



Online Searching and Requests Continue to Climb

Patrons are conducting more searches, making more requests and getting more materials.

As OhioLINK begins its fourth year of offering online access, its growth and use continues at an amazing rate. Last year marked a series of records for OhioLINK, and the trend continues into 1996. In November OhioLINK celebrated its 10 millionth search on the system. That number is climbing rapidly in 1996 with 284,000 searches logged in the second week of February – a record high.

But patrons aren't just searching; they also are requesting. Patron online borrowing averaged nearly 20,000 items per month in 1995, and has now risen to more than 11,000 weekly.

Requests totaled 84,881 in the last quarter of 1995 (Oct. to Dec.), compared with 26,560 during the same period in 1994 –

an increase of 319% (Figure 1).

This much activity tested OhioLINK libraries and the statewide ground courier system.

Responsiveness remains high with 44% of the requests delivered within 48 hours and 71% within 72 hours during our Fall performance study.

About 12% of online requests could not be filled by the lending library, usually because the item was missing from the shelf. OhioLINK will be installing enhancements this quarter that will enable lending libraries to forward unfillable requests to other libraries, raising the fill rate to as high as 95%.

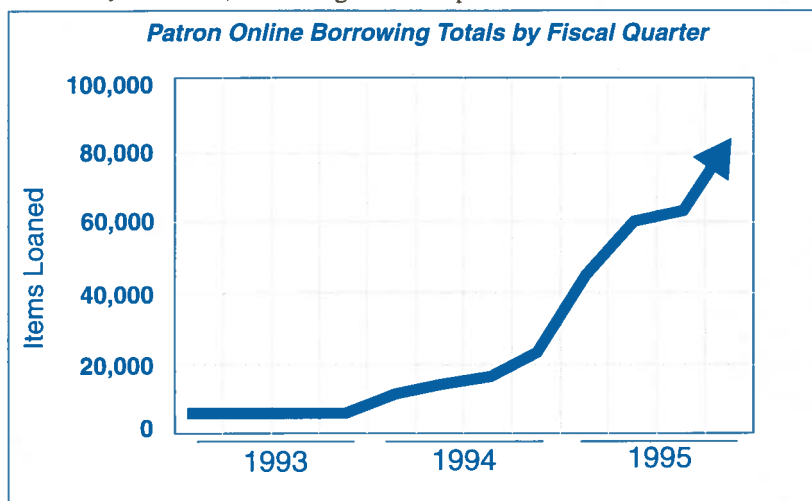


Figure 1. Patron Online Borrowing figures continue to climb rapidly. Nearly 85,000 online requests were made in the last quarter of 1995.

OhioLINK Begins New Database Expansion

Last fall, OhioLINK began a significant expansion in the scope and number of databases it offers with the addition of twelve new databases. These are just the beginning of up to 30 new databases that would nearly double the number offered through OhioLINK.

ERIC, the popular education database, debuted on OhioLINK in January. ERIC joins these new databases on the gopher: HANNAH Online, Ohio legislative information; English Short Title Catalogue, materials published before 1801; BioethicsLine, journal entries on bioethics; PapersFirst, citations to papers presented at conferences; Proceedings-First, tables of contents of conference papers; a national phone directory of residential and business white pages; and, the Medical School Electives Catalog.

Many campuses used Britannica Online, the WWW version of the Encyclopaedia

Britannica, for the first time in September. Patrons can search a question, word or phrase, retrieving pictures and graphs to accompany their online answers. In January, OhioLINK added WWW databases Contemporary Authors, a full-text, bio-bibliographical guide to 90,000 authors, and the Encyclopedia of Associations, which gives detailed descriptions of more than 83,000 associations worldwide.

More databases are scheduled to be added to OhioLINK in 1996. The Oxford English Dictionary, English Poetry, English Verse Drama, Roget's Thesaurus and Columbia Encyclopedia are a few of the new full-text resources that will be accessible through WWW browsers. Watch for Biological Abstracts, Compendex, A Matter of Fact, RILM Abstracts of Music Literature and PAIS International to be added this year as well.

