

10 years completed and still evolving

10 years ago...

The OhioLINK program, the nation's leading academic library consortium, will deliver more than 25 million documents by the end of the year, completing its 10th year of service to Ohio's colleges and universities. The activity levels achieved at this major milestone demonstrate the value and growth of the program, and the ongoing support and cooperation it receives from the 82 participating colleges and universities, the State Library of Ohio, and the Ohio Board of Regents.

The 25+ million documents delivered include a variety of library resources and materials: traditional books, electronic books, videotapes, online research and newspaper articles, and online literature, among others. OhioLINK will surpass its 3.5-millionth book delivery, users will have downloaded 6.8 million scholarly research journal articles from the Electronic Journal Center and 7.5 million business/general interest articles.

Many of today's college students and faculty take OhioLINK services for granted, but in 1992 students and faculty conducted research in a very different manner. Students were usually restricted to the books and journals available in their campus library, and they might have had access to a limited number of databases on CD-ROM. Faculty that wanted resources beyond what their campus library owned were forced to travel to another academic library or request books and journal articles through interlibrary loan. Interlibrary loan could take 2 – 3 weeks or more, depending on the requested material. In November 1992, all that began to change with the introduction of a service known as the OhioLINK Central Catalog...

Today...

Today, Ohio's college students and faculty have downloaded 6.8 million scholarly research articles from the EJC without ever visiting "the stacks". This is an impressive accomplishment considering its short history. The EJC went live only four-and-a-half years ago and is still increasing its annual usage. In addition to this amazing number of scholarly articles, students and faculty have had 3.5 million books delivered to their campus through the Central Catalog's online requesting service. Statewide online

requesting first debuted in 1994. How does this compare to traditional methods? Three-and-a-half million delivered books in eight years is eight times the number of items requested through traditional interlibrary loan in Ohio.

Along the way, the OhioLINK program also added 100+ core online research databases, linked many of those databases directly to the related full-text article, and introduced the Digital Media Center (DMC), a collection of non-print media resources that features both commercial and Ohio-based collections and archives.

This year...

In a continuing commitment to improvement, the 10th year saw additional improvements to the user interfaces, the addition of more Ohio-based collections, archives, and new media types (audio and video) to the DMC; the addition of a multi-database searching option; and the addition of a live, real-time chat reference service.



"Squeeze" of 2nd-century Macedonian funerary inscription

The DMC now contains archival images, maps, satellites, and audio and video files. These files cross multiple disciplines. New collections include the Greek and Latin

"10 years completed..."
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Continuing State Budget uncertainties jeopardize future of services

Operating Budget

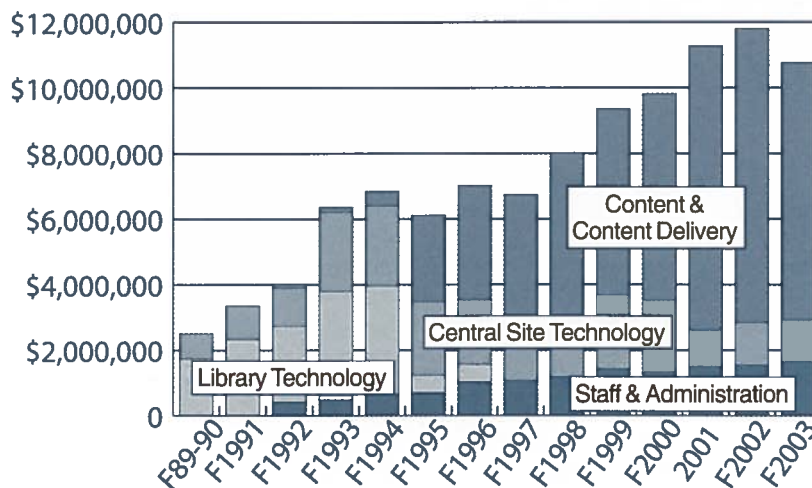
As reported in previous Updates, The OhioLINK program has reduced projected database expenses by \$1 million over the past two years. Of this, renegotiated licenses account for \$428,000. Of the remaining \$587,000, libraries have picked up \$570,000. The net result has been little lost access to databases across the state. But with both library and OhioLINK budgets threatened in the current and next fiscal years, we may not be able to continue all services.

We are facing continuing weak state tax revenues. Expectations are low for the current fiscal year and the next state operating budget biennium, beginning July 2003. These suggest that our appropriation may once again be flat or reduced, causing further reductions in support of selected databases. With library budgets also under duress, our ability to shift additional expenses to them may be limited. The result will be more widespread loss of resources.

