

AGENDA
ARKANSAS STATE LIBRARY BOARD

May 8, 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 - February 13, 2026
 - 2. State Aid
 - a. State Aid to Public Libraries: Distribution Approval
 - b. Draft Administrative Rules: State Aid to Public Libraries
 - 3. Scholarships
 - a. New Scholarship Applications
 - b. Recommendations for Scholarship Assistance
- III. Reports
 - 1. Administration and Agency Funding Report, SFY2026/FFY2025
 - 2. Director and Staff Reports
- IV. Public Comments

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The Arkansas State Library Board convened on February 13, 2026, in the Bessie Moore Conference Room at the Arkansas State Library. Board members present were Clay Goff, Jack Fortner, and Lynlee McMillan, with Annette Bailey, Emmaline Pilkington, and Sydney McKenzie attending via Zoom. Staff members present were State Librarian Jennifer Chilcoat, Deputy Director Kristen Cooke, and Brooke Crawford. Also present were Department of Education Deputy Chief of Staff Zach Jacobs and Tawnie Hughes from the Attorney General's Office.

Goff called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The first item of business was the approval of the minutes from November 14, 2025. A motion for approval was made by Fortner, seconded by McMillan. The motion passed.

Chilcoat reported the decision of both Sharp County and Cleburne County to withdraw from the White River Regional Library System. Both counties have made notice and met all requirements to withdraw. The Sharp County Library and the Cleburne County Library are now officially independent county libraries. Chilcoat addressed the effect of the counties' withdrawal on the State Aid Spreadsheet. Wann explained that the White River Regional Library System had not undergone an audit for a number of years prior to the retirement of its long-serving director. After the director's retirement, the system asked Arkansas Legislative Audit to conduct an audit of their finances, but the request was denied because Legislative Audit does not audit entities of that type. Because the system had used paper ledgers, they have had difficulty engaging an independent auditor to get the system's finances on course. White River Regional continues to work on updating their bylaws and making sure that they are complying with applicable laws, as well as putting more checks and balances in place to ensure accountability going forward.

The Board discussed the need to put standards in place for state aid disbursements to public libraries. No motion was made to approve the Third Quarter FY2026 State Aid Payment.

A scholarship application from Tameka Lee of the Central Arkansas Library System was presented. A motion was made by Fortner, seconded by McMillan to approve the scholarship application.

The Recommendation for Scholarship Assistance was presented by Chilcoat, requesting reimbursement for nine recipients' coursework. A total of 54 hours were completed for a total cost of \$24,300. Fortner made a motion to approve the list. Bailey seconded. The motion passed.

The Expense Reimbursement and Travel Policy was presented to the board for approval. A motion was made by Pilkington to approve the policy. McKenzie seconded. The motion passed.

Brooke Crawford, Administrative Services Manager, presented the State General Revenue and the Federal LSTA Revenue spreadsheets, in addition to the Fiscal Services Manager report. Crawford reported that the agency's Marketing and Redistribution pickup was conducted on December 15.

Staff reports were presented. Chilcoat gave an update on the State Program Report that was submitted on January 8, ahead of the January 28 deadline. The LSTA Coordinator position, vacated with the retirement of Debbie Hall, has been filled, and the employee will start on February 17. Chilcoat shared a letter of thanks from the Bentonville Public Library to the Arkansas State Library Board.

From the Deputy Director's Office, Cooke reported attending the 2026 meeting of State Data Coordinators held by IMLS. She continues her term as an elected SDC Mentor. The 2025 Public Library Survey will open mid-February. The Boone County Library has been onboarded to the Mockingbird Lending Network. Wann covered the reports for Library Development, updating the board on consulting services, summer reading workshops held, training sessions for public library staff, weekly webinars, reading programs for public libraries, and consulting for the federal E-Rate program. Marlin gave her report for the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, including the rollout of the DA2 Player to patrons, outreach events, and circulation. McGuire presented the work of information services.

From the Collection Management Office, Lipsey gave her report for the Collection Management Division. The Federal Documents shifting project is nearing completion. Razer gave an update on the work of Digital Services. Lanette Meyer is reviewing agency liaison contacts for all state agencies participating in the depository program, in addition to offering training as needed. Walton reported on additions to the NewsBank database collection for State Employees, the Arkansas Digital Library Consortium, and the Arkansas Traveler Statewide Resources.

Chilcoat covered the remainder of the items in the board packet, which did not include any action items. Fortner made a motion to adjourn, and McMillan seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Approval Date

Jennifer Chilcoat, State Librarian

FY2026 State Aid

Headquarters Lib.	Tax Unit	2024 Est Population	Per Capita @ 1.35874453	Multi-co. region	Base Amount	Total FY2026	First Qtr. Payment	Second Qtr. Payment	Third Qtr. Payment	Fourth Qtr. Payment
Arkansas Co. Lib.	Arkansas Co.	16,050	21,808		18,000	39,808	9,952	9,952	9,952	9,952
Ashley Co. Lib.	Ashley Co. less Crossett	13,478	18,313							
Ashley Co. Lib.	Crossett (city) (Ashley Co.)	4,506	6,123							
Ashley Co. Lib. Total		17,984	24,436		18,000	42,436	10,609	10,609	10,609	10,609
Baxter Co. Lib.	Baxter Co.	43,007	58,436		18,000	76,436	19,109	19,109	19,109	19,109
Boone Co. Lib.	Boone Co.	38,636	52,496		18,000	70,496	17,624	17,624	17,624	17,624
Calhoun County Library	Calhoun Co.	4,690	6,373		15,000	21,373	5,343	5,343	5,343	5,344
Clark Co. Lib.	Clark Co.	20,920	28,425		18,000	46,425	11,606	11,606	11,606	11,607
Columbia Co. Lib.	Columbia Co.	22,024	29,925		18,000	47,925	11,981	11,981	11,981	11,982
Conway Co. Lib.	Conway Co.	21,422	29,107		18,000	47,107	11,777	11,777	11,777	11,776
Crawford Co. Lib. System	Crawford Co.	62,258	84,593		18,000	102,593	25,648	25,648	25,648	25,649
Garland Co. Lib.	Garland Co.	99,902	135,741		18,000	153,741	38,435	38,435	38,435	38,436
Hempstead Co. Lib.	Hempstead Co.	19,105	25,959		18,000	43,959	10,990	10,990	10,990	10,989
Independence Co. Lib	Independence Co.	38,345	52,101		18,000	70,101	17,525	17,525	17,525	17,526
Jackson Co. Lib.	Jackson Co.	16,673	22,654		18,000	40,654	10,164	10,164	10,164	10,162
Jefferson Co. Lib.	Jefferson Co. Total less Pine Bluff	24,887	33,815							
Jefferson Co. Lib.	Pine Bluff (city) (Jefferson Co.)	38,785	52,699							
Jefferson Co. Lib. Total		63,672	86,514		18,000	104,514	26,128	26,128	26,128	26,130
Lafayette Co. Lib.	Lafayette Co.	6,015	8,173		15,000	23,173	5,793	5,793	5,793	5,794
Lawrence Co. Lib.	Lawrence Co.	16,305	22,154		18,000	40,154	10,039	10,039	10,039	10,037
Lonoke Co. Lib.	Lonoke Co.	76,389	103,793		18,000	121,793	30,448	30,448	30,448	30,449
Marion Co. Lib.	Marion Co.	17,593	23,904		18,000	41,904	10,476	10,476	10,476	10,476
Newton Co. Lib.	Newton Co.	7,026	9,547		15,000	24,547	6,137	6,137	6,137	6,136
Ouachita County	Camden (city) (Ouachita Co.)	10,116	13,745							
Ouachita County	Ouachita Co. Total less Camden	11,568	15,718							
PL of Camden and Ouachita Co.		21,684	29,463		18,000	47,463	11,866	11,866	11,866	11,865
Pope Co. Lib.	Pope Co.	64,829	88,086		18,000	106,086	26,522	26,522	26,522	26,520
Prairie County Library	Prairie County	7,935	10,782		15,000	25,782	6,445	6,445	6,445	6,447
Searcy County Library	Searcy County	7,836	10,647		15,000	25,647	6,412	6,412	6,412	6,411
Union Co. Lib.	El Dorado (city)	16,657	22,633							
Union Co. Lib.	Union Co. Total less El Dorado	20,351	27,652							
Union Co. Lib. Total		37,008	50,284		18,000	68,284	17,071	17,071	17,071	17,071
Washington Co. Lib.	Washington Co. (less Fayetteville)	163,050	221,543		18,000	239,543	59,886	59,886	59,886	59,885
White Co. Reg. Lib. System	White Co.	79,091	107,464		18,000	125,464	31,366	31,366	31,366	31,366
Total Single County Libraries		989,449	1,344,408	-	453,000	1,797,408	449,352	449,352	449,352	449,352
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib.	Franklin Co.	17,586	23,895	12,000						
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib.	Johnson Co.	26,172	35,561	12,000						
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib.	Logan Co.	21,457	29,155	12,000						
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib.	Yell Co.	20,134	27,357	12,000						
Arkansas River Valley Reg. Lib. Total		85,349	115,967	48,000	18,000	181,967	45,492	45,492	45,492	45,491
Carroll & Madison Co. Lib. System	Carroll Co.	28,968	39,360	12,000						

