

OhioLINK Services Evolve and Expand

More, better, faster. These three words describe the complex, growing number of OhioLINK programs.

Just during 1999, OhioLINK saw 20 independent colleges begin participating, more than 25 new databases, the Digital Media Center's debut, four new electronic journal publishers collections, a diversified set of materials that can be borrowed or accessed from within the catalog, and the selection of the EJC as one of the country's most innovative programs.

In early 2000, another independent college went live and four new research databases were added (see pg. 3).

Participants

OhioLINK now serves students, faculty and researchers at 77 Ohio colleges and universities and the State Library of Ohio. More than 500,000 students are served, including every student attending a state supported college or university. Students at 37 of Ohio's independent institutions also access OhioLINK services.

Central Catalog

New participants, new materials, and new links all appear in the Central Catalog.

The Central Catalog now contains more than 31 million items most of which can be borrowed online. More than two million have been delivered to OhioLINK patrons since online patron initiated borrowing began in January 1994. The current rate of borrowing could result in the delivery of another half-million items before the end of 2000.

Notre Dame College, Marietta College, and Cincinnati Bible College all began online borrowing in late 1999 and Urbana University students gained access in February. When Columbus College of Art & Design begins patron-initiated online borrowing, it will be the thirty-eighth independent college to participate in the OhioLINK program.

Patrons may have noticed the addition of circulating videos and CDs, and they now have access to electronic books, too. Rather than borrowing the item, if available, the patron links to the e-book and can then read or print pages directly from the e-book. The number of linked e-books will continue to rise as searchable records are created and new titles are purchased. The usability of electronic books

will also increase as the electronic book readers improve.

The Central Catalog searching software will better serve patrons with its improved keyword searching. Now available from the main Central Catalog page, improved keyword searching will replace the current capabilities this spring or summer. Based on the Alta Vista search engine technology, patrons can conduct more sophisticated searching. The new keyword searching uses boolean terms and allows the user to identify specific types of keyword searching. For example, an author keyword can be specified and combined with a title keyword. This type of searching is comparable with that available in the OhioLINK maintained research databases.

Research Databases

The strength of the OhioLINK research database collection is its diversity. With 98 research databases, subject areas from anthropology to zoology are covered. Diverse patrons needs are met through a combination of general interest and highly specific topical databases. Increasingly, many are linked to an electronic copy of the cited article.

This diversity, in combination with cost-effective statewide licensing, results in expanded access for all. All schools, particularly the two-year and liberal arts colleges, have access to databases they could not afford to license independently. Universities now have funds to license highly specialized resources needed only by their campus.

As the database collection grows, the number of databases using the OhioLINK created and maintained interface also grows. Thirty-five databases now use the OhioLINK interface, and this spring two more databases will be delivered through this interface.

The benefits of the locally maintained interface are many. The interface was created with the needs of the OhioLINK community as its guiding force. Patrons can now use a single search strategy across many different databases. Once they find a relevant citation,

they can either link directly to the electronic version of the article or they can check the Central Catalog for the availability of the print journal at their campus library.

Electronic Journal Center

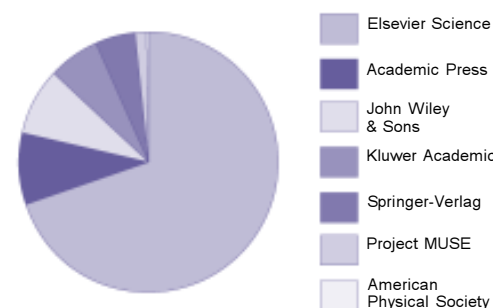
The Electronic Journal Center (EJC) is the source for many of the full-text article links within the OhioLINK maintained research databases. It now includes about 2,500 titles from seven major journal publishers.

Containing more than 1.3 million articles, the EJC is one of the largest locally stored electronic journal collections in the country. No single library could afford to purchase all these journals in print, but by working together, the OhioLINK community now delivers an invaluable research tool to Ohio higher education.

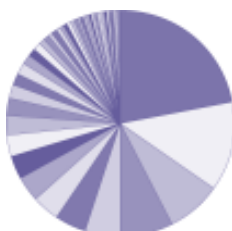
The success of the EJC is illustrated by both the increasing number of article downloads and the number of journal titles that are accessed.

- In 1999, almost 600,000 articles were downloaded, up from 160,000 articles in 1998.
- Of the 2,500 journal titles, virtually all have had articles downloaded from them.

Percent of Articles Downloaded from Each Publisher in the EJC



- Only 1,750 of these titles were previously held in any Ohio college or university library.
- Most small two-year and liberal arts colleges held a handful of these journal titles in print prior to the EJC's introduction. Today, some of these institutions are downloading articles from hundreds of titles.
- Large universities have expanded access, too. The Ohio State University Libraries, the state's largest library collection, held only 50% of the titles in print that are now



Database usage is spread across all 98 research databases

available electronically through the EJC. OSU has downloaded articles from 86% of the EJC collection.

The EJC earned national recognition for these accomplishments from the Council of State Governments (see pg. 3).

