

Striving to improve the user experience

Improvements in both service and infrastructure continue to make searching and retrieving faster and easier. Users can find these new improvements in almost every OhioLINK provided service with new services expected to debut between now and the 2002-2003 school year.

Central Catalog debuting "Pick up anywhere" option

Distance and non-traditional students, among others, will benefit from a new Central Catalog pick up option. Users will be able to

pick up their requested item at any OhioLINK participating library.

In the past, users were only able to pick up a requested item at their campus library. This restriction limits the service's usefulness to students enrolled in distance learning classes, weekend programs, and other non-traditional learning options. The ability to live in Dayton, take a class from Ohio University, and pick up a requested library book at Wright State's library will make OhioLINK's borrowing system a true distance learning tool.

Six institutions are beta testing the service this spring. The institutions are: Edison State Community College, Medical College of Ohio, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, University of Akron, and Wright State University. All other institutions will implement the new pick up option for the fall.

"Chat Reference" service debuting

In the online world, how does a reference librarian help a college student who never visits the physical library building? Through "chat reference", of course.

And just what is chat reference?

Chat reference uses the latest real-time communication technology to connect librarians and students. Questions can be answered as they occur – during searching. When the service is live, students searching an OhioLINK database like Periodical Abstracts will see a button to click, if a librarian's services are needed. If they connect to the chat service, they will be greeted by an OhioLINK affiliated librarian who will answer their inquiry. This addresses the needs of today's students, some of whom may never set foot on campus. With chat reference, it doesn't matter if the student is at home, work, or in a campus computer lab.

The service is beta testing this spring at eight institutions. They are: Bowling Green State University, Miami University, NEOUCOM, The Ohio State University, Sinclair Community College, University of Dayton, University of Toledo, and Wittenberg University.

OhioLINK cuts database support in tight budget year

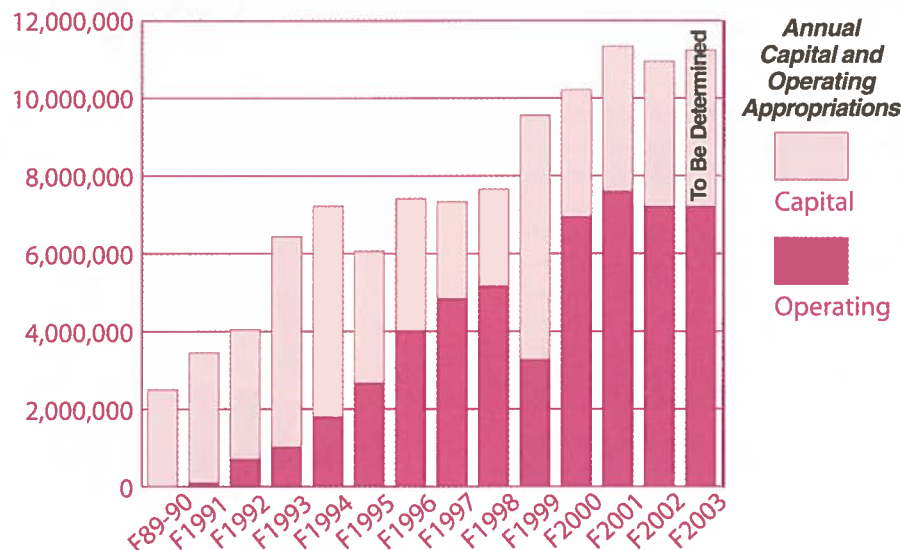
For the second time in the past year, OhioLINK will cut support for desirable resources due to reductions in State funding. As reported in the September 2001 *OhioLINK Update*, expenses for information content were reduced \$265,000 in the current fiscal year, and \$300,000 in additional reductions were planned for the next fiscal year (F2003) beginning July 2002. These reductions were the result of an announced flat two-year biennium operating budget. In October 2002, Governor Taft announced additional reductions of 6% for the current and next fiscal years. This requires additional reductions in the support of database licenses.

The added 6% percent reduction translates to an additional \$400,000 reduction for F2003. The latest operating budget will total only \$7.2 million, down from the \$7.6 million originally approved last June.

