



## Can the OhioLINK Mission Be Fulfilled?

### Providing for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Information Needs

New information is produced every day. More than 195,000 new books were published in the U.S. in 2004.\* There were 43,500 active scholarly journals in 2003, with 14,600+ available online.\*\* In addition, more historical content, formerly produced in print only, becomes available electronically every day. Yet, much of this information remains financially out of reach for Ohio college and university libraries and is not available to Ohio students, faculty and staff.

Since 1992, OhioLINK and its member libraries have worked cooperatively to reduce this financial gap and provide increased access to information at sustainable economic rates. We have made significant progress, but a lack of funding impedes our ability to achieve the full measure of cost-effective information access that we are capable of and that is needed. The question is, will Ohio fully support the expanding information resource needs of its higher education community by funding OhioLINK and its member libraries?

The majority of OhioLINK funding is spent on content. Therefore, more funding for OhioLINK and Ohio's college and university libraries means more content will be accessible to support instruction and research statewide. OhioLINK and its member libraries see a vital need to add content and functionality in six key areas: e-journals, online scholarly databases, the statewide library catalog, digital videos, e-books and institutionally created content.

#### Goal 1: Expand the EJC

The Electronic Journal Center (EJC) debuted in 1998 and revolutionized research in Ohio by providing immediate desktop delivery of roughly 1,400 scholarly titles from two publishers. Today, the EJC contains more than 6,300 titles and six million articles from 80+ publishers, but key journals and entire publisher collections, from both commercial and scholarly societies, still remain out of reach.

OhioLINK users have shown an insatiable demand for EJC materials. Users downloaded more than 4.6 million articles in the past twelve months alone.

OhioLINK's wish list includes funding to restore full access to the 490 journal subscriptions that were cut from the EJC in January 2005, due to funding constraints, and the avoidance of further cuts. New funds would allow OhioLINK to expand the Electronic Journal Center to include key publisher collections such as Sage, Taylor and Francis, Cell Press, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, GeoScienceWorld and top titles from numerous scholarly societies. Additional journals from a variety of publishers would help fill gaps in key disciplines such as nursing and the biosciences. We would also like to buy the historical files back to the first issue for many journals in order to increase access and reduce the need to store multiple print archive copies across the state.

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### Expanding the Array of OhioLINK Resources and Services Requires New Funds

The OhioLINK program and its member libraries must both be supported with new funding in order to support the creation of an effective 21<sup>st</sup> century Ohio higher education community. OhioLINK funding remains flat in the final state operating budget for fiscal 2006-2007 at \$6.89 million per year. This, when combined with the OhioLINK capital appropriation of \$8.10 million for fiscal 2005-2006, means total OhioLINK funding will remain flat as it has since fiscal 2002. Collectively, library budgets have seen little growth while information expands and prices continue to rise. As a result of little library funding growth and at least five years of flat funding, the OhioLINK community cannot maintain the current rich set of scholarly resources and services, let alone strategically expand them.

In 2005, OhioLINK's past strategy of using reserve funds and increasing contributions from member institutions to avoid resource cuts was no longer possible as local library budgets also faced continued limitations. In order to balance the shortfall between OhioLINK funding and the increased costs required to maintain the current array of resources and services, OhioLINK cut subscriptions to 490 electronic journals in January 2005. In July, the program also cut funding for a Matter of Fact—a general reference database, reduced funding for e-book purchases and instituted a membership fee that will raise \$200,000 annually.

These cuts were cushioned because OhioLINK renegotiated many database licenses and publisher agreements to better financial affect. OhioLINK continues to be a leader in controlling cost increases.

In fiscal 2005, the annual cost increase for journals licensed through OhioLINK increased just 2.3%, while the average journal cost increase for the typical academic research library was 8.0%.

As long as OhioLINK funding remains flat it is likely that we will need to reduce the number of titles we receive from major publishers in the Electronic Journal Center and other resource and service cuts may be necessary.

This winter, the Ohio General Assembly will begin work on the next two-year capital appropriation. This will provide another opportunity for the higher education community to help legislators understand how OhioLINK benefits higher education and the state as a whole. Visit [www.ohiolink.edu/supportohiolink](http://www.ohiolink.edu/supportohiolink) for budget updates and to lend your support.

## Can the OhioLINK Mission Be Fulfilled? (continued from page 1)

### Goal 2: Add Online Scholarly Databases

In 1992, the OhioLINK program began providing two research databases to users via the Internet. Today, OhioLINK offers a core collection of 100+ databases that are available to all 85 OhioLINK member institutions. This supports the state's articulation and transfer initiatives by providing common resources to all students. The research databases are heavily used; 25.7 million searches were conducted just in the past 12 months. However, current database offerings do not meet Ohio higher education users' needs to effectively research an increasingly wide range of topics. Sufficient new funding would allow OhioLINK to add databases in key disciplines such as criminal justice, pharmacology, international economics and business, medicine, history and literary criticism.

