Keeping OhioLINK on the "Cutting Edge"

OhioLINK Priority Areas

- Improve the user experience
- Expand Ohio's ability to publish research online
- Maximize the libraries' and OhioLINK's purchase power
- Create an awareness of our expansive resources
- Expand access to new, quality information resources
- Develop partnerships beyond academic libraries
- Share untapped resources

In 2000, the OhioLINK program and its member libraries identified seven priority areas to expand and develop. The seven areas include new focuses like e-publishing and ongoing commitments including the acquisition of new content and resource sharing.

A community-wide task force is investigating the use of a web-based library service assessment tool for OhioLINK affiliated libraries. Results of this ongoing assessment will direct future activities related to these priorities.

- Improve the user experience

With the central catalog, nearly 100 research databases, 3500+ electronic journals, a variety of digital media resources, and other quality Internet resources are users able to find and access what they need?

Setting out to improve the user experience resulted in creating four major activities which are now actively underway. The two projects that will be most visible are the website redesign and the multi-database searching option.

Based on a survey, current research, and a preliminary usability test, a plan for website redesign was developed. Priorities for the new design include easy navigation and multiple routes to the indexed resources. A set of community developed guidelines direct the development of the prototype that is now under evaluation. This prototype will undergo two rounds of usability testing and revision before going public in the fall.

Developed in parallel, the multi-database searching capability will streamline the searching process for many users who are not sure which resources will best meet their needs. Instead of repetitive searches in several databases, the user will enter a term or phrase and search it in a group of databases. For example, a medical researcher might enter "neoplasms" into the medical category and retrieve simultaneous results from MEDLINE, CINAHL, and the EJC among others. Multi-database searching will not eliminate the option to search a single database. It will still be available.

A third activity is further refinement of the "remote authentication" system. All research databases on the OhioLINK system are now available through remote authentication, but the program continues to look at better ways to accomplish this in conjunction with individual campus needs.

The final major activity is the development of a long-term strategy for developing and maintaining competitive searching and accessing tools for: the OhioLINK services.

Digital Media Center Diversifies

The Digital Media Center (DMC) now includes nearly 40,000 historical maps (see inset example), in addition to the Landsat 7 satellite images, and 60,000 art and architecture images. A new history database and 600 physics videos are expected soon, and other individual college and university projects are in varying degrees of completion.

The DMC was created to serve as both a tool and a depository for Ohio's colleges and universities. When there are collections or archives that could be digitized and shared, OhioLINK will accept submissions. Questions or comments about the project can be sent to Charly Bauer, assistant director of library systems-multimedia databases at charly@ohiolink.edu.

DMC Projects In Brief

- University of Cincinnati: Architectural images of the UC campus are available in the Art & Architecture database.
- Akron Art Museum/University of Akron: Selected art works are available in the Art & Architecture database.
- Belmont Technical College: Historic preservation photos are being added to the system.
- Oberlin College: Environmental geology images will be part of a social studies database that will debut later this year. Oberlin is also adding Mayan archeology images that will be available later this year.
- The Ohio 5 (Oberlin College, Kenyon College, College of Wooster, Ohio Wesleyan

"DMC..." continued on page 3...

"Keeping OhioLINK..." continued on page 2...
• Create an awareness of our expansive resources •

Expanded training and promotion are the two necessary activities to accomplish this goal. Staff training was first tackled last year by a small training task force. They created and implemented a twice-yearly training program for the OhioLINK created and maintained interface, and a year-long training calendar was implemented. Last fall, the group turned to user training. First, in conjunction with the Academic Library Association of Ohio, the task force implemented a clearinghouse of user training materials. Now the group is looking at an online citation formatting guide.

A second task force is charged with promotion. How do the librarians and OhioLINK compete with the dot.com information services? The group plans to conduct a survey to learn what people know about library services before tackling a long-term promotion plan.

• Expand access to new, quality information resources •

Expanding access to new, quality resources has always been a priority with the OhioLINK program. Unfortunately, as the State looks to the new budget cycle, we anticipate a limited budget that precludes the program from actively seeking new content. Careful budgeting has allowed the program to reserve a limited amount of money for one-time purchases, but the program does not expect to add research databases or large electronic journal collections beyond those already licensed.

• Develop partnerships beyond the academic libraries •

The OhioLINK program continues to pursue partnerships with other state programs. Results of these partnerships can already be seen in the Digital Media Center. The newly introduced Sanborn maps were purchased by the Ohio Public Libraries Information Network, and OhioLINK developed the site for use by both groups. OhioLINK is also hosting the data for the Ohio Historical Society's online Ohio Memory Project. The program is also looking at ways to use the e-journal collection to help stimulate state economic development.

University, and Denison University): A series of foreign language videos are being digitized. The first of these videos should be available this fall.

• Ohio University: 20,000 images of Scirps Archive materials have been digitized. They will be in the upcoming digital history database.

