



Cost-Effectiveness and Use Continue to Rise

The Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK), the nation's leading academic library consortium, began providing a statewide library catalog and two online research databases to participating universities in 1992. Today, OhioLINK is a robust program which supports instruction and research with a diverse array of online resources and services, including a statewide catalog of 40.2 million items, research databases, scholarly journals, a multimedia archive and electronic books. The program now serves 600,000 students, faculty, staff and researchers at 17 public universities, 23 community/technical colleges, 44 private colleges and the State Library of Ohio. Twelve years after the program began, both the use and the cost-effectiveness of OhioLINK resources and services continue to increase.

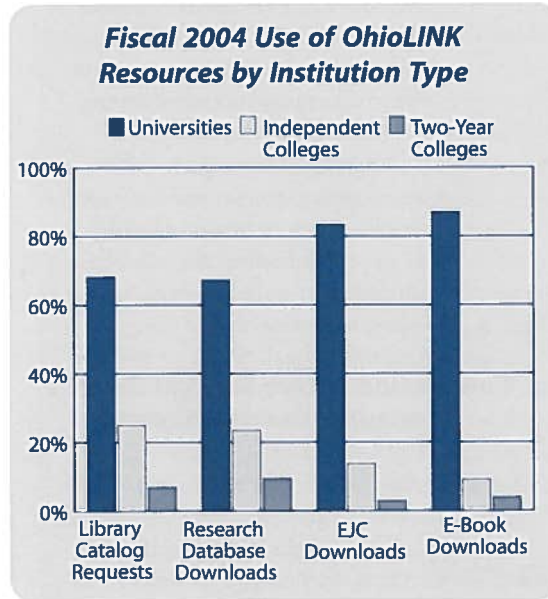
Sharing Resources Statewide Via the OhioLINK Library Catalog

In 1992, six universities installed OhioLINK systems and began the ongoing process of building a statewide library catalog. The catalog launched in November of that year. During the 1993 fiscal year (July 1992 through June 1993) there were 236,490 searches of the catalog. That number has grown drastically; the catalog was searched 4.73 million times in fiscal 2004.

The OhioLINK Library Catalog is utilized by all potential user groups. In FY2004, undergraduate students used it to make 37.8% of the more than 700,000 total online borrowing requests for OhioLINK materials, graduate students placed 35.3%, and faculty and staff placed 26.9% of the requests. Through the years undergraduates have continued to account for a greater percentage of overall activity and use of the catalog. Their use of online borrowing is a significant achievement of the OhioLINK program as undergraduates rarely used traditional interlibrary loan.

Online Research Databases Link Users to Citations and Full-Text

Prior to 1992, the year OhioLINK began offering research databases statewide, most campus library users were lucky to have access to a limited number of databases on CD-ROM.



Then the program began offering ProQuest's ABI/Inform and Periodical Abstracts to users via the Internet. There were more than 207,000 searches conducted on those two databases in fiscal 1993. Today, students, faculty, staff and researchers at member libraries have online access to more than 100 citation and full-text research databases. Users conducted 21.6 million searches on the research databases in fiscal 2004, an increase of 32% more than in fiscal 2003.

In 1995, the OhioLINK program first delivered electronically stored, full-text general interest articles to users via library print stations. Document downloads have continued to grow as the presence of the World Wide Web has increased and OhioLINK has expanded full-text resources and desktop delivery. In FY2004, more than 13.9 million electronic documents were downloaded from the research databases. OhioLINK member institutions of all types use the breadth of available databases, as the graph above illustrates.

Electronic Journal Center: Delivering Scholarly Articles to the Desktop

The Electronic Journal Center (EJC) provides immediate desktop delivery of documents directly to users' workstations, allowing users to conduct research anywhere at any time. It debuted in 1998 with complete journal collections from two publishers: Elsevier Science and Academic Press. Roughly 1,400 journal titles were initially available in the site. Users downloaded 570,000 documents during the EJC's first full year of service.

After reaching two milestones this summer, the EJC now contains more than 6,000 journals and 5.3 million articles from 80+ publishers. Increased functionality options, including RSS feeds for new issues' tables of contents and e-mail alerts, help users keep up with this rapidly growing resource.

Demand for EJC materials remains high. University students and faculty use, on average, 80% of the available journals, a much wider range than what is available on each campus through individual library purchases. Currently, there are 4.2 million downloads from the virtual stacks of the EJC each year. There have been more than 13.5 million downloads since the EJC's inception.

