Investing in Ohio’s Students and Future

“Thank you for OhioLINK -- a world-class idea that out-of-staters envy.”

--Thomas Suddes, Teaching Fellow, Ohio University
The OhioLINK appropriation in the current State of Ohio biennium operation budget will not only curtail new initiatives, but it will also eliminate currently provided information resources.

Entering the tenth year of operations, the OhioLINK program has proven that cooperation and statewide licensing of information resources benefit colleges and universities of all sizes. The economic power to license for all of Ohio higher education has not only reduced the rate of increase in library costs but also has extended the buying power of the individual library budget. Large universities can buy more research materials and small institutions gain access to resources formerly beyond their means.

In 2002, the OhioLINK program’s tenth year of operation, the immediate impact of the budget reduction will be a reduction in expenditures for electronic content. Increasingly, the budget has been spent on content delivery, leveraging our efficiently created technical infrastructure that delivers services purchased by the OhioLINK program.

The expenditure on the OhioLINK program has proven increasingly effective over ten years of operation. Its total annual funding is only 85% more than in 1994, compared to growth in institutions served and in services of 300% to 1200%.
## OhioLINK Milestones

### Central Catalog
- **1992**
  - Central Catalog live
  - November 1992
- **1993**
  - Newspaper Abstracts
  - March 1993
- **1994**
  - Dissertation Abstracts
  - July 1994
  - OCLC First Search (3)
  - August 1994
  - Medline, CINAHL, HealthSTAR, CANCERLIT, AIDSLINE, PsycINFO and RLG Eureka (5)
  - September 1994
  - Columbus State & Shawnee State
  - September 1994
  - Univ. of Dayton
  - October 1994
- **1995**
  - Kent State, Owens, & Southern State
  - March 1995
  - 10 Million Bib Records
  - -- Continued --

### Research Databases
- **1992**
  - ABI/Inform & Periodical Abstracts
  - November 1992
- **1993**
  - Newspaper Abstracts
  - March 1993
- **1994**
  - Art Index
  - November 1994
  - Education Index
  - January 1995
  - Bio. & Agri. Index, Biography Index, & Library Literature
  - February 1995
  - Applied Science & Tech., Book Review Digest, Cumulative Book Index, Essay & General Literature, Index to Legal Periodicals & Books
  - March 1995
  - 1,000,000 Reference Searches

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### Electronic Journal Center (EJC)
- **Total cost of OhioLINK EJC content in 2001**: $16.4 Million
- **Average percent of EJC titles held in print by Ohio universities**: 25%
- **Estimated cost to duplicate the EJC in print at universities**: $65.6 Million

### Reference Databases
- **F2001 OhioLINK statewide license costs**: $4.4 Million
- **F2001 Cost of comparable access if licensed by individual libraries**: $13.8 Million

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### Controlling Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Annual Journal Cost Increase</th>
<th>Average Annual Cost Increase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>for Typical Academic Research College Library</td>
<td>for Journals Licensed through OhioLINK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2001 vs. 2000</strong></td>
<td><strong>2002 vs. 2001</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
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As higher education funding is under pressure, the combination of healthy college and university library budgets and the OhioLINK program budget maximize statewide purchasing power and information resource availability. Access to the OhioLINK provided resources that cover the breadth of available scholarship is essential to support efforts to create a robust 21st-century Ohio economy.

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*OhioLINK Snapshot 3*
The OhioLINK program is a leader in expanding information access through the emergence of electronic books. A diverse collection of 12,000+ titles already demonstrates the users’ strong desire to select and use e-books.

The collection was expanding but with new budget constraints, users are now limited in the number of books available to them. Plans remain to expand access, if it is affordable, in this highly effective program.

OhioLINK Resources Support Regional Campus Scholarship

Dr. Jacquelyn Yates
Assistant Professor, Political Science
Kent State University - Salem

To do assigned reports on political science topics, Dr. Yates directs students to KentLINK, OhioLINK, and the research databases. “OhioLINK provides access to resources far beyond what my students would be able to get in our regional campus library, allowing them to range more widely and successfully in their quest for material for their reports.”

Dr. Yates’ area of research is employee ownership, and she is affiliated with the Ohio Employee Ownership Center. The Center investigates how employee ownership can contribute to anchoring jobs, smooth leadership succession, and create capital income for workers, in addition to the wages they earn.

Through OhioLINK, I have been able to find all the books and articles I need -- much of the material was scattered around the State’s universities. For me, teaching at a regional campus, OhioLINK is a dream come true. I would never have been able to locate all the resources that OhioLINK has provided, much less arrange to borrow or purchase them. The cost in time and money would have been prohibitive.”

