PALCI™

Partnership for Academic Library
Collaboration and Innovation

IMPACT
REPORT
2024-2025

MEETING THE
MOMENT

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OUR MISSION & VISION

The Partnership for Academic Library Collaboration and Innovation (PALCI) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) consortium of 80 academic and research libraries across Pennsylvania and surrounding states. PALCI strives to be the trusted and preferred partnership for academic library collaboration and innovation.

Since 1996, PALCI has empowered its member libraries to work together to ensure cost-effective, sustainable access to knowledge through shared investment in library collections, technologies, and cooperative licensing. By leveraging the collective scale, buying power, and expertise of its members, **PALCI designs distinctive partnership opportunities that broaden affordable access to critical information resources and services**.

PALCI serves more than 800,000 students, faculty, and staff with the kind of high-impact solutions that strengthen support for teaching and research—such as the expedited EZBorrow interlibrary loan service and collaboration infrastructure for resource sharing. In an era of rising costs and rapid change, **PALCI stands out as a strategic asset** that advances organizational excellence, boosts operational efficiency, and delivers lasting value to its member institutions.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE

In a time of rapid change, PALCI has continued to meet the moment by strengthening its collaborative foundation.

Since January 2024, PALCI has added **5** new partners: **Drew University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Le Moyne College, Alvernia University, and Stockton University,** making PALCI's membership to **80** institutions strong. This strategic growth reflects a commitment to right-sizing the partnership for maximum affordability, ensuring every member benefits from economies of scale.

80
MEMBER LIBRARIES PURSUING
STRATEGIC GROWTH
TO MAXIMIZE
VALUE AND IMPACT

COLLABORATIVE COLLECTIONS &
LICENSING PROGRAMS STRATEGY

Scaling Strategic Investment in Library Collections and Content

PALCI delivers high-value savings, supporting libraries in **containing costs** and negotiating for key terms that **empower a healthy resource sharing ecosystem.** PALCI members regularly experience **an average of $13 million in collective savings annually**, and in 2024-25, PALCI provided:

- **$13.9m in centrally negotiated contracts**
- **11** strategic collections initiatives, leveraging existing investments to broaden access and contain costs
- **20+** additional scale-based licensing offerings
- Over **650,000** eBooks available PALCI-wide to all PALCI members in 2024-25 via co-investment in ProQuest and EBSCO subscription models
- **7 Open Access initiatives** with publishers to support broad and sustainable access to information

Responsive, Relevant Licensing Programs and Services

PALCI's staff are experts in identifying member library licensing needs, and responding with programs that match member goals and budget realities.

Consortium staff work with publishers, aggregators, and content and service providers to find win-win-win opportunities, meeting economic pressures head-on to serve the needs of libraries, the consortium, and partnering organizations. This has resulted in:

- **86% average savings per institution** on PALCI's strategic programs
- Multi-year deals securing **innovative license terms** with key partners including ACS Publications, Sage, Wiley, and ProQuest/Clarivate
- Further **scale-based discounts** saving members another 10–60% across critical scholarly content

SELECTED STRATEGIC PROGRAMS	HIGHLIGHTS	OUTCOMES
American Chemical Society Read & Publish Agreement	Unlimited Open Access publishing with subscription cost-control	- 331 OA articles published at 22 PALCI institutions - Annual increases capped under half of previous rate
EBSCO & ProQuest eBook Subscriptions	PALCI-wide *access* to comprehensive eBook collections	- 65% avg. cost avoidance - Over 150,000 unique titles used
Oxford University Press and Sage Reference & Academic eBooks	PALCI-wide *ownership* of widely valued eBooks	- 91% avg. cost avoidance - Over 1,500 Titles purchased with perpetual rights and DRM-free

