



OhioLINK's groundbreaking ETD Center turns 20 with a 3.0 release

OhioLINK will debut a new version of its [Electronic Theses and Dissertations Center](#) on August 2 that will offer advanced search capabilities and a more user-friendly interface to help visitors easily access Ohio student research and scholarship.

Over the last 20 years, students from 36 colleges and universities in the state of Ohio have submitted more than 100,000 graduate theses and dissertations to the Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Center, where fellow scholars across the globe may discover their work. Since 2013, OhioLINK has had more than 107 million ETD downloads from 234 countries.

“While most ETDs found in library catalogs and subscription databases are simply indexed abstracts, OhioLINK’s ETD Center is an open access repository,” said Emily Flynn, metadata and ETD coordinator for OhioLINK. “There are no paywalls, and most authors provide downloadable PDF documents, which is very helpful to students and researchers.”

The new platform features several updates that will benefit submitting students, users searching for research, and the Ohio higher education institutions that contribute the content.

The ETD Center now will offer full text search, an upgrade from the prior metadata-only search, and users will also be able to “save a search” by generating a persistent URL to recreate their search and see updated results.

The site also will adopt the user-friendly interface of OhioLINK’s other apps to provide a consistent experience for visitors. As part of OhioLINK’s ongoing [commitment to making information available to all users](#), the updated user interface improves digital accessibility as well.

In addition to the new public-facing features, the platform will improve the experience for higher education administrators who manage the publication process for student theses and dissertations. The system will offer faster workflow and status updates and will provide statistics on downloads per each academic department. It also will allow administrators to submit and save detailed comments for each thesis or dissertation.

Since its debut in 2001, the OhioLINK ETD Center has continued to provide an innovative platform for its administrative and public users.

“The OhioLINK ETD Center is a fully customized system built to meet the unique needs of Ohio’s consortial approach to ETD submission and management,” Flynn said. “These updates strengthen the system and add more features to support all of our users.”

OhioLINK is a member of the Ohio Technology Consortium (OH-TECH), which provides technical development and support for platforms such as the ETD Center through developers in its Shared Infrastructure division.

OhioLINK also maintains an advisory council of higher education graduate staff and librarians involved with theses and dissertations at their institutions. The council provided feedback and helped with testing of the new ETD platform.

“I thank OhioLINK for listening to users’ suggestions for improvements as well as the implementation team for creating this new and improved system,” said Kim Fleshman, coordinator of theses and dissertations for the Bowling Green State University Graduate College and president of the advisory council. “I’m particularly looking forward to the system’s improved speed.”

Tim Watson, director of graduation services for The Ohio State University Graduate School, also looks forward to the launch of the new ETD Center platform.

“The OhioLINK ETD Center has been the lynchpin of the ETD effort in the state of Ohio for 20 years, and we are excited for the implementation of the enhanced platform that will bring a more intuitive experience for students while providing increased efficiency and data resources for university staff,” Watson said.

OhioLINK has a [storied legacy](#) in the development of user-centered platforms to support shared content as part of the consortium’s charter. In addition to its cutting-edge ETD Center, OhioLINK has developed several applications including the first-of-its-kind patron-initiated interlibrary loan software, marketed by Innovative Interfaces as INN-Reach, and the Electronic Journal Center (EJC).

About OhioLINK: Connecting libraries, learning and discovery

Established in 1992, the Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK) is Ohio’s statewide academic library consortium, serving 88 institutions plus the State Library of Ohio. Delivering both IT infrastructure and content negotiation, OhioLINK provides students, researchers, faculty, and staff with access to valuable digital research collections at a fraction of the cost if those collections were purchased by individual institutions. OhioLINK also connects library services, print and digital collections among its member institutions and manages collaborative services aimed at reducing students’ cost of higher education in Ohio, including eTutoring and Affordable Learning. A member of the Ohio Technology Consortium of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, OhioLINK creates a competitive advantage for its member institutions and supports student and researcher success across Ohio. Learn more at ohiolink.edu.