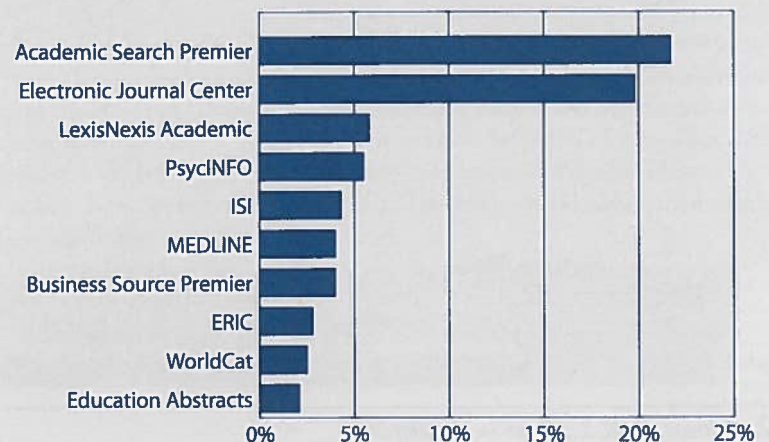
Delivering Multimedia Collections through the Digital Media Center

OhioLINK began delivering images through the Digital Media Center (DMC) in August 1999.

continued on page 2

Percent of Total Searches for Top Ten Research Databases

(based on the % of searches on the OhioLINK Web site. Does not include library catalog statistics.)



Cost-Effectiveness and Use Continue to Rise (continued from page 1)

The first two DMC collections were commercial collections of art images from Saskia and AMICO. The DMC was searched 53,000+ times in FY2001.

Today the DMC is a thriving and diverse statewide multimedia archive which supports instruction and research with art and architecture images, audio recordings, historic archival collections, maps, educational videos, and satellite images. Collections created by faculty and researchers are also accessible through the DMC and many are freely available to anyone worldwide. In fiscal 2004, the DMC collections were searched a total of 344,000 times and more than 143,000 files were downloaded.

Expanding Information Access Through Electronic Books

The OhioLINK program is a leader in expanding information access through electronic books. The program began offering e-books from netLibrary in 2000 and there were 75,000 downloads in fiscal 2001.

Today, OhioLINK offers a diverse e-book collection of 19,000+ e-books from five publishers. There were more than 1.02 million downloads from this collection in the last fiscal year.

Delivering Cost-Effective Services and Resources

OhioLINK has been a leader in delivering information services and resources for the past 12 years. The program has also proven that cooperation and statewide licensing of information resources not only reduce the rate of increase in library costs (see figure 2), but also extend the buying power of individual library budgets. OhioLINK allows large universities to buy more research materials and small institutions to gain access to resources that were formerly beyond their means.

By creating and delivering resources statewide, OhioLINK is able to provide a package of resources that no library could afford independently. For example, the total cost of the EJC in FY2004 was \$23.9 million (see figure 1), but it would cost an estimated \$95.2 million dollars to duplicate this vast resource in print just at the universities. The research databases cost \$8.1 million in FY2004, but it would cost an estimated \$24.3 million to fund these databases through individual library purchases.

Future Plans

In order to meet the needs of today's higher education community, the OhioLINK program

must keep expanding the amount and depth of resources that are available to support research and instruction. OhioLINK's future plans include:

- Adding research databases, publishers to the EJC, educational videos to the DMC, and e-books for statewide use.
- Transforming the Digital Media Center into the Digital Resource Commons of Ohio, a new resource that will include expanded institutional archival and video collections from participating OhioLINK institutions.
- Conducting pilot programs with nonacademic libraries and the corporate sector to examine how combining resources can benefit OhioLINK users and help further leverage the state's information resources.

Current and Future Services Require Continued Financial Support

While OhioLINK continues to strive to be the best academic library consortium worldwide, the program also struggles to maintain current levels of service, let alone move forward, in the present budget environment. Annual operating funds for FY2005 total \$6.89 million, after being reduced several times from a peak of \$7.6 million in FY2001. The program has been fortunate to have received increases in the OhioLINK capital appropriation, which have helped keep combined operating and capital funding flat for the past three years. Even with the increases in capital funds, however, total OhioLINK funding today is \$400,000 less than the peak of \$11.4 million reached in FY2001.

