Snapshot 2006

Improving the Quality of Ohio Higher Education for the 21st Century

OhioLINK
Since 2001, OhioLINK and Ohio library budgets have either been reduced or relatively stagnant. As a result, new initiatives have been curtailed, selective scholarly resources were reduced in 2005, and a membership fee was instituted for the first time. We continue to work cooperatively with available resources to expand information access. The benefits that the OhioLINK program has demonstrated over its 14 years of operations warrant its continued support and expansion.

Cost-Effectively Delivering More Information

The purchasing efficiencies of OhioLINK have resulted in expanded access to the latest scientific research across the state. The effectiveness and quality of research and instruction have improved as a result. With the financial resources to maintain and further expand cost-effective access to the latest scholarly information, we can contribute to the development of a competitive, knowledge-based Ohio economy.

Increasing Buying Power, Reducing Cost Increases

Combining OhioLINK and library funds into statewide action has proven to be the only affordable approach to providing robust access to an expanding universe of scientific information. We have multiplied our journal buying power by more than fourfold at Ohio’s major universities. Additionally, OhioLINK has greatly reduced the rate of rise in information costs compared to the general marketplace.

Supporting Higher Education and the State

OhioLINK’s combined annual operating and capital funds have increased only 112% in 10 years, while the annual levels of information delivered to serve the needs of Ohio’s research institutions have grown astronomically as OhioLINK services have been introduced. OhioLINK’s ability to provide increased access to information has not been fully exploited due to funding constraints. Yet the program remains a highly cost-effective and necessary approach to creating and supporting a 21st century higher education system and state economy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where Do OhioLINK Expenses Go?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content &amp; Content Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff/Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Combined Capital & Operating Appropriations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Millions of Dollars</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-Journal Articles Downloaded</td>
<td>206,000</td>
<td>15,703,000</td>
<td>7523%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filled Interlibrary Loans</td>
<td>61,170</td>
<td>756,000</td>
<td>1136%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Searches</td>
<td>2,661,500</td>
<td>32,817,000</td>
<td>1133%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Databases</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>711%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Catalog Holdings</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>28,129,000</td>
<td>302%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Catalog Master Records</td>
<td>2,760,000</td>
<td>10,002,000</td>
<td>262%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Media Downloaded</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>293,400</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions Served</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>200%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Appropriations (FY06 Operating + Capital)</td>
<td>$5,180,000</td>
<td>$10,997,000</td>
<td>112%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OhioLINK Milestones: Important Dates

1995: Library Catalog Launches
1998: E-Journal Center Live
2000: Digital Media Center Live
2005: First E-Book Collection Debuts
2005: Electronic Theses & Dissertations Center Live
2007: Chat with a Librarian Begins

OhioLINK Snapshot 2006
In spite of tightening financial resources, the OhioLINK community continued its commitment to expanding resources and services.

In 2006, OhioLINK added:

- **Better searching:** The new Quick Search @ OhioLINK tool provides simple, Google-like searching with reliable, library-quality results that are appropriate for class and research. Quick Search saves time by letting users search multiple resources simultaneously and receive results in a unified display.

- **More full-text across a wider array of disciplines:** In July, the OhioLINK community cancelled 13 database subscriptions and used those funds to subscribe to 21 new databases and upgrade eight others to versions that include more full-text resources. As a result of these changes, OhioLINK and its member libraries are able to cost-effectively provide the community with more full-text resources across a broader array of disciplines.

- **More educational films and documentaries:** OhioLINK continued to build its collection of educational films and documentaries. Four hundred and fifty films were added to the Digital Video Collection, bringing the total number of available films to 1,960.

- **More articles:** OhioLINK’s award-winning Electronic Journal Center reached another milestone in June when the seven millionth article was added. By the end of the year, the EJC had grown to include 7.8 million articles and more than 7,000 journal titles.

- **More e-books:** OhioLINK added two new e-book collections with more than 1,200 books total: Oxford Scholarship Online and Oxford Digital Reference Shelf. In addition, 600 new technology e-books were added to the Safari Tech Books Online collection.

- **More books:** OhioLINK reached a milestone in October when the 10 millionth unique title was added to the OhioLINK Library Catalog. A total of 45.8 million items are available to students, faculty and staff at member institutions.
The OhioLINK program is a leader in expanding information access through the emergence of electronic books. Growing use of a diverse, multi-publisher collection of more than 20,800 titles already demonstrates the users’ strong desire to select and use e-books. Though the e-books collection is still in its infancy, users have shown that they will use almost all available e-book titles. E-books offer a more affordable means of providing expanded access to high-demand materials such as the very popular information technology titles. Electronic access is especially important for IT titles, as few libraries can afford to comprehensively collect these frequently published and updated titles.

