



## Ohio Digital Resource Commons: Save, Discover and Share Ohio's Hidden Knowledge

Ohio campuses are treasure troves of knowledge, but valuable resources are often hidden. Campuses hold special and historical collections in libraries, preprints, class lectures and learning objects created by faculty; students' theses and research work, and historical campus information. Imagine being able to save, discover and share—free of charge—the instructional, research, historic and creative materials produced by the University System of Ohio and Ohio's liberal arts colleges. Imagine the benefit to instruction and research that could come from a single access point to Ohio's scholarly knowledge. Imagine being able to save your institution's knowledge materials without having to fund the hardware, software and staff necessary to maintain the technical system. The Ohio Digital Resource Commons (DRC) uncovers this hidden knowledge and makes it freely available to scholars statewide and beyond.

The Digital Resource Commons provides a robust, statewide platform for OhioLINK members and other state organizations to rapidly publish and access information and resources produced by Ohio's scholarly communities. Wright State University was the first institution to add materials to the DRC, beginning in 2007. Since then more than 20 institutions have started contributing to the commons. A wide variety of collections are in development including an archive of narratives exploring the literacy practices and values of U.S. citizens, Bowling Green State University's Nickel Weekly novels from the late 1800s and early 1900s, cartoons by R.M. Brinkerhoff from the University of Toledo, and much more.

OhioLINK staff are also migrating the consortium's commercial and institutional multimedia collections—including art and architecture images, educational films, and history and archives collections—from the Digital Media Center to the Digital Resource Commons in order to further the creation of a single access point to Ohio's multimedia resources.

### An Affordable Solution

The Digital Resource Commons eliminates redundant and costly local investments by enabling Ohio colleges and universities to rapidly publish and access all types and formats of digital materials using OhioLINK's hardware, software and staff. The DRC offers flexible control and enables institutions and communities within institutions to define how their content is added and shared.

Each participating institution's repository looks like an extension of its virtual campus and Web site. Each DRC appears as if it were hosted on the institution's own servers and displays the URL and branding elements of that particular institution, or community within that institution. Content submission is easy; institutions and communities can add content online and control how that content is displayed. End users can quickly discover resources available from their school or the entire statewide commons.

### One Shared Statewide Platform, Many Benefits

The Digital Resource Commons offers numerous benefits to many different higher education constituencies.

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### Hayes Presidential Center Shares Historical Photographs with the World Via the DRC

"We are so very pleased to add the images from Lake Erie's Yesterdays to the Ohio Digital Resource Commons. The response through Google and other search engines is just great. OhioLINK has made this collection of great historic photos come alive! Rather than being hidden away in boxes, they are now out there where everyone can see them. I feel privileged to use OhioLINK's resources."

**Nan J. Card**, Curator of Manuscripts  
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center  
Fremont, Ohio



Images by Ernst Niebergall, Lake Erie's Yesterdays collection, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center.

Administrators will appreciate the ability to utilize OhioLINK's disk space, staff and system and their institution's branding elements to develop local, state-of-the-art institutional and learning object repository capabilities. Many institutions would not have the expertise or financial means of having these capabilities otherwise.

Faculty members, researchers and other contributors will appreciate being able to store, share and preserve their research, digital learning objects and publications. The DRC enables faculty and researchers to distribute research results to worldwide audiences quickly—which will likely lead to increased visibility and impact—or limit availability to a single colleague. Faculty will also appreciate a central resource for finding learning objects and course materials from colleagues statewide. The DRC also enables contributors to maintain ownership of their work and permanently control who sees it. Choosing a copyright license is quick and simple, as authors can specify a Creative Commons license when contributing an item to the DRC.

The DRC provides students with a versatile resource for sharing and showcasing theses, dissertations and other research projects as well as accessing course materials, research and learning objects to support their learning.

