



Special Report: The Challenge for Ohio Higher Education Providing Access to Scholarly Publishing

This special report was created to alert the Ohio higher education community of the possibility of reductions in 2005 to the shared collection of electronic journals of Ohio universities and colleges found in the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center (EJC).

Setting the Stage

For a number of years the “crisis in scholarly publishing” has been a hot topic among academic librarians and increasingly the scholarly community has become engaged in the discussion and the search for solutions.

The key trends underlying the crisis are:

- Rising costs and decreasing purchasing power: From 1986 to 2000 the CPI rose 57%. In that same period, journal prices rose 227%.
- Increasing volume of information: From 1986 to 2002, the number of journals published increased by 58% and worldwide production of books increased approximately 50%.
- Large commercial publisher profits

have risen and are significant during this same time period.

Into the 1990s, across Ohio’s 13 largest universities, the result of these conditions was that on average only 25% of scholarly journals could be purchased on each campus.

Independent colleges and community colleges were able to acquire only very small fractions of scholarly journals. Through the 1980s and early 1990s, the libraries either had to be funded beyond inflation and budgetary growth to maintain collections, or each year there was a slow deterioration of the journal collection on each campus. The latter was the prevalent practice.

Increasing Ohio’s Buying Power

Ohio higher education libraries have been able to dramatically address the problems of rising annual costs and decreasing title accessibility through the cooperative Electronic Journal Center (EJC) licensing program of OhioLINK. By combining these existing funds together into a group purchase, OhioLINK has licensed full sets of publisher journals and made

these available electronically to every university, community college, and 38 of 44 independent colleges. This represents an average fourfold expansion in title access among universities and an almost immeasurable expansion among smaller institutions.

As a result, while the average annual publisher price increase remains well above inflation and budget growth at about 8%, the annual cost increase for the OhioLINK group licenses have been between 4-5.5% for the latest three years. At the same time, we have dramatically expanded access. Use of the EJC by faculty and students has been widespread and continues to grow. There were 3.8 million downloads from the EJC in 2003 alone. Each university’s users access 70-90% of the available 5000+ titles in the EJC. Each independent and community college’s users will typically access 20-30% of the titles each year. OhioLINK has turned uncoordinated, cost inefficient and unsustainable expenditures in individual print subscriptions into more cost-effective vehicles through dramatically expanded access.

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See Also: Electronic Journal Licenses Mean Broader Use, Easy Access, page 2 and EJC Statistics, pages 2-3.

Outlook on State Operating and Capital Budgets Mandates Further Cost Control

Just as this *Update* was being prepared, Governor Taft announced new budget reductions affecting the current F2004 (end June 2004) and F2005. The OhioLINK operating appropriation will be reduced 2% for F2004 and up to 6% in F2005. Annual operating funds in F2005 will total as low as \$6.606 million. This is a \$420,000 reduction from the planned appropriation of \$7.028 million. The OhioLINK operating appropriation peaked in F2001 at \$7.6 million.

As the appropriation has been reduced several times since 2001, more than \$700,000 in database expenses has been transferred to libraries to balance the OhioLINK budget as well as maintain access to resources. We will need to consider this approach again for F2005. Unfortunately, library budgets have also been under duress and there may be a net loss in information accessibility. Of the total electronic

licensing activity coordinated statewide, \$23.8 million comes from libraries and \$8.1 million from OhioLINK (both operating and capital).

Acting as a group we have licensed a great deal more information per dollar spent and controlled the rate of cost increase. We provide a greatly expanded number of electronic journals to each campus and costs are rising at half the market rate. Plus, the average cost increase of our reference databases is less than 2% per year.

In light of the decreasing operating funds we have been fortunate to have had increases in the OhioLINK capital appropriation. To this point, that has helped keep combined operating and capital funding flat for the past three years. In concert with library funds, \$7.5 million out of the total \$8.2 million current biennium appropriation will be spent on the purchase of information content. The full two-year impact of

all licenses will total \$8.75 million in the next biennium (F2005-2006). Additionally, we continue to periodically expand our hardware and software platforms for statewide benefit. In total, OhioLINK needs about \$9.4 million in the next biennium to maintain services. Current estimates are that we will not receive this much when a new state capital budget is approved later this year.

Ohio academic libraries and OhioLINK will need to consider how to best utilize our combined funds within budget limitations. We will need to consider what resources provide the best cost-benefit relative to Ohio higher education needs. We will need to factor in what makes the most long-term sense in meeting our prime objective – providing increased access to information at sustainable economic rates.

OhioLINK Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

Antioch College, 1999	Mount Carmel College of Nursing, 1999
Ashland University, 1999	Mount Union College, 1999
Athenaeum of Ohio, 1999	Mount Vernon Nazarene University, 1996
Baldwin-Wallace College, 1999	Muskingum Area Technical College, 1994
Belmont Technical College, 1995	Muskingum College, 1999
Bluffton College, 1999	Myers University, 2002
Bowling Green State University, 1992	North Central State 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 University, 1997
Cincinnati Bible College & Seminary, 1999	Ohio Northern University, 1995
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, 1995	The Ohio State University, 1994
Clark State Community College, 1995	Ohio University, 1994
Cleveland Clinic, 2002	Ohio Wesleyan University, 1996
Cleveland State University, 1994	Otterbein College, 1999
College of Mount St. Joseph, 1996	Owens Community College, 1995
The College of Wooster, 1996	Rhodes State College, 1994
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 Community College, 1995	Terra Community College, 1995
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999	Tiffin University, 1999
Franklin University, 2002	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	Walsh University, 2004
Lorain County Community College, 1995	Washington State Community College, 1996
Lourdes College, 2002	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
Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, 2004	Youngstown State University, 1993
Miami University, 1992	

OhioLINK Update

The *OhioLINK Update*, published semiannually, provides information on the developments of the OhioLINK program.

The Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK) is a consortium of Ohio's college and university libraries and the State Library of Ohio. OhioLINK serves more than 600,000 students, faculty, staff and other researchers at 85 institutions.

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