Digital Media Center



Landsat 7 satellite image of Toledo and surrounding area

Moving in a new direction, OhioLINK's Digital Media Center (DMC) now contains more than 46,000 art and architecture images and is expected to add another 20,000 images this year. Also, the Digital Media Center will expand into new subject areas and data types as the collection grows.

Pilot projects across the state are in varying degrees of completion. The first of these, the University of Cincinnati's Visual Archive of Cincinnati Architecture, already has a small number of images loaded into the DMC.

OhioLINK will mount a collection of historical maps for use by the whole state. The maps, purchased by the Ohio Public Library Information Network, show the growth of Ohio towns and cities over time. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, as the collection is known, are very detailed. The first maps are from 1867, and they continue through 1970. Potential uses of the maps include locating and identifying historical buildings and neighborhoods and studying the impact of growth of towns and cities.

Also in the planning stages is the inclusion of the Landsat 7 satellite images. This collection of satellite images covers the whole State of Ohio. Highly detailed, the files will be available as small, viewable images and as large downloadable files to the OhioLINK community for research purposes.

The DMC is just in its infancy. Its full potential has not yet been realized, but its value is three-fold. First, students and faculty are able to search, view, download, and print digital files for assignments, reports, and class

presentations. Second, in the near future, faculty will be able to select and save temporary collections they want to use for a class or project. Third, the DMC will serve as an archive for Ohio colleges' and universities' digitized materials, expanding access to formerly uncirculated collections.



Linked street and topographic map of Toledo and surrounding area

Remote Access to Resources

Remote access to the OhioLINK resources from commercial Internet Service Providers first debuted in early 1999. Prior to that time, patrons had to be using a university dial-in account. About half of the OhioLINK resources were accessible using the home authentication. More resources have been made available, and OhioLINK will soon announce that most all OhioLINK resources are available from home. Additional databases now available include those accessed through FirstSearch. Other resources, including the CIS Universe databases (Lexis-Nexis, Statistical Universe and Congressional Universe) will be available soon.

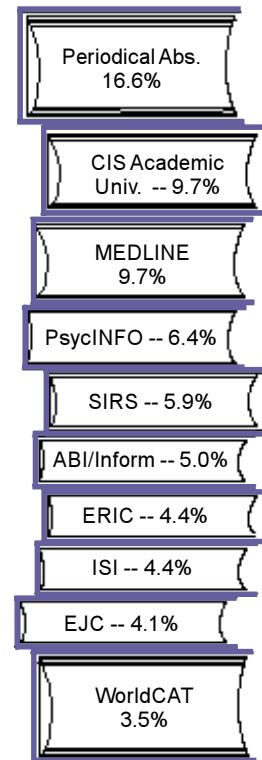
OhioLINK is Finalist for Higher Education Award

ACE, the American Council on Education, in conjunction with the USA Group Foundation selected OhioLINK as one of 19 finalists for its Academic Excellence and Cost Management Awards. The awards will be presented at an ACE invitational symposium in June.

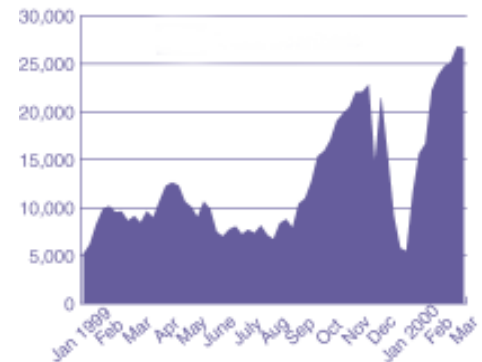
Finalists were selected based on their commitment and success serving undergraduate instruction and research in a cost-effective manner. Programs that publicly communicated their impact were given special consideration. The 19 finalists were selected from a pool of 120 applicants.

Calendar Year Statistics for 1999

Most Heavily Searched Databases



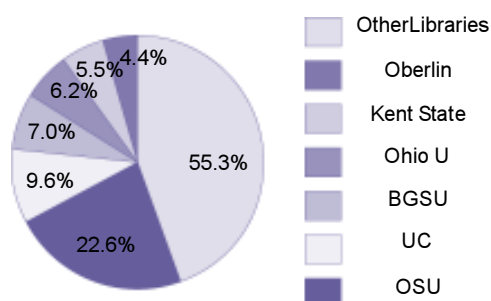
EJC's Weekly Article Downloads since January 1999



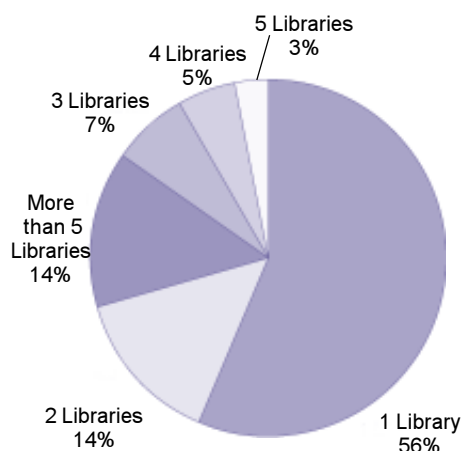
Note: A more complete statistical picture of OhioLINK is available in *Snapshot 1999*. You can request a copy through info@ohiolink.edu.