FY2026 State Aid

Headquarters Lib.	Tax Unit	2024 Est Population	Per Capita @ 1.35874453	Multi-co. region	Base Amount	Total FY2026	First Qtr. Payment	Second Qtr. Payment	Third Qtr. Payment	Fourth Qtr. Payment
Carroll & Madison Co. Lib. System	Madison Co.	17,865	24,274	12,000						
Carroll & Madison Co. Lib. System Total		46,833	63,634	24,000	18,000	105,634	26,409	26,409	26,409	26,409
Central Arkansas Lib. System	Little Rock (city) (Pulaski Co.)	204,774	278,236							
Central Arkansas Lib. System	Perry Co.	10,251	13,928	12,000						
Central Arkansas Lib. System	Pulaski Co. Total less LR & NLR	131,937	179,269	12,000						
Central Arkansas Lib. System Total		346,962	471,433	24,000	18,000	513,433	128,358	128,358	128,358	128,358
Crowley Ridge Reg. Lib.	Craighead Co. Total less Jonesboro	33,468	45,474	12,000						
Crowley Ridge Reg. Lib.	Jonesboro (city) (Craighead Co.)	82,384	111,939							
Crowley Ridge Reg. Lib.	Poinsett Co. Total less Trumann	14,875	20,211	12,000						
Crowley Ridge Reg. Lib. Total		130,727	177,625	24,000	18,000	219,625	54,906	54,906	54,906	54,906
East Central Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Cross Co.	16,194	22,004	12,000						
East Central Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Woodruff Co.	5,808	7,892	12,000						
East Central Arkansas Reg. Lib. Total		22,002	29,895	24,000	18,000	71,895	17,974	17,974	17,974	17,974
Faulkner-Van Buren Reg. Lib.	Faulkner Co.	131,611	178,826	12,000						
Faulkner-Van Buren Reg. Lib.	Van Buren Co.	16,152	21,946	12,000						
Faulkner-Van Buren Reg. Lib. Total		147,763	200,772	24,000	18,000	242,772	60,693	60,693	60,693	60,693
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Cleveland Co.	7,367	10,010	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Dallas Co.	6,076	8,256	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Grant Co.	18,546	25,199	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Hot Spring Co.	33,313	45,264	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.	Saline Co.	131,252	178,338	12,000						
Mid-Ark Regional Library Sys.		196,554	267,067	60,000	18,000	345,067	86,267	86,267	86,267	86,266
Mississippi/Crittenden Co. Lib.	Blytheville (city) (Mississippi Co.)	12,359	16,793							
Mississippi/Crittenden Co. Lib.	Crittenden Co. Total less West Memphis	23,095	31,380	12,000						
Mississippi/Crittenden Co. Lib.	Mississippi Co. Total less Blytheville	25,736	34,969	12,000						
Mississippi/Crittenden Co. Lib. Total		61,190	83,142	24,000	18,000	125,142	31,285	31,285	31,285	31,287
Northeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Clay Co.	14,112	19,175	12,000						
Northeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Greene Co.	46,928	63,763	12,000						
Northeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Randolph Co.	19,040	25,870	12,000						
Northeast Arkansas Reg. Lib. Total		80,080	108,808	36,000	18,000	162,808	40,702	40,702	40,702	40,702
Ouachita Mountains Reg Lib	Montgomery Co.	8,510	11,563	12,000						
Ouachita Mountains Reg Lib	Polk Co.	19,434	26,406	12,000						
Ouachita Mountains Reg Lib Total		27,944	37,969	24,000	18,000	79,969	19,992	19,992	19,992	19,993
Phillips-Lee-Monroe Reg. Lib.	Lee Co.	8,104	11,011	12,000						
Phillips-Lee-Monroe Reg. Lib.	Monroe Co.	6,415	8,716	12,000						
Phillips-Lee-Monroe Reg. Lib.	Phillips Co.	14,661	19,921	12,000						
Phillips-Lee-Monroe Reg. Lib. Total		29,180	39,648	36,000	18,000	93,648	23,412	23,412	23,412	23,412
Scott-Sebastian Reg. Lib.	Scott Co.	9,837	13,366	12,000						
Scott-Sebastian Reg. Lib.	Sebastian Co. Total less Fort Smith	39,528	53,708	12,000						
Scott-Sebastian Reg. Lib. Total		49,365	67,074	24,000	18,000	109,074	27,269	27,269	27,269	27,267
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Bradley Co.	9,935	13,499	12,000						
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Chicot Co.	9,272	12,598	12,000						

