

# Snapshot 2008

*Supporting Teaching,  
Learning and Research*



**OhioLINK**

Ohio Library and Information Network  
a program of the University System of Ohio

# Introduction: Why OhioLINK?

## (Ohio Library and Information Network)

### Even in Difficult Times, OhioLINK Remains an Essential Investment

Sixteen years after its inception, the need for OhioLINK is stronger than ever. A globally competitive and world-class educational system, as described in *Ohio's Strategic Plan for Higher Education*, requires access to the world's scholarship, research and knowledge materials. The volume of published research materials necessary to support world-class instruction and research—including books, journals, videos and audio—has exploded. Students and faculty demand instant, electronic access to the information required to be successful. Meanwhile, member libraries and the state of Ohio are struggling to maintain services with reduced budgets due to the extended economic crisis.

During these difficult times, OhioLINK and Ohio's academic libraries remain an essential investment for Ohio higher education. A robust collection of information resources is critical to support instruction and learning, attract talented faculty, students and researchers; and enable world-class research. The only affordable way Ohio higher education can provide needed research resources is through collaboration.

OhioLINK is a cooperative venture of the Ohio Board of Regents, Ohio's 14 public universities, 24 regional university branch campuses and 23 community colleges in the University System of Ohio, 51 private colleges and research universities across the state, and the State Library of Ohio. OhioLINK serves more than 730,000 students, faculty and staff at 89 institutions, providing them with access to more than 47.9 million books and materials, millions of electronic articles from 17,000 journals, 100+ electronic research databases, 55,000 e-books, 19,100 theses and dissertations from Ohio students, and thousands of images, videos and sounds.

This annual report will illustrate how **OhioLINK delivers cost-effective, increased access to information resources, supports quality teaching and learning, and enables world-class research.**



### OhioLINK Provides World-Class Information Services

**"OhioLINK shows the excellence that can be achieved through collaboration** by Ohio's colleges and universities. Thanks to the combination of state and institutional funding for OhioLINK, students and faculty across Ohio have access to world-class library and information services, exceeding what any institution, even a large university, could provide on its own."

**Eric Fingerhut**, *Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents*

# Looking Forward

## University System of Ohio's New Vision

### OhioLINK Supports University System of Ohio's Goal to be a Global Leader in Instruction and Research

The basis for OhioLINK's contribution to the success of the University System of Ohio (USO) and Ohio's private liberal arts colleges and research universities is very clear. A globally competitive educational system requires access to the world's scholarship, research and knowledge materials. OhioLINK provides that access both electronically, via the Internet, and through the rapid sharing of physical library materials throughout the state.

OhioLINK can enable the University System of Ohio to be a global leader in instruction and research that generates robust economic development for Ohio by:

1. **Providing a full range of current information resources needed** for core curricular needs, from vocational programs to preparation for a four-year degree. OhioLINK also provides graduate programs and researchers with comprehensive electronic access to the latest global research across the full range of scholarly and scientific fields—all at economically affordable and sustainable rates.
2. **Expanding access to the global historical research record** that continues to be of great value in enriching new research.

3. **Centrally implementing new 21<sup>st</sup> century software tools for information management** and state-of-the-art access that can be shared and utilized at all campuses.

OhioLINK can increase the cost-effectiveness of the University System of Ohio's college and university libraries by collaboratively and collectively managing the growing physical and electronic collections needed to support quality instruction and research. This can be achieved by:

1. **Minimizing, at a statewide level, the long-term capital and operating costs of storing, preserving and providing improved access to current and future library materials** through coordination of physical and electronic copies and facilities.
2. **Coordinating library operations across Ohio** to expand cost efficiencies and savings.
3. **Collaborating with other Ohio information-intensive groups** (e.g., public libraries, K-12, and business incubators) to enhance the quality of education, research and economic development beyond OhioLINK's core constituencies.
4. **Collaborating across the University System of Ohio to provide cost-effective print and electronic textbook options** to improve learning outcomes and textbook economics for students.

