Statewide licensing of electronic information resources benefits colleges and universities of every size. As illustrated, the power to license for all of Ohio higher education provides discounted rates and stretches the dollar of the individual library budget. Large universities free up money to purchase more specialized resources and the small institutions now have access to resources formerly beyond their means.

The OhioLINK expenditure represents a small fraction of the funds spent by Ohio’s higher education libraries. OhioLINK does not replace college and university library budgets used to purchase materials, it helps libraries maximize their purchasing power through coordinated statewide licensing of information resources. Ohio higher education is directly affected by the quality and quantity of library resources, and with continued support of both OhioLINK’s and the local libraries’ budgets, the dramatic gain in information resources made through the OhioLINK program can be maintained and expanded.
American Council on Education Recognizes OhioLINK

In June, OhioLINK received the Academic Excellence and Cost Management Award from the American Council on Education (ACE). The program was selected for Academic Management of Information Resources, one of six national awards presented by ACE and The USA Group. The awards promote improved quality and cost efficiency among higher education institutions.

EJC Earns Prestigious CSG National Award

The Electronic Journal Center was honored as one of eight national Council of State Government’s 1999 Innovations Awardees. “The [Innovations] program is the only national awards program that focuses exclusively on state programs and policies and selects winners based on evaluations by state government leaders,” said Dan Sprague, CSG’s executive director.

-- from Nov/Dec 1999 State Government News

Where does the OhioLINK budget go?

Content & Content Delivery
Technical Infrastructure
Staff/Admin.

Expanding access to information cost-efficiently is OhioLINK’s mission. Increasingly, the budget is spent for content and the delivery of content. Initially, the budget focused on building a statewide infrastructure. Now established, the infrastructure supports the ever-growing diversity of services purchased and delivered by OhioLINK.
OhioLINK's Central Catalog holdings are quite diverse. In 2000, the catalog included Ohio's 17 public/research universities, 23 community and/or technical colleges, the State Library of Ohio and 38 independent colleges. This statewide collection included more than 7.3 million unique records. Through this cooperation, instruction and research are improved at all 79 institutions.

Online borrowing through the OhioLINK Central Catalog opens doors for Ohio's undergraduate students. Traditionally, undergraduates rarely used Interlibrary Loan (ILL). Today, OhioLINK's easy-to-use system sees increasing numbers of undergraduate borrowers and expands service for faculty and graduate student needs.
Working toward equal borrowing and lending rates, the OhioLINK program does not “raid” university collections. It works to enrich all its affiliated libraries by enabling quick and easy borrowing and loaning between the college and university communities.

Access to the OhioLINK Central Catalog allows participating libraries to diversify their collections by purchasing items not already held within the system, instead of purchasing duplicate copies of low-demand items.
Using statewide purchasing power to achieve the best discounted prices, the OhioLINK program adds to its core collection of databases as its funding permits. OhioLINK users can research topics from anthropology to zoology. Quality research databases are not free services, but they are necessary tools for higher education students, faculty and researchers.

Every OhioLINK database fills an instructional or research need, and many fields are represented by the current research database collection. However, the OhioLINK program has not yet reached its goal -- a complete core database collection that can support all Ohio's academic programs.
In 1995, the OhioLINK program first delivered full-text general interest articles to users via library print stations. As the presence of the WWW increases and OhioLINK expands full-text resources and desktop delivery, document downloads continue to grow. With the OhioLINK program's diverse collection of full-text resources, 5 million documents were downloaded in 2000. This far exceeds the 125,000 (avg.) articles per year borrowed through traditional interlibrary loan methods.

**Distribution of 5 Million Full-Text Documents Downloaded**

- 17,000 e-books (electronic books)
- 1,200,000 General Interest and Business Articles
- 30,000 Other Sources
- 310,000 Britannica Online
- 330,000 Poems, Plays, and more
- 420,000 SIRS Researcher
- 1,120,000 Electronic Journal Center
- 1,480,000 Lexis-Nexis Universe and other CIS products

**Research Databases Searches**

- 12,000,000
- 10,000,000
- 8,000,000
- 6,000,000
- 4,000,000
- 2,000,000
- 0


Users continue gaining better access while seeing more integration between citations, articles, images, and other data types as new information resources are added. Many of the citation databases use a single interface, simplifying their use.
EJC Delivers Diverse Collection of Scholarly Journals to Researchers

Ohio's academic libraries can afford only a small portion of the thousands of available research journals. Ohio's major universities hold an average of only 24% of 18 major publishers' titles. Library budgets do not keep pace with increasing journal prices, causing libraries to cut their print subscriptions each year.

Expanded electronic access to journals improves the quality of research at Ohio's major universities. Even the largest research universities with large collections of print journals benefit from the expanded coverage.
The OhioLINK program continues to illustrate that people will use more information resources, if the resources are readily available. With more than 3,200 titles now online in the EJC, Ohio’s researchers and faculty have access to many titles their individual libraries cannot purchase.
OhioLINK delivered its first images through the Digital Media Center (DMC) in August, 1999. Today, the DMC includes more than 50,000 art and architecture images, thousands of satellite images, and a collection of historic maps which just debuted. Several Ohio colleges and universities have started submitting digitized local collections, as well.
**Things to come in 2001**

- Expanding the Central Catalog to include additional independent colleges.
- Continuing to expand online borrowing into different types of materials, including video tapes and CDs.
- Further diversifying the Digital Media Center to include:
  - Ohio Memory Project
  - 600 Physics experiments on video
  - Archival and video collections from participating OhioLINK institutions
- Adding new publishers to the EJC.
- Adding electronic books, theses and dissertations.
- Improving off-campus access to all OhioLINK resources for all OhioLINK patrons.
- Improving the website usability and user interface for OhioLINK services.

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OhioLINK Benefits Higher Education

- Maximizes the utility of Ohio's academic library collections.
- Dramatically increases information access at small and large institutions.
- Delivers exceedingly cost-effective access to information.
- Increases Ohio's ability to prepare students and researchers in the information age.