August 2025

State Aid Distribution FY26

FY2026 State Aid

Headquarters Lib.	Tax Unit	2024 Est Population	Per Capita @ 1.35874453	Multi-co. region	Base Amount	Total FY2026	First Qtr. Payment	Second Qtr. Payment	Third Qtr. Payment	Fourth Qtr. Payment
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Desha Co.	10,321	14,024	12,000						
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Drew Co.	16,935	23,010	12,000						
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Lincoln Co.	12,868	17,484	12,000						
Southeast Arkansas Reg. Lib. Total		59,331	80,616	60,000	18,000	158,616	39,654	39,654	39,654	39,654
Southwest Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Nevada Co.	8,004	10,875	12,000						
Southwest Arkansas Reg. Lib.	Pike Co.	10,027	13,624	12,000						
Southwest Arkansas Reg. Lib. Total		18,031	24,500	24,000	18,000	66,500	16,625	16,625	16,625	16,625
Tri-County Reg. Lib.	Howard Co.	12,387	16,831	12,000						
Tri-County Reg. Lib.	Little River Co.	11,626	15,797	12,000						
Tri-County Reg. Lib.	Sevier Co.	15,735	21,380	12,000						
Tri-County Reg. Lib.		39,748	54,007	36,000	18,000	108,007	27,002	27,002	27,002	27,002
White River Reg. Lib.	Cleburne Co.	25,646	34,846	12,000						
White River Reg. Lib.	Fulton Co.	12,546	17,047	12,000						
White River Reg. Lib.	Izard Co.	14,291	19,418	12,000						
White River Reg. Lib.	Sharp Co.	18,130	24,634	12,000						
White River Reg. Lib.	Stone Co.	12,785	17,372	12,000						
White River Reg. Lib. Total		83,398	113,317	60,000	18,000	191,317	47,829	47,829	47,829	47,830
Total Regional Libraries		1,424,457	1,935,473	552,000	288,000	2,775,473	693,868	693,868	693,868	693,867
Ash Flat Public Library	Ash Flat	1,172	1,592		5,000	6,592	1,648	1,648	1,648	1,648
Bella Vista Public Library	Bella Vista	33,274	45,211		12,000	57,211	14,303	14,303	14,303	14,302
Bentonville Public Library	Bentonville	61,791	83,958		12,000	95,958	23,990	23,990	23,990	23,988
Fayetteville Public Library	Fayetteville	103,134	140,133		12,000	152,133	38,033	38,033	38,033	38,034
Forrest City Public Lib.	Forrest City	12,340	16,767		18,000	34,767	8,692	8,692	8,692	8,691
Fort Smith Public Lib.	Fort Smith	90,507	122,976		12,000	134,976	33,744	33,744	33,744	33,744
Gentry Public Library	Gentry	4,672	6,348		5,000	11,348	2,837	2,837	2,837	2,837
Gravette Public Library	Gravette	3,826	5,199		5,000	10,199	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,549
Iva Jane Peek Public Library	Decatur	1,723	2,341		5,000	7,341	1,835	1,835	1,835	1,836
North Little Rock Public Lib.	North Little Rock	64,498	87,636		12,000	99,636	24,909	24,909	24,909	24,909
Pea Ridge Community Library	Pea Ridge	10,190	13,846		12,000	25,846	6,461	6,461	6,461	6,463
Rogers Public Lib.	Rogers	75,639	102,774		12,000	114,774	28,694	28,694	28,694	28,692
Siloam Springs Public Library	Siloam Springs	20,075	27,277		12,000	39,277	9,819	9,819	9,819	9,820
Sulphur Springs Public Library	Sulphur Springs	475	645		5,000	-	-	-	-	-
Trumann Public Library	Trumann	7,425	10,089		12,000	22,089	5,522	5,522	5,522	5,523
Texarkana Public Lib.	Texarkana	28,897	39,264		18,000	57,264	14,316	14,316	14,316	14,316
West Memphis Public Lib.	West Memphis	23,538	31,982		12,000	43,982	10,996	10,996	10,996	10,994
Total City Libraries		543,176	738,037	-	181,000	913,392	228,348	228,348	228,348	228,346
Grand Total		2,957,082	4,017,919	552,000	922,000	5,486,274	1,371,568	1,371,568	1,371,568	1,371,565
Does Not Qualify: Sulphur Springs	Total Released for FY2024 State Aid Reserved for Scholarships	(150,000)	5,641,919	Fifth Payment (optional) is the distribution of the remainder of the reserves held for scholarships, multi-county regionals and Base awards. (Director discretion).						

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;

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

(1) Not less than 60 days prior to the last scheduled 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.

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

(2) Not less than 60 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 library that is not recommended for funding may provide supplemental documentation and written analysis demonstrating that the library satisfies the requirements of this part no less than 30 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 regularly scheduled board meeting of the fiscal year.

(1) If the State Library Board determines that a library is not eligible to receive funding under this rule, 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 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 a 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 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 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 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 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 thirty (30) days following receipt of notice that the 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 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 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 library;

(2) The governing 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 shall adopt written policies addressing the following:

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

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

(C) Unattended children in the 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 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 library's current operations budget for one year; or
 - (B) The revenue that one mill of tax levied for the benefit of the 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 also 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.
- (4) Provide an annual budget;
- (5) Provide quarterly spending reports;
- (6) Maintain sound financial practices; and
- (7) Maintain operations that benefit the citizens served by the 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 for any public library system not subject to a comprehensive legislative audit; and

(2) The results of the audit, including any findings made during the audit shall be submitted, to the Arkansas State Library within 30 days of completion;

(3) For a public library system not subject to a comprehensive audit by Arkansas Legislative Audit, the results of all audits of a public library or a component of a public library, including any findings made during the audit, shall be submitted to the Arkansas State Library no later than January 31st.

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

(1) Be provided no later than January 31st 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 of the 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;

(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 shall be provided no later than January 31st 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 10% in the funding level or allocation of funding in the annual budget shall be provided to the Arkansas State Library within 30 days of adoption by the governing board.

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

(1) Be submitted to the Arkansas State Library withing 30 days of the end of each quarter;

(2) Provide clear records detailing the amount and purpose of all transactions 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) Has 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 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 up to two years to:

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

(2) Obtain approval from of 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) Ensure the content of the collection complies with the requirements of Arkansas law and federal law;

(3) Ensure a patron under the age of sixteen (16) may not check out materials which are sexually explicit materials or materials designated for adult readers by the publisher without parental consent; and

(4) Not knowingly promote or advertise sexually explicit materials;

(5) Ensure the sexually explicit materials, as provided is 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 includes 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) A library may provide age-appropriate information designed to prepare minors for the sociology of puberty to a minor person who is eleven (11) years old or older if a parent or guardian has informed the public library in writing that the minor person is authorized to access these materials.

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) All current bylaws and policies that govern the public library updated no more than 30 days after the adoption or modification by the governing board;

(2) Minutes of all meetings of the governing board of a public library provided within 30 days of adoption by the governing board;

(3) All interlocal agreements no more than 30 days after the adoption or modification by the governing board;

(4) The Annual Public Library Survey;

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

(6) Information and documentation necessary to determine that the library director satisfies the requirements of Personnel, 13 CAR §4-108;

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

(8) A copy of the trustee's report required under Arkansas Code 13-2-509;
and

(9) 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 January 31st 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 Rule.

(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 rule 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 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 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 library with a political boundary inside the political boundary of another qualifying library.

(ii) The population served by two libraries shall not be counted for the 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.



April 22, 2026

Jennifer Chilcoat, State Librarian
Arkansas State Library
900 W. Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Jennifer:

I am pleased to write this letter supporting my colleague Eliza Borné's application for MLS Scholarship Assistance through the Arkansas State Library.

An employee of the Central Arkansas Library System for more than five years, Eliza is currently enrolled in the Master of Library & Information Science program at LSU Online. Next month, she will complete 12 hours toward the degree. She expects to earn the degree in August 2027.

Eliza's current role at CALS is Chief Development Officer. In that capacity she has led a capital campaign (which has recently raised \$2.1M in support of our Main Library's renovation), managed numerous other fundraising campaigns, and written many successful grant proposals (including leading the team that submitted CALS's successful application to the Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize, a *Library Journal*-sponsored prize that is awarded to one public library annually and comes with a \$250,000 grant award). She serves on CALS's Senior Leadership Team and through her fundraising efforts has played a critical role in helping CALS launch or sustain programs such as our Digital Literacy Guides, Memory Lab, Count Up! (math tutoring), Rock It! Lab (entrepreneurship center), and Six Bridges Book Festival.

Born and raised in Little Rock, Eliza is a lifelong patron of the Central Arkansas Library System. I know from many conversations with her that Eliza is passionate about the health and success of Arkansas's public libraries, and I am pleased that she is pursuing the MLS and deepening her commitment to our profession. She obviously has a keen interest in all areas of the public library.

I hope that the Board will approve her application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nate Coulter'.

Nate Coulter
Executive Director, Central Arkansas Library System
ncoulter@cals.org
(501) 918-3051



April 27, 2026

Jennifer Chilcoat, State Librarian
Arkansas State Library
900 W. Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Jennifer:

I am writing to apply for the Scholarship Assistance Program for employees of Arkansas public libraries who are pursuing an MLIS degree at an ALA-accredited program. I am employed as Chief Development Officer of the Central Arkansas Library System, and I am currently enrolled in the MLIS program at Louisiana State University, which has been continuously accredited since 1931. This week I will complete coursework required for 12 credit hours toward the degree. I was born and raised in Little Rock, am raising my children here, and intend to live in Little Rock and work for CALS for the foreseeable future.