# Cooperation

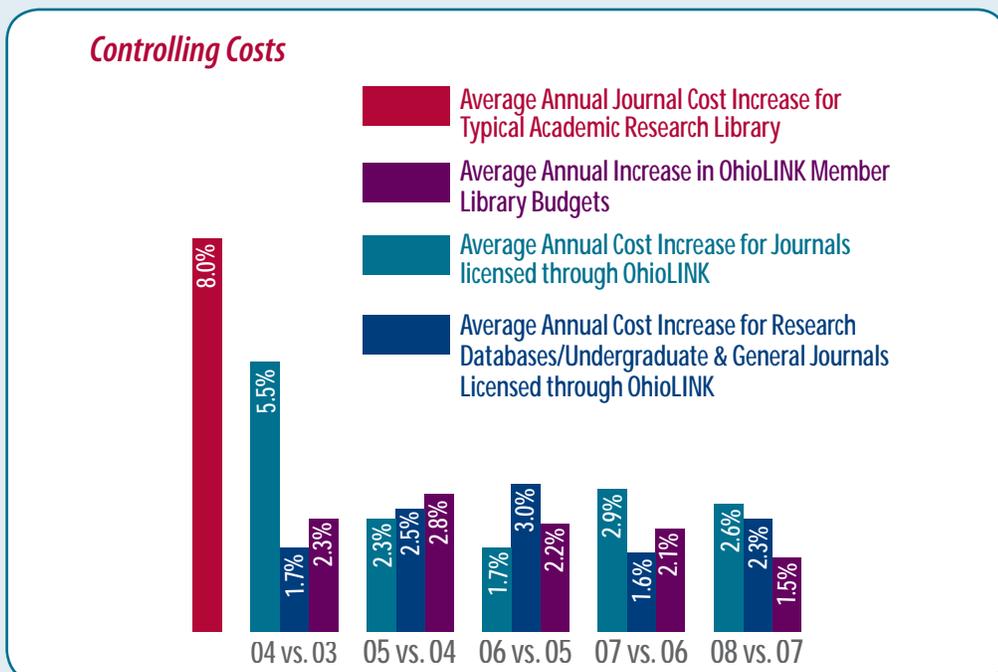
## The Only Affordable Approach

### The Economics of Expanded Information Access

Combining library and OhioLINK funds into statewide action has proven to be the only economically affordable and sustainable way to provide access to the information resources necessary for world-class teaching, learning and research. The OhioLINK program continues to demonstrate that by working together and purchasing resources cooperatively, Ohio's academic libraries can increase their buying power and provide access to more resources for the same, or even less cost than libraries would pay individually.

While many academic libraries have struggled to keep up with the rapidly increasing cost and volume of information, OhioLINK has:

- **More than quadrupled Ohio higher education's journal buying power.** The \$26.7 million invested in OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center statewide licenses for scholarly research articles would cost at least \$120 million if purchased individually just by our universities and a much larger amount if applied across all smaller colleges.
- **Delivered an average of \$3 worth of information for every \$1 spent on research databases.** Purchasing information centrally, for statewide use, continues to be the most cost-effective means of providing expanded access to scholarly information.
- **Greatly increased access to scientific research on Ohio's campuses.** Students and faculty at OhioLINK universities now use more than three times more journals than were originally available in print on their campuses, while patrons of private colleges use five times more and community college patrons use more than 20 times the amount of journals that were traditionally available.
- **Greatly reduced the rate of increases in information costs** to three percent or less, on average, compared to the inflation rate of eight percent for a typical academic research library.
- **Reduced the average rate of information cost increases to be in line with average library budget increases.**



# Instant Access to Knowledge

## Makes Education More Accessible

### Providing All Ohio Learners with Equal Access to Critical Information Resources

As *Ohio's Strategic Plan for Higher Education* states, knowledge is the currency of the global economy. OhioLINK supports world-class teaching and learning by providing students, faculty and researchers with instant access to scholarly knowledge anytime, anywhere.

OhioLINK enables the University System of Ohio and Ohio's private colleges and research universities to maximize accessibility to higher education for all learners, including e-learners, working adults and traditional students. OhioLINK provides a robust, but not yet complete, array of necessary electronic library services and resources to support the full range of core curricular needs, from vocational programs to preparation for a four-year degree and beyond.

OhioLINK ensures that students, faculty and researchers have equal access to necessary information resources, regardless of whether the scholar is affiliated with Ohio's smallest community college or largest research university.

This common set of research resources also benefits dual-enrollment students who can access the same core resources and services at any University System of Ohio school, as well as at 51 Ohio private colleges and research universities. Students can also access the same resources regardless of whether they are taking a traditional, online or distance learning class.