### Goal 3: Increase Content and Functionality of Library Catalog

The OhioLINK Library Catalog launched in November 1992. Since then, the catalog has grown to include 44.5 million items from all 85 OhioLINK members and two Ohio public libraries. However, catalog growth rates are at all-time lows as member libraries cannot afford to add as many new titles as in the past. The cost-effective, statewide purchase of e-journals, research databases and other electronic content through OhioLINK allows members to redirect funds to buy new books their campuses need, which in turn also benefits the statewide collection. Additional funds could be used to expand the functionality of the catalog with enhanced retrieval and review tools such as book reviews, jackets and summaries.

### Goal 4: Create an E-Book Center

As with journals, buying electronic and print books in combination can be most cost-effective and maximizes access. OhioLINK is already a leader in expanding information access through a diverse, multi-publisher collection of 18,000+ electronic books. Faculty, students, staff and other researchers have demonstrated a strong desire to select and use e-books.

However, even as many book publishers are now beginning to make e-books available, the OhioLINK collection is not expanding due to budget constraints. A cost-effective, statewide Electronic Book Center could be created to dramatically improve e-book buying power and the depth of discipline-specific material available to all institutions.

### Goal 5: Build Core Digital Video and Audio Collections

The cooperative Digital Video Collection contains 1,250 educational videos that may be shown in class or viewed via any computer with an Internet connection. This fall 550 new titles will be added to the collection. OhioLINK users already download 44,300 videos annually and use will grow as the two-year-old collection expands. Collection growth, however, is sporadic and measured. OhioLINK has also foregone investments in audio collections that would enrich and enhance the quality of music departments across the state.

### Goal 6: Build and Maintain a Digital Resource Commons

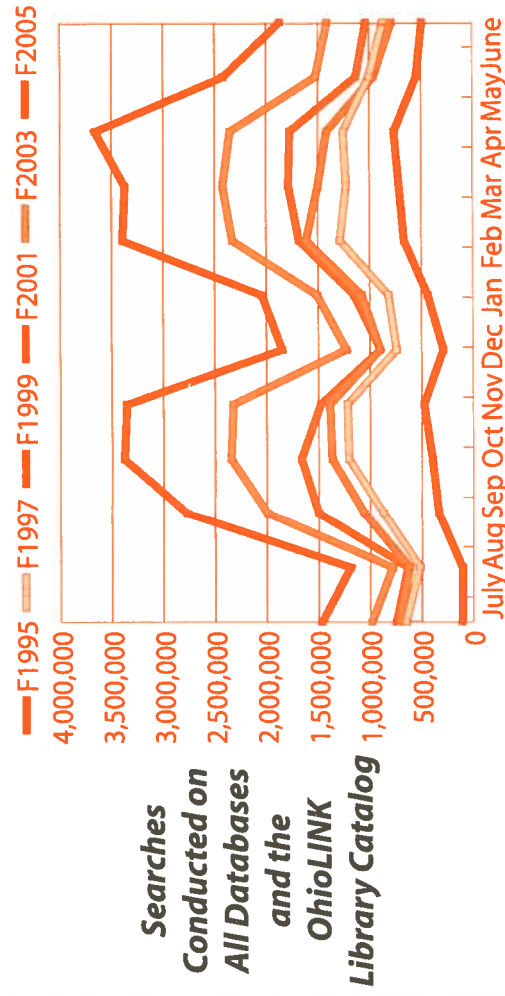
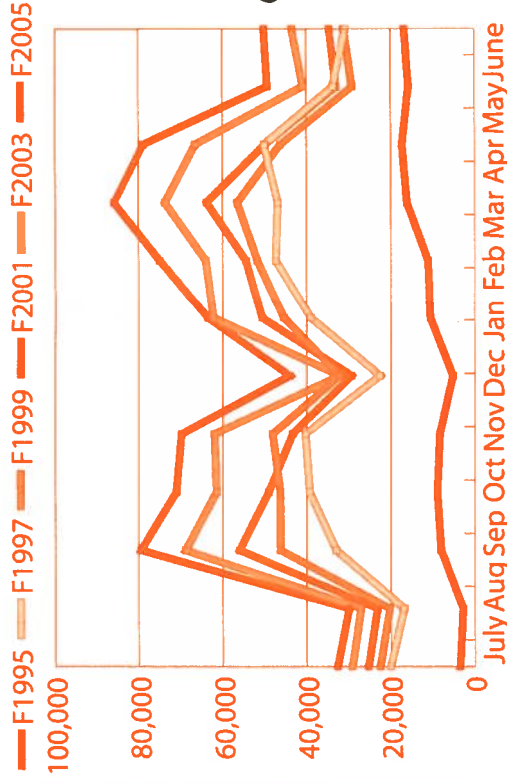
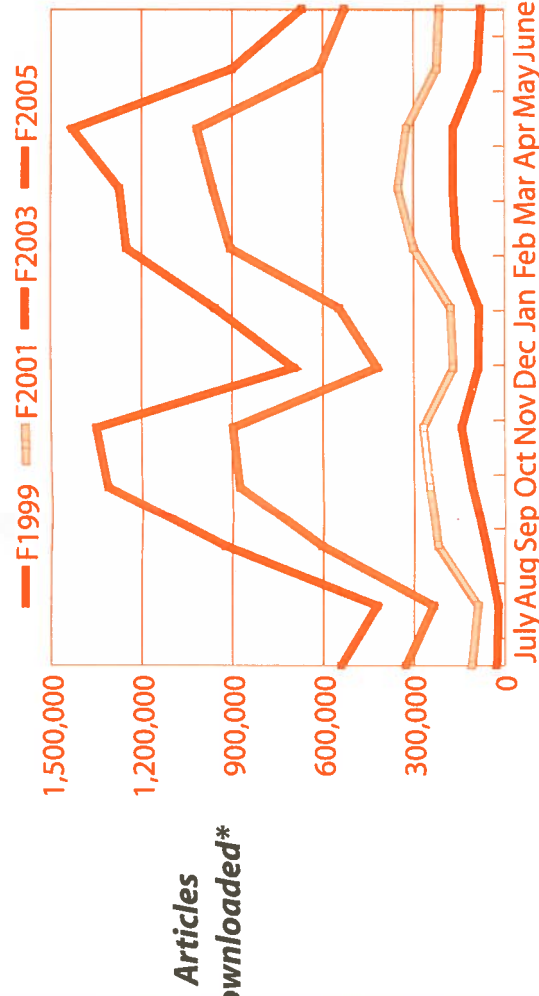
OhioLINK is constructing the Digital Resource Commons (DRC) to support the creation of, storage of, and access to the digital intellectual assets of faculty and students. This single, statewide system will minimize local duplicative costs, enable the participation of schools that otherwise would be unable to create their own, and maximize access to Ohio research and other institutionally-created content.

