



OhioLINK Services Continue to Evolve In Face of Limited Resources

The OhioLINK program continues to evolve this year as new resources and features have been added, in spite of a limited budget (see related article below). Users can find improvements in almost every OhioLINK provided service.

Federal Grant Funds New Databases

OhioLINK's core collection of research databases expanded over the summer as more electronic resources were added to Ohio's statewide collection.

Several new databases are now available: AccessScience, Annals of American History Online, the Britannica Online Set, Enciclopedia Universal en Español, the NewsBank newspaper collection of 17 Ohio and 13 non-Ohio newspapers, and the Oxford Reference Online Core Collection of more than 100 different resources. Remote access is available for these databases.

A Library Services Technology Act grant was awarded to Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO) to help fund these additions. LCO is a collaborative effort of OhioLINK, the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN), the Information Network for Ohio Schools

(INFOhio) and the State Library of Ohio. As part of the Statewide Core Electronic Information Collection, these resources are available to all Ohioans through their academic, public, or school library.

The AMICO image collection and 14 literature databases from Chadwyck-Healey/Proquest will also be available statewide. OhioLINK already provides access to eight of the literature databases and the AMICO Library. Six new databases—American Drama, Early American Fiction, Twentieth-Century African American Poetry, Twentieth-Century American Poetry, Twentieth-Century English Poetry, and the W. B. Yeats Collection—will be available this fall.

Introducing "Pick up @ any library"

The OhioLINK Library Catalog has been renamed, redesigned, and enhanced with a new pick up feature.

The new catalog design offers a search box on the first screen. Now users can instantly conduct a keyword, author, title, or subject heading search. Other search options are just a click away.

Distance and non-traditional students, among others, will benefit from a new option in the catalog that lets users pick up requested materials at any participating OhioLINK library.

In the past, users could only pick up requested items at one of their own campus library locations. This restriction limited the service's usefulness to students enrolled in distance learning classes, weekend programs, and other non-traditional learning options. Now users have the ability to live in Toledo, take a class from Ohio University, and pick up requested materials from the University of Toledo's library.

The new pick up option transforms OhioLINK's borrowing system into a true distance-learning tool and supports OhioLINK's goal of providing the most efficient and effective means of delivering information to users, regardless of format.

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OhioLINK Operating Budget Loses Purchasing Power – Pressures Library Budgets

Central budget remains flat at reduced level, libraries pay greater share of costs

OhioLINK's appropriation in the latest State of Ohio biennium operating budget beginning July 2003 is \$7,028,390 per year, flat in both F04 and F05 at the F03 level. OhioLINK absorbed a F03 mid-year cut of 2.5% (\$180,600). In the past three years, the OhioLINK budget has been reduced \$640,000 (8.3%).

To minimize the impact of this reduction, we have renegotiated numerous database licenses to better financial effect. This has not been sufficient, so we also continue to transfer OhioLINK's lost buying power to library budgets. Approximately \$800,000 in database costs have been transferred to libraries in recent years. The combination of these approaches allows us to maintain the status

quo through the current fiscal year. The result is that only a few campuses have lost access to a handful of databases.

Can library budgets cope with continued central and local budget reductions?

With campus budgets also under great pressure, most library budgets are being cut or curtailed. Library administrators must simultaneously compensate for their own local lost buying power and that of the OhioLINK central budget. Database resources traditionally covered by central OhioLINK funds must now be paid for by collective library funds even though each library cannot maintain its local commitments for books, journals, and resources

specific to the needs of its campus.

Since our projected general expenses and database costs are greater than next year's appropriation, it is clear that we will have to once again transfer database costs to libraries or lose access. Maintenance, let alone expansion, of our statewide core reference resources is not possible. We are in danger of losing the dramatic economic efficiencies and expansion of information access that motivated OhioLINK's formation and development. Even in tough economic times, the OhioLINK program remains a highly effective means to support the quality of Ohio education and our state's competitiveness in the 21st century.

Two New Collections Added to DMC

The Digital Media Center (DMC) now includes educational videos and recorded animal sounds.