### Enabling E-Learners to Succeed

E-learners, working adults and students studying abroad need instant and constant access to the latest research resources and learning tools, but often can't visit a campus library because of time constraints or distance. With OhioLINK, location becomes irrelevant. OhioLINK provides anytime, anywhere access to articles, books, videos, images and more, as well as the tools necessary to find and download scholarly resources. Soldiers on assignment overseas, faculty taking research leaves and students studying abroad all routinely rely on OhioLINK resources to seamlessly continue their studies and research.

## OhioLINK is an Invaluable Research Tool

**"OhioLINK is an invaluable research tool.** It has become an indispensable component in my research endeavors. Through its e-journal collection, I can read more new and past literature in my field of science and with greater speed than I ever thought or dreamed possible. Its scope of coverage is excellent, and includes much of what I need to access routinely. Its interlibrary loan options are similarly helpful. Because of OhioLINK, my research scholarship is vastly improved.

I'd like to thank everyone associated with OhioLINK, as well as our state government, for its support of this remarkable information system."

**Dr. Mel Goldfinger**, Associate Professor, Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology,  
Wright State University

# Enabling World-Class Research

## Attracting Talented Researchers

### Giving Ohio Researchers a Competitive Edge with One of the World's Largest E-Journal Collections

Providing instant access to the latest global research is necessary to attract and support talented researchers and help higher education become the source of new inventions and technologies. The OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center (EJC) is an innovative and award-winning resource that supports both efforts by providing immediate, electronic access to scholarly research articles.

With 8,300 journals and 12 million articles from more than 106 publishers, the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center has more than quadrupled the buying power of Ohio higher education. What began in 1998 with less than one million articles from two publishers, has grown into one of the largest global collections of electronic journals.

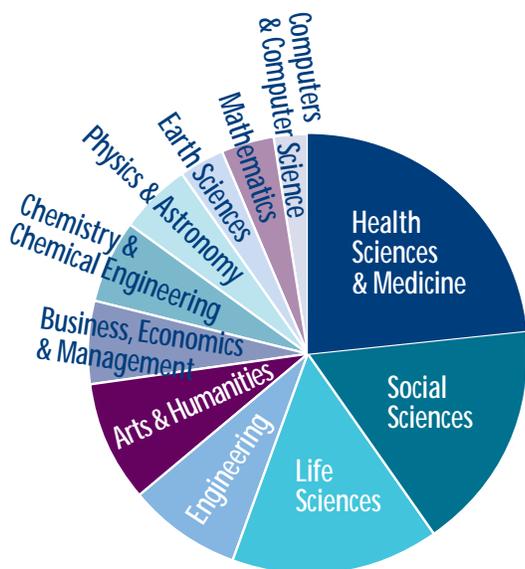
In addition to providing instant access to research, the EJC saves researchers time by automatically delivering search results and new issue alerts. This year, OhioLINK users downloaded the 38 millionth article from the EJC without ever visiting the stacks.

Despite great progress, OhioLINK and member libraries' collections remain incomplete and will need to expand in order to meet the specialized research needs of the new centers of excellence and other University System of Ohio programs that are in development.

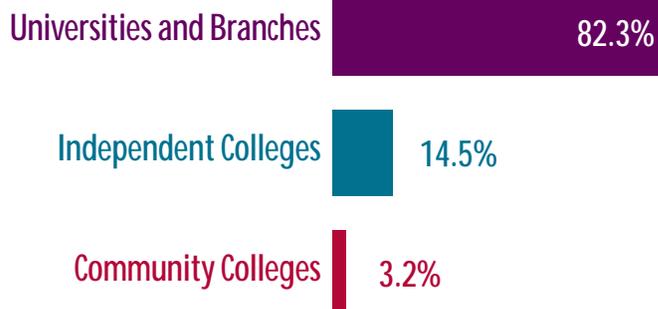
### Supporting Scholars and Research with the Electronic Theses and Dissertations Center

The OhioLINK Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Center meets the need of Ohio colleges and universities to efficiently publish doctoral dissertations, master's theses and honors theses. This single storage and publication system houses 19,100 theses and dissertations from 18 member colleges and universities and makes them available to scholars worldwide. There were more than 1.8 million downloads from the ETD Center in 2008.

