



Director's Report (4th Quarter)

DATE: February 9, 2026

Administrative

The last quarter of 2025 was a busy one! I spent quite a bit of time attending meetings and trainings. Several of these meetings included attending the Desha County Quorum Court meetings. The SEARL Board received letters stating that Desha County no longer wishes to pay for any of the utilities, thus the Region would need to begin paying the utilities. If this does not occur, Desha County will withdraw from the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library system. More will be discussed about this in new business.

Technology & Branch Updates

Star City Branch received a Save the Children grant, and some of those funds were used to purchase Playaway Launchpad tablets (similar to the LeapFrog tablets). These tablets are preloaded with educational information in a variety of subjects, all geared towards early literacy and kindergarten readiness. They are staying checked out at the branch.

McGehee Branch received a Delta Area Community Foundation grant to purchase Playaway audiobooks. Playaway audiobooks are digital audiobooks stored on a device similar to an MP3 player; this leads to more adaptability for patrons to listen to audiobooks in their vehicles as the Playaways only require a headphone jack to connect to audio devices. This will be a pilot collection to test as audiobooks on CD are no longer feasible as most new vehicles are not equipped with CD players. These will be purchased in the coming weeks.

Community Engagement & Outreach

Several libraries hosted or attended holiday events in the last quarter. Several had Halloween Boo Walks or trick or treating events where books and candy were handed out, while others could play games for a fun family event. Star City Branch attended the Holidaze on the Square public outreach event in December; Dumas Branch had pictures with Santa event where free books were given away to families; Monticello hosted an Ozark Christmas event courtesy of the SEARK Concert Association, and they hosted a pictures with Santa and the Grinch event where free books were handed out.

The Region hosted a 2026 Unearth a Story Summer Reading Program Webinar/Watch Event in conjunction with the Arkansas State Library. Branch managers from the Region and a librarian from Ashley County Library attended the meeting to begin preparations for the Summer Reading Program.

Meetings & Workshops Attended

Arkansas Access to Justice Awards Ceremony – North Little Rock, AR (10.3.2025)

Fall Workshop for SEARL – Monticello, AR (10.13.2025)

Director's Summit @ Garland County Library – Hot Springs, AR (10.17.2025)

Arkansas Library Association Conference – Hot Springs, AR (10.18-10.19.2025)

Arkansas State Library Board Meeting – Zoom Meeting (11.14.2025)

Desha County Quorum Court – Arkansas City, AR (11.20.2025)

Granite Telephone – Zoom Meetings (11.19.2025, 12.10.2025, & 12.15.2025)

CSLP Summer Symposium Watch Party for the Arkansas State Library – Zoom Webinar (12.4.2025)

Desha County Quorum Court – Arkansas City, AR (12.18.2025)