### Supports Virtually All Types and Quantities of Content

The Digital Resource Commons accepts documents, such as articles, preprints, working papers, technical reports, conference papers, theses, dissertations, images and data sets. It also supports a virtually unlimited variety of digital file types and formats including audio, video, streaming video, multimedia presentations, animations, simulations, learning objects and Web pages. A large storage area network allows for virtually unlimited storage space.

### Keeping Content Safe

Regular offsite tape and disk backups ensure the long-term safety, security and preservation of content contributed to the commons. DRC servers are located close to the center of OSCnet, ensuring maximum availability and speed. The DRC offers not only a promise of high availability for today's needs, but also the commitment to long-term preservation of content. Ohio's academic libraries have come together to create this preservation solution for digital content because we believe that acting in concert is the best way to successfully safeguard Ohio's digital research.

### Ready and Waiting

All OhioLINK member institutions are automatically eligible to create their own Digital Resource Commons. Interested institutions are encouraged to contact John Davison, OhioLINK's assistant director for DRC development, at [john@ohiolink.edu](mailto:john@ohiolink.edu) or 614-728-3600 ext. 342.

The Digital Resource Commons is part of the Ohio Digital Commons for Education, a collaborative initiative of the Ohio Learning Network, OhioLINK and the Ohio Supercomputer Center, to develop leading-edge education resources, services and capabilities in Ohio. Explore the Digital Resource Commons and find more information at <http://drc.ohiolink.edu>.



Each Digital Resource Commons appears as if it were hosted on the institution's own servers and displays the URL and branding elements of that particular institution, or community within that institution.

## Ten Ways OhioLINK Can Make Academic Life Better

**Y**ou know OhioLINK gives you the ability to borrow books from 90 libraries statewide, but do you know about all the other ways OhioLINK can make academic life better for you and your students?

**1. Find and assign course materials.** Use OhioLINK resources as course materials and include them in course packs, class Web sites and course management sites. Link to specific scholarly articles, e-books and digital videos to provide students with direct and easy access to assigned readings and additional resources.

**Tips:** [www.ohiolink.edu/ostaff/tips/bookmarking](http://www.ohiolink.edu/ostaff/tips/bookmarking)

**2. Support distance learners.** Supporting distance learners is a snap with OhioLINK. Databases, electronic journals, e-books and multimedia resources are available anytime, anywhere via [www.ohiolink.edu](http://www.ohiolink.edu) and your library's Web site. Distance learners residing in Ohio can also request books and other library materials via OhioLINK and pick them up at any participating library.

**3. Receive better-researched papers.** Show students the wealth of available OhioLINK and library-provided scholarly resources and you can expect better-researched papers and assignments in return. Surveys and anecdotal evidence continually show that faculty recommendations heavily influence students' awareness of library-provided scholarly resources and which resources they utilize.

**4. Stay up-to-date with important journals and research in your field.** More than 12,000 e-journals and millions of articles are available electronically from OhioLINK. Use the E-Journal Finder ([www.ohiolink.edu/resources/ejournals.php](http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources/ejournals.php)) to find and utilize specific e-journals.

**5. Put literature searches on auto-pilot.** Create an OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center account to save articles and journals, create e-mail or RSS alerts for new issues, save searches and set up automatic alerts for new search results. You can also create search alerts in other databases, such as Academic Search Complete and ISI Web of Science.

**Tips:** [www.ohiolink.edu/ostaff/tips/ejc-alerts](http://www.ohiolink.edu/ostaff/tips/ejc-alerts)

**6. Get educational films and documentaries on demand.** Download a video to show in class or assign to students. Find foreign language videos and clips in seven languages to use in class, recommend or assign as extra practice. OhioLINK's digital video collections contain more than 3,000 digital videos and cover a wide variety of subjects.

**Digital videos:** <http://dmc.ohiolink.edu/video.htm>

**7. Solve your computer and tech troubles stat!** Need to learn a new software program, solve a computer problem or fix some code? Try Safari Books Online. Safari offers thousands of computer and IT titles from top technology publishers.