The vast majority of OhioLINK funds are used to purchase electronic resources and content (see figure 3). In concert with library funds, \$7.5 million out of the total \$8.2 million current capital biennium appropriation will be spent on the purchase of information content. The projected impact of all capital licenses will total \$8.75 million in the FY2005-2006 biennium. Additionally, the program periodically expands hardware and software platforms for statewide benefit. For the next operating and capital bienniums, OhioLINK needs appropriations of \$15.4 million and \$9.4 million respectively to maintain services.

In the meantime, Ohio academic libraries and OhioLINK are considering how to best utilize our combined funds within budget limitations. Together with Ohio academic libraries, OhioLINK staff will need to consider what makes the most long-term sense in meeting our prime objective – providing increased access to information at sustainable economic rates.

Cost-Effectiveness of OhioLINK

Figure 1
Library Funds Are Used In Concert with OhioLINK Funds to Purchase Statewide Resources

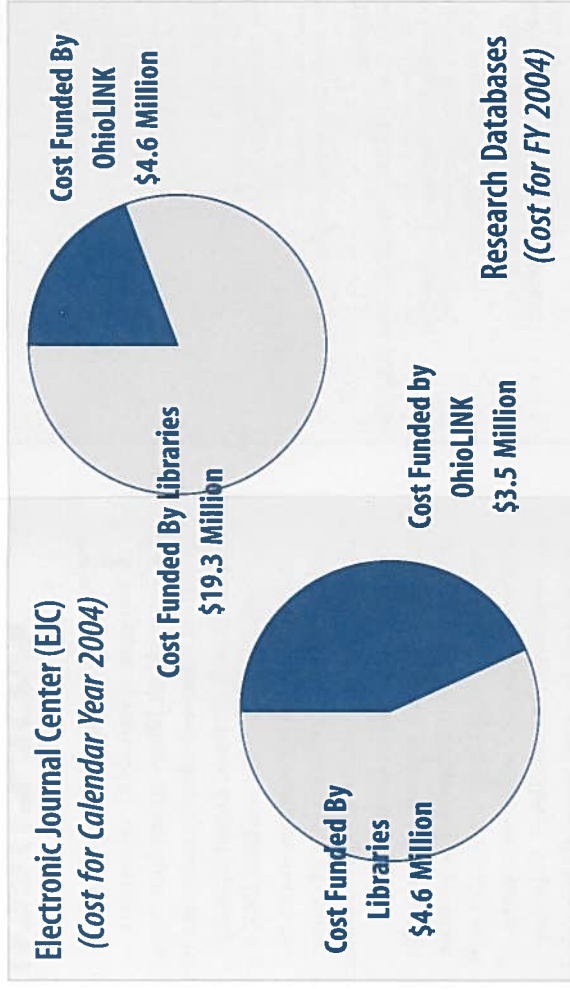


Figure 2
OhioLINK Libraries Experience Smaller Increases Than Typical Academic Research Libraries.

■ Average Annual Journal Cost Increase for Typical Academic Research Library
 ■ Average Annual Cost Increase for Journals Licensed through OhioLINK
 ■ Average Annual Cost Increase for Research Databases / General & Business Journals Licensed through OhioLINK

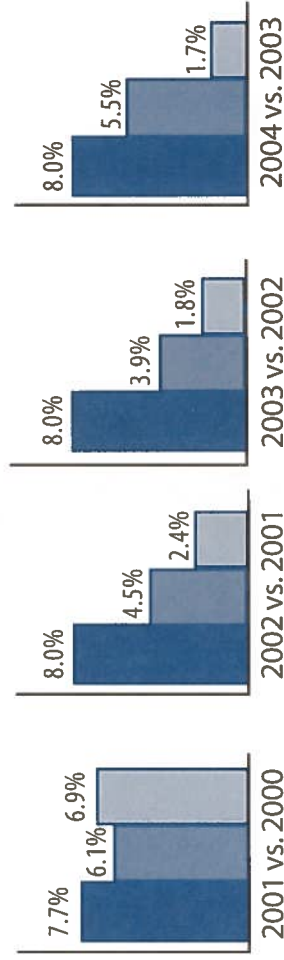


Figure 3
Where Do OhioLINK Expenses Go?



OhioLINK News In Brief...

Call for Proposals Issued for ODCE 2005 Conference

The Ohio Digital Commons for Education 2005 Conference, *The Convergence of Libraries, Learning and Technology*, will be held March 7-8, 2005 in Columbus. Pre-conference workshops will be held on Sunday, March 6.

