

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.

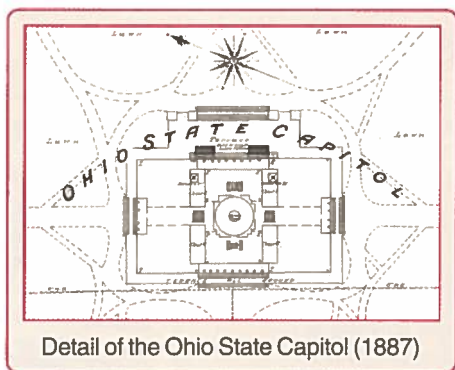
- Akron Art Museum/ University of Akron: Selected art works are available in the Art & Architecture database.

- 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 achaology images that will be available later this year.

- The Ohio 5 (Oberlin College, Kenyon College, College of Wooster, Ohio Wesleyan



Detail of the Ohio State Capitol (1887)

• Expand Ohio's ability to publish research online •

Scholarly publishing is undergoing a dramatic transformation, and Ohio can be well positioned to participate through a robust set of OhioLINK e-publishing capabilities. The Electronic Journal Center already provides a platform for commercially published journals. An additional range of publishing capabilities can be centrally developed, accelerating the statewide adoption of e-publishing. Variations that can be supported include: electronic theses and dissertations, pre-print servers, research papers, campus edited e-journals, commercial e-books, campus-based e-book publishing, and other scholarship in electronic form.

The OhioLINK Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) site, is now operational (www.ohiolink.edu/etd). This locally developed site provides a statewide depository for electronic thesis and dissertations. Submitted

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documents still follow the traditional committee review process, but instead of a final paper copy, an electronic version is created and stored. These electronic files can be searched, viewed, downloaded, and printed.

Initiated by the Regents Advisory Committee on Graduate Studies (RACGS), the ETD is already part of the graduate submission process at several state universities. All other universities and colleges with graduate programs are invited to participate. The OhioLINK ETD site is affiliated with the national ETD movement and is linked to Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations site (www.theses.org).

• Maximize the libraries' and OhioLINK's purchase power •

With limited budgets, the OhioLINK community must continue to look for new cooperative, economically leveraged collection building projects to expand information access. The community is looking at its collection practices for all materials to improve its efficiency; what it buys per dollar spent. E-journals and research databases are well established cost-efficient models, and two e-book initiatives will provide new models.

The first e-book initiative, netLibrary, is already available. Users can find 15,000 netLibrary e-books in the Central Catalog and can link directly to the book for use. The second initiative is the purchase of roughly 155 reference-type books from ABC-CLIO. The first of these e-books will be available in the spring. Both initiatives allow immediate, expanded access to books electronically. As e-book technology advances, making them a suitable substitute for print, e-books can save libraries storage space and delivery costs.

Now starting its fourth year, the EJC includes collections from 15 scholarly journal publishers and 3500+ titles. To enjoy the benefits of expanded journal access and continue to expand with other publishers, the program must develop a long-term balance between pricing and content. Further evolution of the program's e-journal business model with publishers is required to do so.

Both e-books and electronic journals are elements of cooperative collection building, but a more complete evaluation of this process has been taken on by a community-wide task force. The task force plans to identify and develop principles for state-wide development and encourage "buy-in" at the library, faculty, and university administration levels.

• 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 libraries 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 •