Library budgets tapped to minimize negative impact

Loss of OhioLINK financial support does not necessarily mean lost access on campuses. The database cost can be shifted to each library for continued access on its campus. The costs to replace the loss of OhioLINK financial support can also be minimized by continuing to license databases through a group process, even if costs shift to library budgets. By pooling interests and financial resources, the OhioLINK library

"OhioLINK Cuts..." continued on page 2



Multi-database searching or the "Subject Cluster Search"

Another new searching option debuting this spring is a multi-database search tool. The user will be able to search entire subject areas with this tool. This "cluster" search allows the user to enter one or more terms and retrieve results from multiple databases.

For example, a student writing a history paper chooses to search the history cluster. The student receives the top 50 results from the four databases included in the history cluster: America: History & Life, OhioLINK Central Catalog, Historical Abstracts, and the Historic & Archival Collections (Digital Media Center). The user can view or print these citations and/or, move into any of the four databases to continue searching. The user also has the option to create her own

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"Striving to Improve..." continued from page 1

This new option is not a comprehensive cluster to search simultaneously. As the search does not accommodate detailed searching. Instead, it serves as a good multiple resource search for an undergraduate or as a starting point for selecting databases for more comprehensive searches.

New limits, language, and options in select group of OhioLINK Research Databases

Today, OhioLINK delivers 90+ research databases. Of these, 36 use a common interface designed by the community.

In response to user feedback, several new features will be added this summer. Some are simple terminology changes. The "Check availability" link will now read "Locate a copy", clarifying that the link returns a list of available copies of the cited book or journal.

Another improvement makes printing easier. Citation displays will be shorter, decreasing the cost of printing in labs.

Other changes are database specific. Browsing books of the Bible in Religion Index will be straightforward -- the books and verses will appear in the proper order, improving the usability of the database. Users of PsycINFO will find the return of four limits once available in the old OVID interface.

"Disordered populations", "non-disordered populations", "tests and measures", and "treatment and prevention" will be post-limit options. Once a search has been entered and run, the user can choose to refine their results using one or more of these limits. The ERIC interface will also have a few changes.

"OhioLINK Cuts..." continued from page 1

community will continue to provide statewide access to all but 5 databases. For these 5 databases, access will still be provided, if the individual library can afford to subscribe.

Beginning in July, the program will eliminate five research databases from its core statewide portfolio. The five databases that now become elective are:

- AccessScience
- ARTFL
- Disclosure Global Access
- Oxford English Dictionary
- SIRS Researcher.

Support for additional research databases may have to be cut, if the State further reduces the program's operating budget. Library budgets are also being reduced on many campuses, making it unrealistic to shift databases costs to local budgets.

Powerful linking option expands full-text access

A new linking service, OLinks, dramatically increases

the number of links between citations in the research databases and the relevant full-text articles. This new service provides a full-text linking option in more databases than previously possible. And it provides the local campuses with a tool to link their own full-text to OhioLINK provided research databases. Users that click on the OLinks button will see a list of relevant full-text from which to choose. Libraries that have submitted their local full-text information to OhioLINK will see their full-text listed as one of the options on the OLinks pop-up window.

ISI databases moving to new, improved interface

The ISI databases (Arts & Humanities Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, and Science Citation Index Expanded) will move to an improved interface this summer.

The new ISI Web of Science interface, while not changing in appearance, includes many powerful searching options already available in other OhioLINK databases. Users can create and combine searches, use advanced command line searching, and save their search history to rerun in the future. Other improvements to the database include a complete list of authors in the citation.

The OhioLINK community is committed to continued service improvements as technology changes.

