

EJC Breaking New Ground

More, better, faster. These three words describe the many aspects of the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center (EJC). This year, the EJC continues to see growth in article downloads, is adding four new publishers' content, and just reached a major milestone -- the site now includes more than a million articles. Surpassing all expectations, the EJC is writing new rules regarding the use and purchase of scholarly research journals.

Since its inception in April 1998, 500,000 articles have been downloaded by students, faculty, and researchers at OhioLINK institutions. Over half of these articles are from journals not held in print at the individual user's campus. Most of these downloads are from the first three publishers' collections. Elsevier Science, Academic Press, and Project MUSE titles number about 1450.

Universities and Medical Schools

Of these titles, even Ohio's largest university, The Ohio State University, downloaded articles from almost 600 titles not available in print at the Ohio State University Libraries.

Such astounding results force one to

reconsider the dynamics of journal buying. If The Ohio State University, who owns the state's largest journal collection, uses almost 600 titles that it does not hold in print, then Ohio's students, faculty, and researchers have been starving for expanded access to the current breadth of scholarly research. In fact, Ohio's other universities only carry a quarter of the titles in print from these publishers.

Ohio's medical schools are reaping benefits as well. Ohio's two stand-alone medical schools illustrate the disparity between what researchers will use and what they have available on their campus in print. The Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine carries only 142 of these titles in print but downloads articles from more than 400 of the EJC's titles. Also impressive, the Medical College of Ohio owns only 99 of these titles but downloads articles from over 600 EJC titles.

Smaller Colleges

The small, liberal arts college and the two-year community and technical colleges have also experienced a marked increase in access. These institutions rarely carry more than a dozen of the titles in the EJC. In fact, many carry none of these titles in print. Today, the small, liberal arts colleges and the two-year schools are using several hundred titles through the EJC.

Small liberal arts colleges downloaded articles from an average of 443 journal titles in the 1998-1999 school year. The maximum

number of print subscriptions held at any of these colleges was 54. An outstanding example is Ohio Northern University's experience. ONU, located in rural Ada, Ohio, has downloaded articles from 734 titles in the EJC. The campus library only owns 18 of these titles in print.

Two-year community and technical colleges own even fewer of these titles in print. Of the 17 two-year institutions, only five had print subscriptions to any of the titles now available in the EJC. From July 1998 to June 1999, these institutions downloaded articles from an average of 121 EJC journal titles, with 99.6% of these never before available on an Ohio two-year college campus.

Benefits

Why does this matter? Prior to the Electronic Journal Center's debut, any article from a journal not available in print on your campus had to be requested via traditional Interlibrary Loan. This cumbersome process could mean a 2 - 3 week waiting period before the material arrived. With the EJC, the researcher sits in front of a workstation, searches, requests, and browses or prints the article. In minutes, the most recently published research is in hand. Frequent users also can create an individual profile and save searches. These saved searches run at regular intervals, and the user receives e-mail notification about new articles.

Improvements to the Electronic Journal Center will further increase the value of the site.

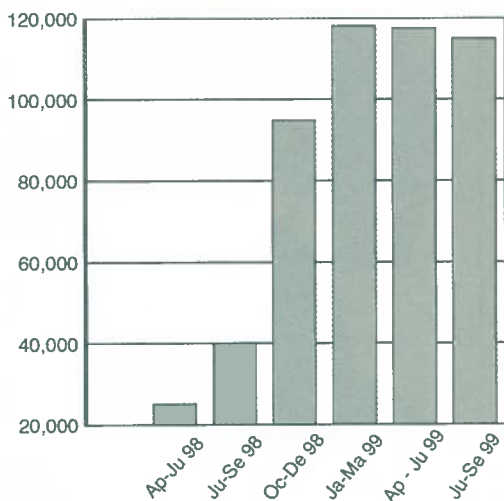
This year, the EJC expanded to include the collections of Springer-Verlag, Kluwer Academic, American Physical Society, and John Wiley & Sons. By year's end, the EJC will include about 2,500 titles.

The million article milestone makes the EJC one of the largest locally stored electronic journal collections in the country. No single library could afford to purchase all these journals in print, but by working together, the OhioLINK community now delivers an invaluable tool to Ohio higher education.