At CALS, I lead the Development department and serve as the library's primary fundraiser. In my role as a fundraiser, I have the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues across all areas of the library, and I enjoy stewarding donors and funders to make gifts and grants to enhance library programs. In part due to my fundraising efforts over the past five years, CALS has launched a digital literacy guides program, expanded its community outreach capacity, tripled the number of on-staff social workers, expanded its Memory Lab, and sustained an entrepreneurship center.

Since joining CALS, I have learned a lot on the job about the history and standards of public libraries, the challenges facing public libraries, and the day-to-day operations of public libraries. However, I know that I have much still to learn. I enrolled at LSU because I was eager to learn more about all facets of the public library and immerse myself in the foundations of information access and public librarianship. I believe my coursework will not only make me a better library fundraiser, but make me a stronger member of the Central Arkansas Library System's Senior Leadership Team. So far I have found the courses to be engaging and relevant — they have given me ideas for bolstering funding proposals, given me a deeper foundation in the operations of the library overall, and educated me about management theories that I now often find myself putting into practice. Please let me know if I can provide additional information that would be helpful as you evaluate my application. I am grateful for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eliza Borné
501-320-5750
etborne@cals.org

Recommendation for Scholarship Assistance

Library Name	Individual Name	Library School	# of Hours --Summer 2026	Recommend Award in the amount of
Pope County	Riley Taurone	Emporia State	6	\$2,700
Jackson County Library	Lisa May	LSU	6	\$2,700
SEARLs	Hunter Bennett	U of OK	0	\$0
Bentonville Public Library	Sarah Hanst	LSU	3	\$1,350
Boone County Library	Angelia Mueller	U of OK	6	\$2,700
CALS	Leland Goston	Drexel	6	\$2,700
CALS	Eliza Borne	LSU	6	\$2,700
Total				\$14,850

STATE GENERAL REVENUE
EPA0100 BUDGET DISTRIBUTION FY2026
BY COMMITMENT ITEM
APRIL 15, 2026

COMMITMENT ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL APPRO.	FY Blocks	TOTAL BUDGETED	% OF TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENDED	BALANCE	% REMAINING
501:00:00	Reg. Salaries	\$1,677,479	\$15,504	\$1,661,975	45.5%	\$1,230,200	\$431,775	26%
501:00:01	Extra Help	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$9,000	0.2%	\$0	\$9,000	100%
501:00:03	Pers. Svcs. Matching	\$631,344	\$10,727	\$620,617	17.0%	\$481,085	\$139,532	22%
	Total Salaries & Matching	\$2,318,823	\$27,231	\$2,291,592	62.8%	\$1,711,286	\$580,306	25%
502:00:02	Operating Expenses	\$1,125,091	\$2,129	\$1,122,962	30.8%	\$861,064	\$261,898	23%
505:00:09	Conf. & Travel	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	0.3%	\$112	\$9,888	99%
512:00:11	Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0%
	Total M & O	\$1,135,091	\$2,129	\$1,132,962	31.0%	\$861,176	\$271,786	24%
509:00:46	Books/Subscriptions	\$230,000	\$5,000	\$225,000	6.2%	\$173,638	\$51,362	23%
	TOTALS	\$3,683,914	\$34,360	\$3,649,554	100.0%	\$2,746,100	\$903,454	25%
	M&R paid to ASL account						\$0	100%

FEDERAL LSTA REVENUE
 FEL0100 FEL0200 BUDGET DISTRIBUTION FY2026
 BY COMMITMENT ITEM
 APRIL 15, 2026

COMMITMENT ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL APPRO.	TOTAL BUDGETED	% OF TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENDED	BALANCE	% REMAINING
501:00:00	Reg. Salaries	\$458,899	\$458,899	14.4%	\$312,284	\$146,615	32%
501:00:01	Extra Help	\$22,000	\$22,000	0.7%	\$17,307	\$4,693	21%
501:00:03	Pers. Svcs. Matching	\$194,756	\$194,756	6.1%	\$141,852	\$52,904	27%
	Total Salaries & Matching	\$675,655	\$675,655	21.3%	\$471,444	\$204,211	30%
502:00:02	Operating Expenses	\$2,347,700	\$2,347,700	73.9%	\$1,350,042	\$997,658	42%
505:00:09	Conf. & Travel	\$145,000	\$145,000	4.6%	\$58,440	\$86,560	60%
512:00:11	Capital Outlay	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.3%	\$0	\$10,000	100%
	Total M & O	\$2,502,700	\$2,502,700	78.7%	\$1,408,482	\$1,094,218	44%
	TOTALS	\$3,178,355	\$3,178,355	100.0%	\$1,879,925	\$1,298,430	41%

Fiscal Support Manager – Brooke Crawford

On-Going Projects:

Staff Information

Authorized staff: 42 (+2 Shared Services positions = 44 total staff)

Budgeted staff: 39 (Full-Time)

Current staff @ 4/15/25: 34 Full-Time, 2 Shared Services positions, 1 Extra Help, 5 Vacant Positions.

Assets

Completed our annual inventory of fixed assets on March 31, 2026. Currently working on S/4HANA asset cleanup as directed by DFA.

IT

Our virtual servers were migrated from a legacy VMWare vCenter environment to the OST Greenfield environment at the Data Center West, on April 10. This was in accordance with Act 480 of 2025 and Governor Sanders's Executive Order EO 25-10, centralizing statewide IT authority under the Office of State Technology (OST). Instead of paying annually for third party software, we will start getting billed monthly by OST for server maintenance and backup services.

Performance Evaluations

Annual performance evaluations for all state employees must be completed in the system by May 8th. Meetings with employees to go over the evaluations will occur May 23-29.

Risk Assessment

All state agencies are required to complete a risk assessment every 2 years in March. We have completed and submitted our assessment. It is currently being reviewed.

Upcoming Events:

Fiscal Session – Begins April 8 and ends May 7 (unless extended)

S/4HANA Training – April & May

Annual Operating Plan (AOP)/Budget for FY27 - May

State Fiscal Year End - June 30

Conversion to S/4HANA – July 1. Go Live – July 9

State Librarian – Jennifer Chilcoat

On-going Projects

LSTA Funds

Much is happening in the federal funding calendar. On March 10, I met with IMLS Program Officer Cindy Boyden to review requested changes to the State Program Report (SPR) submitted on January 8. The primary requested change to update wording in some projects' budget information narrative to reflect that costs in the "Supplies/Materials" line were specifically attributable to the respective project. Final SPR approval was received on March 17.

On March 30, we received our "Official Award Notification for FY 2026 Grant" from IMLS. Because we are forward-funded, this award, \$2,160,657, represents the money we will spend on our federal programs from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027. The award is an increase of \$8,959 over our FY 2025 allotment. As is customary, we were provided grant guidance and required to sign the "Statement of Assurances and Certifications for 2026 Grant."

Deputy Director Kristen Cooke and I attended the IMLS Grants to States All States Conference April 7-8. In addition to training about allowable costs, State Program Reports research, and other ongoing matters, this year's conference included information about IMLS projects related to America 250 celebrations, guidance about the federally mandated evaluation of our 2023-2027 Five-Year Plan, and discussions of subsequent Five-Year Plan submissions. Cooke has graciously volunteered to shepherd our RFP process for hiring a consultant to conduct the Five-Year Evaluation.

State Legislation

The 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in St. Louis is preparing for oral arguments regarding the injunction of two sections of Act 372 and a separate dispute over approximately \$435,000 in awarded attorney fees and costs. The injunction, issued by the US District Court for the Western District of Arkansas in December 2024, was appealed by multiple defendants in the original lawsuit, including the Arkansas Attorney General.

The Arkansas State Library's appropriation bill, House Bill 1060, was assigned to the Joint Budget Committee and returned with a Do Pass recommendation on April 14. It failed in the full House but is expected to come up for another vote before the close of the Fiscal Session.