“Because of OhioLINK, my colleague, John Logue, and I have recently completed two books on employee ownership. The first, The Real World of Employee Ownership to be published by Cornell University Press, provides a comprehensive study of employee ownership focused on Ohio. The second studies employee ownership worldwide. Research such as represented in these two books could not have been completed without OhioLINK. It would have been just too ponderous a task.”

“OhioLINK offers a compassionate, just, and merciful system. It is designed with users in mind -- working smoothly and efficiently for the user....”
The size and diversity of the OhioLINK Central Catalog continues to demonstrate a high level of book utilization. Now it is also increasing access to audio and video materials. This benefit is clearly seen as online borrowing showed strong growth in 2001. Undergraduates continue to account for a greater percentage of overall activity. Traditionally, undergraduates rarely used interlibrary loan (ILL). Their use of online borrowing is a special program achievement.
In 2001, the catalog included Ohio’s 17 public/research universities, 23 community and/or technical colleges, the State Library of Ohio, and 38 independent colleges. This statewide collection included more than 7.9 million unique records. Access to the OhioLINK Central Catalog allows participating libraries to diversify their collections by purchasing items not already held within the system, instead of purchasing duplicate copies of low-demand items.

OhioLINK and Dedicated Professor Deliver Interesting French Translation Material

Leanne Wierenga  
Associate Professor of Languages  
Wittenberg University

Professor of French Leanne Wierenga wanted to create a new French literature translation course and was looking for a theme “that would really grab students.” Professor Wierenga states, “On a lark, although I knew very little about the topic, I picked French fairy tales.” Fairy tales would provide interesting material for the students to translate. Without further thought or preparation, she committed to teaching the course.

Though she knew something about the medieval origins of some common fairy tales and that Frenchman Charles Perrault is responsible for popular stories like “Little Red Riding Hood”, she realized in a panic that there were large gaps in her knowledge and that the course was a mere two weeks off. Since no one at Wittenberg had taught this material before, she did not expect to find much on it in the campus library. What was she to do? She did what many Ohio professors do today; she turned to OhioLINK.

Within days, Professor Wierenga had a stack of books from around the state and quickly discovered fascinating new aspects. As she got more involved, Professor Wierenga found she needed information on myth and symbol, literary criticism, and psychological interpretation of fairy tales. Wittenberg’s Thomas Library had some of the commonly read works, but she needed more. Again she turned to OhioLINK and discovered Jack Zipes, Marie-Louise von Franz, Raymonde Robert, and others. And, as students are taught to do, she carefully combed through the bibliographies of her OhioLINK books and discovered and ordered even more books!

Professor Wierenga eventually attempted to buy some of her favorites and asked the library to do so, as well. She discovered that “you can’t get them through Amazon.com”. Many valuable books on the topic were obscure or out of print, and OhioLINK remains her only access to them.

“For developing new courses at a small liberal arts school like Wittenberg, OhioLINK is crucial. It is not just those millions of volumes. The quick delivery that OhioLINK offers is important. So is the ability to keep the books for six weeks (assuming a renewal).”
Working toward equal borrowing and lending rates, the OhioLINK program does not “raid” university collections. It works to enrich all its affiliated libraries by enabling quick and easy borrowing and lending between the college and university communities.

**OhioLINK Delivers--Anytime, Anywhere**

Dean Fraga  
Biology Department  
College of Wooster

“I think OhioLINK is fantastic. I have used it frequently to find papers I need for grant preparation, classroom activities, and manuscripts. I find it to be an enormous time saver, and I appreciate being able to search the databases from home.”

**Comparison of Online Borrowing Supply and Demand by Institution Type**

- **Requests Made**
  - 73% Universities
  - 19% Independent Colleges
  - 8% Two-Year Colleges

- **Requests Received**
  - 7% Two-Year Colleges
  - 22% Independent Colleges
  - 71% Universities

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**Central Catalog**

- Cuyahoga, Lakeland, & Sinclair  
  April 1995
- OSU & Ohio U  
  May 1995
- Ohio Capitol Conn.  
  May 1995
- **15 Million Bib Records**

**Research Databases**

- ERIC & BioethicsLINE
  January 1996
- Hocking & Ohio Wesleyan  
  February 1996
- Biological Abstracts  
  April 1996
- Rio Grande  
  May 1996
- **500,000 Online Requests**
- English Verse Drama & Medical Electives  
  June 1996
- English Poetry & Gale(2)  
  July 1996
- Compendex, PAIS, A Matter of Fact, Am. Heritage Dict., Columbia Ency., Thesaurus, ARTFL  
  September 1996
- Denison, Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, & Wooster  
  November 1996
- Capital & Xavier  
  January 1997
- RILM  
  January 1997
- CRL & Northwest St.  
  February 1997
  February 1997
- **1997**
- **20 Million Reference Searches**

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**OhioLINK Snapshot**

- Edison State & Lorain  
  November 1995
- Cinci. State & Oberlin  
  December 1995
- **10 Million Reference Searches**
- Britannica Online  
  September 1995
- Ohio Northern  
  January 1996
- ERIC & BioethicsLINE  
  January 1996
- Hocking & Ohio Wesleyan  
  February 1996
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**1996**

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- 10 Million Reference Searches
- September 1995
Research database searching has grown steadily as the OhioLINK program has added to its core, statewide database collection. This essential collection continues to be licensed at discounted prices.

