

# Annual Report

2017–2018



**OhioLINK**

An OH·TECH Consortium Member

## Staff

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Executive Director

### **Anna Bendo**

Director, Affordable Learning Initiatives

### **Karen Boyd**

eTutoring Collaborative

### **Tasha Bryant-Willis**

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Collections Analyst

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“OhioLINK fuels research and innovation for students, researchers, educators, business leaders and citizens—all while making learning and discovery more affordable.”

— John Carey, Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education

**OhioLINK:** Connecting libraries, learning and discovery, OhioLINK creates a competitive advantage for its 90 member institutions. Delivering both infrastructure and negotiation prowess, OhioLINK provides students, researchers, faculty and staff with access to research collections rivaling top university libraries in the United States and internationally—at a fraction of the cost. OhioLINK also connects library services, print and digital collections among its member institutions and manages collaborative services, including eTutoring, statewide affordable learning textbook initiatives, and Open Educational Resources.

**Ohio Technology Consortium:** Governed by the Chancellor of the Department of Higher Education, OH-TECH serves as the technology and information division of the Ohio Department of Higher Education. The consortium comprises a suite of widely respected member organizations collectively unsurpassed in any other state: OSC, OARnet and OhioLINK. The consortium drives efficiencies through common services provided to member organizations through the Shared Infrastructure and Consortia Services divisions.

[ohiolink.edu/directory](http://ohiolink.edu/directory)

# OhioLINK: Connecting Libraries, Learning and Discovery

As we near the close of our 25th year, OhioLINK has much to celebrate. Since 1992, we've become far more than books and libraries—we're a growing organization with expanding services and stakeholders—while affordable learning and discovery remain central to all that we do.

As we continue to serve more than 560,000 students, faculty, researchers and staff at our member institutions, we are deepening our involvement in Ohio's affordable learning initiatives by leading the way with textbook affordability and eTutoring. Our work is attracting increasing amounts of exposure on a national and international scale, as we communicate directly with different sectors about our services and initiatives. OhioLINK and its member network are nationally renowned; our preeminence in the realms of affordable learning is quickly gaining ground.

This report highlights our work and achievements toward our goals of **supporting students, increasing access, reducing costs and fueling research**. In addition, you'll note a new look for OhioLINK—it was time for our brand to grow and expand along with us. It's our aim to not only exhibit the collaboration at the heart of OhioLINK with our new logo, but also that we recognize, as a consortium, that it is through the actions, contributions, talents and support of our membership and our network that our goals are achieved.

We are proud of our service to both higher education and the citizens of Ohio, along with our maturity and stability as an organization. Thank you for joining us on this journey as we look to the next 25 years of OhioLINK.



**Gwen Evans, MLIS, MA**  
*Executive Director*



## Highlights

### **Affordable Learning Ohio**

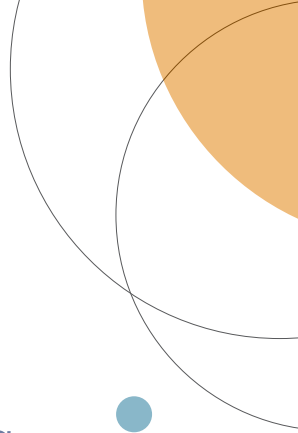
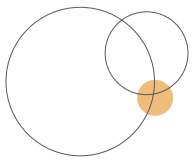
OhioLINK's initiatives are the catalyst for multi-pronged activities across OhioLINK institutions for advocacy, discovery and use of affordable, high-quality course materials. As always, our member librarians have become leading proponents and experts in these areas, on their own campuses and beyond.

### **Lifetime Learning for All Ohioans**

Columbus Metropolitan Libraries, serving an area of more than 850,000 residents, joined SearchOhio—delivering free access to OhioLINK materials and millions of additional items from public libraries statewide to its Main Library and 22 branches. OhioLINK led negotiations for the Libraries Connect Ohio database package, delivering ebooks, articles, databases, and language learning to every individual living, studying and working in Ohio.

### **Digital Public Library of America: Ohio Hub**

In a combined effort among member institutions, the DPLA now includes more than 50,000 digital images, primary source documents and other multimedia from 11 Ohio libraries and cultural institutions—a powerful collaboration among Ohio libraries and cultural heritage organizations.