COSLA 2026 Spring Meeting

Among other agenda items, the COSLA Membership had an opportunity to meet with Second Lady Usha Vance to plan and promote her Summer Reading Challenge in our respective states. The Second Lady's program involves challenging children in grades K-8 to read and track 12 books of their choice in order to win a prize. Further specifics and promotional materials are expected soon, and we will be promoting the program to our state's public libraries. If we receive the promotional materials early enough, we will work with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education staff to distribute information to Arkansas schools.

Support and Cooperation for Grants

There are a number of active grant opportunities that leverage federal dollars to improve the healthcare landscape in rural areas. Most of these opportunities are associated with the Rural Health Transformation Program, a federal \$50 billion initiative designed to strengthen and modernize health care in rural

American communities. I am in conversation with the UAMS Institutes for Digital Health and Innovation and the UAMS Center for Public Health and Technology. We have not made a specific commitment at this time, as both entities are still in the planning phase for the grant applications, but it is likely that we will work with one or both as a conduit to deliver program information to public libraries, should either grant be funded.

I have also provided a letter of support to the UAMS Center for Health Literacy, in partnership with the UAMS Library, for a National Library of Medicine grant to develop a video-based toolkit for finding online health information and training community health workers and public library staff to use it.

In approaching cooperation in grant opportunities, I am always mindful of both our institutional capacity and that of our public libraries. The overall success rate for federal grant applications hovers in the low 20s, however, which also influences the number and type of supports we offer to those seeking federal grants.

Site Visits/Meetings/Training:

February 24	Mellon Foundation Grant update: <i>Libraries Count: Ensuring Continuity in Nationwide Public Library Data Collection</i>
March 2	Arkansas State Library Board Working Session and Business Meeting
March 3	COSLA Spring Meeting
March 5	Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee for State Aid to Public Libraries
March 10	State Program Report Review with IMLS Program Officer
March 25	White River Regional Library reception for new director, Calico Rock
March 26	COSLA Board Meeting
March 27	National Library Service program officer in-person site visit
March 31	Presented online training for Candid database (2X)
April 7, 8	LSTA Grants to States Conference
April 16	Ribbon cutting for Phase 1 renovations, Johnson County Public Library, Clarksville
April 27	Spring LSWG Meeting

Upcoming Events

May 11-13	IMLS Library Convening 250: Telling America's Story, Atlanta
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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

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.

Congressional Visits and State Legislative Monitoring

March 3-6, Cooke attended the Chief Officers of State Libraries (COSLA) legislative briefing day and served as the Arkansas agency delegation to Arkansas' Members of Congress to provide updates on the use and impact of federal LSTA funding in Arkansas.

Cooke continues to monitor Arkansas State Legislature developments and is actively monitoring the 2026 Arkansas Fiscal session for relevant legislation and developments.

Institute of Museum and Library Services Library Services and Technology Act Meeting

The IMLS LSTA Coordinators meeting took place April 7-9, 2026. The meeting provided updates on the funding and status of the IMLS and provided notice of an open public comment period for changes to 2 CFR 200. The meeting provided training and context for the 5-Year Evaluation and 5-Year Strategic planning process currently mandated by the terms of the Grants to States program.

Library Services and Technology Act 5-Year Evaluation

Cooke will be the designated Project Manager for the 5-Year Evaluation due in 2026. The 5-Year Evaluation is mandated by the Grants to States program and evaluates the impact and use of grants funds to achieve the goals established in the Arkansas State Library's 5-Year Plan for LSTA funds. The evaluation is in the initiation stage where parameters are being established, and deliverables are being defined to build an RFP (Request for Proposals).

2025 Arkansas Public Library Survey

The 2025 Arkansas Public Library Survey closed on March 24, 2026. Administrative Entity submitted data is currently being verified and cleaned prior to federal submission. Preliminary data is available, and Cooke is fulfilling data requests from Arkansas libraries as they are submitted.

Partnerships and Special Projects

Cooke resumed meeting attendance with the Arkansas Community and Economic Development Alliance. Cooke is on stand-by as needed to support the Arkansas State Broadband Office to support digital skills training. Additional national or state working groups include:

Arkansas	Digital Skills Pilot Program
Arkansas	BEAD Project Group
National	Library Statistics Working Group
National	PLS Survey Development and Steering Committee
National	State Data Coordinator Mentor

Site Visits/Meetings /Trainings

Jan-April	IMLS and State Data Coordinators Meeting, Institute of Museum and Library Services (monthly)
Jan-April	Mentors and State Data Coordinators Meeting, Mentor Data Coordinators (bi-monthly)
January 9	PLS Methods subcommittee for FY27 survey Development, American Institute for Research
January 21-22	Program Evaluation, Arkansas Public Administrators Consortium
January 29-30	LSTA Coordinator Interviews, ASL
February 5	Grant Development, Arkansas Public Administrators Consortium
February 24	SDC User Group Meeting, Counting Opinions
February 24	Grant Team Update, Linda Hofshire (RIPL)
April 15	Meeting, Arkansas Community and Economic Developers Consortium

Upcoming Events:

April 22	Leadership, Arkansas Public Administrators Consortium
April 23	Strategic Doing, Arkansas Public Administrators Consortium
April 24	Dardanelle Public Library Grand Opening
April 27	Meeting, Library Statistics Working Group
April 30	ALL-In Training Program, ASL
May 19	Rural Development Conference

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES:

Helping Arkansans learn, work, and thrive



2026

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES by the numbers



187

Arkansas Public Libraries



9

Bookmobiles providing access



395,312

Total Hours of Operation Annually



1,618

Library Employees



1,514,456

Library Card Holders



6,912,716

Library Visits in 2024



1,236,012

Reference Transactions



50,243

Instances of Interlibrary Lending



11,855,948

Total Uses of Library Collection



5,678,784

Print Books and Serials Circulation



2,241,287

eBooks Circulation (digital books)



1,941,906

Audiobooks Circulation



729,704

Uses of Public Computers



3,494,021

Wireless Sessions*



1,040,180

Total Attendees to Programs



2,316

Kindergarten Readiness Programs



200

Computer Coding Programs



355

GED Prep Programs



356

Workforce Readiness & Employment Programs



194

College or Technical School Readiness Programs

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

*Not all libraries can report wireless sessions.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

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

Arkansas Traveler

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

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

- An Arkansas academic librarian at a four-year institution

Mockingbird Lending Network

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

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

-A public librarian serving a rural Arkansas community

Arkansas Digital Library Consortium (ADLC)

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

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

THE LIFE OF AN ARKANSAS LIBRARY USER

WORK LEARN thrive



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



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



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



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



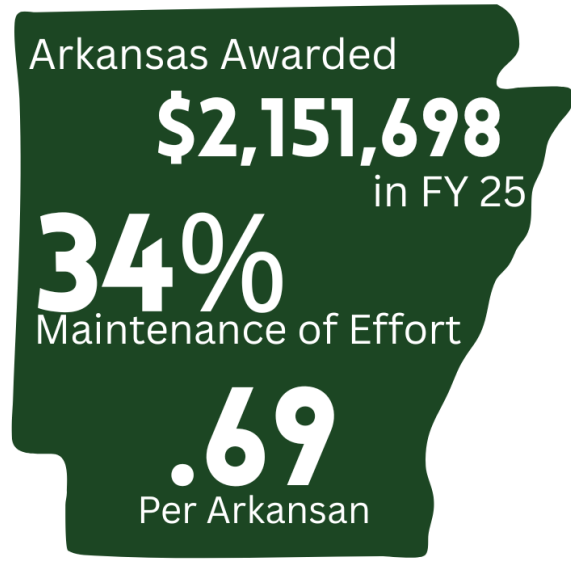
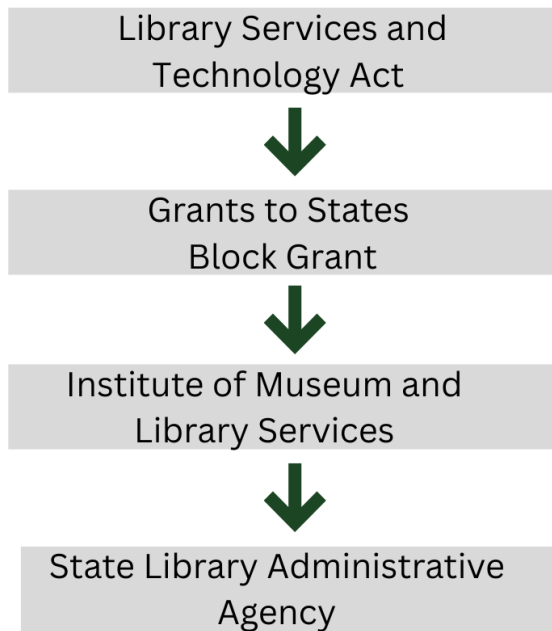
5,740 programs offered by libraries off-site in their communities
186,205 Arkansans attended offsite library programs
21,990 publicly-organized events on library property
4,292 All ages programs
170,831 Attendees to all ages programs
6,912,716 Visits to Libraries
729,704 Uses of Public Computers

AND MORE...

