specifically for the purpose of establishing standards for distributing funds available through the state aid to public library fund administered by the Arkansas State Library.

3.00 DEFINITIONS

3.01 ASL refers to the Arkansas State Library.

3.02 ALA refers to the American Library Association.

3.03 A master's degree refers to the educational award given by a library school whose program is accredited by the ALA.

3.04 State Aid refers to State Aid to Public Libraries

4.0 FOCUS AREA

4.01 To aid Arkansas public libraries in employing master's degree librarians by providing educational opportunities for public library staff members through traditional, on-campus or distance learning.

5.0 ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

5.01 Scholarship funds will be distributed to a public library that submits scholarship application to the ASL Board. Priority will be given as follows:

1. Public libraries eligible for State Aid whose personnel are employed as library directors.
2. Public libraries eligible for State Aid whose personnel are employed positions other than library director.
3. Public libraries not eligible for State Aid but recognized by the ASL as public libraries.

5.02 The applying institution (or its governing body) must be able to accept and administer the scholarship on behalf of the employee. Applying institutions may neither add to nor subtract from the scholarship eligibility requirements imposed on the employee.

5.03 Individuals upon whose behalf the library is applying must meet the following standards:

1. Unless employed as a library director and granted a waiver from the ASL Board, show evidence of completion of 12 semester hours toward the master's degree as evidenced by submitting an official transcript.
2. Provide a copy of the agreement with the public library concerning employment in a public library for at least one year after completion of the master's degree.
3. After each semester, ~~f~~urnish proof of completion of coursework which shows the individual received a minimum course grade (based upon an "A-F" grading scale), of "B", or if applicable, a "Credit" for a credit/no credit course. "Incompletes" do not qualify for reimbursement.
4. Show evidence of conferral of degree by submitting an official transcript which indicates the date of conferral.
5. Agree to remain employed by a public library in the state of Arkansas for a duration of one year upon completion of degree.
6. Complete all required coursework and obtain the master's degree within three (3) years of acceptance to the scholarship program. This requirement may be waived by written appeal to, and approval by, the ASL Board.

6.0 ADMINISTRATION

6.01 The scholarship will be administered by the ASL Board.

7.0 SCHOLARSHIP PROPOSALS

7.01 The proposals shall include an application from the applicant library. The ASL Board shall review the proposals for approval. Proposals shall be consistent with Arkansas Code and existing ASL rules regarding an ALA accredited library program.

7.02 Funding may include but is not limited to tuition, materials, travel, lodging, and other items associated with educational costs.

7.03. Funding shall not be provided for hours in excess of the required number for the degree, nor for required courses not completed within the set number of hours required for the degree.

8.0 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

8.01 The ASL Board will budget and distribute funds appropriated for each biennium from the Arkansas State Legislature according to the following:

1. The total amount of funds to be distributed will be determined by the ASL Board each year at a minimum of 1% of the appropriated State Aid to Public Libraries.
2. Funds may provide as many scholarships as are requested each year. All monies not disbursed shall be returned to the State Aid fund for distribution.
3. Funds may be disbursed to the applicant library at the completion of each semester.
4. Funds will be distributed via scholarship for each individual as identified by the ASL Board in accordance with eligibility. Each scholarship will include a set of assurances and provisions required in the eligibility standards.

8.02 The ASL Board reserves the right to approve or deny any scholarship applications.

Arkansas State Library Board

Jack Fortner
Term: 9/2/2028
Congressional District: 1

Sydney McKenzie
Term: 9/2/2028
Congressional District: 3

Annette Bailey
Term: 9/2/2030
Congressional District: 1

Emmaline Pilkington
Term: 9/2/2030
Congressional District: 4

Clay Goff
Term: 9/2/2026
Congressional District: 2

Lynlee McMillan
Term: 9/2/2032
Congressional District: 2

Rev October 27, 2026

ARKANSAS STATE LIBRARY BOARD

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the ARKANSAS STATE LIBRARY BOARD as created by Act 489, Acts of Arkansas, 1979.

Section 2. The organization shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Board."

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

Section 1. The Board shall name the State Librarian.