The OhioLINK e-book collection is expanding as new business models are established with book publishers, but it will grow slowly due to budget constraints.

OhioLINK is Student’s First Step for Research

I grew up in the neighborhood of Kent State University. We were introduced to the wonder that is OhioLINK in middle school. Teachers were able to assign more extensive and interesting research projects because they knew we could easily get a community card at the university’s library and have access to thousands of resources. When it came time for me to pick a college, prestigious out-of-state universities lost some of their attractiveness because I knew my research capabilities would be the same there as at any Ohio establishment. Now, a freshman at Oberlin College, I have the advantage over some of my year mates. OhioLINK was my first step in high school and it’s my first step now.

Laura Wilke
Undergraduate Student
Oberlin College
OhioLINK Library Catalog Delivers Increased Access to a Broader Set of Library Materials

The large and diverse OhioLINK Library Catalog continues to foster a high level of book utilization. It is also being used to increase access to audio and video materials. The benefit of the catalog is clearly seen as online borrowing showed strong, uninterrupted growth in 2006. Half of this growth is the result of borrowing by users from the two public libraries that participate in the online borrowing program, Cuyahoga County Public Library and Westerville Public Library.

Growth in academic library collections continued to slow for a fourth straight year and was the lowest in OhioLINK’s 14-year history. The long-term value of the OhioLINK Library Catalog is dependent on continued additions of new titles that can be shared across the state.

Undergraduates Borrow More Through OhioLINK

Undergraduates’ continued use of online borrowing is a special program achievement. Traditionally, undergraduates rarely used interlibrary loan, but they continue to account for a larger percentage of overall OhioLINK online borrowing.

OhioLINK Helps Local Libraries Diversify Collections

In 2006, the OhioLINK Library Catalog included Ohio’s 16 public/research universities, 23 community and/or technical colleges, the State Library of Ohio, 44 independent colleges, two public libraries and the Center for Research Libraries. This statewide collection now includes more than 10 million unique records representing 45.8 million books and other library items held statewide. Access to the 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.

OhioLINK libraries continue to evolve techniques for cooperative collection development in order to buy the broadest possible set of research and scholarly books with limited or decreasing acquisition budgets.

OhioLINK Milestones: Number of Institutions Contributing to the Library Catalog

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OhioLINK Removes Research Limitations for Students & Faculty

OhioLINK is a beyond useful tool; it is invaluable to students, faculty and researchers in Ohio. I used OhioLINK while an undergraduate at Ohio University. It allowed me to access books that were not available at OU’s library because they were already checked out or not part of the collection. While a graduate student at Ohio State, I used OhioLINK to access an untold number of articles, essays and texts for my research. I was able to find those small, yet important articles and abstracts which gave some of my research and papers a competitive edge.

For community colleges like Columbus State, OhioLINK is an indispensable tool. Like most community colleges, our on-campus library collection is rather small. I would not be able to conduct much research and my students would be similarly limited without access to OhioLINK.

 Whenever I travel for conferences or pleasure and the topic of education or research comes up, I mention OhioLINK. It is the envy of people around the country. The program gives Ohio colleges and universities the ability to compete for students, researchers and faculty.

Without OhioLINK, small colleges and universities and community colleges would definitely suffer the most.

Deborah Kuzawa
Adjunct Faculty
Columbus State Community College

OhioLINK Milestones: Cumulative Number of Items Requested Online from the Library Catalog

1996: 0.5 million
1998: 1.5 million
2001: 3 million
2003: 4 million
2004: 5 million
2006: 6.5 million
OhioLINK Enriches Libraries, Benefits Users

Since 1994, the year online borrowing began, OhioLINK borrowing and lending rates have remained steady and demonstrate a healthy exchange of library resources. The OhioLINK program does not raid major university library collections. In fact, major universities not only lend, but also borrow the most library items. The OhioLINK program enriches all its affiliated libraries by enabling quick and easy borrowing and lending between the college and university communities.

OhioLINK’s reciprocal borrowing agreements with public libraries demonstrate the mutual needs and benefits of sharing library materials among the academic and public library communities.