To maintain current services funded by operating funds requires an F04 budget

"Continuing State Budget..." continued on page 3

Use of OhioLINK combined operating and capital expenditures



"10 years completed..." continued from page 1

"squeeze" images from The Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies at The Ohio State University. These "squeezes" are accurate paper impressions of transcriptions. The images now available in the DMC include more than 100 Greek and Latin funerary inscriptions. This collection will grow into the thousands, as the OSU Center is the only comprehensive research center for this area of study.

DMC users can also search and download selections from the E.W. Scripps Archive at Ohio University. The digitized portion of the archive includes special correspondence (personal letters to and from Edward W. Scripps) and letterbooks.

The DMC's Foreign Language Videos database has diversified, and now includes native speakers of Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, and Swahili. These videos deal with every day activities, emphasizing different grammar elements.

In another program first, OhioLINK licensed a set of core databases with INFOhio, the K-12 library program; and OPLIN, the public library program, giving comprehensive statewide access to these resources. This set of Ebsco Publishing databases are available to all Ohioans. It includes online databases and full-text that fill the needs of students, researchers, and consumers. This is the first set of resources in a proposed Statewide Core of Electronic Information Collection.

This year, OhioLINK users also saw a growth in the reference services available to them. Two new services address two different needs: the Subject Cluster Search delivers search results from a core of subject-specific databases, and "Chat with a Librarian" delivers live reference help via a chat link.

The Subject Cluster Search fills a need for multi-database searching. This "Cluster" search allows the user to enter one or more terms and retrieve results from multiple databases. This makes it a good tool for undergraduate research, or for the advanced searcher that needs to identify an appropriate resource for more detailed searching. For example, a student writing a paper on charter schools chooses to search the education cluster. The student receives the top 50 results from the five databases in the education cluster: Education Abstracts, ERIC, PsycINFO, Academic Search Premier, and the OhioLINK Central Catalog. The search is not a comprehensive search (it does not accommodate highly detailed searches), instead, it delivers a breadth of information.

"Chat with a Librarian" delivers reference services where they are needed most--to the user right at her workstation, regardless of

location. Questions can be answered when they occur--during searching. For example, the user is searching an OhioLINK provided database like ERIC, and wonders, "How do I find the best information about multiculturalism?" He merely clicks on the HELP button, which links him to a page with help options, including the "Chat with a Librarian". After choosing the chat link, he is greeted by a librarian from an OhioLINK affiliated library who helps him with his question.



The service is open 7 days a week, during peak reference hours.

