Investing in Ohio’s Students and Future

“OhioLINK is probably the single best reason for studying and teaching in Ohio.”

--Stephen L. Harp, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History, University of Akron

Completing 10 Years
1992 - 2002
The OhioLINK current and expected operating budgets are not only curtailing new initiatives, but are also eliminating funding for currently provided information resources.

With the latest 2.5% reduction announced January 2003, the OhioLINK F2003 operating budget is 8.4%-$640,300-below the F2001 level. OhioLINK-funded database licenses have been reduced. These expenses have been transferred to the libraries across the state, or database access lost. With library budgets also being reduced, the impact of OhioLINK’s budget reductions is doubly felt. Funding is not expected to increase in F2004/F2005, requiring further reductions.

The OhioLINK capital budget for F2003-F2004 is sufficient to maintain current capital-funded initiatives, but growth opportunities will be limited.

The OhioLINK program has proven increasingly effective. Total annual funding in 2002 was only 83% more than in 1994, while the number of delivered services and libraries served has grown dramatically. But, with budget cuts, the percentage of expenditures in content delivery decreased for the first time in 2002, from a peak of 75% in 2001, to 73%.

Completing the tenth year of operations, the OhioLINK program has proven that cooperation and statewide licensing of information resources not
But It Also Takes Library Funds

**Electronic Journal Center (EJC)**
- Total cost of OhioLINK EJC content in 2002: $19.4 Million
- Cost of EJC funded by OhioLINK: $3.7 Million
- Cost of EJC funded by Libraries: $15.7 Million
- Average percent of EJC titles held in print by Ohio universities: 25%
- Estimated cost to duplicate the EJC in print at universities: $77.6 Million

**Reference Databases / General & Business Journals**
- F2002 OhioLINK statewide license costs: $3.1 Million
- F2002 Cost of comparable access if licensed by individual libraries: $9.7 Million

**Controlling Costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Annual Journal Cost Increase</th>
<th>Average Annual Cost Increase for Journals Licensed through OhioLINK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001 vs. 2000</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002 vs. 2001</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003 vs. 2002</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
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only reduce the rate of increase in library costs but also extend 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.

With higher education funding under pressure, the combination of healthy college and university library budgets and the OhioLINK program budget maximizes 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.*
OhioLINK’s tenth year illustrated a continuing commitment to improvement with the addition of new resources and services.

The Digital Media Center contains several new collections. Greek and Latin “squeeze” images, from The Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies at The Ohio State University, are now available. Users can also search and download selections from the E. W. Scripps Archive at Ohio University. The DMC’s Foreign Language Videos database has diversified with the addition of four new language collections. A total of seven foreign languages are now represented.

In another program first, OhioLINK licensed a set of core databases with INFOhio, the K-12 library program; and OPLIN, the Ohio Public Library Information Network. This set of Ebsco Publishing databases are now available to all Ohioans.

OhioLINK users also gained additional reference services. The Subject Cluster Search delivers, with a single search, results from a core of subject-specific databases, and “Chat with a Librarian” delivers live reference help via an online chat link.

As the world of e-books continues to evolve, so does OhioLINK’s collection. In the summer of 2002, OhioLINK added Books 24 x 7 to fill the need for high-demand IT manuals.

OLinks, a linking service that dramatically increases the number of links between citations in the research databases and the relevant full-text articles, also debuted this year.

Four institutions, Cleveland Clinic College of Medicine, Franklin University, Lourdes College, and Myers University, joined OhioLINK in 2002. These new additions bring the total number of participating institutions to 83.
The OhioLINK program is a leader in expanding information access through the emergence of electronic books. Growing use of a diverse collection of 14,000+ titles already demonstrates the users’ strong desire to select and use e-books.

The collection is expanding slowly due to 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.

**Fast Facts: E-Books**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heaviest Use Per Title</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
<th>2002</th>
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<tr>
<td>1078</td>
<td>671</td>
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<tr>
<th>Median Use Per Title</th>
<th>8</th>
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<td>Average Uses Per Title</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>8.9</td>
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**netLibrary E-Book Availability and Usage**

**OhioLINK Supports Students and Faculty Use of Older Collections**

Stephen L. Harp
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History
University of Akron

“OhioLINK is probably the single best reason for studying and teaching in Ohio. Few states have anything even remotely comparable.

In an older, densely populated state like ours, OhioLINK makes it possible to use the older collections of Case Western Reserve University, and the liberal arts colleges, as well as the newer research collections at The Ohio State University and the regional state universities. The University of Dayton has a virtual stranglehold on Catholic publications, Bowling Green State University on popular culture, and the University of Akron on rubber and industry.

I have written two monographs and am researching a third, any one of which would have been hard to pull off without OhioLINK. Both my undergraduate and graduate students consider the system a lifeline, filling in all of the holes in our own collection. Although our interlibrary loan staff is absolutely superb, it would be impossible for them to order and process the large volume of books that we all now use through OhioLINK. As both a teacher and a scholar, my single biggest fear in leaving the University of Akron and moving to another state is that of giving up ‘my’ OhioLINK.”
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 even stronger growth in 2002. Some of this growth in resource sharing may be the result of decreasing book buying as library budgets tighten. The value of the OhioLINK central catalog is dependent on continued additions of new titles that can be shared across the state.

