Library buys book; adds information to their own catalog and OhioLINK's Central Catalog; places on shelf.

Student at any OhioLINK member library finds and requests book via Central Catalog.

Book's home library receives request; a staff member pulls the book.

Book is placed in an OhioLINK bag; courier picks up the bag and takes it to a regional sorting center.

Book is sorted with other books going to the same destination.

Staff receives book, scans it and notifies the student requester.

Book arrives at student's OhioLINK library of choice.

Student picks up book.
Priority Dispatch based in Cincinnati has been the courier for OhioLINK since 2012. Each year, Priority Dispatch moves more than half a million books and other library materials across the state to fill requests made by students, staff and faculty at OhioLINK colleges and universities.

There are over 160 stops around the state where books are delivered by 55 drivers statewide. The courier service is always chosen in a public competitive bidding process every few years.

OhioLINK works with a small Amish company called Oak Valley Tarp, located in the heart of Amish country in Sugarcreek, Ohio to create sturdy bags used to deliver books between the libraries. OhioLINK has been buying the canvas bags from them since 1998.

OhioLINK typically orders 2,100 bags at a time, and Oak Valley Tarp provides a six-to-eight week turnaround time. One of the advantages of Oak Valley Tarp is that they are willing to repair bags for a small fee, keeping supply costs low over time.