Databases that lost OhioLINK funding support in F2002 were:

- ABELL (Annual Bibliography of English Language & Literature)
- Associations Unlimited
- Congressional Universe

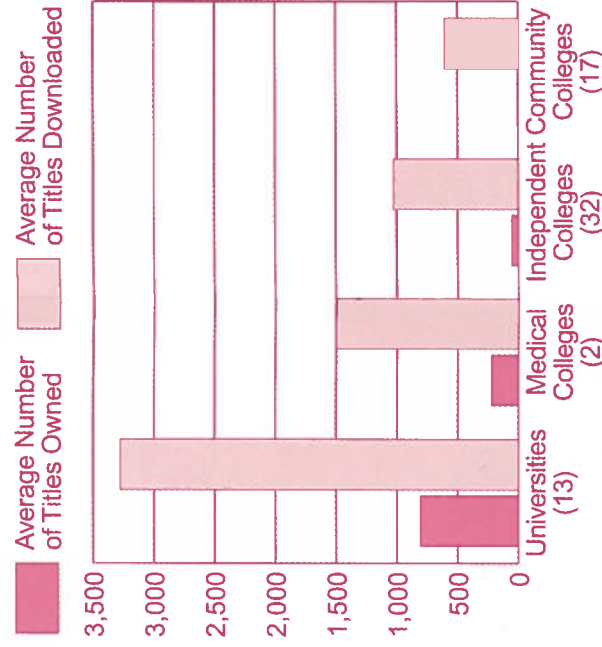
Next capital budget uncertain

The next State capital appropriation is very important to the OhioLINK program. Over 80% of OhioLINK's capital budget is earmarked to support electronic information.

The primary content purchased is electronic research journals. This requires an annual renewal to maintain purchase of the latest issues. The outlook for both the amount and timing of the next two-year budget beginning July 2002 is uncertain. We hope for an adequate capital budget that will not require reductions, but rather will allow for expansion of electronic journal resources.

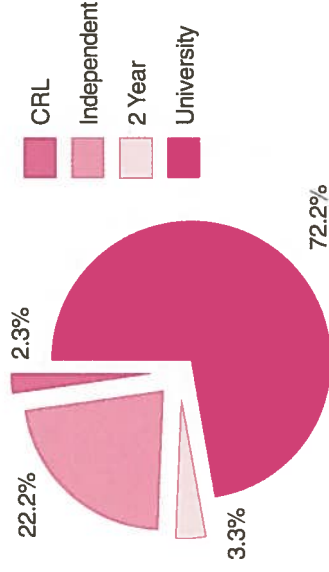
Calendar Year Statistics for 2001

EJC Journal Titles Held and Journal Titles Downloaded

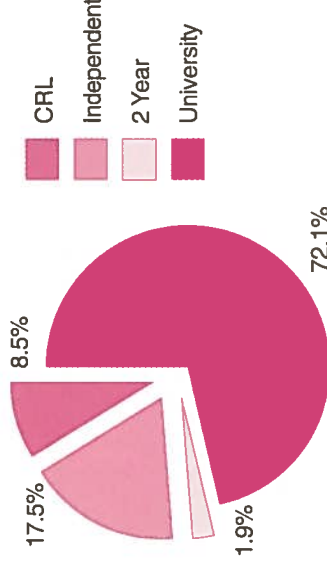


Central Catalog

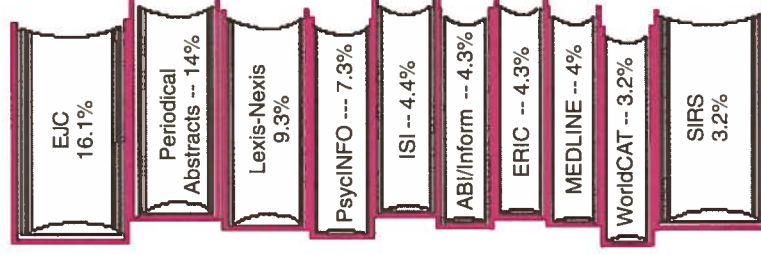
Percent of Items Contributed by Institution Type



Percent of Unique Items Contributed by Institution Type



Most Heavily Searched Databases



OhioLINK In Brief...

DMC grows with video and audio files and supports Ohio Memory project

The DMC's latest media additions include 600 experiments that demonstrate a full array of physics principles, language videos, and both video and audio files that complement the Art & Architecture Database.

OhioLINK is also using the DMC infrastructure to support the Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook, an online archive representing 200 years of Ohio history.