EASY ACCESS

Tap into one of the top electronic library services in the world by any of these ways:

1. Using your computer or a workstation/terminal in the library, access your campus network and select OhioLINK from the local library menu.
2. Visit our WWW site at:
<http://www.ohiolink.edu>
3. From your campus computer account, telnet to OhioLINK:

[telnet cat.ohiolink.edu](telnet:cat.ohiolink.edu)

Login: **ohiolink**

Central Catalog - A Rich Set of Resources

All OhioLINK Libraries Contributing Unique Records to the Central Catalog

Starting in November of 1992 with the combined catalogs of just six libraries, the central catalog has now grown to include the records of 34 libraries plus the Center for Research Libraries. With the loads of the last university collections, the continuing loads of two-year colleges, and the recent addition of Oberlin and Ohio Northern, the central catalog now boasts more than 5.7 million master records. These records represent the amalgamation of 14.5 million bibliographic titles contributed from the 34 library catalogs. In turn, these titles reflect more than 20 million volumes.

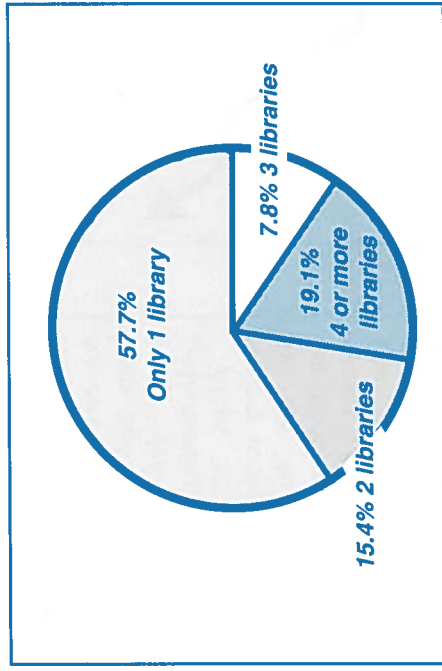


Figure 2. Distribution of holdings for all OhioLINK Central Catalog master records. 57.7% of the master records are owned by only one OhioLINK library.

The most impressive characteristic of the central catalog is that 3.3 million, 57.7%, of the master records are owned by only one OhioLINK library. Another 15.4% are owned by two libraries. (Figure 2). The average master record has 4.3 holding libraries. The result for all OhioLINK users is a massive expansion of resources at their disposal.

The most heavily used items tend to be the most recently published. Even so, of material published since 1990, 49% is owned by only one library, 14% by only two (Figure 3, Page 3).

Each of the 34 libraries has contributed records that only it owns. On average, 24% of each library's contributed records are uniquely owned. The range is from 7% to 43%. Not surprisingly, Ohio State leads as both the largest contributor, 790,000 records singularly held, and as a percentage of its records uniquely owned, 43%. Following with a large number of uniquely owned records are U. of Cincinnati (320,000, 26%), Kent State (250,000, 19%), Ohio U. (248,000, 25%) and Bowling Green (223,000, 26%).

Other libraries having a high level of unique records in their collections are a diverse mix, highlighting the advantages of this collaborative effort. Leading the way are NEOUCOM (13,684, 40%) Hocking C.C. (6,979, 39%), Oberlin (185,000, 32%) and Edison C.C. (6,824, 27%).

As these data indicate the central catalog, now fully formed, is proving to be a broader and richer statewide resource than had been anticipated. The librarians of OhioLINK libraries are now analyzing our collections patterns at a more detailed level to improve our collective ability to acquire a broad range of needed materials for instruction and scholarly pursuits.

Full-Text Journal Article Delivery

On the cutting edge of information services, OhioLINK is intent on providing improved access to journal information. We expect significant developments in electronic access in the next year. Many OhioLINK patrons already have experienced the joy, as well sometimes, as the frustration, of our initial effort to provide printed copies of electronically stored journal articles to local campus printers. From the journal citations of Periodical Abstracts and ABI/Inform, copies of journal articles can be requested for printing at library-based printers. Our goal is for this to happen in just several minutes.

Throughout the 1995-96 academic year this service is being introduced at OhioLINK institutions. During Fall 1995, 13 schools were actively providing this service. It proved incredibly popular. During our peak week, more than 75,000 pages for 20,000 articles were delivered. While still only in its introductory stages, we delivered more than 1 million pages in 1995. Currently there are over 2.5 million articles available for delivery, growing by 41,400 each month.

This product is relatively new. OhioLINK is a nationwide leader in offering this service, and is working with the vendor to improve the speed and reliability of the system. Most articles are delivered within 10 minutes of the patron placing the request; however, we occasionally have experienced delays ranging from several minutes to a few hours. We are now expanding and improving the system's hardware and software components to minimize delays.

This service is an important innovation in the evolution of full-text journal access and delivery. As it develops we envision the ability to enter your own fax number and the ability to display the article on the monitor. Beyond this, we see additional full-text to support the journal citation databases. We see direct access to electronic journals. It will be an exciting evolution, but one with an occasional bump as we push the frontiers of what is possible on a statewide basis.