The Digital Video Collection contains

hundreds of educational videos in a wide variety of subjects. Approximately 1,000 video tapes were purchased from the distributor Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

OhioLINK users may view and download these videos from any computer using free plug-in software from RealNetworks.



Now DMC users can view and download educational videos.

The DMC's new Borrower Laboratory of Bioacoustics Recorded Animal Sounds Collection currently contains 3,900 recordings of New World Warblers (small, active songbirds). This collection was contributed by The Ohio State University's Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics. The BLB's collection is one of the largest in the world with approximately 28,000 recordings of over 1,000 species of animals. The remaining recordings will be added to the DMC in the coming months. The Warblers Collection is publicly available at <http://worldidmc.ohiolink.edu/media/borror/blbLogin>.

Web site offers Quick and Simple Search

The redesigned OhioLINK Web site debuted in August. The most prominent feature in the new design is the Quick and Simple Search option. This tool allows users to search for articles and books across several broad databases simultaneously. The Quick and Simple Search is designed for users who need results in a hurry and do not desire in-depth, research level searching.

The new Web site also features a link to the Chat with a Librarian service directly from OhioLINK's home page. Chat with a Librarian delivers reference services where they are needed most—right to the user's workstation.

EJC reaches four million articles

Finding scholarly journal articles used to be a time-consuming process involving going to the library, consulting a periodical index, and finding the appropriate journal on the shelves. Today, students and educators statewide have immediate, electronic access to scholarly research articles through the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center (EJC). The EJC, which launched in 1998 with

less than one million articles, has grown to include more than four-million articles.

“The EJC is one of the largest, possibly even the largest, collection of electronic journals run by a library consortium,” OhioLINK's Executive Director, Tom Sanville, said.

When the EJC debuted, it contained journal collections from two publishers. With recent additions of Berkeley Electronic Press, Cambridge University Press, and Oxford University Press, the EJC now includes electronic collections from 33 journal publishers.

The OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center continues to be a heavily-used resource. More than 9 million articles have been downloaded statewide since 1998 and use of this service is still growing at 50% annually.

Multi-Database Search Tool Refined

The Subject Cluster Search will be enhanced this fall. This tool, which debuted in 2002, searches entire subject areas with a single search. Users can enter one or more terms and retrieve results from multiple databases.

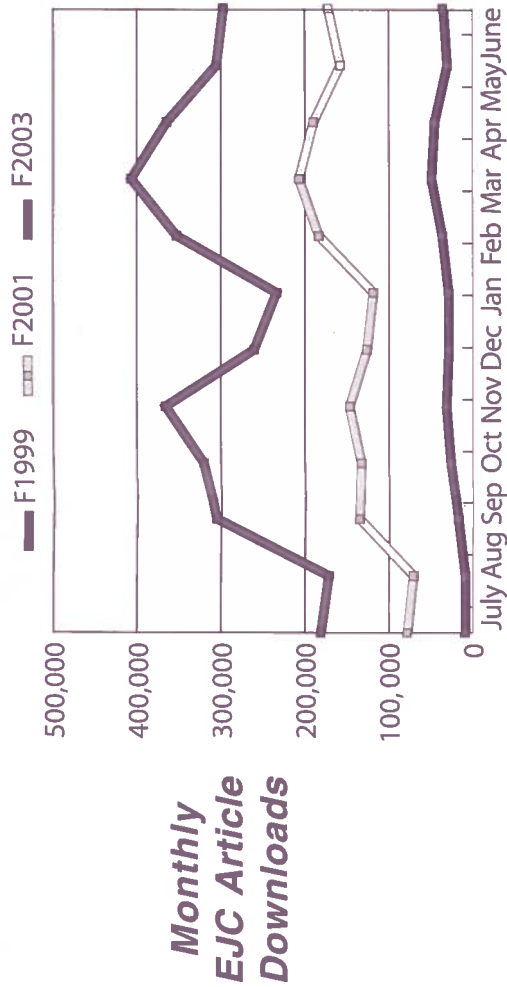
Some of the broad subject clusters will be divided into two or more clusters for improved searching capabilities. For example, the arts and humanities cluster will be divided into three separate clusters: art and architecture, music, and philosophy and religion. Limiting clusters to narrow subject areas allows users to focus their search and receive results in a timely manner. Users also have the option to create a custom cluster and search up to six databases simultaneously.