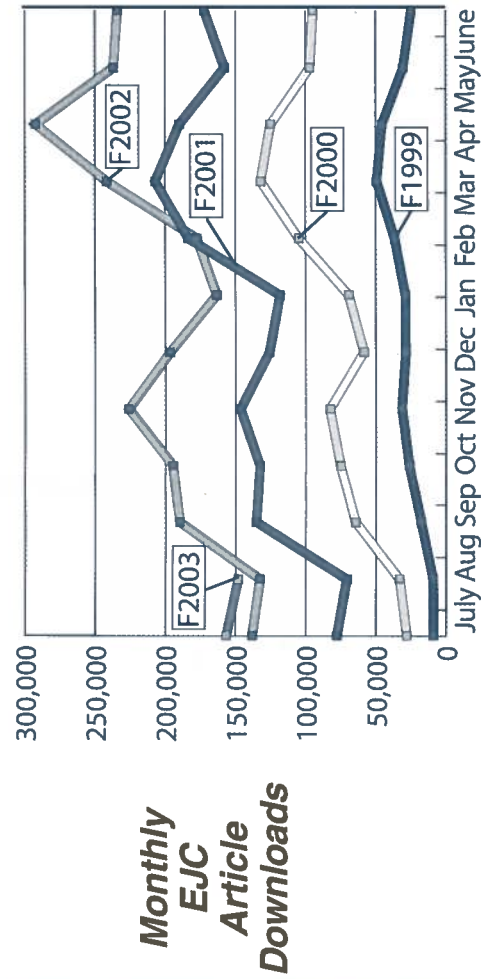
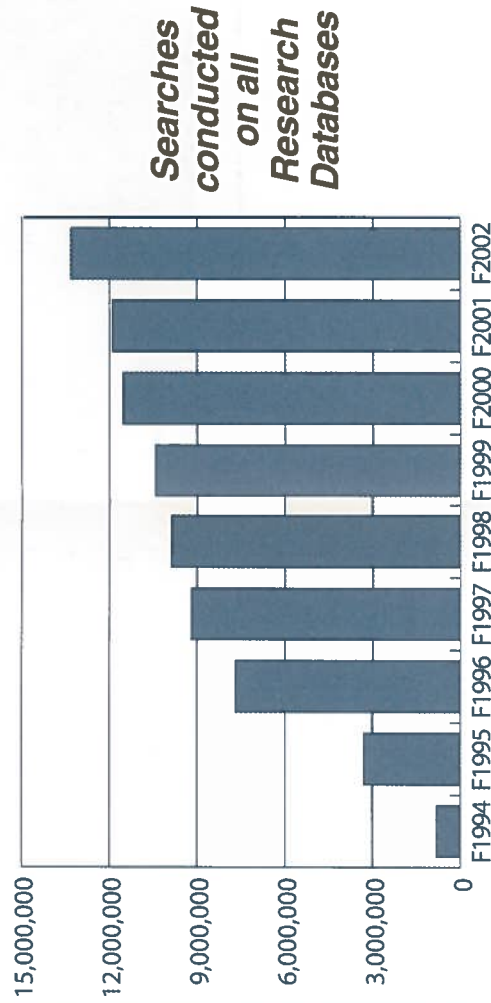
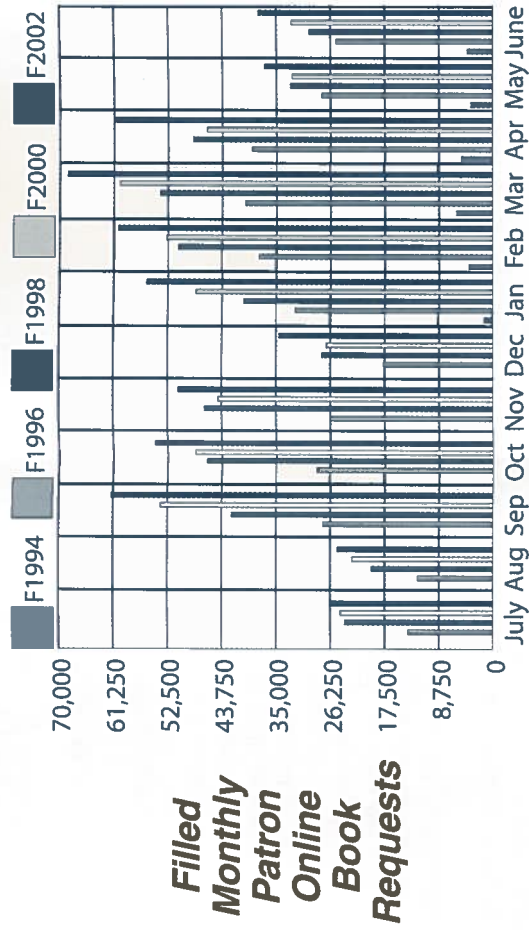
In the future...

The OhioLINK program's eleventh year of service as the leading academic library consortium will be a dynamic one in spite of continued budget reductions resulting from the State's budgetary problems. The DMC will continue to grow in depth and breadth. Projects on the horizon include a collection of videos in the humanities and sciences and the addition of catalog records that will link users from the Central Catalog to the collection.

As the world of e-books continues to evolve, so does OhioLINK's e-book collection. In 2000, the first set of 2,800 e-books entered "circulation". This set, which has grown to 12,000, includes a wide variety of books accessed directly through the *netLibrary* interface or through the catalog record in the Central Catalog. Over the summer, OhioLINK added *Books 24 X 7* to fill the need for high-demand IT manuals. These e-books are also accessible through the vendor interface and through the Central Catalog. A third entry into the e-book collection will be a set of ready-reference books. These books from *ABC-Clio* will reside on an OhioLINK-created platform. Like the OhioLINK Research Database interface, the OhioLINK e-book interface will be tooled to the needs of Ohio's students and faculty.

These and other developments require continued financial support. The OhioLINK program has been able to deliver high quality, cost-efficient services over the last 10 years and has plans for improving and introducing new, cutting-edge services. However, these services require sufficient funding. By creating and delivering them statewide, OhioLINK is able to provide services that very few libraries could afford independently. Failing to fully sustain and develop the OhioLINK program would be a great loss to Ohio higher ed.

Fiscal Year Statistics for 2002



"Continuing State Budget..." continued from page 1

appropriation of only 1.1% over OhioLINK's F03 appropriation. This is quite modest but would allow for no expansion of services, requires continued pricing concessions from vendors and allows no margin for error in cost estimates. If funding is flat or reduced, service support will be cut. For example, a 5% reduction in the appropriation would result in \$440,000 reduced database support.

Capital Budget

Over 80% of the OhioLINK capital appropriation is invested in electronic database content. Mostly electronic journals or journal citations, these are permanent state assets for current and future use. A prime example is the ISI citation index set, a resource crucial for graduate students and researchers. Also, a dozen Electronic Journal Center licenses are partially or completely funded through capital funds. These licenses cover about 2,800 titles. Each year, we use capital funds to continue purchasing the most current research journals.