Undergraduates continue to account for a greater percentage of overall activity. Traditionally, undergraduates rarely used inter-library loan (ILL). Their use of online borrowing is a special program achievement.
In 2002, the catalog included Ohio's 17 public/research universities, 23 community and/or technical colleges, the State Library of Ohio, and 42 independent colleges. This statewide collection included more than 8.3 million unique records representing 24.7 million library holdings across the state. Collection growth was the slowest in OhioLINK's 10-year history. 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.

**Fast Facts**

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<td>53</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>83</td>
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**OhioLINK Provides Quality Research Sources for Distance-Learners**

Carol Nancarrow  
Associate Professor of English  
Sinclair Community College

Every quarter, Professor Carol Nancarrow requires her 50 distance-learning students in English Composition II, to write a research paper on a topic of their choice. She shows students how to use OhioLINK to access sources like Academic Search Premiere to support their ideas. Having access to OhioLINK also allows Professor Nancarrow to approve topics that would otherwise be quite difficult to research effectively because they are very current or rather obscure.

“Having OhioLINK as a shared resource for finding quality research materials makes this class possible,” Professor Nancarrow said. “If I had to depend on the chaos of the Internet, we just wouldn’t be able to do the quality of work that these students need to do. I feel like OhioLINK is my partner in delivering a class that is really essential to the academic future of my students.”

Once the students have done their work, OhioLINK also makes it easy for Professor Nancarrow to check their sources, which cuts down on the temptation to plagiarize or download papers.

“We do use the Internet for research in this class, but the students quickly see that they are much better off with OhioLINK in terms of quality and ease of use,” Professor Nancarrow said.
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.

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

*Requests Made*

- 69.4% Universities
- 23.4% Independent Colleges
- 7.2% Two-Year Colleges

*Requests Received*

- 70.0% Universities
- 6.3% Two-Year Colleges
- 23.2% Independent Colleges
- 0.5% CRL

**OhioLINK Helps Busy Professor Stay Up-to-Date**

Erdal Ozkan  
*Professor, Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering Dept.  The Ohio State University*

“OhioLINK’s Electronic Journal Center has the greatest potential for improving the productivity level of our graduate students and faculty members. One of my biggest problems as a busy faculty member was keeping up with the newest articles published in my area of expertise. No matter how much I tried to do this, the best I could do was to be able to locate and read technical articles within six months to one year of their publication date. Lately, I did not have any time at all to visit the library to check out materials. Thanks to OSU librarians and OhioLINK, I am now six months to one year ahead of most of my colleagues and peers who are not using a similar service. Having access to articles in five prestigious journals, without even leaving my office was a dream for me and with OhioLINK’s help it came true. I am certainly a better informed, more enthusiastic researcher simply because I know what everybody else is doing in a timely manner. Thank you for re-energizing me to keep myself up-to-date with new information generated by scientists all around the world.”
Research database searching grows steadily and the OhioLINK program has added to its core, statewide collection in 2002. This was accomplished through an innovative and cost effective joint licensing program with the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) and the Information Network For Ohio Schools (INFOhio). At the same time, a small number of databases lost statewide access as a consequence of the state budget reductions.

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. The statewide collection continues to be licensed at discounted prices.

OhioLINK's 2002 “Top Ten”*

1. Electronic Journal Center -- 20.4%
2. Periodical Abstracts -- 13.4%
3. LexisNexis -- 9.3%
4. PsycINFO -- 7.1%
5. MEDLINE -- 5.9%
6. IS1 -- 4.0%
7. ERIC -- 3.9%
8. ABI/Inform -- 3.5%
9. WorldCAT -- 3.4%
10. Education Abstracts -- 2.8%

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

OhioLINK Saves Time and Money

J. Kelly Kissock Ph.D., P.E.
Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
University of Dayton

“I am an associate professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Dayton. I have used OhioLINK since my first days here. It is a truly great service, one that vastly improves my teaching and research. I would say that 75% of the resources I check out come from other libraries through OhioLINK. The resources are always delivered on time. No single small school library can possibly stock the detailed resources needed to support advanced teaching and research. By linking all university libraries, OhioLINK leverages each Library’s collection several times. OhioLINK is the single most cost-effective state program I know of.”

OhioLINK Snapshot

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Number of Research Databases
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 2002, users could also access multiple databases in their area of interest by a single search.

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, 10.3 million documents were downloaded in 2002. This far exceeds the 125,000 (avg.) articles per year that are borrowed through traditional interlibrary loan.
Five 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, university students and faculty will use, on average, over 85% 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 journal purchasing.

**Percent of Print Held from 26 Major Publishers**

- OSU -- 54%
- UC -- 40%
- CWRU -- 30%
- OU -- 29.5%
- WSU -- 26%
- MU -- 24.5%
- KSU -- 23%
- UT -- 20%
- BGSU -- 18%
- UA -- 18%
- CSU -- 16%
- UD -- 11%
- YSU -- 10%

**Fast Facts: Total EJC Downloads**

- Since 1998: 7,076,425
- In 2002: 2,944,980
With over 4,700 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. The $19 million invested in EJC statewide licenses is equivalent to $77 million if purchased individually by our universities and a much larger amount if applied across all smaller colleges.