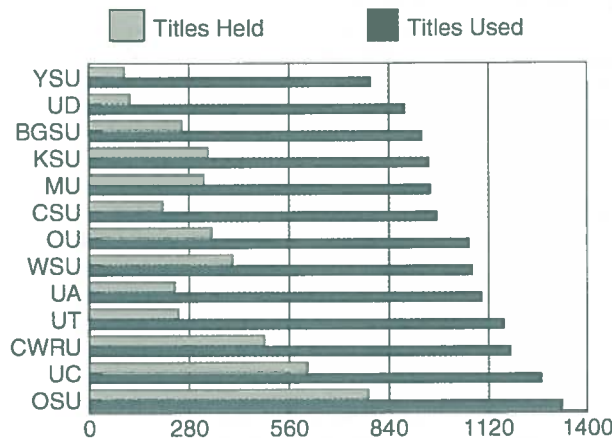
EJC Earns National Innovations Award.

See p. 3 for details.

EJC's Quarterly Article Downloads



Print Journal Titles Held and Electronic Journal Titles Downloaded by Ohio's Universities



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OhioLINK Rolls Out Digital Media Center

It's here! The OhioLINK Digital Media Center is live on the OhioLINK web site. An innovative approach to digitization projects and collections, the Digital Media Center (DMC) offers searching, viewing, downloading, and printing of thousands of digitized art and architecture images with manuscripts and archived photo collections to follow this school year.



"Zeus" by Alkamenes [440-30 BC]. The image is from the OhioLINK DMC.

The value of the DMC is three-fold. First, students and faculty are able to search, view, download, and print images for reports and class presentations. Second, in the near future, faculty will be able to select and save temporary collections they want to use for a class or project. Third, the DMC will serve as an archive for Ohio colleges' and universities' digitized projects, expanding access to formerly uncirculated collections.

The first six Ohio collections are being digitized now, and OhioLINK plans to select additional projects in the coming months. Questions or comments about the project can be sent to Charly Bauer, asst. director of library systems-multimedia databases, charly@ohiolink.edu.

A third wave of databases moved to the OhioLINK Search Software in August, and all databases using this software now benefit from improved features, including a more prominent search history and personalized library holdings information.

In the third wave of database migration, three databases are brand new to the OhioLINK collection. The three new-comers are *GeoRef*, *Humanities Abstracts*, and *ABC PolSci*. Three other databases (*Business & Industry*, *Contemporary Women's Issues*, and *Sociological Abstracts*) were previously available through the vendors' web sites.

By migrating these six databases to the OhioLINK search software, OhioLINK now presents a third of its databases through a single interface. Patrons previously encountered at least four different interfaces for these 32 databases with each requiring its own unique searching techniques. Today, OhioLINK patrons can learn the commands for *Business & Industry* or *MEDLINE* and then search 30 other databases using the same strategies.

More Databases & Improvements to Software

The OhioLINK library community discussed and agreed upon the newly introduced improvements to the search software, including a more intuitive display for the search history.

The search history, considered a vital tool in effective searching, moved from a separate, linked page to the main search menu. Now, a patron automatically sees his most recent searches and the number of results returned.

Patrons also benefit from the personalized holdings display. Once the patron finds a desirable article, she can click on the Check Availability link, and the system retrieves the holdings information for that title within the OhioLINK Central Catalog. The holdings are personalized to each patron, returning a list of holdings with the patron's local library information at the top.

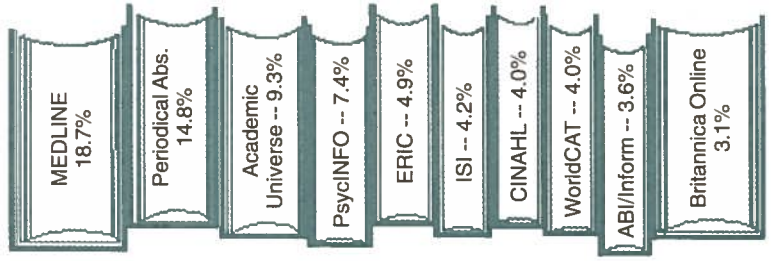
In January 1999, the search software will further evolve, reflecting the needs of the OhioLINK community. One of the most beneficial improvements will be the expansion of the links to full-text articles within the databases. Patrons will find even more "full-text at their fingertips," once these links are in place.