**Resources list:** [www.ohiolink.edu/resources](http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources)

**8. Read and search scholarly e-books online, anytime.** Visit the Electronic Book Center for 17,500+ scholarly and reference books from five publishers. The E-Book Center will guide you to OhioLINK's other e-book collections.

**Electronic Book Center:** [ebooks.ohiolink.edu](http://ebooks.ohiolink.edu)

**9. Read newspapers from Ohio and around the nation from your desktop.** America's Newspapers contains articles from 17 Ohio newspapers, including most major Ohio dailies and popular national papers. Use Newspaper Source to access even more papers.

**Resources list:** [www.ohiolink.edu/resources](http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources)

**10. Help students improve their test scores.** Encourage students to take free online practice tests for the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, PPST Praxis I and much more with LearningExpress Library. Students receive instant scoring, answer explanations and personalized evaluations of where help is needed. LearningExpress also includes courses, career building tools, writing aids and helpful e-books.

**Resources list:** [www.ohiolink.edu/resources](http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources)



## OhioLINK Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

Antioch College, 1999	Mount Vernon Nazarene University, 1996
Ashland University, 1999	Muskingum College, 1999
The Athenaeum of Ohio, 1999	Myers University, 2002
Baldwin-Wallace College, 1999	North Central State College, 1994
Belmont Technical College, 1995	Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, 1993
Bluffton University, 1999	Northwest State Community College, 1996
Bowling Green State University, 1992	Notre Dame College, 1999
Capital University, 1996	Oberlin College, 1995
Case Western Reserve University, 1992	Ohio Christian University, 2008
Cedarville University, 1996	Ohio Dominican University, 1997
Central Ohio Technical College, 1994	Ohio Northern University, 1995
Central State University, 1992	The Ohio State University, 1994
Cincinnati Christian University, 1999	Ohio University, 1994
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, 1995	Ohio Wesleyan University, 1996
Clark State Community College, 1995	Otterbein College, 1999
The Cleveland Clinic, 2002	Owens Community College, 1995
Cleveland State University, 1994	Pontifical College Josephinum, 2007
College of Mount St. Joseph, 1996	Rhodes State College, 1994
The College of Wooster, 1996	Saint Mary Seminary & Graduate School of Theology, 2008
Columbus College of Art & Design, 2000	Shawnee State University, 1994
Columbus State Community College, 1994	Sinclair Community College, 1994
Cuyahoga Community College, 1994	Southern State Community College, 1994
Defiance College, 1999	Stark State College of Technology, 1994
Denison University, 1996	State Library of Ohio, 1994
Edison Community College, 1995	Terra Community College, 1995
Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1999	Tiffin University, 1999
Franklin University, 2002	Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2007
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	The University of Findlay, 1999
John Carroll University, 1998	University of Northwestern Ohio, 2008
Kent State University, 1994	University of Rio Grande & RGCC, 1995
Kenyon College, 1996	University of Toledo, 1994
Lakeland Community College, 1995	Urbana University, 2000
Lorain County Community College, 1995	Ursuline College, 1997
Lourdes College, 2002	Walsh University, 2004
Malone College, 1999	Washington State Community College, 1996
Marietta College, 1999	Wilberforce University, 1999
Marion Technical College, 1994	Wilmington College, 1999
Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, 2004	Wittenberg University, 1997
Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 2007	Wright State University, 1992
Miami University, 1992	Xavier University, 1996
Mount Carmel College of Nursing, 1999	Youngstown State University, 1993
Mount Union College, 1999	Zane State College, 1994

## OhioLINK Update

The *OhioLINK Update*, published annually, provides information on the developments of the Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK).

OhioLINK, an initiative of the Ohio Board of Regents, 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 90 institutions.

**Eric D. Fingerhut**, Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents

**Tom Sanville**, Executive Director, OhioLINK

The Update is available online at [www.ohiolink.edu/about/publications](http://www.ohiolink.edu/about/publications).

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