OhioLINK Helps Attract Scholars to Ohio

When considering prospective graduate schools for a doctoral program in English, OhioLINK was a contributing factor in my choice to attend the University of Cincinnati. The program information sent to me by the English department included just a short description of OhioLINK, but I could immediately anticipate the benefit to my research—quick access to texts held at libraries other than my home institution. I previously attended a smaller university with no such system, and research quickly became trying. I even drove across the state to check out armloads of books rather than wait the customary two to three weeks for them to arrive through interlibrary loan. Research at UC has fulfilled—indeed surpassed—those initial expectations, and has helped my work become more careful as well as more enjoyable.

Kathryn Cole Bunthoff
Doctoral Student, English
University of Cincinnati
Use of OhioLINK databases by students and faculty continues to increase. This indicates the need not only for the current collection, but also for additional databases to support all areas of scholarship, including the arts, humanities, business and the sciences.

New Databases Acquired Through Collaboration, Rearranging Portfolio of Resources

Growth in databases over the past several years has mainly been the result of rearranging our resource portfolio, additions to the Digital Media Center (images, audio and video files), and collaborative licensing efforts with the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN), the Information Network for Ohio Schools (INFOhio), and the State Library of Ohio. Among these is a set of databases funded by federal Library Services and Technology Act funds only through mid-2008.

In 2006, the OhioLINK community cancelled 13 database subscriptions and used those funds to subscribe to 21 new databases and upgrade eight others to versions that include more full-text resources. As a result of these changes, OhioLINK and its member libraries are able to cost-effectively provide the community with more full-text resources across a broader array of disciplines.

Fact: Scholarly Resources Have Never Been Free

A prevalent myth today is that all information is available for free on the Internet via Google and other search engines. The fact is that reliable, scholarly resources have never been free. Authoritative research resources, whether in print or electronic form, remain the core of academic scholarship and these resources can only be licensed from commercial publishers. Furthermore, licensing a collection centrally, for statewide access, continues to be the most cost-effective means of providing expanded access to scholarly information.

OhioLINK Milestones: Cumulative Number of Research Database Searches

Integration Helps Users Find More Full-Text

Users continue to gain better access to the full-text articles they seek through more integration between citations, articles, images and other data types. OLinks, OhioLINK’s linking service, links users to 12,000+ commercially licensed journals, hundreds of open-access journals and holdings in the OhioLINK Library Catalog. OLinks is also incorporated into Google Scholar and Microsoft’s Live Search Academic, two specialized search engines for scholarly research. Now, whether users start their search from Google Scholar, Microsoft’s Live Search Academic, the OhioLINK Web site or their library’s Web site, they can access the reliable, scholarly resources that OhioLINK has already purchased. In addition, many of the citation databases use a single interface, simplifying their use. Users can also access multiple databases in their area of interest via a single search and receive online help.

Users Continue to Download More Full-Text Documents

In 1995, the OhioLINK program first delivered electronically-stored, full-text general interest articles to users via library print stations. Today, with the World Wide Web, users receive electronic delivery straight to their desktop. As OhioLINK expands its diverse collection of full-text resources, document downloads continue to grow. In 2006, 19.4 million documents of all types were downloaded.

Fast Facts: OhioLINK’s 2006 Top Ten* Databases

#1 Academic Search Premier (general interest) 26.7%
#2 Electronic Journal Center (general interest) 12.5%
#3 Business Source Premier (business) 4.5%
#4 LexisNexis (news, business, legal and medical) 4.3%
#5 PsycINFO (psychology) 3.8%
#6 ISI Web of Science (arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences) 3.7%
#7 CINAHL (nursing) 3.1%
#8 WorldCat (worldwide catalog of library books and materials) 2.2%

*Based on % of searches on OhioLINK or vendors’ Web sites. Does not include library catalog statistics.

Professor Relies on OhioLINK to Enhance Courses He Teaches

“...have found the resources provided by OhioLINK to be an indispensable part of enhancing the courses that I teach as well as my own professional development. Developments in civil engineering technology, like many other technologies, occur at an ever-quickening pace and the databases provided by OhioLINK allow both my students and I to research and discover the projects, technologies, and techniques that are ‘front and center’ in many different areas of construction and design.

Tom Burns
Program Chair, Civil Engineering Technology Dept. 
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
OhioLINK Continues Unparalleled Success in Expanding Use of Scholarly Journals

Since 1995, use of OhioLINK-delivered, full-text, research journal articles has continued to climb. This is true across the scholarship spectrum, from the undergraduate student searching the EBSCO databases for general scholarly articles to complete an English composition paper, to the faculty member using peer-reviewed articles from the Electronic Journal Center to support her cutting-edge research. OhioLINK users continue to have an insatiable demand for full-text, electronic articles.