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

Central Arkansas Rural Library Director

LSTA FUNDING IN ARKANSAS



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

Contact Information

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

ZACH JACOBS

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

KRISTEN COOKE

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

JENNIFER CHILCOAT

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



Report Authored by Kristen Cooke 2/2026

Librarian - Statewide Sharing and Engagement - Taylor McKinney

On-Going Projects:

Statewide Sharing: Mockingbird

The SHAREit User Group met in March to discuss planned enhancements and gain perspective on potential future enhancements for the SHAREit system. This meeting included Customer “Super Users” from other SHAREit systems such as Texas, Wisconsin, and Louisiana. The Request Manager page received a significant update in March and experienced a successful rollout among Arkansas libraries, with the aid of early and constant communication regarding training on the new update and a rollout timeline.

Engagement

The Statewide Sharing and Engagement Librarian completed a request for promotional materials to promote State Library services at outreach opportunities. A style guide has been created for the Arkansas State Library LibGuides team to use as they create future LibGuides. This style guide unifies designs across the State Library’s guides and will allow for a more efficient creation process going forward. The librarian also participated in the Arkansas Gems Selection Committee and was able to connect and explore environmental information needs at the Arkansas Environmental Education Association Conference.

Site Visits/Meetings/Training:

February 11	Sharing about SHAREit Training
February 12	Monthly ARSL SHAREit Meeting
February 20	Arkansas GEMS Selection Committee
March 6 & 7	Arkansas Environmental Education Association Conference
March 10	SHAREit User Group Meeting
March 12	Monthly ARSL SHAREit Meeting
March 17	Sharing about SHAREit Training
April 2	SAP S/4HANA Townhall
April 7 & 8	IMLS Grants to States Conference (virtual)
April 9	Monthly ARSL SHAREit Meeting

Upcoming Events:

April 17	IAARTSB Semiquincentennial Pathfinder Meeting
April 22	Mockingbird SHAREit Discussion
May 14	Monthly ARSL SHAREit Meeting
May 15	InfoBits

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

Library Consulting Services

The Library Development Office provides guidance and support to public libraries throughout the state of Arkansas on a wide range of issues. Consultations are designed to foster best practices in librarianship and to develop community focused library services. During the reporting period, topics included, but were not limited to:

Administration and Management – Collecting state sales tax; creating the library budget; universal chart of accounts; disposal of property; joining civic organizations/ membership dues; records retention; revision of personnel handbook.

Board of Trustees and Library Governance – Revising bylaws; conflicts of interest; interview questions for a new director; virtual/hybrid board meetings; renegotiating interlocal agreements.

E-Rate, Broadband, and Digital Skills – The Funding Year 2026 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) E-Rate application filing window opened January 21, 2026, and closed on April 1, 2026. Direct filing assistance and E-Rate consultations were provided to 37 library systems or independent libraries via 87 Zoom meetings during the application filing window. Arkansas public library locations requested \$894,887.03 in funding.

Friends of the Library – Outreach and marketing; web accessibility.

General Library Services – Topical programming questions; running and using circulation reports; collecting overdue fines from library employees.

Youth Services – Summer reading program; student volunteer readers for Arkansas Book Awards; adult volunteer readers for the awards; puppet kit uses; American 250 programming; general program development; professional development opportunities.

Continuing Education Services

Workshops:

Friends of the Library Training – This training brought ten library staff members and friends of library members together to facilitate meaningful conversations and brainstorm innovative programming.

Library Directors' Summit – Planning is currently underway for the annual Public Library Directors' Summit. It will be held on October 15, 2026, at the Garland County Library.

Youth Services Spring Virtual Workshop – 148 individuals registered representing 68 branches throughout the state of Arkansas. Topics included: Applying Literacy in Storytime Settings; Improving Comprehension with Nonfiction Picture Books; The Science of Reading in Library Programming; and the Arkansas Third-Grade Promotion Law.

Training provided to public libraries by ASL Staff:

Library Board of Trustee Training x 4
Readers' Advisory x 1

Customer Service x 1
Patron Privacy training x 1

Weekly Webinars:

Ten live webinars were held by PCI during the reporting period with 66 library staff members in the state of Arkansas registered and 447 views of recorded, archived content.

Reading Programs for Public Libraries

Arkansas Center for the Book 2026 Reading Challenge – The Center has soft-launched a year-long reading challenge based on monthly themes. Readers are invited to share their thoughts and reflections on the books that they choose to read. The May challenge is to “Unearth a Story” about dinosaurs/archeology/paleontology.

Arkansas Gems – The Arkansas Gems Committee has selected twenty-one titles for the 2026 publication. Further review of the titles has been completed by committee members and permissions from authors and publishers to use the cover art has been obtained. The design process has commenced, and the project is on schedule to be completed in time for the National Book Festival.

If All Arkansas Read the Same Book – As reported in February, the 2026 program relates to the United States’ Semiquincentennial, with Rick Atkinson discussing his latest book, *The Fate of the Day*. Two events are scheduled for late May: Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at the CALS Ron Robinson Theater; and Thursday, May 28, 2026, at the Bentonville Public Library. Copies of *The Fate of the Day* have been sent to every public library branch in Arkansas, and eBook and audiobook copies are available in statewide OverDrive consortia via Libby.

Library Book Club Lending Program – The Center is planning a meeting for participating library book club coordinators around the state to focus on programming ideas and readers’ advisory. For this quarter, there were 1,061 readers, with April statistics still being reported to the Center; and there were 2,124 volumes shipped.

Summer Reading Program -- Summer Reading 2026, Unearth a Story, will begin for most public libraries in early June, with kick off events designed to engage the whole family. Programs will run from 4 to 9 weeks and, based on responses to the 2025 Summer Reading evaluation survey, Arkansas can expect around 3,000 programs to be attended by over 93,000 Arkansans.

Special Projects & Partnerships

American Stories: A Reading Road Trip – The Library of Congress partnered with PBS Books in honor of America 250 “to create a video series that explores the vibrant literary heritage of the United States.” Arkansas’ episode premiered on March 4, 2026, and is available to watch on the Library of Congress website at <https://www.loc.gov/programs/center-for-the-book/reading-roadtrip/arkansas/>.

Assistance to the Office of State Technology (OST) – Due to vacancies in the Office of State Technology (OST), the E-Rate Coordinator is assisting OST with activities related to the statewide E-Rate application for the K-12 Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN) for 5-8 hours per week. This work will continue through June 2026.

Children’s Dental Health Month – In partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health’s Office of Oral Health, 4,918 dental kits including toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss were sent out to 55 public libraries throughout the state of Arkansas.

Library of Congress (LOC) Card Catalog Kiosk Project – Before there were digital library catalogs, card catalogs were very familiar to library users. The Library of Congress recently brought 56 card catalog cases out of retirement and transformed them into information kiosks about LOC programs. The kiosks were distributed to every state and territory through the Center for the Book Affiliate network; the Arkansas kiosk is located on the first floor of the Arkansas State Library.