In 2001, users saw the first decline in database availability. This will continue in 2002 with Ohio’s projected budget. Nonetheless, Ohio higher education users’ need to research topics from anthropology to zoology increased. The program’s quality research databases are not free resources, but they are necessary to support high quality scholarship and research.

OhioLINK supports federal grant applications
Dr. Brian B. McSpadden Gardner
Department of Plant Pathology
The Ohio State University, OARDC

“Notably, grant and manuscript reviewers for the top journals expect researchers to be aware of the most recent work published in a larger number of journals...Without the resources provided by OhioLINK, I would have to spend two to three times as much effort to get the same results. For example, this fall I was able to submit two grant applications on separate subjects partly because of the time saved in doing library research. Those applications will be particularly competitive, because I was able to include references to work published within one month of the submission deadline. Therefore, I find OhioLINK an essential tool for obtaining competitive extramural funding from the USDA and NSF.”

OhioLINK’s 2001 “Top Ten”*

1. Electronic Journal Center -- 16.1%
2. Periodical Abstracts -- 14.0%
3. LexisNexis -- 9.3%
4. PsycINFO -- 7.3%
5. ISI -- 4.4%
6. ABI/Inform -- 4.3%
7. ERIC -- 4.3%
8. MEDLINE -- 4.0%
9. WorldCAT -- 3.2%
10. SIRS -- 3.2%

*Based on % of searches on OhioLINK main site. Does not include Central Catalog statistics.

OhioLINK supports federal grant applications

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Number of Research Databases

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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2002 Projected
Users continue to gain better access while seeing more integration between citations, articles, images, and other data types as new information resources are added. Many of the citation databases use a single interface, simplifying their use.

In 1995, the OhioLINK program first delivered full-text general interest articles to users via library print stations. As the presence of the WWW increases and OhioLINK expands full-text resources and desk-top delivery, document downloads continue to grow. With the OhioLINK program’s diverse collection of full-text resources, 6.5 million documents were downloaded in 2001. This far exceeds the 125,000 (avg.) articles per year that are borrowed through traditional interlibrary loan.
Campus Librarian Uses OhioLINK Resources to Help Appalachia

Stan Planton
Head Librarian
Ohio University - Chillicothe

“It’s often said that ‘information is power,’” says Stan Planton. “As information professionals, librarians should be powerful, but frequently we’re identified with arcane pursuits, rather than with dynamic activities that help real people in the real world.” As Head Librarian at Ohio University’s Chillicothe campus, Planton has proven that OhioLINK can play a pivotal role in community and regional development.

Ilpo Koskikallio, a Finnish economic development expert, read a story about the collaboration of Planton and a Russian financier in Forbes. The two had worked to develop business relationships between Chillicothe and Russia with Planton doing much of his research using OhioLINK resources. Soon, Koskikallio was in Chillicothe meeting with local economic development agencies. Koskikallio had connections with South African businesses, and Planton was soon involved in multinational negotiations for housing projects, delivery of earthmoving equipment, and wine sales, connecting international companies with local and regional firms. His skill in finding and managing information — obtained through OhioLINK — was crucial to these ventures’ eventual success.

Planton and OhioLINK resources became involved in another regional project when the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC), which produces fuel for commercial nuclear power plants, decided to close its Piketon, Ohio, plant, one of the largest employers in Southern Ohio. The plant’s closing would mean economic disaster for thousands of workers. In an effort to prevent economic calamity in the Piketon area, Planton used OhioLINK databases to research alternative uses for the plant’s facilities and workers. He provided information to the Governor’s office and to others involved in negotiating the plant’s survival. Piketon employees, whose lives would be most affected by plant closure, depended on him for up-to-date, authoritative information.

Planton also tells of receiving a telephone call from the USEC home office. USEC was negotiating on the U.S. government’s behalf with Russia. At stake was the delivery of a large quantity of uranium downblended from bombs. The caller asked if Planton had any sources that might reveal changes in the Russian negotiating position, and indeed he did. “OhioLINK databases were able to supply a piece of information that was both relevant and timely to an international negotiating session, a real ‘war and peace’ issue, turning warheads into peaceful power,” says Planton.