The initial development of the DRC is supported by an Ohio Board of Regents grant, but OhioLINK does not have the operating funds necessary to support and develop the DRC beyond this. Nor do we have funds to support and accelerate the creation of digital assets. New materials may be created digitally, but a huge legacy of hard copy materials remains which, if digitized, would become of far greater value and use to the state.

\* According to R.R. Bowker.

\*\* Tenopir, Carol. "Online Scholarly Journals: How Many?" *Library Journal*. February 1, 2004.

## Use of OhioLINK Continues to Rise



## OhioLINK News In Brief...

### Libraries Provide Two New Resources to All Ohioans

Two new resources, **LearningExpress Library** and **American National Biography Online**, are now available to all Ohioans, including students, faculty and staff at OhioLINK member libraries.

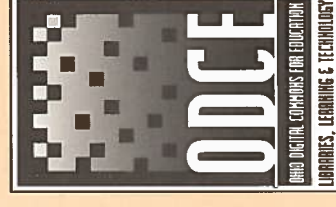
LearningExpress Library offers online, interactive practice tests, career building tools, writing aides and targeted, skill-building courses in math, reading and writing. There are hundreds of interactive practice tests to help you prepare for several types of exams including the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, TOEFL, U.S. Citizenship and civil service position tests. Complete explanations of answers accompany each response to help you understand why a particular answer is correct or incorrect. To take a test at LearningExpress Library, you must first create an individual account.

American National Biography Online is a biographical resource covering more than 18,000 people from all eras who have influenced and shaped American history and culture. ANB Online features thousands of illustrations, links to select Web sites and powerful search capabilities.

Ohio students, faculty and staff can access these resources via any Web-enabled computer in the library, campus computer lab, office or home. Visit your library's Web site or [www.ohiolink.edu](http://www.ohiolink.edu) to log on.

Both resources are funded, in whole or in part, by an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO). LCO is a collaborative effort of OhioLINK, OPLIN, INFOhio, the State Library of Ohio and other Ohio library organizations.

### Mark Your Calendars for the ODCE 2006 Conference



The Ohio Digital Commons for Education (ODCE) 2006 Conference - The Convergence of Libraries, Learning and Technology, will be held March 6-7, 2006 in Columbus. Preconference workshops will be held on Sunday, March 5.

The conference will offer workshops and sessions on the following topics: assessing learning in the digital age, promoting problem-based learning, creating tomorrow's learning environments, serving all audiences via libraries and electronic media, developing engaging courses and emerging technologies for education and research. A call for proposals and more information will be available online in September at [www.ohn.org/conferences/ODCE2006](http://www.ohn.org/conferences/ODCE2006). The conference will be held at the Columbus Hilton at Easton Town Center.

The Ohio Digital Commons for Education is a collaborative initiative of the Ohio Learning Network, OhioLINK and the Ohio Supercomputer Center/OARnet, funded by a Technology Initiatives grant from the Ohio Board of Regents, to develop leading-edge education resources, services and capabilities in Ohio. The commons supports campus sharing of course management system software, instructional materials and electronic educational resources.

Read More News Online at <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                                |
| The 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 Christian University, 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                           |
| The 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                                    | The 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 University of Ohio at Toledo, 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](http://www.ohiolink.edu/about/publications).

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