Delivering Efficiency in Resource Sharing

PALCI's trusted **EZBorrow** service has continued to deliver **fast, efficient access** to **library materials**:
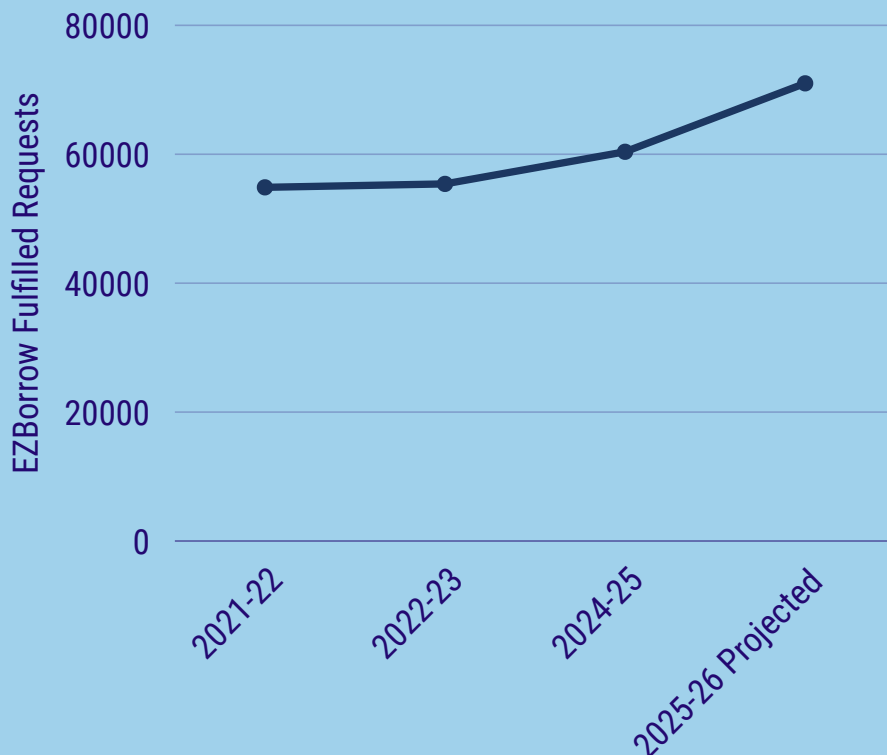
- Nearly **44 million** items are accessible across the network via PALCI's shared index technology
- More than **60k** requests were fulfilled in 2024, with **30k** more requests fulfilled to-date in 2025
- Median delivery time: **5 days** from point of request to delivery
- **73 libraries** now share collections in EZBorrow, filling in gaps, and ensuring cost-efficient access

In 2024, PALCI launched the **EZBorrow Futures Task Force**, whose recommendations are **charting a strategic path forward for the next generation of resource sharing**—ensuring the system evolves to meet emerging user expectations and library priorities. Building on this momentum, the **EZBorrow Digital Task Force was established in 2025** to shape expanded opportunities for sharing digital resources, such as whole eBook ILL, setting the stage for transformative changes in how organizations license and share materials, and their collective budgets.

EZBorrow unites nearly 80 PALCI libraries through a **community of resource sharing experts**, offering rapid and reliable access to millions of items. Powered by the **open source Project ReShare platform**—co-developed by PALCI—EZBorrow bridges disparate library systems, exemplifying our commitment to community-owned, interoperable infrastructure that scales equitably and sustainably.

ReShare

IF WE OWN IT, WE LOAN IT.

23 community-driven software enhancements introduced

18 EZBorrow Community Meetings

6 PALCI libraries began using EZBorrow in 24-25 with more coming soon!

EZBorrow Fulfilled Requests

| | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 Projected |

Y-axis: 0, 20000, 40000, 60000, 80000

INNOVATION & LEADERSHIP IN A
CHANGING LANDSCAPE

As challenges grow more complex, PALCI stands ready to:

- **Expand** equitable and open access to scholarly information
- **Invest** in future-proof infrastructure and tools that empower collaboration
- **Support** members with cost-effective, community-powered services
- **Lead** through an expert team of centralized staff who offer consulting, program development, and support for local and consortium-wide priorities

Examples include:

✓ Garnering **$248,000** in IMLS grant funding for **Sustaining Hyku,** to improve community development and coordination of a highly scalable, open source repository platform

✓ Positioning PALCI with consortial membership in **Project ReShare** and the **National Information Standards Organization**, with PALCI staff serving in leadership roles to ensure library interoperability needs are reflected in software and information standards development