The Ohio Digital Commons for Education (ODCE) is a collaborative initiative of the Ohio Learning Network, OhioLINK and the Ohio Supercomputer Center/OARnet to develop leading-edge education resources, services, and capabilities in Ohio. The commons will support campus sharing of course management system software, instructional materials, and electronic educational resources. By sharing common tools and resources, the ODCE provides a cost-effective, competitive advantage in the state.

Conference planners issued a call for proposals in September. Proposals for conference presentations, workshops and demonstrations of innovation are desired. The conference will feature submitted and invited presentations, technology demonstrations, pre-conference workshops and plenary presentations. Proposals are requested for the following topics: advances and applications of technologies for education and educational research; developing, facilitating and assessing engaging courses; libraries & electronic media – resources, services and collaborations; breaking barriers in e-learning policy and funding; partnerships and collaborations for technology-enabled education; and the future of technology and education. Proposals must be submitted by October 31, 2004. To review the complete call for proposals or to submit a proposal, visit the conference Web site at www.ohn.org/conferences/ODCE2005.

The conference will include keynote speakers, vendor exhibits, and technology demonstrations at Innovation Island. The ODCE 2005 Conference will be held at the Columbus Hilton at Easton Town Center.

First Public Library Shares Books Via OhioLINK During Pilot

The Ohio higher education community now has access to an even richer array of library materials during a one-year pilot project between the Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) and OhioLINK. This yearlong pilot project will provide an opportunity to define how expanding the OhioLINK program to nonacademic institutions can benefit Ohio's higher education community and the state as a whole.

Records for 3.6 million library items owned by CCPL have been added to the OhioLINK Library Catalog and users may request available items.

Requested materials are delivered in just two to three days and may be picked up at any of the 28 CCPL locations or any participating OhioLINK library.

"This pilot will provide an opportunity to define how expanding the OhioLINK program to include public libraries can further leverage the state's information resources and benefit both Ohio's higher education community and all Ohioans," Tom Sanville, executive director of OhioLINK, said.

This winter, OhioLINK will begin a similar one-year pilot program with the Upper Arlington High School Library in central Ohio. The pilot will give high school students the chance to access scholarly materials from OhioLINK libraries.



Read More OhioLINK News Online:
<http://olc7.ohiolink.edu/whatsnew>

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 College, 1999
Belmont Technical College, 1995	Myers University, 2002
Bluffton University, 1999	North Central State College, 1994
Bowling Green State University, 1992	Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1993
Capital University, 1996	Northwest State Community College, 1996
Case Western Reserve University, 1992	Notre Dame College, 1999
Cedarville University, 1996	Oberlin College, 1995
Central Ohio Technical College, 1994	Ohio Dominican University, 1997
Central State University, 1992	Ohio Northern University, 1995
Cincinnati Bible College & Seminary, 1999	The Ohio State University, 1994
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, 1995	Ohio University, 1994
Clark State Community College, 1995	Ohio Wesleyan University, 1996
Cleveland Clinic, 2002	Otterbein College, 1999
Cleveland State University, 1994	Owens Community College, 1995
College of Mount St. Joseph, 1996	Rhodes State College, 1994
The College of Wooster, 1996	Shawnee State University, 1994
Columbus College of Art & Design, 2000	Sinclair Community College, 1994
Columbus State Community College, 1994	Southern State Community College, 1994
Cuyahoga Community College, 1994	Stark State College of Technology, 1994
Defiance College, 1999	State Library of Ohio, 1994
Denison University, 1996	Terra Community College, 1995
Edison Community College, 1995	Tiffin University, 1999
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999	University of Akron, 1993
Franklin University, 2002	University of Cincinnati, 1992
Heidelberg College, 1999	University of Dayton, 1994
Hiram College, 1997	University of Findlay, 1999
Hocking College, 1995	University of Rio Grande & RGCC, 1995
Jefferson Community College, 1995	University of Toledo, 1994
John Carroll University, 1998	Urbana University, 2000
Kent State University, 1994	Ursuline College, 1997
Kenyon College, 1996	Walsh University, 2004
Lakeland Community College, 1995	Washington State Community College, 1996
Lorain County Community College, 1995	Wilberforce University, 1999
Lourdes College, 2002	Wilmington College, 1999
Malone College, 1999	Wittenberg University, 1997
Marietta College, 1999	Wright State University, 1992
Marion Technical College, 1994	Xavier University, 1996
Medical College of Ohio, 1993	Youngstown State University, 1993
Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, 2004	Zane State College, 1994
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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The *Update* is available in print and online at www.ohiolink.edu/about/publications.html. For more information, contact:

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