



Results Show Online Borrowing Fast, Effective

Statewide service is moving books from library to patron in 48 to 72 hours.

Is forty-eight hours fast? According to library patrons who have waited weeks for inter-library loans, it's remarkably fast. Since the OhioLINK inter-campus borrowing service began in January 1994, 150,000 requests for items have been filled. Half of these loans were delivered to the borrower's library within forty-eight hours and ninety percent within seventy-two hours. All filled loans were delivered to the borrower's library within five days (Figure 1).

Approximately 14% of online requests cannot be filled by the lending library, typically because the item requested is missing from the shelf. OhioLINK is developing an enhancement to enable lending libraries to forward unfillable requests to other available libraries.

OhioLINK has proven effective in helping

users locate and quickly borrow scarce materials. Approximately 35% of the requests were made for materials for which only one copy was available in the state. Another 15% of requests has only two copies available. Five percent of requests were for materials not available at the time of the requests and necessitated that holds be placed on the materials.

Resource Sharing & Document Delivery

Another important observation is that the sheer volume of requests will continue to grow. Despite a slowing in the rate of additional institutions to the system, the rate of requests continues to climb rapidly. In Spring term of 1994, users requested 15,100 items. This Spring, more than 58,000 items were requested online -- an increase of 386% (Figure 5, page 3).

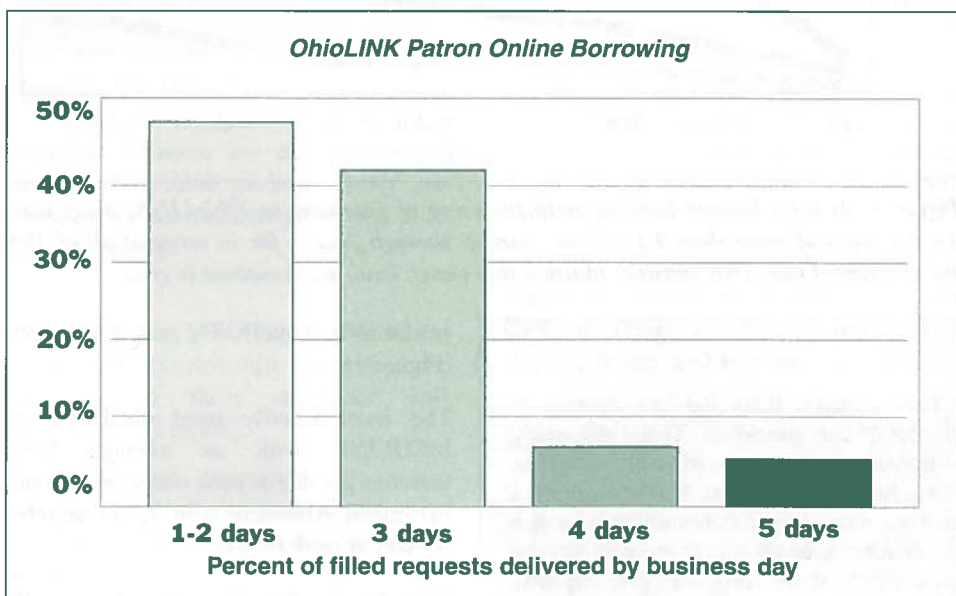


Figure 1. A turn-around time study was conducted in February, 1995. Of fillable requests, 90% were delivered to the borrowers' libraries within three business days of the original requests.

EASY ACCESS

Tap into one of the top electronic library services in the world.

(a) Using your computer or a workstation/terminal in the library, access your campus network and select OhioLINK from the local library menu.

Or:

(b) From your campus computer account, telnet to OhioLINK:

telnet cat.ohiolink.edu

Login: ohiolink

In the Works: What's Coming Up for OhioLINK

The scope of research and reference databases will be expanded over the next several years. OhioLINK's objective is to provide a core of databases across a widening range of academic disciplines. Where possible, we will focus on those with complementary full text. A major review of more than thirty database candidates ranging from music to business to the sciences to religion is underway. Announcements will be made as selections are made and access is begun.