# Supporting Students

“I used @OhioLINK for almost all my required reading and research in both my undergrad and grad programs. Coming from a low-income family, I would have gone without those books if someone hadn’t shared this as an option. Now I get to share this tool with my own students!”

— @heyjajaden

Affordable Learning Ohio (AFLO) is OhioLINK’s series of initiatives to support Ohio’s higher education students by leading the identification of a diverse set of strategies that reduce the cost of textbooks and course materials. OhioLINK has long been at the forefront of this effort by collectively purchasing content and providing access to research databases, electronic journals, and e-books that can be used by all students, faculty and staff of OhioLINK member institutions.

“Service to students is our motivation, and making affordable learning easier for institutions is our goal,” said Gwen Evans, executive director of OhioLINK.

Current strategies include securing price agreements with commercial publishers, supporting inclusive access programs as well as the creation and adoption of Open Educational Resources, identifying AFLO ambassadors around the state, supporting a statewide eTutoring program, and working with librarians to help students and faculty identify potential course materials available via libraries statewide.

## **Pricing Agreements with Textbook Publishers**

In a move unique to library consortiums on an international scale, OhioLINK secured e-textbook pricing agreements with six commercial publishers: Sage Publishing and

the “Big Five” in global academic publishing: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., McGraw-Hill Education, Pearson, Macmillan Learning and Cengage. Combined, these agreements can potentially reduce the cost of textbooks for Ohio’s students by more than **\$50 million** each year.

These agreements will reduce the wholesale price of e-textbooks for participating OhioLINK member institutions by up to 80 percent and reduce the cost of courseware by up to 55 percent. The agreements support inclusive access adoption of digital textbooks and courseware at OhioLINK member institutions.

*Inclusive access, often called the “first day” model, is a model in which all students enrolled in a class get immediate access to e-textbooks on day one of the course, or even before, via the Course Management System (CMS). Benefits include: All students have access to required materials on the first day of class, giving students a level playing field with reading and assignments. This alleviates the work of acquiring textbooks for students, especially those new to campus. The cost of materials is billed through the bursar. If students drop a course within the institutional add/drop dates, the refund is automatic and reimbursement is for the entire cost of course materials.*

“These agreements support our member institutions in what they are already doing with inclusive access, only at a lower price. If they aren’t doing anything with inclusive access





**AFFORDABLE  
LEARNING**

THROUGH **OhioLINK**

yet, having a pre-negotiated and established model is an excellent incentive to get started. OhioLINK set the table; institutions, faculty and students will decide independently whether to join in and when,” Evans said.

OhioLINK concentrated on publishers with demonstrated cost savings across its 89 higher education institutions, with priority given to high enrollment in lower division courses and a title catalog widely assigned in Ohio.

### **Ohio Open Ed Collaborative**

In 2017, the Ohio Department of Higher Education awarded \$1.3 million to 18 Ohio colleges and universities to promote the creation and adoption of Open Educational Resource (OER) materials. As a member of the Ohio Open Ed Collaborative, OhioLINK provides support with guidance, project implementation, promotion, member communication and hosting of OER materials.

The Collaborative includes stakeholders from ODHE, OhioLINK and higher education institutions, along with representative faculty

teams working to create and evaluate OER materials for more than 20 courses that are among the highest-enrolled college courses, including College Credit Plus courses and three upper-level mathematics courses.

OhioLINK launched the OhioLINK Open Course Content Library on behalf of the Collaborative, an OER discovery and delivery platform providing free course materials for use and download nationwide. The platform will be available for any member institution to host high-quality OER content created on their campus.

The Collaborative seeks to raise academic achievement while conserving resources. It has the potential to save college students, Ohio colleges and universities, Ohio school districts, and financial aid providers millions of dollars in textbook purchases. It will also continue the long tradition of collegiality and shared services among Ohio’s higher education institutions, including public and private universities and colleges, as exemplified by OhioLINK’s member institutions.