✓ Developing and launching a **joint repository service** offering with the **Private Academic Library Network of Indiana**, leveraging the expertise and resources of partnering organizations

✓ Hosting **more than 40 collaboration forums** and networking events to support PALCI communities of practice in information sharing, professional development, and problem solving

✓ Securing PALCI-wide online access to the **Access Services Conference** for all members through crowd-funded efforts

Together, we meet the moment.
Together, we shape what comes next.
Together, we are PALCI.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

PALCI runs on a July 1 - June 30 fiscal year. Each year, PALCI undergoes an independent financial audit per PALCI bylaws. In FY2024, PALCI's audit was performed by Withum Smith + Brown. What follows is a snapshot of PALCI's statement of financial position for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

ASSETS	2022-23	2023-24
Cash	$3,131,105	$405,051
Accounts receivable	$82,401	$12,842
Grants receivable	$38,890	-
Investments	$470,146	$3,092,563
Prepaid expenses	$1,687,239	$3,529,908
Total assets	**$7,319,105**	**$7,040,364**

LIABILITIES	2022-23	2023-24
Accounts payable & Accrued expenses	$193,760	$129,960
Program income	$5,813,623	$5,380,819
Membership dues	$46,725	$125,115
Total liabilities	**$6,054,108**	**$5,635,894**

NET ASSETS	2022-23	2023-24
Undesignated	$1,045,985	1,185,458
Board designated	$219,012	$219,012
Total net assets	**$1,264,997**	**$1,404,470**

In 2023-2024, the PALCI Board and staff developed and implemented a **new Financial Investment Strategy** in partnership with RTD Financial, an independent financial advisory firm that specializes in nonprofit fiduciary services.

That strategy, which is reflected in the growth of net assets, has already **improved the organization's financial resilience and capacity for reinvestment** in consortium-wide needs.

50+

Member Libraries were represented at the 2024 PALCI Retreat

$35,000+

Sponsorship funds raised to support the development of a Healthy Collaboration Ecosystem Workshop and 2-day Retreat featuring collaboration expert Dr. Deb Mashek

PALCI MEMBER LIBRARIES ARE NONPROFIT ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES IN 5 STATES
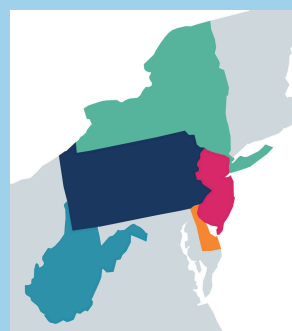
Allegheny College
Alvernia University
Arcadia University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Cairn University
Carlow University
Carnegie Mellon University
Chatham University
Commonwealth Univ of PA
The Cooper Union
DeSales University
Dickinson College
Drew University
Drexel University
Duquesne University
East Stroudsburg Univ
Eastern University
Elizabethtown College
Franklin & Marshall College
Gannon University
Gettysburg College
Goldey-Beacom College

Harrisburg Univ of Sci & Tech
Haverford College
Holy Family University
Indiana University of PA
Juniata College
King's College
Kutztown University
La Roche University
La Salle University
Lafayette College
Le Moyne College
Lebanon Valley College
Lehigh University
Lycoming College
Marshall University
Marywood University
Mercyhurst University
Messiah University
Millersville University
Misericordia University
Montclair State University
Moravian University
Muhlenberg College

The New School
New York University
Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania Western Univ
Phila Coll of Osteopathic Med
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Point Park University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst
Robert Morris University
Rowan University
Rutgers University
Saint Francis University
Saint Joseph's University
Seton Hall University
Shippensburg University
Slippery Rock University
State Library of Pennsylvania
Stockton University
Susquehanna University
Swarthmore College
Temple University
Thomas Jefferson University
University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh
University of Scranton
Ursinus College
Villanova University
Washington & Jefferson College
West Chester University
West Liberty University
West Virginia University
Westminster College
Widener University
York College of Pennsylvania

MEMBERS IN DE, NJ, NY, PA, & WV

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP
AND ENGAGEMENT

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