Our ability to purchase the 2003 journal issues uninterrupted is at significant risk. A new state capital budget has not been passed as would normally be expected. The anticipated capital funds would have ensured uninterrupted licensing of the 2003 data, but we remain uncertain about when we will have new funds and how adequate they will be. To continue, we need a new biennial appropriation equal to our current one of almost \$7.5 million.

Minimally, the delay in new capital funding means that special negotiations must be conducted with each publisher. The result could mean delays in data delivery until payment can

be made or incurring late payment penalties. At worst, it might mean cancellation, if the new budget is significantly delayed or inadequate. A new budget is expected after the November elections. This may allow us to work through 2003. However, if the new budget is insufficient, we will simply delay our renewal problem to 2004.

The Real Impact, Opportunity, and Efficiency

The enormous value of the OhioLINK program is the coupling of efficiency with widespread information access. Compared to individual database licensing, statewide licenses are two, three, even up to 10 times more efficient. The maximum opportunity is provided to all students and faculty, regardless of institution.

These advantages are lost just as quickly when reductions must be made. We quickly revert to information rationing, the very problem the program was designed to overcome. If reductions are made in centrally supported resources as library budgets also are reduced, buying power is lost across the board. Resources are cut and those that remain available are likely to be bought less efficiently.

For Ohio higher education to succeed, it is critical that access to the best instructional and research materials is provided. The OhioLINK program is a proven means to transform the library information resources available on each campus. These resources must be seen as essential, not discretionary, to Ohio's success. The OhioLINK program still has much to do before achieving the full measure of its mission. As it stands, we are in jeopardy of losing what we have let alone moving forward in these difficult financial times.

OhioLINK In Brief...

Honoring OhioLINK's 10-years-of-service, Regents honor Kilgour with Voinovich Award

OCLC founder Frederick G. Kilgour will receive the first Voinovich Award for Information Innovation, honoring his efforts which brought OCLC from a small, regional computer system to its present position of international library cooperative.

The Voinovich Award for Information Innovation was created by the Ohio Board of Regents in honor of Senator George V. Voinovich, who was the governor when the OhioLINK program's core funding and activities were launched. The award will be presented at OhioLINK's 10-Year Anniversary Dinner on November 6, 2002.

Myers University to join OhioLINK program

OhioLINK is pleased to announce that Myers University will join this fall. Franklin University is now live, and the Cleveland Clinic is expected to go live this fall also. These new additions brings the total of participating institutions to 83.

OhioLINK Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

Antioch College, 1999	Miami University, 1992
Ashland University, 1999	Mount Carmel College of Nursing, 1999
Athenaeum of Ohio, 1999	Mount Union College, 1999
Baldwin-Wallace College, 1999	Mount Vernon Nazarene University, 1996
Belmont Technical College, 1995	Muskingum College, 1999
Bluffton College, 1999	Muskingum Technical College, 1994
Bowling Green State University, 1992	<i>Myers University, anticipated 2002</i>
Capital University, 1996	North Central Technical College, 1994
Case Western Reserve University, 1992	Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1993
Cedarville University, 1996	Northwest State Community College, 1996
Central Ohio Technical College, 1994	Notre Dame College, 1999
Central State University, 1992	Oberlin College, 1995
Cincinnati Bible College & Seminary, 1999	Ohio Dominican University, 1997
Cincinnati State Technical & Comm. College, 1995	Ohio Northern University, 1995
Clark State Community College, 1995	The Ohio State University, 1994
<i>Cleveland Clinic, anticipated 2002</i>	Ohio University, 1994
Cleveland State University, 1994	Ohio Wesleyan University, 1996
College of Mount Saint Joseph, 1996	Otterbein College, 1999
College of Wooster, 1996	Owens Community College, 1995
Columbus College of Art & Design, 2000	Rhodes State College, 1994
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 State College of Technology, 1994
Edison State Community College, 1995	State Library of Ohio, 1994
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999	Terra Community College, 1995
Franklin University, 2002	Tiffin University, 1999
Heidelberg College, 1999	University of Akron, 1993
Hiram College, 1997	University of Cincinnati, 1992
Hocking College, 1995	University of Dayton, 1994
Jefferson Community College, 1995	University of Findlay, 1999
John Carroll University, 1998	University of Rio Grande & RGCC, 1995
Kent State University, 1994	University of Toledo, 1994
Kenyon College, 1996	Urbana University, 2000
Lakeland Community College, 1995	Ursuline College, 1997
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
	Youngstown State University, 1993

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