• Wright State University: Historic Wright Brothers photos from the WSU archive have been digitized and are part of the upcoming history database.

• Youngstown State University: YSU is selecting the first subset of the WRBN video archive to submit.

• Ohio Historical Society: The OH5 chose 13 institutions (5 from OhioLINK) to contribute materials to the upcoming online Ohio Memory Project.

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"DMC... continued from page 1..."

"Share untapped resources..."

The OhioLINK program introduced statewide resource sharing in 1994. Online book borrowing became commonplace for Ohio's college students, faculty, and other researchers. In 1999, videos, CDs, and other items were made available through online requesting. More of these materials can be circulated. Today, the community continues to evaluate the need for a similar statewide journal article requesting capability. While more and more articles are available electronically, there are still titles that are only available in print. In addition to articles, access to state and federal government documents can be improved in the online environment.

With proper assessment, these seven priority areas will guide OhioLINK's growth and keep the program at the forefront of cooperative library and information systems.

OhioLINK In Brief...

Columbus College of Art & Design Is Number 79

OhioLINK is proud to announce the Columbus College of Art & Design as the 79th institution to participate in the OhioLINK program. The college started participating in patron-initiated online borrowing in December. The program now serves 17 public and research universities, 23 university and community colleges, 38 independent colleges, and the State Library of Ohio.

"Two-Millionth Article Downloaded from EJC"

"I was updating my Master thesis... and getting it ready for publication when I accused the lucky record," said Mark Boye, an Ohio State University doctoral student in pharmaceutical health sciences research and administration. "Boye, a Warren, Ohio native, downloaded the two-millionth article from the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center (EJC) in February.

The article is from the April 2001 issue of Social Science and Medicine which was not yet available in print, but through the EJC Boye was able to read and cite the article.

Even as OhioLINK announces the two-millionth download, the program continues adding to the 2 million-plus stored articles. Fifteen major scholarly journal publishers’ collections reside in the EJC. Three of these publishers, Blackwell Publishers, Thieme, and Blackwell Science, are new, in-process additions to the EJC.

More than 1 million article downloads came during 2000 compared with 300,000 articles during the EJC’s first 12 months (April 1998 – March 1999).

"Keeping OhioLINK... continued from page 2..."
### OhioLINK Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

- Antioch College, 1999
- Ashland University, 1999
- Athenaeum of Ohio, 1999
- Baldwin-Wallace College, 1999
- Belmont Technical College, 1995
- Bluffton College, 1999
- Bowling Green State University, 1992
- Capital University, 1996
- Case Western Reserve University, 1992
- Cedarville University, 1996
- Central Ohio Technical College, 1994
- Central State University, 1992
- Cincinnati Bible College, 1999
- Clark State Community College, 1995
- Cleveland State University, 1994
- College of Mount Saint Joseph, 1996
- College of Wooster, 1996
- Columbus College of Art & Design, 2000
- Columbus State Community College, 1994
- Cuyahoga Community College, 1994
- Defiance College, 1999
- Denison University, 1996
- Edison State Community College, 1995
- Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999
- Heidelberg College, 1999
- Hiram College, 1997
- Hobocking College, 1995
- Jefferson Community College, 1995
- John Carroll University, 1998
- Kent State University, 1994
- Kenyon College, 1996
- Lakeland Community College, 1995
- Lima Technical College, 1994
- Lorain County Community College, 1995
- Malone College, 1999
- Marietta College, 1999
- Marietta Technical College, 1994
- Medical College of Ohio, 1993
- Miami University, 1992
- Mount Carmel College of Nursing, 1999
- Mount Union College, 1999
- Mount Vernon Nazarene College, 1996
- Muskingum College, 1999
- Muskingum Technical College, 1994
- North Central Technical College, 1994
- Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1993
- Northwest State Community College, 1996
- Notre Dame College, 1999
- Oberlin College, 1995
- Ohio Dominican College, 1997
- Ohio Northern University, 1995
- The Ohio State University, 1994
- Ohio University, 1994
- Ohio Wesleyan University, 1996
- Otterbein College, 1999
- Owens Community College, 1995
- Rio Grande University & Community College, 1995
- Shawnee State University, 1994
- Sinclair Community College, 1994
- Southern State Community College, 1994
- Stark Technical College, 1994
- State Library of Ohio, 1994
- Terra Community College, 1995
- Tiffin University, 1999
- University of Akron, 1993
- University of Cincinnati, 1992
- University of Dayton, 1994
- University of Findlay, 1999
- University of Toledo, 1994
- Urbana University, 2000
- Ursuline College, 1997
- Washington State Community College, 1996
- Wilberforce University, 1999
- Wilmington College, 1999
- Wittenberg University, 1997
- Wright State University, 1992
- Xavier University, 1996
- Youngstown State University, 1993