On many campuses this summer and fall, you will be able to have electronically delivered copies of many articles found in Periodical Abstracts and ABI/Inform. In test at several schools for some time, access is now being expanded to all OhioLINK sites over the next six months. Articles will be delivered to designated printers rapidly upon request. An option to

continued on page 3

Central Catalog & Member Catalogs

The Ohio State University, Others Join Central Catalog

1.7 million records from The Ohio State University Libraries were loaded to the OhioLINK Central Catalog in Spring, 1995. With the addition of records from Ohio University, Southern State Community College, Sinclair Community College, and Lakeland Community College, the Central Catalog has grown to include twenty-three libraries and over 5 million titles representing 12 million items.

Annual Usage Exceeds 5 Million Searches

Averaging more than 14,000 searches per day, the OhioLINK Central Catalog and research databases supported an annual usage rate of 5 million searches at fiscal year end -- up from 1.5 million in the 1994 fiscal year. The Central Catalog alone has reached a new peak of 1.4 million searches per year.

When the system went online, about 2,000 searches were made daily. With the convenience and power of the Central Catalog and with the popularity of databases such as Periodical Abstracts and MEDLINE, search rates have been multiplying ever since (Figure 3).

It is common for searching to peak in conjunction with the demands of the academic year. The heaviest use of OhioLINK occurs in November and March/April. Statistics show that at those times, users were searching at the rate of 28,000 searches per day.

Feedback

Our student organizations publish articles in their journals (Law Review, Journal of International Law, etc.) for which they must do a lot of cite checking. This traditionally involves many Interlibrary Loan transactions for books our library doesn't own; filling out paperwork, further paper notifications that the item has been ordered, has arrived, etc., as well as waiting to receive books through the mail. Once our students try the OhioLINK Online Borrowing feature, they love it. Students, especially those that order a lot of material, really appreciate the convenience of sitting at any work station at any time and requesting books - with no paperwork. They have also noticed the quicker delivery time. Our library patrons are eager to use this new technology.

-- D. Dennison, Case Western Reserve University Law Library

Microform & Government Document Collections To Be Added

Electronic catalog records are being created for major resources held in microform and government document

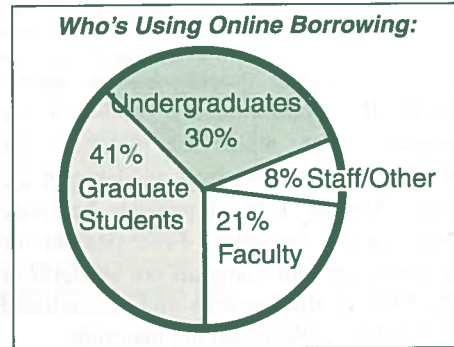


Figure 2. Graduate students remain the heaviest users of Online Borrowing, registering more than 40,000 loans since January 1.

collections across the state. These will be completed and ready to load this Fall. Access to approximately 2.7 million items will be added to the Central Catalog.

Database, Internet, & Reference Resources

The amount that patrons search the OhioLINK research databases has grown dramatically in the last twelve months. With the addition of six medical databases and a number of other discipline-specific databases, the collection of OhioLINK databases logged more than 3.6 million searches in twelve months, up from 843,000 in the previous twelve months. A large percentage of the increased use was concentrated in Periodical Abstracts,