(continued on page 4)



Learn more at  
**[affordablelearning.ohiolink.edu](https://affordablelearning.ohiolink.edu)**

(continued from page 3)

### Affordable Learning Ambassadors

OhioLINK selected experts from its member institutions to serve as statewide ambassadors in affordable learning and provide professional training and support. These ambassadors coordinate OhioLINK's Open Textbook Network awareness and advocacy initiatives regarding OER and open textbooks, including the facilitation of workshops on member campuses. Their work culminated in the AFLO Summit at The University of Akron, attended by more than 100 academic professionals from 35 higher education institutions. The Affordable Learning Ambassadors bring diverse perspectives and backgrounds to the topic of OERs and affordable learning.

A

IN 2018, ETUTORING  
RECEIVED A **93%**  
SATISFACTION RATING  
FROM STUDENTS  
UTILIZING ITS SERVICES.

### eTutoring: Students Give It an A!

In 2009, Ohio's higher education institutions created the Ohio eTutoring Collaborative to provide online academic assistance for students. This cost-saving measure allows students to receive free online tutoring, synchronous and asynchronous, when services may not be available on campus. All students, regardless of where or how they receive instruction, are eligible to use eTutoring.

Especially popular with College Credit Plus students, eTutoring allows students to receive real-time guidance in a wide range of courses, from STEM to GRE. More than 85 percent seek support in asynchronous writing and paper review, with eTutors' turnaround times averaging a mere 26 hours.

Each year, eTutoring welcomes new institutions and tutors. Public and private, two-year and four-year institutions participate—its members have received several national awards for tutoring and administrative excellence.

# Increasing Access; Reducing Costs

- One of the top academic library consortia in the nation, OhioLINK manages Ohio's vast and varied scholarly resources and, through its renowned negotiating ability, delivers these academic, research, and discovery resources to its member libraries at the lowest possible cost—saving hundreds of millions of dollars annually.
- OhioLINK puts the power of collective purchasing to work for its 118 member libraries, bringing them together to make as much content as possible available to as many people as possible, at the most competitive price. This content is available not only to its member libraries equally, regardless of institution size, but also to any citizen entering any OhioLINK library in the state.
- Annually, OhioLINK negotiates, invoices and manages published digital content worth \$44 million on behalf of its member libraries, a fraction of the multi-millions more that institutions would pay individually. Central management and negotiation also represent cost avoidances in staffing and administrative costs on individual campuses, most notably in OhioLINK's cataloging of shared e-books and e-journals on behalf of all members.
- Proudly serving more than 560,000 students, faculty and researchers statewide, no other academic library consortium in the nation collaborates as extensively to share such a comprehensive collection of resources across its entire state.

STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF

**INTERACT**

WITH OHIOLINK RESOURCES EVERY

**1.2**

SECONDS



## Resources



**118** member libraries

**45 million+**  
library items in the  
Central Catalog



**140** Research  
Databases



**29 million+**  
articles from top  
scholarly publishers,  
academic societies  
and university presses  
in the Electronic  
Journal Center



**181,000+** e-books  
in the Electronic  
Book Center



**81,000+** tracks  
**22,000+** albums  
in the Music Center



**93,000+** theses  
and dissertations  
from more than  
**30** academic  
institutions in the  
Electronic Theses and  
Dissertations Center