“Appalachian Ohio is considered a ‘disadvantaged area’ with few information resources,” says Planton, “And here we are at Ohio University, with outstanding communication capability and great access to current information, largely due to OhioLINK. When we hear about efforts to improve the area, we have an obligation to help.”

OhioLINK databases were able to supply a piece of information that was both relevant and timely to an international negotiating session, a real ‘war and peace’ issue, turning warheads into peaceful power.
Four years of expanding access to a growing set of scholarly research journals reflects an insatiable demand for this material. Traditionally, Ohio’s major universities hold an average of only 25% of the available scholarly research journals.

Given the opportunity for direct, desktop delivery, students and faculty will use, on average, over 80% of the available journals, a much wider range than is available on each campus through individual library purchases. From Ohio’s largest research university to the smallest community college, all institutions have benefited from cooperative purchasing.
OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center an Efficient Research Tool

Barbara Padgett, M.A.
Division of Surgical Research
Department of Surgery
Medical College of Ohio (MCO)

“I would be lost without OhioLINK. I use the Electronic Journal Center on an almost daily basis. It saves me a lot of time and effort that would be otherwise taken up by running back and forth to the library to copy articles, and it saves our department considerable money that would otherwise be expended in ordering reprints,” reports Padgett.

An employee of MCO for 23 years, she has a variety of assignments, including locating relevant research literature for the faculty.

Padgett is also able to retrieve books through online borrowing for the faculty. “One of my bosses just finished a book on the history of the pancreas, and I was able to find and request books that answered many, many questions for him, saving both of us time and effort. I don’t know how we ever functioned as an academic department before OhioLINK! It has really transformed my job.”

“I notice, too, that OhioLINK resources are becoming easier to use all the time, making it more efficient to find articles,” says Padgett. She also says that the increasing number of linked services has been very helpful. She can now do searches on MEDLINE and give her boss the listing of references with abstracts plus a full-text copy of a number of the articles. This allows him to begin working with the full-text material while waiting for the other materials to be delivered.” Padgett says, “...this immediate availability has meant that he is using a wider selection of material than ever before.”

With over 4,000 titles, the EJC has more than quadrupled the buying power of Ohio higher education for 17 publishers (commercial and non-commercial) across a wide range of disciplines.

Cumulative Number of Articles Downloaded from Each Publisher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Cumulative Downloads</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELSEVIER SCIENCE..............</td>
<td>2,780,690</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALL OTHER PUBLISHERS..........</td>
<td>2,031,370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wiley..........................</td>
<td>461,130</td>
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<td>Kluwer Academic..............</td>
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<td>Blackwell Publishers..........</td>
<td>90,965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project MUSE..................</td>
<td>53,910</td>
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<td>9,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BioOne.......................</td>
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The collection represents a significant core, but many scholarly journals remain beyond our reach. With the reduction in higher education funding, this unparalleled resource's progress is in jeopardy and future progress is questionable.

OhioLINK Resources Assist Statehouse Project

Joel Flint
Researcher and Curator of the Ohio Statehouse
Ohio Historical Society’s Statehouse Education and Visitor’s Center

“Within two days, I had a copy from OhioLINK.”

Within two days, I had a copy from OhioLINK. This service has also been useful in a number of other occasions, providing access to materials otherwise not accessible locally,” says Flint, “I also used OhioLINK’s Central Catalog to locate biographical information pertaining to Ohio’s other 71 African American legislators who have served the State since Williams. Such information is frequently in disparate locations and not easily obtained.”
OhioLINK delivered its first images through the Digital Media Center (DMC) in August, 1999. It continues to be a pioneer in building statewide multi-media collections with art and architecture images, historic maps, archival materials, and video demonstrations of physics principles and native foreign language speakers.

These diverse collections are from both commercial services and submitted from Ohio colleges and universities. The current DMC collections represent the tip of the iceberg. Vast collections held in Ohio’s colleges can benefit Ohioans through electronic access.
**Things to Come in 2002**

- Adding new, real-time “chat” reference services and other forms of help to OhioLINK resources.

- Expanding the Central Catalog to include additional independent colleges.

- Continuing to expand online borrowing into different types of materials, including video tapes and CDs.

- Further diversifying the Digital Media Center to include additional archival and video collections from participating OhioLINK institutions.

- Expanding electronic books, theses and dissertation collections.

- Improving off-campus access to all OhioLINK resources for all OhioLINK patrons.

- Improving the website usability and user interface for OhioLINK services.

- Evaluating user needs and perceptions of library services.
OhioLINK Benefits Higher Education

- Maximizes the utility of Ohio’s academic library collections.
- Dramatically increases information access at small and large institutions.
- Delivers exceedingly cost-effective access to information.
- Increases Ohio’s ability to prepare students and researchers for the information age.