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 starved 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.

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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 archival photo collections to follow this school year.

The DMC’s Art & Architecture database is now searchable and contains the image collections from Saksia, Ltd. and AMICO, the Art Museum Image Consortium. The 3,000 images from the Saksia collection covers many works including images used in Gardner’s Art Through the Ages, and the AMICO collection contains 54,000 images from many of the great American art museums with 20,000 new images expected next year.

More Databases & Improvements to Software

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 Central Catalog. The three new-databases are Geoful, Humanities Abstracts, and ABC iPeer. 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.

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 a patron can retrieve the holdings information for that title within the OhioLINK Central Catalog.

The new personalization system is called Geoful, 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, American History & Life, and Historical Abstracts will migrate from the individual vendor’s sites to the OhioLINK search software.

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

1999 Fiscal Year Statistics

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 uncataloged collections.

The first six Ohio collections are being digitized now, and OhioLINK plans to select additional projects in the coming months.

Question or comments about the project can be sent to Charly Basset, ass. director of library systems-multimedia databases, charly@ohiolink.edu.

OhioLINK In Brief...

Innovation Earns OhioLINK EJC National Recognition

Innovate! 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, CGS, is the only association that represents the employees of all three branches of state government. The Innovations Awards recognize creative government programs that answer problems faced by many states.

The EJC, selected by CGS’s Midwest Region, will receive national recognition at CGS’s Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum in December.

What makes the EJC so innovative? Its success in enabling access to 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 iPeer
- Bibliography of the History of Art
- Francis
- GPO Monthly Catalog
- Handbook of Latin American Studies
- Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals
- Index to 1954-1965 Central Am. Art Periodicals
- OCLC ArticleFirst
- OCLC FirstSearch
- OCLC Union List of Periodicals
- RILIN Bibliographic Database
- SCIPS
- World Almanac

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 later 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 download books, videos, 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
Ashland University, 1999
Athenaeum of Ohio, 1999
Baldwin-Wallace College, 1999
Belmont Technical College, 1995
Bluffton College, 1999
Bowling Green State University, 1992
Capital University, 1996
Case Western Reserve University, 1992
Cedarville College, 1996
Central Ohio Technical College, 1994
Central State University, 1992
Cincinnati Bible College, 1999
Clark State Community College, 1995
Cleveland State University, 1994
College of Mount Saint Joseph, 1996
College of Wooster, 1996
Columbus State Community College, 1994
Cuyahoga Community College, 1994
Defiance College, 1999
Denison University, 1996
Edison State Community College, 1995
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999
Heidelberg College, 1999
Hiram College, 1997
Hocking College, 1995
Jefferson Community College, 1995
John Carroll University, 1998
Kent State University, 1994
Kenyon College, 1996
Lakeland Community College, 1995
Lima Technical College, 1994
Lorain County Community College, 1995
Malone College, 1999
Marion Technical College, 1994
Medical College of Ohio, 1993
Miami University, 1992
Mount Carmel College of Nursing, 1999
Mount Union College, 1999
Mount Vernon Nazarene College, 1996
Muskingum College, 1999
Muskingum Technical College, 1994
North Central Technical College, 1994
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1993
Northwest State Community College, 1996
Notre Dame College, 1999
Oberlin College, 1995
Ohio Dominican College, 1997
Ohio Northern University, 1995
Ohio State University, 1994
Ohio University, 1994
Ohio Wesleyan University, 1996
Otterbein College, 1999
Owens Community College, 1997
Rio Grande University & Community College, 1995
Shawnee State University, 1994
Sinclair Community College, 1994
Southern State Community College, 1994
Stark Technical College, 1994
State Library of Ohio, 1994
Terra Community College, 1995
Tiffin University, 1999
University of Akron, 1993
University of Cincinnati, 1992
University of Dayton, 1994
University of Findlay, 1999
University of Toledo, 1994
Urison College, 1997
Washington State Community College, 1996
Wilberforce University, 1999
Wilmington College, 1999
Wittenberg University, 1997
Wright State University, 1992
Xavier University, 1996
Youngstown State University, 1993

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The OhioLINK Update, published semi-annually, provides information on the developments of the OhioLINK project.

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