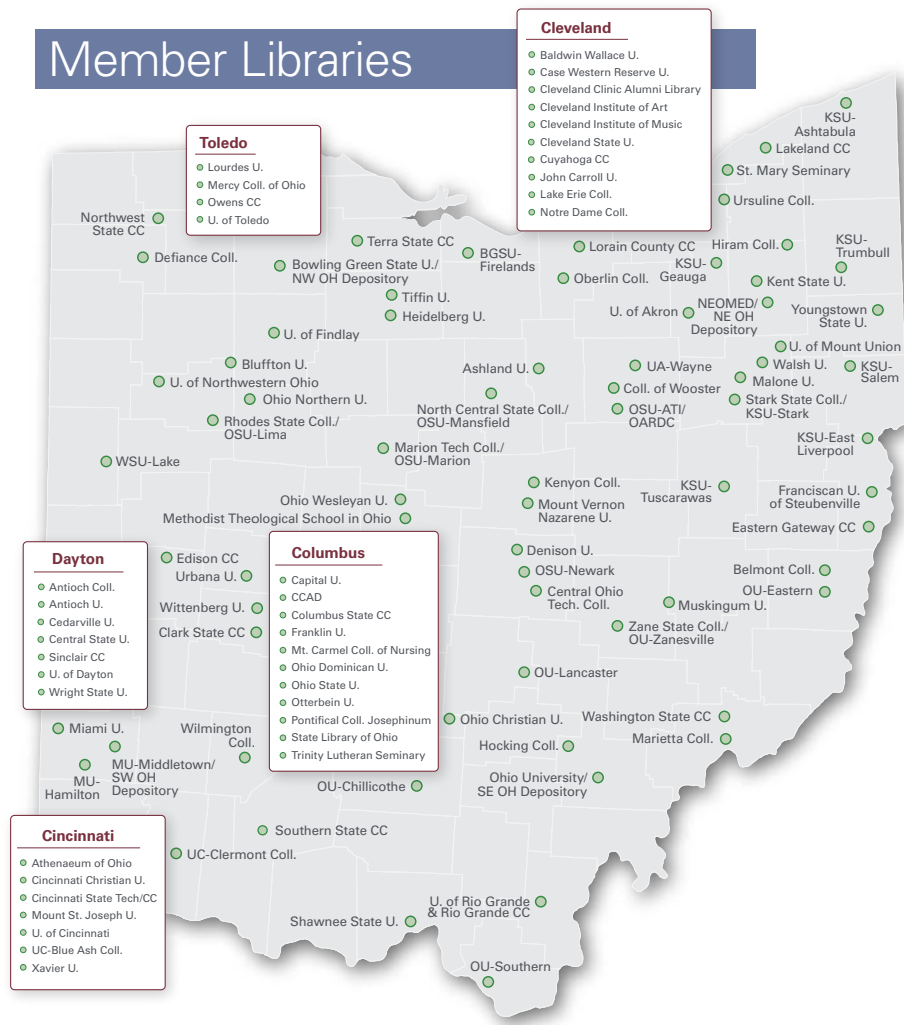


Rich collections  
housed in Ohio's  
archives, libraries  
and other institutions  
in the Finding  
Aid Repository



**85,000+** rare,  
scholarly and  
historical records  
from Ohio's colleges,  
universities and  
cultural institutions in  
the Digital Resource  
Commons

## Member Libraries



## OhioLINK Content Negotiation Pays Off

OhioLINK Increases

**2.9%**

National Increases

**4.7%**

Individual **Institutional** Increases

**5.4%**

These increases reference journal content.

**\$40,882,804**

— IN AVOIDED COSTS —  
OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS



MEMBERS PAY JUST

**\$73.25**

PER FTE

to provide the entire collection of OhioLINK resources



# Researcher Profiles

OhioLINK delivers indispensable research materials directly into the hands of Ohio-based students, researchers, faculty and entrepreneurs—creating a competitive advantage for Ohio institutions of higher learning as well as the state’s economic engine.



## Bowling Green State University

### OhioLINK a Key Asset to Lake Erie Cleanup Researchers

Robert Michael McKay, Ph.D., and George Bullerjahn, Ph.D., had been studying water quality in the Great Lakes for more than a decade when the situation in Lake Erie turned dire.

On Aug. 2, 2014, nearly half a million Toledoans woke up to contaminated drinking water from toxins released by microscopic cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, in Lake Erie—Toledo’s water supply.

Since then, the biological science professors at Bowling Green State University have been on the front lines of battling the algal bloom in Lake Erie. And among their best weapons is OhioLINK.

“These events are a global phenomenon,” said McKay, Ryan Professor of Biology at BGSU. “We’re accessing research articles through OhioLINK daily. It’s a resource most of us take for granted. You forget about this consortium of schools whose buying power allows you access to essentially anything. I’m really not sure where we would be without OhioLINK.”

An “algal bloom” search in the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center turns up more than 36,000 articles, and searching “algal bloom Lake Erie” returns 2,135 articles.

Bullerjahn said OhioLINK’s Electronic Thesis and Dissertation center is also key.