Section 2. The Board shall act as the policy-making and responsible body for the Arkansas State Library and its functions as defined by Act 489 of 1979.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Board shall be composed of seven members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Arkansas Senate, for their interest in libraries and statewide library development.

Section 2. Appointments made from congressional districts and at-large shall be made in accordance with Ark. Code Ann §13-2-205 (3) or other controlling statutes. **

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers of the Board shall consist of a Chairman and Vice Chairman. The State Librarian shall serve as executive secretary.

Section 2. Nomination and election of officers, with the exception of executive secretary, shall take place at the annual meeting.

Section 2a. Officers shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee of members named by the Chairman. Opportunity shall be given for additional nominations to be made from the floor.

Section 2b. Consent of all nominees shall be procured prior to nomination.

Section 2c. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. No officer shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 2d. Election of officers shall be by written ballot, show of hands, voice vote, or acclamation and counted by the executive secretary. **

Section 3. Duties of the officers shall be defined by members as need arises.

Section 3a. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and perform the duties generally assigned to this office.

Section 3b. The Vice Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman, shall preside over meetings and perform other duties as assigned.

Section 3c. The State Librarian, serving as executive secretary, shall keep the minutes of the Board meetings, attend all committee meetings, and perform duties generally assigned to this office. The executive secretary shall serve without vote in meetings of the Board or committees.

Section 4. Absences of officers or vacancies of office shall be filled by members as need arises.

Section 4a. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall preside over the meeting and perform other duties as assigned.

Section 4b. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, when a quorum is present, the members shall elect a temporary chairman to preside at the meeting and perform other duties as assigned.

Section 4c. When the office of Chairman is vacated during the year, the Vice Chairman shall serve as Chairman for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 4d. When the office of Vice Chairman is vacated during the year, the Nominating Committee shall nominate a replacement who shall be duly elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Chairman shall name members of the following STANDING COMMITTEES at the annual meeting.

Section 1a. The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall consist of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the executive secretary. This committee shall prepare the agenda for all meetings, call special meetings when deemed necessary, and perform interim duties as assigned by the Board.

Section 1b. The NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall be composed of two members appointed by the Chairman by September 1 each year. (The Chairman shall be excluded from membership.) The Committee shall prepare a slate of officers who have consented to serve if elected. **

***Section 1c.** the POLICIES AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE shall be composed of the Vice Chairman and two members named by the Chairman. This Committee shall review all policies and bylaws each year and recommend changes or additions where needed.

Section 1d. The GOVERNMENTAL LIASON COMMITTEE shall be composed of the Chairman and two members named by the Chairman. The duty of this Committee shall be to work with the State Librarian on all matters concerning local, state, and federal legislation and funding.

Section 1e. The PERSONNEL COMMITTEE shall be composed of two members named by the Chairman to serve with the Chairman to solicit and review applications and make recommendations to the Board for consideration for the position of State Librarian when a vacancy exists and to serve with the State Librarian to solicit and review applications and make

recommendations to the Board for consideration for the managerial positions of associate or deputy directors when a vacancy exists.

Section 2. The Chairman shall name such AD HOC COMMITTEES as needed to carry out the functions of the Board.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Arkansas State Library Board shall be held on the second Friday of February, May, August, and November.

Section 2. The annual meeting of the Board for organizational purposes shall be held at the time of the regular meeting in November.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Executive Committee. Upon written request from three members of the Board, the Executive Committee shall be required to call a special meeting. The notices of such special meetings shall state the specific business to be transacted and no business shall be transacted except that stated in the call.

Section 4. Notices of all regular meetings and special meetings, when possible, shall be mailed by the State Librarian at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 5. The order of business for regular meetings shall be:

1. Call to order
2. Reading of the minutes
3. Unfinished business
4. New business
5. Reports
6. Adjournment

Section 6. In order to be considered as new business that the Board will take action on, an item must be listed on the proposed agenda and any corresponding document must be provided to the membership of the Board. Any member may cause an item to be added to the new business portion of the proposed agenda by notifying the State Librarian and providing any corresponding documents to the

State Librarian no less than ten (10) business days prior to the meeting in which the items are to be considered. A Board member may satisfy this requirement by proposing at a meeting that an item be added to the next meeting's agenda. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the discussion of topics raised by a Board member or addressing questions raised by a Board member.