Traditionally, Ohio's major universities hold an average of only 25% of the available scholarly research journals, with independent and community colleges having much less. Given the opportunity for direct desktop delivery, university students and faculty will use, on average, more than 80% of the available journals. This is a much wider range than is available on each campus through individual library purchases. Patrons of independent colleges use five times more journals than traditionally available, while patrons of community colleges use more than 20 times the amount available in print. From Ohio's largest research university to the smallest community college, all institutions have benefited from cooperative electronic journal purchasing.

OhioLINK Gives Ohio Researchers a Competitive Edge

OhioLINK is a wonderful resource for research. I have had two friends move to two different states to pursue graduate-level research. Both have commented to me that their new state did not have a resource similar to OhioLINK and that their research would be made that much easier if they had access to OhioLINK. OhioLINK is a great benefit to modern research and I believe it gives researchers in Ohio a competitive edge over researchers in other states.

Joshua Thomas
Graduate Student, Physics
The University of Toledo
**Fast Facts: Total EJC Downloads**

Since 1998: 25,038,250

In 2006: 4,943,450

**Annual EJC Article Downloads For Each Publisher**

- Elsevier Science & Academic Press
- Blackwell Publishing
- Springer
- ACS
- Wiley
- Sage
- All Others

**Traditional Percent of Scholarly Research Journals Held in Print Versus Percent of 7,000 EJC Journal Titles Used**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Number of Journals Held in Print</th>
<th>Percent of EJC Titles Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Universities</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Medical Colleges</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Independent Colleges</td>
<td>&lt;5%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Community Colleges</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professor Says OhioLINK Is Indispensable**

"OhioLINK has always been an indispensable research companion for me. We are a small school with limited journal access capabilities within our campus. With the help of OhioLINK, I can browse extensive databases and conduct quick literature searches spanning from education to engineering conveniently from my home. I can also borrow items from other universities located within Ohio. I urge all concerned to continue to support this amazing resource for Ohio institutions. As the word implies, OhioLINK really connects different institutions of Ohio and serves as a portal for sharing knowledge."

Krishnakumar Nedunuri, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Central State University

**OhioLINK Milestones:**

- Number of Publishers in the Electronic Journal Center
  - 23 in 2000
  - 49 in 2004
  - 88 in 2006
  - 101 in 2008
**Electronic Journals**

**EJC Represents Core, But Requires More Funding**
The current Electronic Journal Center collection represents a significant core, but many scholarly journals remain beyond our reach. With the restraints in higher education funding, the future progress of this unparalleled resource is in jeopardy. In 2005, 400 titles were cut from two publishers in response to budgetary pressures.

**Plans to Expand EJC to Support Statewide Initiatives at Risk**
Plans to expand the EJC in order to support statewide Third Frontier initiatives and to better support science, math and technology programs, have not been acted upon due to insufficient funding.

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**OhioLINK Fosters Scholarship**

"I access OhioLINK at least once a week to identify best practices in the literature, read articles not available at my institution, and request books from other institutions. This access fosters scholarship at my institution as my colleagues and I frequently discuss and share resources with each other that we located using OhioLINK. I also relied on OhioLINK heavily while completing my doctoral work a few years ago. Thus, OhioLINK is an old friend that contributes to my everyday work."  

_S. Beth Bierer, Ph.D._
Assistant Professor, Director of Evaluation
Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University

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**EJC Monthly Article Downloads**

![Graph showing EJC Monthly Article Downloads]

**Subject Coverage of EJC Journals in 2006**

![Pie chart showing subject coverage of EJC journals]

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Digital Media Center Continues to Grow and Diversify

Most Popular DMC Databases

1. Digital Video Collection
   - 1,960 videos | 76,083 downloads

2. Art & Architecture Digital Media
   - 56,500 images | 74,977 downloads

OhioLINK delivered its first images through the Digital Media Center (DMC) in August 1999. OhioLINK continues to be a pioneer in building statewide multimedia collections to support instruction and research with digital art and architecture images, educational videos, historic maps, archival materials, satellite images and more.

DMC Showcases Institutional & Commercial Collections

The DMC's diverse collections are from both commercial services and Ohio colleges and universities. This year, the Digital Video Collection (DVC) grew to 1,960 videos with the addition of hundreds of films from Ambrose Publishing. The DVC provides digital educational films and documentaries that may be downloaded or streamed over the Internet. The DVC makes it easy to share educational videos statewide and allows faculty to incorporate the videos into their instruction of both on-campus and online students.