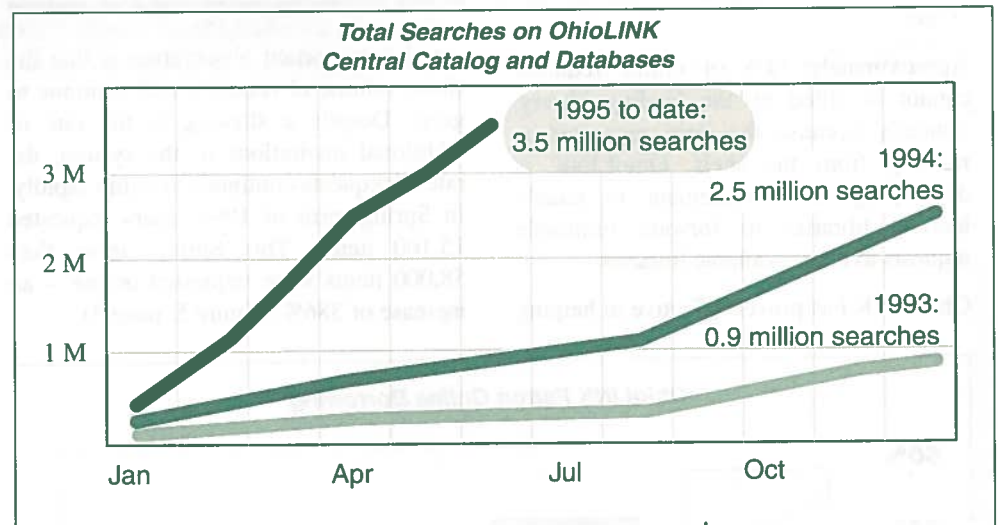


Figure 3. As users became familiar with the array of databases on OhioLINK, usage soared. 1995's count of more than 3.5 million searches through June is far in excess of all of 1994's search count. OhioLINK statistics indicate that search levels will continue to grow.

MEDLINE, PsycINFO, and ABI/Inform (Figure 4).

The most heavily used databases are MEDLINE with an average 5,500 searches per day at peak usage periods and Periodical Abstracts with 7,700 searches per day at peak times.

Since introduction in August, 1994, to the end of June, 1995, the medical databases, including PsycINFO, have logged almost

**Heavily Used Databases
as Percentage of All Searches on
OhioLINK Since January 1, 1995**

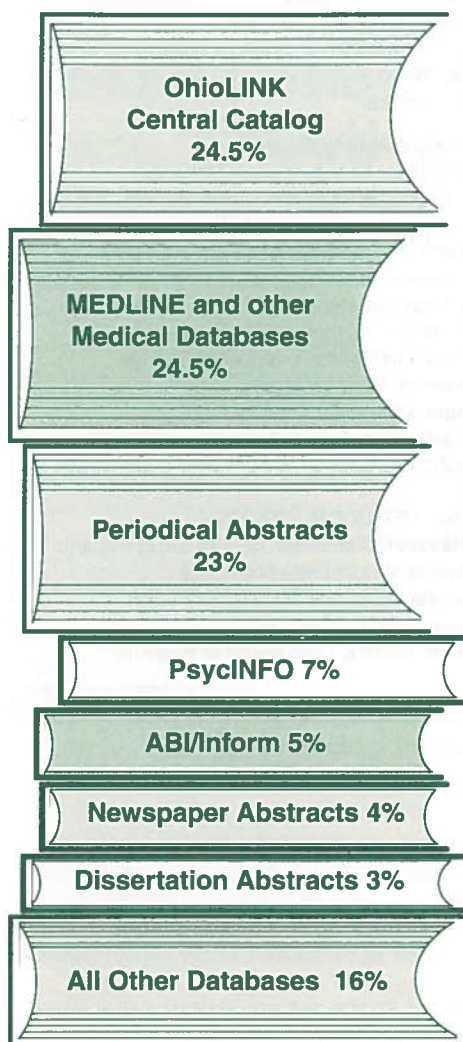


Figure 4. The OhioLINK Central Catalog, the medical research databases, and Periodical Abstracts are the most heavily used by OhioLINK patrons. Nearly one-quarter of all searches were for records in the Central Catalog.

1.5 million searches. With the transition by medical libraries still underway, the popularity of these databases will continue to rise rapidly.

OhioLINK has increased processing capacity, and will continue to do so to maintain performance levels as usage increases.