Revolutionary Transcribe-A-Thon Programming – In partnership with Arkansas TV and the Library of Congress, during the reporting period, Revolutionary Transcribe-a-Thon programs took place at the Holland-Waller Center, Harding University, and the Springdale Public Library. Four more Transcribe-A-Thons will be held: Tuesday, June 9, at the Hempstead County Library in Hope; Tuesday, June 16, at the Garland County Library in Hot Springs; Saturday, June 27, at the Phillips County Library in Helena-West Helena; and Tuesday, June 30, at the South Arkansas College in El Dorado.

Field Work

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

- LDD 1 (Northwest Arkansas) x 15
- LDD 2 (Northeast Arkansas) x 6
- LDD 3 (Central Arkansas) x 5
- LDD 4 (Southwest Arkansas) x 0
- 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. Amber is also completing the Arkansas Certified Public Manager (CPM) program through the Arkansas Public Administration Consortium (APAC).

Janine Miller continues her service on the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Board of Directors as the representative of the South Region. Janine is completing the Certified Group Facilitator Program through the Arkansas Public Administration Consortium (APAC).

Jenn Wann is serving as the Program Subcommittee Chair for the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) 2026 annual conference.

Julie France-Rowland, Administrative Assistant for the Library Development Division, is currently completing the Professional Administrative Certification of Excellence (PACE) through the American Society of Administrative Professionals. The program strengthens core competencies critical to the assisting the Library Development team, including interpersonal communication, task and project management, computer and internet technology, and management skills.

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled – Natalie Marlin

On-Going Projects:

NLS Consultant Visit

Our NLS consultant, MaryBeth Wise, completed a biennial site visit to our library March 26-27. She spent her time here touring the library, meeting with LBPD staff, and answering questions about NLS programs and services. She also sought feedback on new NLS initiatives such as the DA2 player and the updated BARD 2.0 interface that was debuted September 9, 2025.

LBPD Newsletter

LBPD publishes a quarterly newsletter that contains library news, book lists, and service highlights from the Arkansas library as well as the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. While this has been sent via mail and email in the past, now Natalie is working with agency staff to get the newsletter on the State Library website, available in multiple formats to maximize accessibility for patrons. The goal will be to have the most current issue available in PDF, HTML, and audio. Previous issues will also be available via a link to Preservica.

Outreach and Travel

Natalie Marlin and Thomas Sepe attended outreach events in March and April. These outreach events include: a Health and Wellness Fair on March 12, Literacy Day at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts on March 14, National Federation of the Blind Conference on April 17-18, and the Arkansas Authors Children's Book Festival on April 18.

Thomas Sepe also attended the 2026 Conference for the Arkansas Chapter Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. This conference was held February 12-13 and offered key learning and networking opportunities.

Circulation

From January 1 through March 31, LBPD circulated a total of 42,181 titles. Of this figure, 31,719 were by direct mail circulation of Audio titles, 25 were direct mail circulation of Braille titles, 125 were downloads from Bookshare and 10,312 were patron downloads from the Braille and Audio Reading program (BARD).

Reader Interaction Statistics

From January 1 through March 31, our Reader Advisors had a total of 6,090 patron interactions. Of those interactions, 1,632 were phone calls received, 929 were emails received and responded to, and 506 were voicemails received and responded to. Staff also fielded 20 walk-in interactions and made 575 new patron outreach calls, in addition to conducting 2,428 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 603 Library for the Blind readers registered with the NLS BARD program. Of those patrons, 448 actively download digital audio and braille books and magazines. From January 1 through March 31, the total number of downloaded BARD items was 10,312. Patrons read these items on 2,273 total registered mobile devices.

Information Services – Britni McGuire

Strategic Plan Work

One of the goals laid out in our strategic plan for Information Services is to establish pathfinders or research guides for targeted at state agencies to provide them with a subject-specific starting point for any research they may be conducting. These research guides will be compiled from resources in our physical and digital collections, as well as resources from other institutions that are aligned with the research needs of the specific agencies. While Deputy Director Cooke and the Statewide Sharing and Engagement Coordinator, Taylor McKinney, complete the work of getting ASL set up to begin creating guides, Information Services Supervisor, Britni McGuire, has been working with the reference librarians in Information Services to identify a selection of state agencies for whom to develop the first research guides.

McGuire is also beginning work on a project in coordination with Statewide Sharing and Engagement Coordinator Taylor McKinney, and Center for the Book Coordinator Karen O'Connell to develop a similar pathfinder/research guide to accompany O'Connell's If All Arkansas Read the Same Book project. This research guide will be centered around the United States Semi-quincentennial so that readers of *The Fate of the Day* by Rick Atkinson can continue to learn more about the founding of the United States and the American Revolution.

Information Services continues to remain focused on increasing operational efficiency within the department and is using the cross-training of staff to ensure continuous service delivery. Supervisor McGuire and Deputy Director Cooke have been working together to identify projects and specialization areas for when the department is fully staffed.

Library Manager of Collection Management – Sarah Lipsey

On-Going Projects:

Area Personnel

We currently have a vacant Library Specialist position in the Digital Services unit. The position was vacated by Evelyn Uptigrove-Sartin upon her promotion to Librarian. We have requested to fill the vacated position as soon as possible.

ASL Website

A full website audit was conducted in preparation for the [new rule](#) from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on online content accessibility. The rule requires both state government and public library web content to meet [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#) (WCAG) 2 requirements developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

I corrected all accessibility issues on our webpages and prepared a report of outstanding issues beyond my control to correct. The latter involved the Library Map and Directory pages. I have strongly recommended that we acquire a third-party accessibility plug-in for our website, as do many other state entity websites.

Following my review, I created a content creation guide based on how our website interface works to ensure we optimize accessibility. In addition, I updated our existing content development and style guide as needed.

I met individually with Jenn Wan, Natalie Marlin and Kristen Cooke to discuss the changes, how the rule impacts online delivered services more generally, and ways we can produce content to maximize accessibility.

Finally, we have collected all Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATs) from our vendors for all third-party platforms and resources used to provide Collection Management services and programs. This includes VPATs for the online catalog and documents digital repository, all Traveler resources, and all online databases for the State Employee Resource collection.

SirsiDynix Symphony Administration

Routine system updates are scheduled for the SirsiDynix Symphony ILS to be implemented this summer.

Digital Services – Jennifer Razer

Ongoing Projects

State Documents Depository and Clearinghouse

Staffing

The unit currently has one vacancy. To maintain continuity of operations, cross-training was conducted during this reporting period. Flannery Hirrel, Acquisitions Library Specialist, assumed an expanded role assisting State Documents with processing newly cataloged digital content for upload into the digital collection. Additionally, Wendy Etchison, Librarian for Federal Documents, began cross-training to process electronic documents with existing records for inclusion in the digital collection.

Catalog / Record Maintenance

As part of ongoing catalog and record maintenance, Razer continues to review electronic serial publications to verify their current publication status with state agencies. Titles that have ceased are being formally closed in the catalog, with corresponding updates made to Preservica holdings to ensure accuracy and long-term access. Item records are also being revised as needed to reflect correct circulation statuses and other descriptive details.

Outreach

Agency liaison work continued, with a focus on verifying current contacts and confirming compliance with required document submissions. Outreach efforts identified missing titles and established new agency contacts, with follow-up underway to encourage consistent participation in the program.

Supreme Court Project

Work continued on the project to provide access to previously digitized historical Supreme Court Opinions. During this reporting period, efforts focused on creating and enhancing metadata and systematically clearing a backlog of digitized Opinions for upload into Preservica. Progress is monitored regularly to ensure project milestones are met and workflows remain on track.

Staff processed: 5,266 new digital documents, 421 digital rules, and 118 print titles into the collection as of the writing of this report.