“Our scientific colleagues around the state are mentoring students,” said Bullerjahn, Professor of Research Excellence at BGSU. “They’re producing work that may not be in primary literature yet, but it may be appendices and theses that afford details that often get omitted in primary literature.”

McKay and Bullerjahn had been studying the algal bloom phenomenon since around 2000, but their efforts picked up in 2014 with the Toledo water crisis.

The Lake Erie algal bloom is the result of phosphorus runoff from farm fertilizers. The contaminated water can cause illness in humans and can kill smaller animals. Because of those dangers, algal blooms often wreak millions of dollars of damage to lakeside areas in the form of retail home values, water quality treatment, and the tourism trade. Groups are working on voluntary participation, including tax incentives, amongst the farming community to adopt better practices and have considered more regulation through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

▲ FOR THE FULL STORY // [ohiolink.edu/erie](http://ohiolink.edu/erie)





“We’re accessing research articles through OhioLINK daily. I’m really not sure where we would be without OhioLINK.”

— Robert Michael McKay, Ph.D., Ryan Professor of Biology at Bowling Green State University

## **The University of Akron**

### An Opiate Alternative

Philip Allen, Ph.D., and colleagues at the University of Akron’s Conquer Chiari Research Center are exploring the effectiveness of alternatives to opiates and pain relief medicines by using his research in one clinical disorder, Chiari Malformation Type I, which causes chronic pain in thousands of people.

Because this is a little-known disorder, much of Allen’s research is critical to those around the world, and it’s all available in OhioLINK’s Electronic Journal Center. Allen himself gains tremendous insight from the research available in the EJC.

Pain relievers such as aspirin and ibuprofen work peripherally as anti-inflammatories to prevent swelling, thus fighting pain, but they do not always control severe pain. Opiates, however, work centrally, meaning you still feel the pain you just don’t care. However, over time, opiates lose effectiveness and have strong side effects.

In the same way opiates work, yoga-like mindfulness interventions such as ACT (acceptance and commitment therapy), have shown some chronic pain sufferers learn to focus on a task rather than pain. Additionally, this intervention does not appear to become less effective over time.

Results from a 2018 study by Allen’s group indicate individuals with stronger focusing abilities are better able to inhibit focusing on pain, and instead focus on another task.

One additional aspect of this research is that it also has the potential to obtain more insight into pain such as migraine headaches.

▲ FOR THE FULL STORY // [ohiolink.edu/opiate](https://ohiolink.edu/opiate)

## **The Ohio State University**

### Food Poisoning Therapeutics

The typical prescription for food poisoning is to let it take its course. But what if we could go to the pharmacy and pick up a drug for food poisoning the same way we do for the common cold?

Anice Sabag-Daigle, Ph.D., a research scientist in the laboratory of Brian Ahmer, Ph.D., at The Ohio State University’s College of Medicine Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity, is working to make this a possibility someday.

Sabag-Daigle has used OhioLINK since she was a student to educate herself on current research in her field as well as literature and journal articles related to microbial and infectious diseases. Now, as a full-time research scientist, she has her own research featured in OhioLINK’s Electronic Theses and Dissertations Center and two articles in the Electronic Journal Center.

Currently, Sabag-Daigle and fellow researchers have identified a novel pathway for a nutrient *Salmonella* can use. The researchers plan to use this information to develop a therapeutic for those infected with the bacteria.

The group is also studying a probiotic for chickens. Eating contaminated poultry is a common way many humans become sick from *Salmonella*. The probiotic could prevent chickens from becoming colonized with *Salmonella* before they ever reach human consumption.

▲ FOR THE FULL STORY // [ohiolink.edu/salmonella](https://ohiolink.edu/salmonella)

## Ohio Wesleyan University

# Dementia Research in Tanzania

As an undergraduate student, Amanda Barry used an Ohio Wesleyan University Theory-To-Practice grant to travel to Arusha, Tanzania to study memory impairment and attitudes toward those affected by dementia in rural Africa.

The idea came not only from her interest in pursuing a clinical career in dementia, but also from a previous trip to Tanzania as part of a biology class. After that trip, Barry turned to OhioLINK's Electronic Journal Center to compare dementia cases and the stigma attached in the U.S. and in rural Tanzanian communities. That information became the basis of the grant proposal she wrote, titled "Exploring the Prevalence and Perceptions of Dementia in a Rural Community in Tanzania."