In addition to the software improvements, four additional databases will be added. The *Annual Bibliography of English Language*, the *Bibliography of American Literature, America: History & Life*, and *Historical Abstracts* will migrate from the individual vendors' sites to the OhioLINK search software.

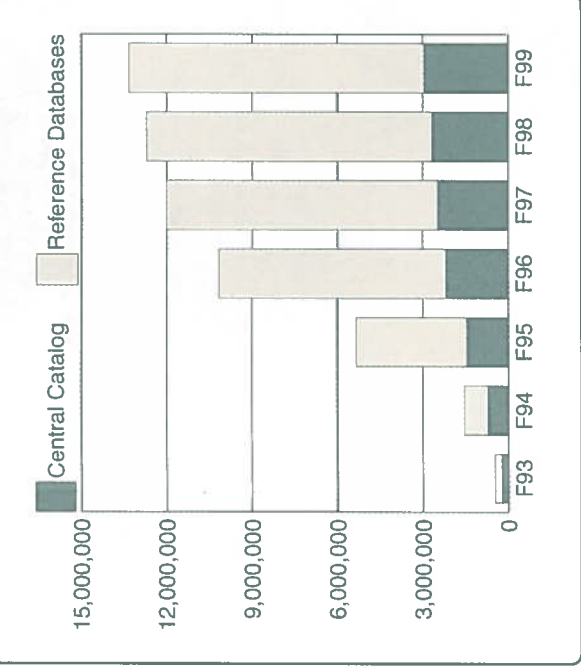
For questions about this project, contact Anita Cook, director of library systems, at anita@ohiolink.edu

1999 Fiscal Year Statistics

Most Heavily Searched Databases

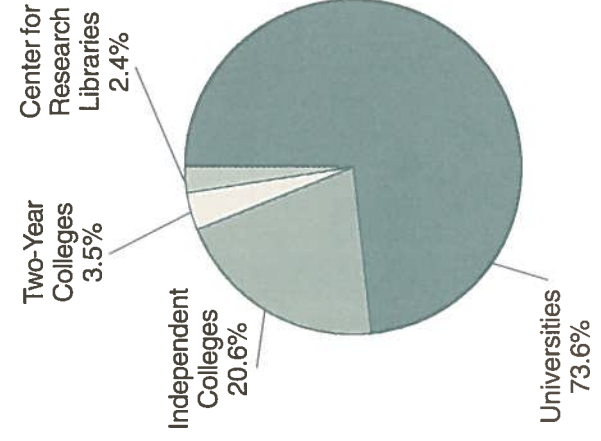


Searches on OhioLINK Databases

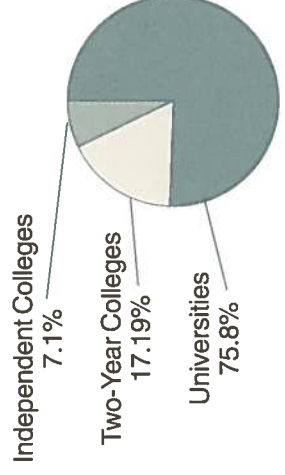


Central Catalog

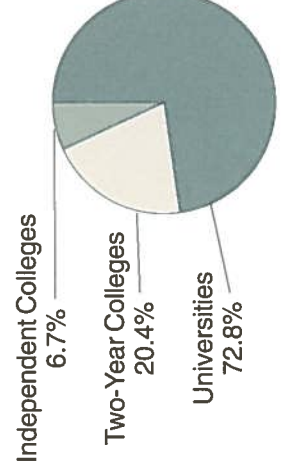
Holdings by Institution Type



Borrowing Requests Made by Institution Type



Borrowing Requests Received by Institution Type



OhioLINK In Brief...