#### Electronic Journal Center Subject Coverage



#### Institutions of All Types Download Articles (percent of articles downloaded by institution type)



# Helping Scholarly Communities

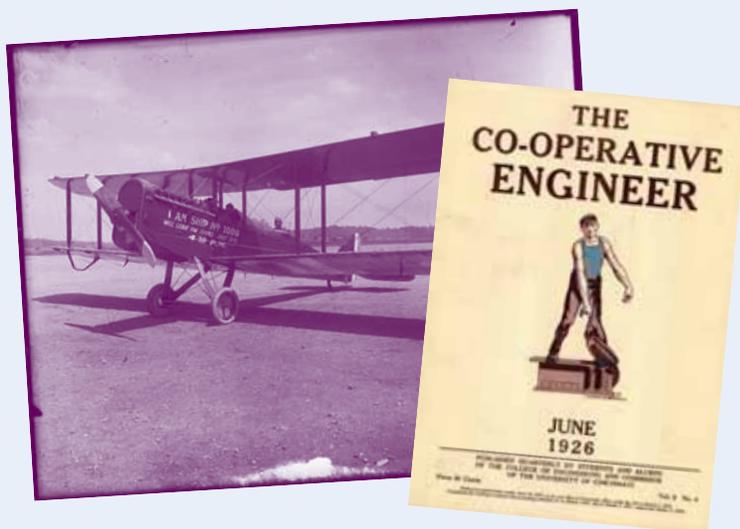
## Share and Discover Knowledge

### Digital Resource Commons: An Affordable Solution for Instruction and Research Materials

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. The Ohio Digital Resource Commons (DRC) provides a robust, statewide platform for saving, discovering and sharing—free of charge—the instructional, research, historic and creative materials produced by the University System of Ohio and Ohio's private colleges. The DRC is a second-generation system, which builds on functionalities of the Digital Media Center that launched in 1998. In 2008, more than 20 institutions contributed to the Digital Resource Commons.

### One Shared Statewide Platform, Many Benefits

The DRC offers numerous benefits to many different higher education constituencies. Administrators appreciate the ability to utilize OhioLINK's disk space, staff and system and their institution's branding elements to develop 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 appreciate being able to store, share and preserve their research, digital learning objects and publications.

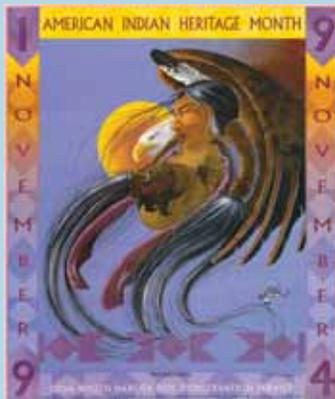


*1001 De Havilland DH-4, 1918, Dayton-Wright Airplane Company collection, Wright State University; and the Co-Operative Engineer, Vol. 05 No. 4 (June 1926), College of Engineering and Commerce, University of Cincinnati.*

The DRC enables faculty and researchers to distribute research results to worldwide audiences quickly—likely leading to increased visibility and impact—or limit availability to a single colleague. It can also serve as a central resource for faculty to find learning objects and course materials from colleagues statewide. 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.

Explore the Digital Resource Commons and find more information at <http://drc.ohiolink.edu>.

## Southern State Uses DRC to Preserve Appalachian Heritage



"The Digital Resources Commons at Southern State Community College began with a collaborative effort to digitize the American Indian Heritage project's annual poster collection. Our future plan is to continue preserving our local Appalachian heritage in southern Ohio and to include images of the local area that encourage tourism. Our small library can't afford the type of server storage space required for a project of this type, so we are very grateful to OhioLINK and the DRC for their efforts to include us. **The DRC has been a great asset to our college.**"

**Louis Mays**, Librarian/Professor, Southern State Community College

# Quality Teaching and Learning Require Authoritative Research Resources

## Fact: Research Resources Have Never Been Free

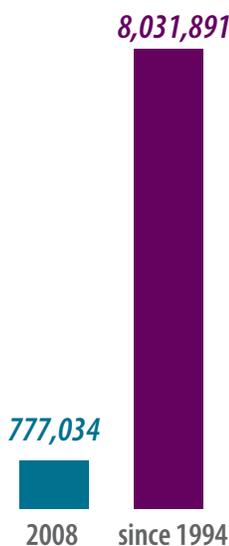
A prevalent myth today is that all information is available for free on the Internet, but the reality is that reliable, scholarly research has never been free. Authoritative research resources, in print or electronic form, remain the core of academic scholarship, and the majority of these can only be licensed from commercial publishers.