OhioLINK Introducing WWW Services

OhioLINK's WWW site debuted in February, offering links to the central catalog, research databases and a rich set of information about OhioLINK and its member libraries. Patrons can find locations, addresses and telephone numbers of all OhioLINK sites, text to user guides and new service announcements. Staff of OhioLINK libraries can read about proposed databases, minutes to committee meetings, see progress charts and access the policy manual.

Right now, patrons connecting to most research databases are linked to a VT100 version. OhioLINK is adding web interfaces that will give full web access to all databases and the central catalog.

You can reach OhioLINK's web site at: <http://www.ohiolink.edu>

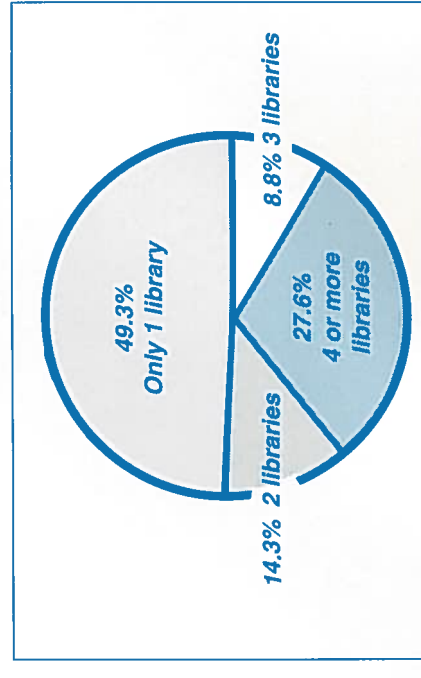
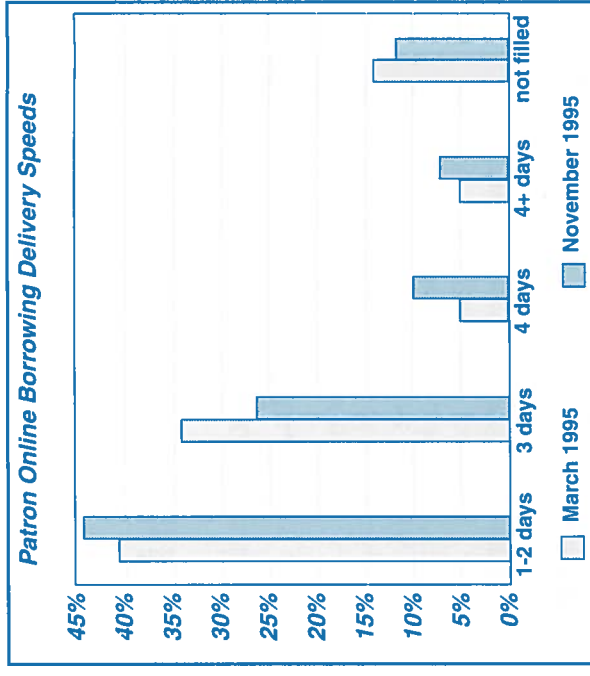


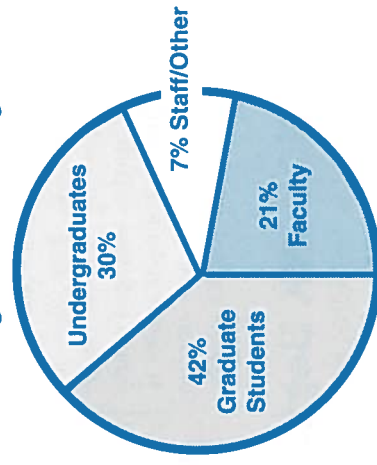
Figure 3. Distribution of holdings for OhioLINK central catalog master records for material published since 1990. 49.3% of the materials are owned by only one library.