Innovation Earns OhioLINK EJC National Recognition

Innovative! The OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center earned one of eight national Innovations Awards from the Council of State Governments this summer. The Council of State Governments, CSG, is the only association that represents the employees of all three branches of state government. The Innovations Awards recognize creative state government programs that answer problems faced by many states. The EJC, selected by CSG's Midwest Region, will receive national recognition at CSG's Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum in December. What makes the EJC so innovative? Its successful approach to expanding access by licensing complete electronic collections and delivering them via the WWW to the desktop.

Core Database Collection Continues to Grow

OhioLINK is pleased to announce the addition of twenty-one new databases covering a diverse number of generalized and specific subject areas. The new databases are:

- ABC PolSci
- Chicano Database
- GeoRef
- Hand Press Books
- Humanities Abstracts
- Index to Hispanic Legislation
- Inside Information Plus
- OCLC ContentsFirst
- OCLC Union List of Periodicals
- Russian Acad. of Sciences Bibliographies
- World Almanac
- Bibliography of the History of Art
- FRANCIS
- GPO Monthly Catalog
- Handbook of Latin Am. Studies
- Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals
- Index to 19th Cen. Am. Art Periodicals
- OCLC ArticleFirst
- OCLC NetFirst
- RLIN Bibliographic Database
- SCIPRO

Look for other new resources in the coming months.

Three New Independent Colleges to Join

Three new libraries will join the OhioLINK program. Marietta College will be joining independently, and Urbana University and Columbus College of Art and Design will be joining OhioLINK as new members of the OPAL consortium. The newest OhioLINK members, Notre Dame College and Cincinnati Bible College are currently preparing their local systems. Notre Dame College is expected to begin online borrowing in October, and Cincinnati Bible College will begin late in the year. The OhioLINK program currently includes 76 institutions. Thirty-five participants are independent colleges. The OhioLINK Central Catalog now contains 31 million items.

Videos, CDs, and More Now Available for Request

Borrowing a library book from another OhioLINK library is common place today. More than 480,000 books are borrowed each year through the patron online borrowing program. Now, the OhioLINK community enters a new era as libraries allow patrons to borrow videotapes, CDs, microfilms, and other types of library materials to be requested online. This fall, patrons will also see the introduction of several hundred electronic books.

Ohiolink Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

*** Institutions in italics are expected to begin this fall.*

Antioch College, 1999	Mount Carmel College of Nursing, 1999
Ashland University, 1999	Mount Union College, 1999
Athenaeum of Ohio, 1999	Mount Vernon Nazarene College, 1996
Baldwin-Wallace College, 1999	Muskingum College, 1999
Belmont Technical College, 1995	Muskingum Technical College, 1994
Bluffton College, 1999	North Central Technical 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	<i>Notre Dame College, 1999</i>
Cedarville College, 1996	Oberlin College, 1995
Central Ohio Technical College, 1994	Ohio Dominican College, 1997
Central State University, 1992	Ohio Northern University, 1995
<i>Cincinnati Bible College, 1999</i>	The Ohio State University, 1994
Cincinnati State Technical & Comm. College, 1995	Ohio University, 1994
Clark State Community College, 1995	Ohio Wesleyan University, 1996
Cleveland State University, 1994	Otterbein College, 1999
College of Mount Saint Joseph, 1996	Owens Community College, 1995
College of Wooster, 1996	Rio Grande University & Community College, 1995
Columbus State Community College, 1994	Shawnee State University, 1994
Cuyahoga Community College, 1994	Sinclair Community College, 1994
Defiance College, 1999	Southern State Community College, 1994
Denison University, 1996	Stark Technical College, 1994
Edison State Community College, 1995	State Library of Ohio, 1994
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999	Terra Community College, 1995
Heidelberg College, 1999	Tiffin University, 1999
Hiram College, 1997	University of Akron, 1993
Hocking College, 1995	University of Cincinnati, 1992
Jefferson Community College, 1995	University of Dayton, 1994
John Carroll University, 1998	University of Findlay, 1999
Kent State University, 1994	University of Toledo, 1994
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
Malone College, 1999	Wittenberg University, 1997
Marion Technical College, 1994	Wright State University, 1992
Medical College of Ohio, 1993	Xavier University, 1996
Miami University, 1992	Youngstown State University, 1993

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