[Shipping list 426](#) was distributed to depository libraries. These bimonthly lists include all digital submissions to the program.

Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)

Work continued on relocating portions of the Federal Documents physical collection to the first floor adjacent to the State Documents collection. This move is expected to improve accessibility for both library users and staff.

Staff processed: 2,769 new digital documents and 1,574 retrospective print titles into the collection as of the writing of this report.

Acquisitions -Katie Walton

On-Going Projects:

Acquisitions

Acquisitions staff have been processing new purchases and gift items. We received gifts for the Arkansas collection from the University of Arkansas Little Rock and the University of South Carolina. We have a few months before the end of the state fiscal year, but we are trying to finish our purchasing sooner than usual in anticipation of the transition to S/4 HANA. We are on track to spend the remainder of our budget in early May.

Arkansas Digital Library Consortium

So far in 2026 we have had 526,845 checkouts from 40,694 users. We have 115,645 titles in the shared collection- 79,194 eBooks, 29,810 audiobooks, and 6,641 magazine titles.

OverDrive, our ADLC vendor, added the annual funds to the consortia's shared account on April 3. Like last year, the Selection Committee will have a budget of \$150,000 and are setting aside \$10,000 for subscription packages. The biggest adjustment the Selection Committee made was that the allocation between eBooks and audiobooks is now equal. When ADLC was formed in 2018, we allocated funds to formats, genres, and audiences based on libraries' previously reported circulation statistics. At the time, eBooks were significantly more popular than audiobooks. However, audiobook circulation has slowly increased each year, and 2025 was the first time that audiobook checkouts surpassed eBooks. We may choose to make the audiobook allocation higher next year, but for now, we thought it would be more prudent to make the budgets equal and then reevaluate the allocations next year.

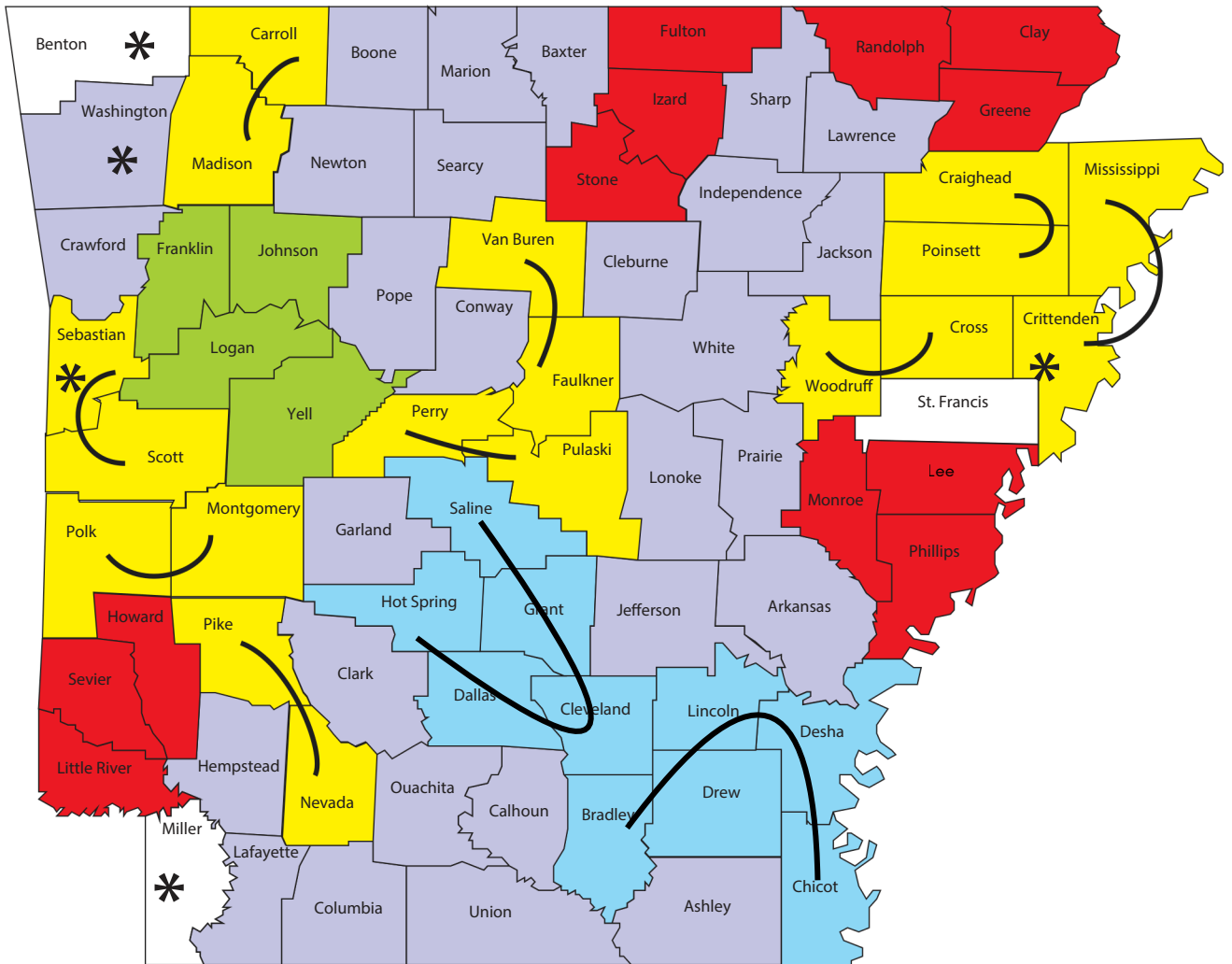
The Prairie County Library System recently joined ADLC. While ADLC has proven to be a huge return on investment for all our members, the benefits are most keenly felt in rural areas of the state. Most libraries in ADLC serve populations under 25,000. Prairie County Library System is one of 19 other member libraries who were unable to offer digital books to their communities before joining the consortium. Finding the funds to build a core collection of eBooks and audiobooks was a huge barrier to access for many small libraries, but new ADLC members immediately have access to the entire shared collection of 115,000 titles. Having a robust digital collection allows ADLC member libraries to serve their patrons 24/7.







Arkansas Traveler Statewide Resources

We offered four training opportunities for the Traveler resources last quarter. I presented a virtual overview of the Traveler collection during the evening on March 3. This session was specifically scheduled for students in Arkansas Tech's Library Media Specialist program, but it was open to everyone and proved to be well attended by school librarians who are often unable to attend sessions during the school day.

Our new ProQuest Customer Success Manager, Jimmy McMolery, offered two information sessions- "Counter 5.1 Overview" and "America 250 Made Teachable: SIRS Discoverer, eLibrary, and History Study Center for K-12." We also passed along information from ABC-Clio regarding a webinar geared toward public libraries. I am currently preparing to present at AAIM, the statewide conference for library media specialists.

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
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, furnish 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.

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 April 20, 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. **

*** Approved 02-09-2018 by Arkansas State Library Board*

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.

**Approved 02-01-80 by Arkansas State Library Board*

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

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, 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.”

Arkansas State Library -- Staff Directory

4/15/2026

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
		LIBRARY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT - GRANTS	VACANT	
		PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST	VACANT	
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
		LIBRARY SPECIALIST	VACANT	
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
		LIBRARY SPECIALIST	VACANT	
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

4/15/2026

First Name	Last Name	Title	Phone/Fax	Email
SARAH	LIPSEY	LIBRARY MANAGER - COLL MGMT	501-682-2862	sarah.lipsey@ade.arkansas.gov
JENNIFER	RAZER	LIBRARY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT - DIG SVCS	501-682-2550	jennifer.razer@ade.arkansas.gov
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
		LIBRARY SPECIALIST	VACANT	
		LIBRARY SPECIALIST	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
		FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	VACANT	



2026

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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27	28	29	30	31		



STATE LIBRARY 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)