DMC Collections Just Tip of Iceberg of Available Content

The current Digital Media Center collections represent just the tip of the iceberg. Vast collections held in Ohio’s colleges can benefit Ohioans through electronic access. The Digital Resource Commons—the next generation DMC—will be available in 2007 and will provide a cost-effective means for institutions to store, access, and preserve their educational, research, historic, and creative materials instead of creating duplicative and costly local systems.

Fast Facts: Most Popular Digital Videos in 2006

1. A History of Antibiotics
2. Do You Speak American? Up North (Do You Speak American? series)
3. The Price of Surprise: Days One Through Six (Biovar series)
4. A Separate Peace: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Shintoism
5. Sean's Story
6. Real Dr. Evil
7. Time Management (Academic Success series)

OhioLINK Milestones: Number of Collections in the Digital Media Center

Digital Media Center Live with Two Collections: 4, 10, 13, 17, 22, 23, 23

Improving the Quality of Ohio Higher Education for the 21st Century
Student Relies on OhioLINK for ‘Everything Related to School’

OhioLINK has been an invaluable resource during my graduate studies at University of Akron. To put it bluntly, I use it all the time for everything related to school!

The resources of OhioLINK allow science researchers to easily gain access to articles, a necessity for keeping a competitive edge in the field. I frequently use Science Citation Index to search and find articles for my thesis as well as classes. It is fantastic that so many papers are available to read online. For those articles that aren’t readily available, my requests have been sent in short order.

I frequently borrow books relevant to coursework and research. Because of the volume of books available, I find what I need.

I have found the staff at the UA Libraries as well as OhioLINK to be wonderful, very knowledgeable and helpful.

Additionally, I have found excellent science teaching materials for children—tapes, CDs, curriculum guides, and other resources—that I would be hard pressed to find anywhere else, plus it would cost a fortune to purchase them.

Julie Nieset
Graduate, Master’s of Biology
The University of Akron
Reinventing OhioLINK: New Vision for a Changed World

The world today is drastically different than it was in 1989, when the Ohio higher education community conceived a bold vision of “the most powerful statewide library and information system in the nation.” Since beginning operations in 1992, OhioLINK has been viewed as one of the most successful, if not the most: successful, academic library consortium worldwide. But in order to respond to the changed world and to succeed long-term, the OhioLINK community must critically consider strategic and fundamental changes. All elements of OhioLINK and Ohio academic libraries must be reinvented. In 2007 and beyond, the OhioLINK Community is focusing on three key priority areas and initiatives in order to Reinvent OhioLINK and achieve success.

Priority #1: Utilize user-based research to improve electronic information delivery systems and connect users to needed information effectively.
1. Create the ability to search as many OhioLINK and library resources as possible at one time.
2. Provide access to OhioLINK resources through the popular Web sites utilized by our users.
3. Create customization options to meet individual needs, including options activated by users and options within the system that respond to specific actions.
4. Deliver OhioLINK services to all platforms (PDAs, cell phones, etc.).

Priority #2: Provide content statewide through sustainable economic models.
1. Manage licenses aggressively to focus on the most essential and affordable content.
2. Collaborate with other Ohio library, education, and business organizations to coordinate and expand services and value.
3. Investigate all options for more affordable textbook delivery (in coordination with campus book stores and other campus units).

Priority #3: Maximize access to the intellectual resources of our member institutions and libraries as well as those freely available on the Web.
1. Maximize accessibility of relevant freely available Web resources (e.g. growing array of Open Access journals) in concert with licensed content.
2. Fully develop the Ohio Digital Resource Commons and related services.
3. Obtain grants to accelerate our ability to digitize the intellectual assets of our member institutions and libraries.

Read more at www.ohiolink.edu/about/update/fall2006.

OhioLINK Snapshot 2006

OhioLINK Governing Board
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Ex Officio
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The OhioLINK Snapshot is available in print and online at www.ohiolink.edu/about/publications.html.

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www.ohiolink.edu
Improving the Quality of Ohio Higher Education for the 21st Century
OhioLINK Institutions

What Is OhioLINK?

The Ohio Library and Information Network is a consortium of Ohio's college and university libraries and the State Library of Ohio. The program, which is an initiative of the Ohio Board of Regents, began offering services in 1992.

OhioLINK benefits higher education by:
- Maximizing Ohio's academic library collections
- Dramatically increasing information access at small and large institutions
- Delivering exceedingly cost-effective access to information
- Increasing Ohio's ability to prepare students and researchers for the information age