1995 Year in Review

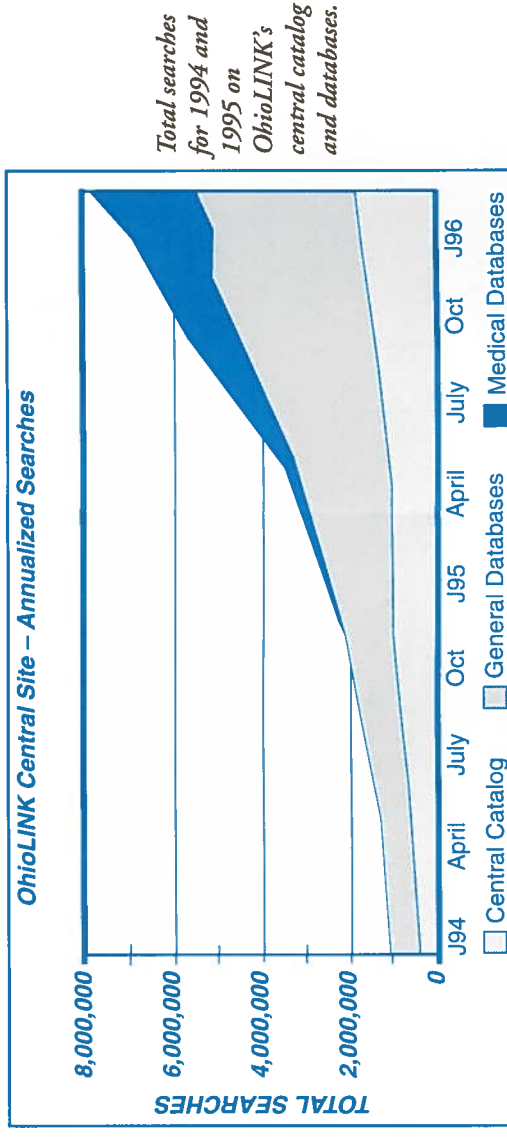


OhioLINK conducted two patron online borrowing studies in 1995. In March 81.3% of the items requested were delivered within four days. November figures were comparable, at 81%.

Who's Using Online Borrowing:

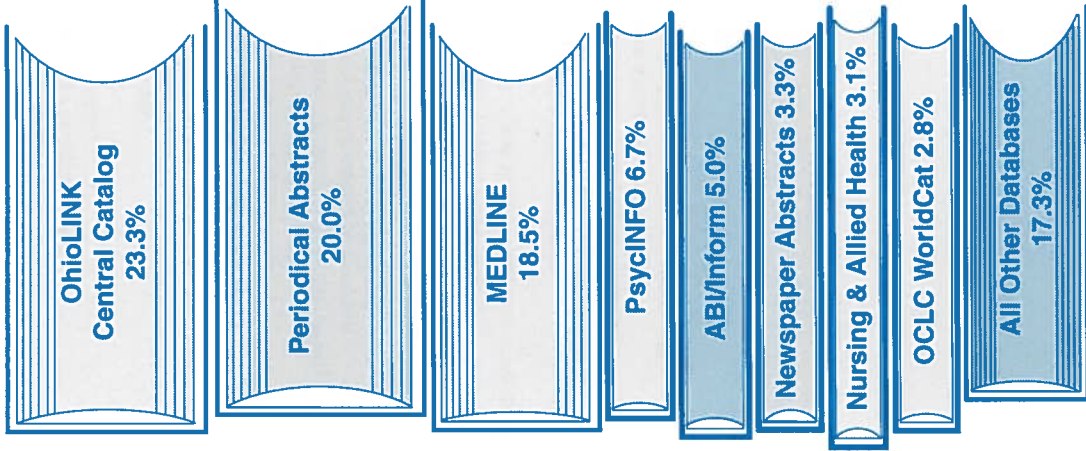


Graduate students were the heaviest users of Online Borrowing in 1995, registering more than 100,000 requests.



Total searches for 1994 and 1995 on OhioLINK's central catalog and databases.

Heavily used databases as a percentage of all searches on OhioLINK in 1995.



OhioLINK Member and Participating Institutions, Including 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, 1996
University of Cincinnati, 1992	Oberlin College, 1995
Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, 1995	Ohio Northern University, 1995
Clark State Community College, 1995	Ohio State University, 1994
Cleveland State University, 1994	Ohio University, 1994
Columbus State Community College, 1994	Owens Community College, 1995
Cuyahoga Community College, 1994	Rio Grande University, 1995
University of Dayton, 1994	Shawnee State University, 1994
Edison State Community College, 1995	Sinclair Community College, 1994
Hocking Technical College, 1995	Southern State Community College, 1994
Jefferson Community College, 1995	Stark Technical College, 1994
Kent State University, 1994	State Library of Ohio, 1994
Lakeland Community College, 1995	Terra Community College, 1995
Lima Technical College, 1994	University of Toledo, 1994
Lorain County Community College, 1995	Washington State Community College, 1996
Marion Technical College, 1994	Wright State University, 1992
	Youngstown State University, 1993

Check out OhioLINK on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.ohiolink.edu>

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