The Subject Cluster Search is not a comprehensive search tool, as it does not accommodate advanced searching. It serves as a good multiple resource search for an undergraduate or as a starting point for selecting databases for more comprehensive searches.

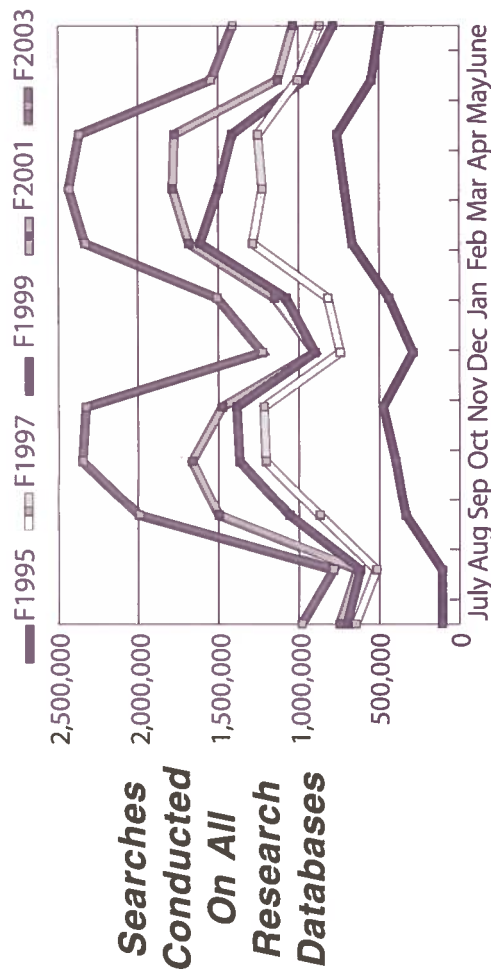
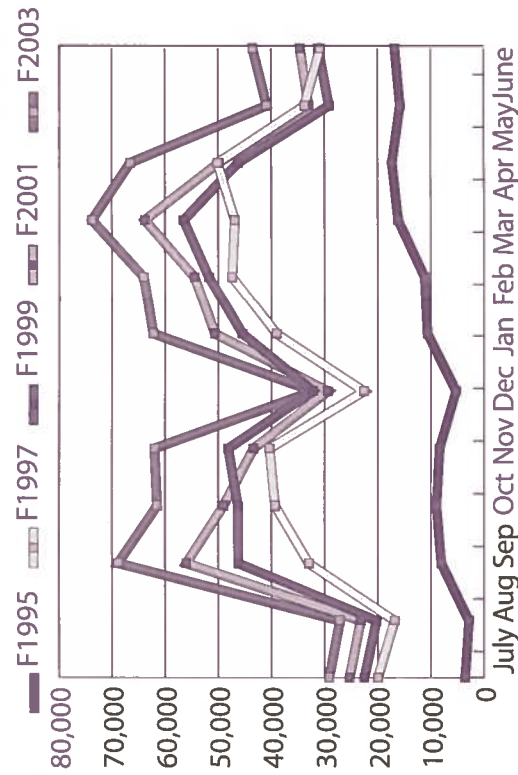
Funding Required for Future Improvements

These and other developments require adequate financial support. The OhioLINK program has been able to deliver high quality, cost-efficient services over the last 11 years and has plans for introducing new, cutting edge services. Without sufficient funding, however, OhioLINK and Ohio academic libraries can not continue to add the information resources and technological improvements that are necessary to support the quality of higher education in Ohio.

Fiscal Year Statistics Through 2003



Filled Monthly Patron Online Book Requests



OhioLINK News In Brief...