The 600 physics videos present basic physics principles in short clips. Users only need a browser and a free RealVideo player plug-in to view the files. On-campus users can elect to stream or download the video files. Off-campus users must download the videos to use them.



Encyclopedia of Physics video demo 11-16 Barrel Crush

Native French, German, and Russian speakers describe their family and culture in a series of QuickTime videos in the DMC's Foreign Language Database. The videos are from the Five Colleges of Ohio (College of Wooster, Denison University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, and Ohio Wesleyan University) ViewPoints Project. Videos will continue to be added to this database.

The Art & Architecture Database now includes hundreds of complementary video and audio files describing the works and their significance.

The Ohio Memory Project, a resource of the Ohio Historical Society, is an online scrapbook of Ohio historical documents and memorabilia. Available at www.ohiomemory.org, OhioLINK is a project partner. It provides the technical infrastructure necessary to support the scrapbook.

OhioLINK investigates resource sharing with OPLIN and INFOhio

In an effort to further stretch state dollars, OhioLINK recently joined with the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) and INFOhio (the K-12 library program) to request proposals for a statewide resources that fill all three groups' need for indexing, abstracting, and linked full-text documents in the areas of business, general periodicals, humanities, health & science, social sciences, and reference.

Several vendors replied. Currently, the three groups are evaluating if any of the proposals can fill the diverse needs of all three programs and how the groups can act cooperatively now and in the future.

New institutions to join OhioLINK program

OhioLINK is pleased to announce three new participants. The new participants are Lourdes College, Franklin University, and the Cleveland Clinic. Lourdes College began April 1 as a member of the Ohio Private Academic Libraries (OPAL) group. Franklin University and the Cleveland Clinic will join as independent institutions some time in the near future, bringing the total of participating institutions to 82.

OhioLINK Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

Antioch College, 1999	Medical College of Ohio, 1993
Ashland University, 1999	Miami University, 1992
Athenaeum of Ohio, 1999	Mount Carmel College of Nursing, 1999
Baldwin-Wallace College, 1999	Mount Union College, 1999
Belmont Technical College, 1995	Mount Vernon Nazarene College, 1996
Bluffton College, 1999	Muskingum College, 1999
Bowling Green State University, 1992	Muskingum Technical College, 1994
Capital University, 1996	North Central Technical College, 1994
Case Western Reserve University, 1992	Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1993
Cedarville University, 1996	Northwest State Community College, 1996
Central Ohio Technical College, 1994	Notre Dame College, 1999
Central State University, 1992	Oberlin College, 1995
Cincinnati Bible College & Seminary, 1999	Ohio Dominican College, 1997
Cincinnati State Technical & Comm. College, 1995	Ohio Northern University, 1995
Clark State Community College, 1995	The Ohio State University, 1994
<i>Cleveland Clinic, anticipated 2002</i>	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	Shawnee State University, 1994
Columbus State Community College, 1994	Sinclair Community College, 1994
Cuyahoga Community College, 1994	Southern State Community College, 1994
Defiance College, 1999	Stark State College of Technology, 1994
Denison University, 1996	State Library of Ohio, 1994
Edison State Community College, 1995	Terra Community College, 1995
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999	Tiffin University, 1999
<i>Franklin University, anticipated 2002</i>	University of Akron, 1993
Heidelberg College, 1999	University of Cincinnati, 1992
Hiram College, 1997	University of Dayton, 1994
Hocking College, 1995	University of Findlay, 1999
Jefferson Community College, 1995	University of Rio Grande & RGCC, 1995
John Carroll University, 1998	University of Toledo, 1994
Kent State University, 1994	Urbana University, 2000
Kenyon College, 1996	Ursuline College, 1997
Lakeland Community College, 1995	Washington State Community College, 1996
Lima Technical College, 1994	Wilberforce University, 1999
Lorain County Community College, 1995	Wilmington College, 1999
Lourdes College, 2002	Wittenberg University, 1997
Malone College, 1999	Wright State University, 1992
Marietta College, 1999	Xavier University, 1996
Marion Technical College, 1994	Youngstown State University, 1993

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