Lois Thompson Rekowski began working at Jefferson Community College, one of the smallest colleges and libraries in Ohio, in 1993. The college had few resources and a very limited library collection of approximately 10,000 books.

“Our circulation was small; it averaged about 50 per month, but in reality it was higher in the winter months,” Rekowski said, “In the summer, we were lucky to see 20 books a month go out. It was a difficult situation, because much of the collection was older as well as being small in numbers and variety.”

Then in January 2003, library staff printed out 25 OhioLINK paging slips in one day. “When the library clerk came to tell me how heavy the requests were I had one of those ‘moments.’ The realization of what OhioLINK had done for the college stopped me in my tracks. The daily requests exceeded the circulation that I would have had in some months in the past, and it did not even include our in-house circulation for that day.

OhioLINK has not only allowed our students to get the materials they need, but it has empowered the faculty to make assignments that actually require library work, something that wasn’t done in the past because we just didn’t have enough resources.”

EJC

Cumulative Number of Articles Downloaded from Each Publisher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Articles Downloaded</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Others</td>
<td>2,031,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsevier Science</td>
<td>3,706,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiley</td>
<td>654,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kluwer Academic</td>
<td>574,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Chemistry Society</td>
<td>510,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Press</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springer-Verlag</td>
<td>282,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackwell Publishers</td>
<td>204,935</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerald</td>
<td>162,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackwell Science</td>
<td>147,095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project MUSE</td>
<td>136,375</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Institute of Physics</td>
<td>54,628</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute of Physics</td>
<td>39,725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Society of Chemistry</td>
<td>29,928</td>
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<tr>
<td>BioOne</td>
<td>25,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Physical Society</td>
<td>23,785</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thieme</td>
<td>19,055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association for Computing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery</td>
<td>3,340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OhioLINK Expands Access to Materials of Small Libraries

Lois Thompson Rekowski, MLS, CAS
Director of Library Services
Jefferson Community College

OhioLINK has empowered the faculty to make assignments that actually require library work...
Convenience of OhioLINK Helps Faculty Focus More Time on Teaching and Research

Dr. Ann C. Hall

*English Division Chair*

*Ohio Dominican University*

“OhioLINK has changed the way that my students and I do research. When I first began teaching full-time at Ohio Dominican, I spent weeks traveling around to Ohio Dominican’s library, Ohio State University’s library, the Columbus Metropolitan Library, the State Library of Ohio, and numerous suburban libraries as part of a research paper I was preparing. It was time-consuming and expensive. Now, I can order my books online, and it has made a huge difference in my research and my teaching. My students’ work has improved, too. They have access to texts now, not just Internet Web sites. I love OhioLINK—it’s made a world of difference to me and my students.”

OhioLINK Helps Student Find Rare Microfilm for Research

Janet Rice McCoy

*Doctoral Candidate, School of Communication Studies*

*Bowling Green State University*

“My research interest focuses on the intersection of religion, media and culture. Since BGSU is a state institution, it is frequently difficult to find materials in our stacks relating to the religion angle. OhioLINK, however, enables me to borrow materials from church-related institutions throughout the state including relatively rare microfilm of missionary periodicals from the 1800s.

I have also used my BGSU library card to check out books in person at other OhioLINK institutions. Being able to return the books to BGSU rather than making a second trip to the lending institution saves both time and money. OhioLINK is an incredible asset that enhances my research by adding both breadth and depth.”

OhioLINK has changed the way that my students and I do research.
OhioLINK delivered its first images through the Digital Media Center (DMC) in August 1999. OhioLINK continues to be a pioneer in building statewide multimedia collections to support instruction and research with art and architecture images, historic maps, archival materials, and video demonstrations of physics principles and foreign language speakers. These diverse collections are from both commercial services and 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.

**Most Popular DMC Collections:**

1. **Art and Museum Images**
   The Art and Architecture images database contains over 80,000 digital images. It is a collection of digital images from AMICO (the Art Museum Image Consortium) and Saska, Ltd, as well as contributions from OhioLINK institutions.

2. **Wright Brothers Collection**
   This collection of more than 1,000 images was contributed by Wright State University.

3. **Greek and Latin Inscription Images**
   As part of the Social Sciences Database, this collection contains over 250 digitized squeezes (accurate paper impressions) of Greek and Latin inscriptions, contributed by The Ohio State University.
Things to Come in 2003

- Education video collection, with over 300 titles, streaming over the Internet.
- Expanding the Electronic Journal Center’s publisher licenses.
- Expanding collaboration with the Ohio Learning Network and the Ohio Supercomputer Center.
- Expanding the reference e-book collection.
- Further expanding the Digital Media Center to include additional archival and video collections from participating OhioLINK institutions.
- Implementing the OhioLINK Central Catalog’s “pick up anywhere” option to improve access for distance-learners.
- Updating the Central Catalog’s interface to utilize the latest technologies available.
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.