OhioLINK is a consortium that efficiently manages the state’s scholarly resources.

OhioLINK negotiates on behalf of 120 higher education libraries throughout the state, plus the State Library of Ohio, giving aggregated purchasing power to Ohio’s academic libraries. OhioLINK, the state’s most viable cost-saving mechanism for academic libraries today, serves nearly 600,000 students and faculty. Since 1992, OhioLINK has brought valuable resources to libraries at the lowest possible cost.

Key benefits to Ohio constituents

Critical resources for research & teaching

Internationally recognized as a leader in academic library services, OhioLINK provides cutting-edge services for cost-effective knowledge building across the state by:

- Facilitating the sharing of physical library collections including 45 million items across 121 member libraries
- Negotiating for high-quality journals in the STEMM disciplines at reduced costs
- Supporting an innovation ecosystem that promotes economic development, technology commercialization and job creation in Ohio

Exceptional return on investment

OhioLINK has offered outstanding ROI for over two decades through aggregate purchasing power:

- Every $1 million spent in annual group licensing saves our OhioLINK libraries a total of $3 million to $4 million that they would have had to spend licensing the content individually

“I also know we are fortunate in Ohio to have access to Safari (technical books online) in particular. I’ve spoken with faculty in other states, and they were surprised that we have access to all of these resources.”

— Steve Stiles, Rhodes State College, Information & Emerging Technology

Supporting Ohio’s knowledge-based economy

OhioLINK’s traditional user base includes students, faculty and staff at all of Ohio’s public and private universities and community and technical colleges. But OhioLINK’s funding reach goes far beyond Ohio’s academic institutions. For 20 years, OhioLINK has used its superior negotiating position to help P–20 learners across the state access education-based resources.

OhioLINK contributes a significant share of the cost of the databases that make up Libraries Connect Ohio, which supports “continuous lifelong learning.” This provides a common set of resources available to Ohioans throughout their educational, work and personal lives via academic, school and public library support.

High school students who participate in the College Credit Plus program get a head start on college preparation by access to all OhioLINK resources in all subject areas. Non-traditional students, whether they are re-training for new jobs or adding the newest knowledge to their existing skills, have access to an unbelievably broad range of resources at every OhioLINK institution.

Now and into the future, OhioLINK must invest wisely in shared content. Our consortia of 121 institutions is increasingly relying upon the content and services that OhioLINK provides.
Maximizing return on investment

Cooperative funding

Capital funding from the Ohio Department of Higher Education subsidizes the cost of the high-quality electronic journal content that OhioLINK institutions rely upon for research and teaching. This central OhioLINK funding covers only 18 percent of the annual total spent for OhioLINK electronic resources—the remaining 82 percent comes from OhioLINK member institutions. The central funding directly benefits member institutions by enabling the continued purchase of STEMM content in the most cost-effective way, and making it widely available to the largest possible number of Ohio faculty, students and staff.

Collective buying power

OhioLINK traditionally does much better at negotiating for reduced pricing than individual institutions or other national and international library consortia. We leverage the collective buying power of the members and use central state funding to incentivize vendors to maintain statewide access to all 121 OhioLINK member libraries, public and private, at an affordable cost. This approach offers significant savings; in the case of one subscription, OhioLINK institutions collectively saved $6 million over the cost of negotiating individually. Keeping OhioLINK packages intact is the most efficient method of acquiring and disseminating content that supports academic research and teaching in Ohio.

“I don’t have to pay for my books with OhioLINK, so it is as important as my paycheck.”
— University of Cincinnati Student

A great investment in Ohio’s future

Shared content is the most cost-effective way to purchase and deliver high-quality resources for Ohio universities and colleges. It also delivers a more consistent and lower cost experience to students as they move from dual-enrollment, advanced-placement high school classes, through community college, to four-year institutions and graduate schools in Ohio.

OhioLINK’s many resources—articles, journals, e-books, print books, audiovisual materials and data—meet the teaching, learning and research needs of a broad range of academic programs, while supporting the national accreditation standards of academic programs and institutions. Shared statewide content allows institutions to rapidly develop new curricula and programs without having to invest heavily in acquiring new library collections and resources.

OhioLINK’s e-journals and research databases contain the most costly, high-impact, cutting-edge material in the STEMM disciplines. With access through a variety of venues from the State Library to nearby member institutions, these materials are critical not only for institutions of higher learning but also for supporting all Ohio citizens from K–12 to higher education to a lifetime of learning. All Ohio-based entrepreneurs, small businesses and startups have access to valuable, credible materials for research and sustaining a lifetime of curiosity. In order to continue to innovate and develop economic advantages, all Ohioans benefit from continued access to the shared content that OhioLINK offers.

“I’m going to miss OhioLINK most of all if I ever leave the state.”
— Dr. D.L. Stewart, @DrDLStewart

“Oh, OhioLINK, how extensive your collection is. Such a great system!”
— Alexa Fox, @AlexaKaye3