OhioLINK Honored for Most Innovative Use of Library Catalog

Last April, the OhioLINK program was awarded one of four Be Innovative! Awards from Innovative Interfaces, Inc. OhioLINK was honored for the most innovative use of an INN-Reach system. INN-Reach is the name of the borrowing system the OhioLINK consortium utilizes for resource sharing. The OhioLINK community uses this system to help ensure that the OhioLINK Library Catalog with more than 8.6 million unique bibliographic records remains a central resource for 600,000 faculty, students, and staff. The innovative creation of multiple links both to and from the catalog encourages heavy use of this valuable resource.

Walsh University Will Be Number 84

OhioLINK is pleased to announce that Walsh University will become the 84th institution to join the program. Walsh University will join in January as a member of the Ohio Private Academic Libraries (OPAL) group. With this newest addition, the OhioLINK program now serves 17 public universities, 23 community/technical colleges, 43 private colleges and the State Library of Ohio.

Convergence of Libraries, Learning & Technology Conference

The Ohio Commons for Digital Education 2004 Conference, *The Convergence of Libraries, Learning and Technology*, sponsored by the Ohio Learning Network, OhioLINK, Ohio

Supercomputer Center and OARnet, will be held March 8-9, 2004 in Columbus. Pre-conference workshops will be held on Sunday, March 7.

The OCDE is a shared resources and services environment, created by the Ohio Learning Network, OhioLINK, Ohio Supercomputer Center and OARnet, that will assist instruction, libraries, research applications, and high performance computing. The OCDE allows each organization to focus on its primary mission – developing Ohio's e-learning capacity, information resources, computational research, and Internet services – while taking into account the convergence of these activities.

The call for program proposals for the OCDE 2004 Conference will be issued in September, and organizers are expecting several hundred proposals to be submitted. The conference will comprise five tracks: Developing, Facilitating and Assessing Engaging Courses; Libraries & Digital Education - Resources, Services, and Collaborations; Breaking Barriers in E-Learning Policy and Funding; New Partnerships and Collaborations; Hip Technologies & Far-Out Ideas for Research and Education.

The conference will also include a keynote speaker, vendor exhibits, and technology demonstrations at Innovation Island. Innovation Island will showcase the most innovative applications regarding program models, partnerships, technology innovations, and other grant-funded projects throughout Ohio.

The OCDE 2004 Conference, and pre-conference workshops, will be held at the Columbus Hilton at Easton Town Center. For more information about this conference visit www.oln.org/conferences.



Ohio Commons for Digital Education

OhioLINK Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

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 University, 1996
Central Ohio Technical College, 1994
Central State University, 1992
Cincinnati Bible College & Seminary, 1999
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, 1995
Clark State Community College, 1995
Cleveland Clinic, 2002
Cleveland State University, 1994
College of Mount St. Joseph, 1996
The College of Wooster, 1996
Columbus College of Art & Design, 2000
Columbus State Community College, 1994
Cuyahoga Community College, 1994
Defiance College, 1999
Denison University, 1996
Edison Community College, 1995
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999
Franklin University, 2002
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
Lorain County Community College, 1995
Lourdes College, 2002
Malone College, 1999
Marietta 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 University, 1996
Muskingum Area Technical College, 1994
Muskingum College, 1999
Myers University, 2002
North Central State College, 1994
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1993
Northwest State Community College, 1996
Notre Dame College, 1999
Oberlin College, 1995
Ohio Dominican University, 1997
Ohio Northern University, 1995
The Ohio State University, 1994
Ohio University, 1994
Ohio Wesleyan University, 1996
Otterbein College, 1999
Owens Community College, 1995
Rhodes State College, 1994
Shawnee State University, 1994
Sinclair Community College, 1994
Southern State Community College, 1994
Stark State College of Technology, 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 Rio Grande & RGCC, 1995
University of Toledo, 1994
Urbana University, 2000
Ursuline College, 1997
Walsh University, anticipated 2004
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

OhioLINK Update

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

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