ARTICLE VII

QUORUM, VOTE

Section 1. A majority (four) of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Chairman shall count as a member for quorum.

Section 2. All business transacted by the Board shall be by majority vote of its members. The Chairman shall vote to confirm unanimity, in case of tie vote or when needed for quorum.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the members at any regular meeting of the Board provided the amendment was stated in the call for the meeting or had been presented in writing at the previous regular meeting.

ARTICLE IX

POLICIES, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS

Section 1. The Board shall establish by majority vote such policies as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the state library agency and to promote statewide library development.

Section 2. Proposed policies or policy changes must be submitted in writing to the members and discussed at a meeting prior to the regular meeting when the vote on the question is to be recorded.

Section 3. The Arkansas State Library through majority vote of the Board shall enter into such contracts and agreements with other libraries, institutions, and agencies as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of Act 489 of 1979.

ARTICLE X

STATE LIBRARIAN

The State Librarian shall be responsible to the Arkansas State Library Board for the proper management of the Arkansas State Library, for the administration of the policies to carry out the functions of the agency, for the preservation and care of its properties, and for the efficiency of its services.

ARTICLE XI

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

AND AUTHORITY

Section 1. Except when in conflict with the provisions of Act 489 of 1979 or these Bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the proceedings of this Board.

Section 2. Act 489 of 1979, is the authority for these bylaws.

> "**Section 1**. … The State Librarian shall serve as executive secretary of the State Library Board, but without vote thereon, and shall attend all of the Board meetings and keep records thereof. The State Librarian shall have charge of the work of the State Library, and shall perform such other duties as the State Library Board may prescribe…"
>
> "**Section 2. (a)** There is hereby created the State Library Board, hereinafter referred to as the "Board", to consist of seven (7.) members to be appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Arkansas Senate …
>
> **(b)** The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor for reason of their interest in libraries and statewide library development."
>
> "**Section 3**. … The Board shall meet at such place or places and shall keep such records as it may deem to be appropriate. The Board shall select

annually a Chairman and such other officers as it deems necessary and shall adopt policies and bylaws governing its meetings, the conduct of its business, and the business of the State Library. A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and all business transacted by the Board shall be by majority vote of its members."

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Arkansas State Library -- Staff Directory

10/15/2026

First Name	Last Name	Title	Phone/Fax	Email
Office of the State Librarian			**501-682-1526 / 501-682-1533 FAX**	
JENNIFER	CHILCOAT	STATE LIBRARIAN		jennifer.chilcoat@ade.arkansas.gov
JAYNIE	BROWNE	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR		jaynie.browne@ade.arkansas.gov
Deputy Director/Statewide Sharing & Engagement/Virtual Union Catalog			**501-682-2863 / 501-682-1531 FAX**	
KRISTEN	COOKE	LIBRARY MANAGER		kristen.cooke@ade.arkansas.gov
TAYLOR	MCKINNEY	LIBRARIAN - MOCKINGBIRD		taylor.mckinney@ade.arkansas.gov
Library for the Blind & Print Disabled			**501-682-1155 / 501-682-1529 FAX**	
NATALIE	MARLIN	LIBRARY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT - BPD	**1-866-660-0885 Toll Free**	natalie.marlin@ade.arkansas.gov
JEFFERY	KERSEY	LIBRARIAN		jeff.kersey@ade.arkansas.gov
KELLY	SMITH	LIBRARIAN		kelly.smith@ade.arkansas.gov
THOMAS	SEPE	LIBRARY SPECIALIST		thomas.sepe@ade.arkansas.gov
ANNA	ELLIOTT	LIBRARY SPECIALIST		anna.elliott@ade.arkansas.gov
RACHEL	MCBROOM	LIBRARY SPECIALIST		rachel.mcbroom@ade.arkansas.gov
Library Development			**501-682-1693 FAX**	
JENNIFER	WANN	LIBRARY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT - LIB DEV	**501-682-5288**	jenn.wann@ade.arkansas.gov
RUTH	HYATT	LIBRARIAN - YOUTH SERVICES	**501-682-2860**	ruth.hyatt@ade.arkansas.gov
KAREN	O'CONNELL	LIBRARIAN - CENTER FOR THE BOOK	**501-682-2874**	karen.oconnell@ade.arkansas.gov
AMBER	GREGORY	LIBRARIAN - E-RATE	**501-682-8576**	amber.gregory@ade.arkansas.gov
JANINE	MILLER	LIBRARAIN - CONT ED	**501-682-5291**	janine.miller@ade.arkansas.gov
JULIE	FRANCE-ROWLAND	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	**501-682-2159**	julie.france-rowland@ade.arkansas.gov
Information Services			**501-682-2053 / 501-682-1531 FAX**	
BRITNI	MCGUIRE	LIBRARY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT - INFO SVCS		britni.mcguire@ade.arkansas.gov
AVA	CONWAY	LIBRARY SPECIALIST		ava.conway@ade.arkansas.gov
SARAH	SILLIMAN	LIBRARY SPECIALIST		sarah.silliman@ade.arkansas.gov
ELEANOR	BEARD	LIBRARIAN		eleanor.beard@ade.arkansas.gov
SHELBEA	GENTRY	LIBRARIAN		shelbea.gentry@ade.arkansas.gov
Collection Management			**501-682-1899 FAX**	

