



IMLS Talking Points

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the only federal agency that brings together museums, libraries and community partners to support the cultural heritage, educational growth, and workforce development of Ohioans. Federal funds directly benefit Ohioans in a variety of ways. These funds are administered by IMLS and the State Library of Ohio.

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds provide the majority of federal library funding received in Ohio. LSTA funds support the following programs:

- The **Talking Book program** serving Ohio's Blind & Physically Disabled veterans and residents.
- The **Ohio Digital Library**, giving the patrons of 179 Ohio Libraries access to a collection of digital media including eBooks, audiobooks, music and video.
- The **Ohio Web Library**, a common set of online resources accessible to all Ohioans within the library, at home, at work or in the classroom.
- **Summer Reading programs** at libraries throughout the state benefitting over 800,000 individuals in 2014.
- The **Serving Every Ohioan (SEO) Library Center**, supporting a consortium of 90 largely rural library systems in 221 locations across 46 counties in Ohio.
- A **competitive grant program** which has allowed many public libraries to convert from stand-alone online catalog and circulation systems to join consortia resulting in more collaboration, resource sharing and cost-savings automation.
- **Digitization Hubs** being established in four metropolitan libraries to serve as regional digitization centers serving other libraries, museums, archives and local communities.
- **Statewide Resource Sharing** through the Ohio Libraries Share:MORE program allowing nearly 100 participating libraries to cost effectively share materials.
- **KnowItNow24X7**, Ohio's online virtual reference service.

In addition to funds allotted to the state through LSTA, Ohio has been awarded other grants administered through IMLS including:

- **Connecting to Collections**, a program being implemented in partnership with the Ohio History Connection and Ohio Museums Association. A total of **\$173,516** has been awarded to address the lack of care and preservation of Ohio's cultural heritage which has reached a crisis point.
- **ILEAD USA**, a program to prepare future library leaders the State Library of Ohio participates in as part of a **\$470,000** Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant with ten other states.

Recently funded IMLS projects and programs