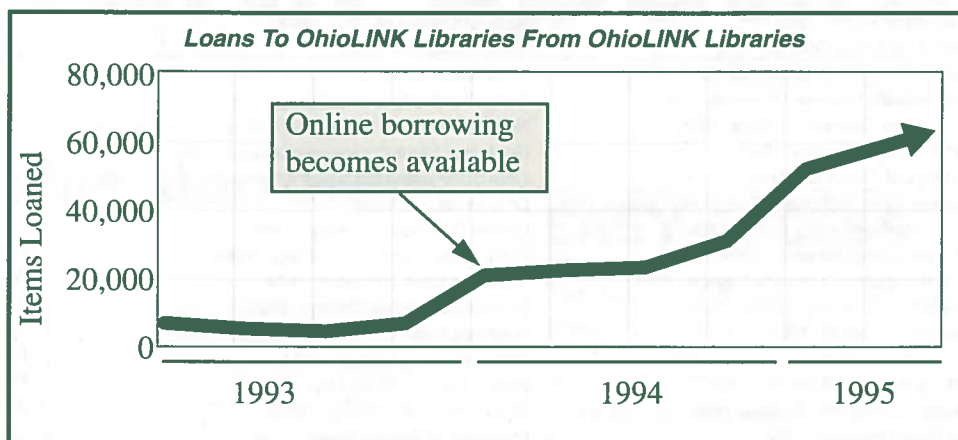


Figure 5. Before Online Borrowing services began in January 1994, OhioLINK patrons were logging an average of 4,000 inter-library book loans per quarter between OhioLINK schools. Online Borrowing has greatly increased the quantity of exchanges between OhioLINK libraries. Members are now lending more than 60,000 books per quarter to each other.

What's Coming continued from front

transmit the copy to a user-entered fax number is being investigated. Look for availability on your campus soon.

Similarly, we will be adding the text-only for some articles in these two databases -- Periodical Abstracts and ABI/Inform. The advantage is that this text can be displayed on computer monitor screens as well as printed. Look for this in 1996.

Up to this point, OhioLINK's medical databases have not told you if your library or other libraries have the journal you want in their collections. This fall you will begin to see this feature which is familiar when using many other OhioLINK databases.

Also in development and planned for release this fall will be electronic access to the Oxford English dictionary, followed by English Poetry and English Verse Drama.

Text analysis and scholarly research will be enhanced significantly. Initially, these will be available through a traditional terminal-based interface. Access will be expanded to more attractive and friendly workstation software in the future.

What About the World Wide Web?

Plans are now underway to deliver the body of OhioLINK services through graphical interfaces to the World Wide Web (WWW). In doing so, it is important to retain all the key functionality of our current system such as online borrowing of books and seamless transfer searching to the Central Catalog. You can expect over the next year to see the OhioLINK system move into the WWW in full force.

The staff of OhioLINK member libraries will continue to plan and implement an ever-growing and evolving set of information services to meet your needs. We are committed to being a progressive, state-of-the-art statewide system. ■

Feedback

A faculty member was working on a book about children's literature. She came to the reference desk and said she had been looking everywhere and spending hours trying to find out how many "wordless story books" had been published in the last three decades. She was very anxious. We simply went to OhioLINK, selected WorldCat of FirstSearch under the "official" heading "stories without words." Found "x" number and then limited by year. She almost fell on the floor in amazement.

-- Richard Quay, Miami University King Library

OhioLINK Member Institutions & Installation Dates

University of Akron, 1993	Medical College of Ohio, 1993
Belmont Technical College, 1995	Miami University, 1992
Bowling Green State University, 1992	Muskingum Technical College, 1994
Case Western Reserve University, 1992	North Central Technical College, 1994
Central Ohio Technical College, 1994	Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1993
Central State University, 1992	Northwest State Community College, 1995
University of Cincinnati, 1992	Ohio State University, 1994
Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, 1995	Ohio University, 1994
Clark State Community College, 1995	Owens Community College, 1995
Cleveland State University, 1994	Rio Grande Community College, 1995
Columbus State Community College, 1994	Shawnee State University, 1994
Cuyahoga Community College, 1994	Sinclair Community College, 1994
University of Dayton, 1994	Southern State Community College, 1994
Edison State Community College, 1995	Stark Technical College, 1994
Hocking Technical College, 1995	State Library of Ohio, 1994
Jefferson Community College, 1995	Terra Community College, 1995
Kent State University, 1994	University of Toledo, 1994
Lakeland Community College, 1995	Washington State Community College, 1995
Lima Technical College, 1994	Wright State University, 1992
Lorain County Community College, 1995	Youngstown State University, 1993
Marion Technical College, 1994	

Feedback

Specific examples almost trivialize the impact by giving the impression that something unusual has happened. Every day, our users are searching catalogs across the state, instead of just our own, and expanding their ability to locate useful materials many-fold.

-- Terry Henner, Wright State University Fordham Health Sciences Library

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Elizabeth Timmons, Editor
2455 North Star Road Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43221
(614)728-3600
info@ohiolink.edu

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