Barry traveled with Professor Ali Skandor to approximate the prevalence of dementia among members of several Maasai communities, and to get a feel for the attitudes families had toward affected individuals. Through her OhioLINK research, Barry found research that suggested these tribes exhibited lower instances of memory impairment than the rest of the world.

Barry and Skandor administered mini-mental status exams to everyone in the tribes who was older than 40. For those with low exam scores, Barry followed up by interviewing family members to gauge behavior and see if they exhibited any symptoms of dementia.

While the examination process may have been rocky, Barry was able to get a sense of attitudes toward those with signs of dementia. She determined that there was generally less of a stigma attached when compared to attitudes back home.

▲ FOR THE FULL STORY // [ohiolink.edu/tanzania](http://ohiolink.edu/tanzania)

## Bowling Green State University

# Researching, Cataloging Police Crime

Type Philip Stinson, Ph.D., into OhioLINK's Electronic Journal Center and it's quickly apparent his research involves one of the hot-button topics in the United States: police crimes.

Stinson—an associate professor in Bowling Green State University's Human Services Department in the Criminal Justice Program—began studying and tracking crimes committed by law enforcement officers in 2005 as a graduate student. Since then, his work has evolved into a national goldmine of information regarding police crime in America. His research team has more than 270 variables it tracks in arrest cases and adds about 1,100 cases a year.

That comes in handy when a major news story breaks, such as in August 2014 when a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri shot and killed an 18-year-old black man.

That incident set off a national media firestorm.

Not long after that, the *Washington Post* contacted Stinson to see if he'd be willing to work with them on an editorial project about police shootings.

The stories began appearing in April 2015 and led to a Pulitzer Prize for national reporting.

On a daily basis, Stinson is contacted by national media, including everyone from the Huffington Post to the *New York Times* to ESPN, and his articles are sought after from higher education institutions, media members, and the general public. His research has been featured in everything from HBO's *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* to NPR's *All Things Considered*.

Stinson is also a major advocate for BGSU's Jerome Library, a founding member of OhioLINK. In the past, he was the chair of the Faculty Senate Library Advisory Council and nominated the Jerome Library for the Provost's Unit Recognition Award, which the Library won.

▲ FOR THE FULL STORY // [ohiolink.edu/police](http://ohiolink.edu/police)

# 2017–18 Highlights

## **November 1, 2017**

### 25th Anniversary Research Showcase

OhioLINK celebrated its 25 years of serving Ohio with the 25th Anniversary Research Showcase at the Ohio Statehouse. The event presented a history of OhioLINK dating back to its creation in 1992 and brought the public and Ohio's legislators face-to-face with researchers and students from around the state that depend on OhioLINK in their groundbreaking work.

## **February 13, 2018**

### Inaugural OhioLINK Summit

This Inaugural event gathered 170 participants from OhioLINK member libraries at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The Summit provided a platform for participants from around Ohio to share ideas, brainstorm on future initiatives and desired services, and participate in discussions about OhioLINK resources and policies and how they impact member institutions.

## **March 6, 2018**

### State of the State: A Panel on College Textbook Affordability

Included among activities surrounding Ohio Governor John Kasich's 2018 State of the State address at Otterbein University, OhioLINK was honored to convene and moderate a panel on college textbook affordability before a standing-room-only audience. Drawing on the expertise of our members, the panel explored the rising price of college textbooks, how it impacts students and how Ohio is responding via affordable learning initiatives, including OERs and the groundbreaking announcement of OhioLINK's pricing agreements with commercial academic publishers.

## **June 23, 2018**

Joanna Voss, collections analyst at OhioLINK, was the recipient of the national 2018 ProQuest Coutts Award for Innovation from the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS). The award recognizes significant and innovated contributions to electronic collections management and development practice. Voss received national recognition for her leadership in improving workflow and data-sharing management of electronic resources for OhioLINK members. ALCTS is a division of the American Library Association.







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OH-TECH is the technology and information division  
of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

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