Arkansas State Library -- Staff Directory

10/15/2026

First Name	Last Name	Title	Phone/Fax	Email
SARAH	LIPSEY	LIBRARY MANAGER - COLL MGMT	**501-682-2862**	sarah.lipsey@ade.arkansas.gov
		LIBRARY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT - DIG SVCS	**VACANT/ 501-682-2550**	
KATIE	WALTON	LIBRARY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT - ACQUISITIONS	**501-682-2266**	katie.walton@ade.arkansas.gov
EMM	COATS	LIBRARY SPECIALIST		emm.coats@ade.arkansas.gov
WENDY	ETCHISON	LIBRARIAN - FEDERAL DOCS		wendy.etchison@ade.arkansas.gov
REBA	DRIVER	LIBRARY SPECIALIST		reba.driver@ade.arkansas.gov
EVELYN	UPTIGROVE-SARTIN	LIBRARY SPECIALIST		evelyn.uptigrove-sartin@ade.arkansas.gov
LANETTE	MEYER	LIBRARIAN - STATE DOCS		lanette.meyer@ade.arkansas.gov
TOSHONA	CARTER	LIBRARIAN - ACQUISITIONS		toshona.carter@ade.arkansas.gov
CHERIE	MADARASH-HILL	LIBRARIAN - CATALOGING		cherie.madarash-hill@ade.arkansas.gov
FLANNERY	HIRREL	LIBRARY SPECIALIST		flannery.hirrel@ade.arkansas.gov
		LIBRARIAN - DIG SVCS	**VACANT**	
Administration			**501-682-1527/ 501-682-1533 FAX**	
BROOKE	CRAWFORD	FISCAL SUPPORT MANAGER		brooke.crawford@ade.arkansas.gov
ERIN	SEBREE	PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST		erin.sebree@ade.arkansas.gov
TRISH	LUCKADUE	FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT		trish.luckadue@ade.arkansas.gov
DAWANNA	WALLS	FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST		dawanna.walls@ade.arkansas.gov
KEN	GIESBRECHT	IT COORDINATOR		ken.giesbrecht@ade.arkansas.gov

2026

JANUARY

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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STATE LIBRIARY BOARD MEETINGS , AS SCHEDULED

STATE OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

JAN 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY (OBSERVED); JAN 19- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY (OBSERVED); FEB 16 - GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY AND DAISY GATSON BATES DAY (OBSERVED); MAY 25 - MEMORIAL DAY (OBSERVED); JULY 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY; SEPT 7 - LABOR DAY; NOV 11- VETERANS DAY (OBSERVED); NOV 26 - THANKSGIVING DAY; DEC 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE (OBSERVED); DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY (OBSERVED)