Central Catalog

Percent of Singularly Held Items in the Central Catalog



Percent of Items Held by the Number of Libraries



OhioLINK In Brief...

OhioLINK EJC Accepts 1999 Innovations Award

Innovative! The OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center earned one of eight national 1999 Innovations Awards from the Council of State Governments.

The Council of State Governments, CSG, is the only association that represents the employees of all three branches of state government. The Innovations Awards recognize creative state government programs that answer problems faced by many states.

The EJC, selected by CSG's Midwest Region, received the national award at CSG's Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum in December.

What makes the EJC so innovative? Its successful approach to expanding access by cost-effective licensing complete electronic collections and delivering them via the WWW to the desktop.

New Subject Areas Supported in Database Collection

OhioLINK is proud to announce the addition of four new databases *ITKnowledge*, *MathSciNet*, *Religion Index*, and *INSPEC*.

- **ITKnowledge** is an online collection of technical reference and resources – from books and tutorials to source code from leading publishers in the fields of information technology (IT) and computer science, including information about certification, content management, hardware, network services, operating systems, programming languages, security, user interfaces and web services.
- **MathSciNet** provides access to *Mathematical Reviews* and *Current Mathematical Publications* beginning in 1940 and continuing to the present. *Mathematical Reviews* provides timely reviews or summaries of articles and books that contain new contributions to mathematical research. *MR* covers articles and books in applied areas that contain new mathematical results or give novel and interesting applications of known mathematics.
- **Religion Index** is a reference database designed to support religious and theological scholarship. It contains more than a million citations from 1,400+ international titles. The database also includes a full range of index citations to journal articles, essays in multi-author works, and book reviews from ATLA print indexes. Coverage begins in 1949.
- **INSPEC** indexes over 4000 scientific and technical journals and some 2000 conference proceedings, as well as numerous books, reports and dissertations. In addition to comprehensive indexing of the literature in physics, electrical/electronic engineering, computing, control engineering and information technology, it also has significant coverage in areas such as materials science, oceanography, nuclear engineering, geophysics, biomedical engineering and biophysics

Independent Colleges Participation Grows

Notre Dame College, Marietta College, and Cincinnati Bible College went live on the OhioLINK system in late 1999, and Urbana University went live in February. Columbus College of Art and Design is also scheduled to join this year.

The OhioLINK program currently includes 78 active institutions. Thirty-seven participants are independent colleges. The OhioLINK Central Catalog now contains more than 31 million items with links to electronic books and electronic journals.

Ohiolink Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

*** Institutions in italics are expected to begin this year.*

Antioch College, 1999
Ashland University, 1999
Athenaeum of Ohio, 1999
Baldwin-Wallace College, 1999
Belmont Technical College, 1995
Bluffton College, 1999
Bowling Green State University, 1992
Capital University, 1996
Case Western Reserve University, 1992
Cedarville College, 1996
Central Ohio Technical College, 1994
Central State University, 1992
Cincinnati Bible College, 1999
Cincinnati State Technical & Comm. College, 1995
Clark State Community College, 1995
Cleveland State University, 1994
College of Mount Saint Joseph, 1996
College of Wooster, 1996
Columbus College of Art & Design, 2000
Columbus State Community College, 1994
Cuyahoga Community College, 1994
Defiance College, 1999
Denison University, 1996
Edison State Community College, 1995
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999
Heidelberg College, 1999
Hiram College, 1997
Hocking College, 1995
Jefferson Community College, 1995
John Carroll University, 1998
Kent State University, 1994
Kenyon College, 1996
Lakeland Community College, 1995
Lima Technical College, 1994
Lorain County Community College, 1995
Malone College, 1999
Marietta College, 1999
Marion Technical College, 1994
Medical College of Ohio, 1993
Miami University, 1992
Mount Carmel College of Nursing, 1999
Mount Union College, 1999
Mount Vernon Nazarene College, 1996
Muskingum College, 1999
Muskingum Technical College, 1994
North Central Technical College, 1994
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1993
Northwest State Community College, 1996
Notre Dame College, 1999
Oberlin College, 1995
Ohio Dominican College, 1997
Ohio Northern University, 1995
The Ohio State University, 1994
Ohio University, 1994
Ohio Wesleyan University, 1996
Otterbein College, 1999
Owens Community College, 1995
Rio Grande University & Community College, 1995
Shawnee State University, 1994
Sinclair Community College, 1994
Southern State Community College, 1994
Stark Technical College, 1994
State Library of Ohio, 1994
Terra Community College, 1995
Tiffin University, 1999
University of Akron, 1993
University of Cincinnati, 1992
University of Dayton, 1994
University of Findlay, 1999
University of Toledo, 1994
Urbana University, 2000
Ursuline College, 1997
Washington State Community College, 1996
Wilberforce University, 1999
Wilmington College, 1999
Wittenberg University, 1997
Wright State University, 1992
Xavier University, 1996
Youngstown State University, 1993

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