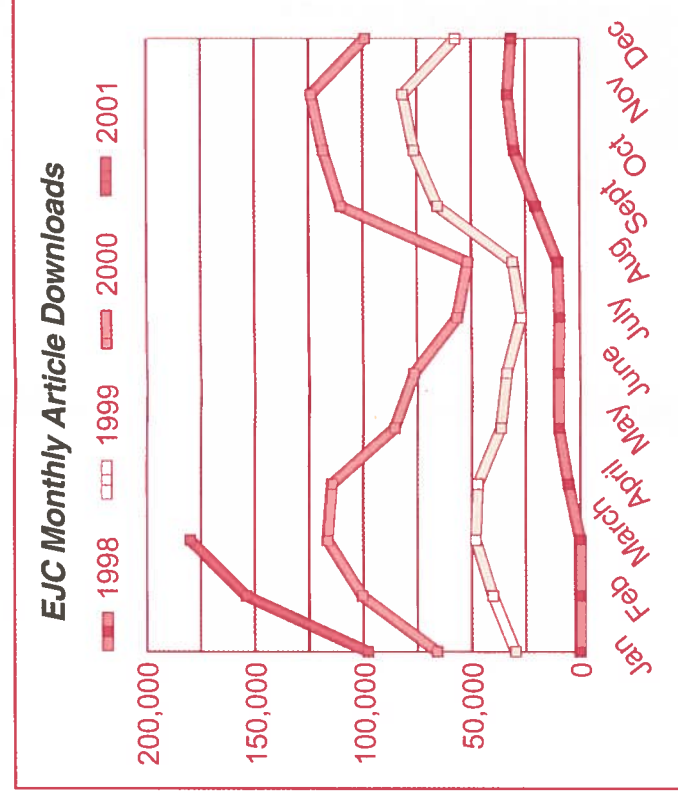
Expanding access to new, quality resources has always been a priority with the OhioLINK program. Unfortunately, as the State looks to the new budget cycle, we anticipate a limited budget that precludes the program from actively seeking new content. Careful budgeting has allowed the program to reserve 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.

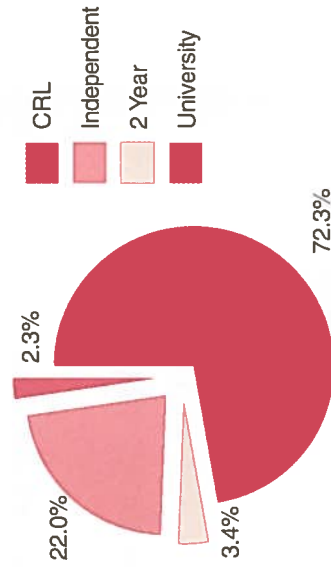
"Keeping OhioLINK..." continued on page 3...

Calendar Year Statistics for 2001

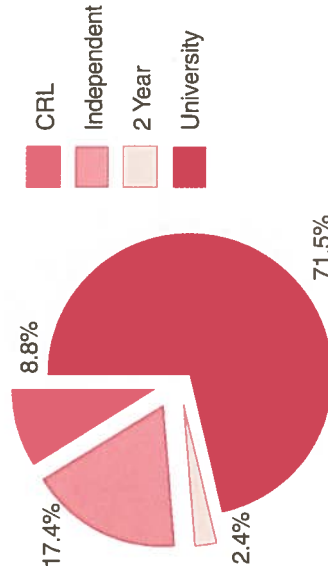


Central Catalog

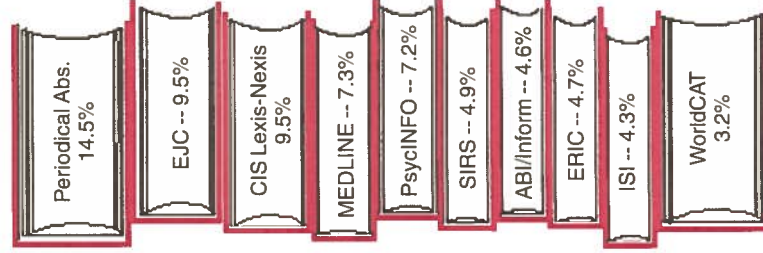
Percent of Items Contributed by Institution Type



Percent of Unique Items Contributed by Institution Type



Most Heavily Searched Databases



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

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 Scripps Archive materials have been digitized. They will be in the upcoming 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 WKBN video archive to submit.

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

"Keeping OhioLINK..." continued from page 2...

• 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 community and technical colleges, 38 independent colleges, and the State Library of Ohio.

Two-Millionth Article Downloaded from EJC

"I was updating my Masters thesis...and getting it ready for publication when I accessed 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).

OhioLINK Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

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

OhioLINK Update Volume 7, Number 1 April 2001

The *OhioLINK Update*, published semi-annually, provides information on the developments of the OhioLINK project.

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