OhioLINK and its member libraries continued to support quality teaching and learning in 2008 by:

- **Delivering 777,034 books and physical library materials in two to three days.** Students and faculty can access more than 11.4 million unique titles from 89 member libraries, two Ohio public libraries and the Center for Research Libraries. Using the OhioLINK Library Catalog, scholars can request materials online and pick them up at any participating library in just two to three days.

- **Delivering 21.5 million articles to users' desktops** from resources such as the EBSCOhost databases (including Academic Search Complete) and the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center.

### Books and Library Items Delivered



- **Providing the Electronic Book Center with a growing collection of 33,000 electronic books** in a single interface, including scholarly titles, historical literature, encyclopedias, dictionaries, guides and other reference works. OhioLINK provides access to an additional 22,000 e-books covering computer science and technology, business, and a variety of other academic subjects.
- **Delivering thousands of educational videos, art and historical images, sounds and oral histories, maps, and other multimedia resources** to enhance both traditional and e-learning.

## What's Available?



# Partnering with Schools & Others to Prepare Students for Success

## Preparing High School Students for College

Upper Arlington High School students will be better prepared for college thanks to a partnership between the Upper Arlington City School District, located in central Ohio, and OhioLINK. This two-year pilot project, which began in September 2008, makes it easy for students in Upper Arlington High School's International Baccalaureate Program—a rigorous, two-year comprehensive curriculum for grades 11 and 12 that prepares students for post-secondary study—and Advanced Placement classes to borrow books and other library materials they need to excel in their current classes and prepare for college. The partnership leverages the information resources the state has already invested in via Ohio's college and university libraries to affordably meet the needs of Ohio's high school students.

The partnership also exposes students to the same vast library resources they'll have access to as college students in the University System of Ohio and 51 Ohio private colleges and research universities. Students in Upper Arlington High School's International Baccalaureate Program, students in Advanced Placement classes, and all teachers and staff at the school can request books and other library materials online directly from OhioLINK. The resources are then delivered to the high school in just two to three days. More than 170 books have been delivered to Upper Arlington High School students and teachers in the first five months of the program.

## Teaching Students to Use Information Effectively

In order to be successful in school, college and the workforce, Ohio's students must be equipped with the necessary skills to find, use and evaluate information effectively.

Ohio's school and academic librarians already work to prepare students for an information-intensive world and are uniquely positioned to influence student success. OhioLINK is working with INFOhio, the information network for Ohio's schools, to move beyond providing statewide access to electronic resources and services for students in P-20, to teaching students to use information effectively. OhioLINK and INFOhio can help Ohio achieve global economic competitiveness through the development of an educated, talented and creative workforce, by:

- Teaching Ohio high school students necessary information literacy skills.
- Incorporating robust research experiences into classroom teaching strategies.
- Providing students and educators with free and equitable access to an essential academic core collection of information resources.
- Informing Ohio's education faculty that the preparation of student teachers must include information literacy skills.

More details about these efforts can be found at [www.infohio.org/PreparingOhioLearners](http://www.infohio.org/PreparingOhioLearners).

## OhioLINK Helps Students Succeed

"For the last five years, I've required my International Baccalaureate music students to read college-level texts and perform college-level tasks. With OhioLINK, they finally have the college-level resources."

**Ed Zunic**, *International Baccalaureate Teacher, Upper Arlington High School*

# Collaborating with Library Networks to Improve Information Access for All Ohioans

## Core Information Resources Help Ohioans Compete in the Knowledge Economy

Through Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO), a partnership which includes the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) and INFOhio, the information network for Ohio's schools, OhioLINK and its partners provide a core collection of resources that helps all Ohioans compete in the global knowledge economy. This collection of resources, called the Ohio Web Library, supports quality education, a skilled workforce, business growth and lifelong learning in Ohio. By providing resources statewide, LCO cost-effectively delivers necessary information resources to all Ohioans, regardless of their location, age, education or economic status. However, the current collection of resources in the Ohio Web Library is just the beginning. It continues to grow slowly, limited by budget restrictions.

While the ideal Ohio Web Library collection has not yet been realized, many information resources are available statewide, including magazines, trade publications, scholarly research journals, newspapers, encyclopedias, dictionaries, speeches, poems, plays and more.

A robust Ohio Web Library will ensure that:

- Every school, public and academic library throughout the state—regardless of size, location or fiscal resources—has equal access to available online materials.
- Ohio students have a consistent set of online resources to use, at home or at school, throughout their education.
- Educators statewide have access to a broad range of online materials to support curricula.
- Ohio business owners, entrepreneurs, government officials, state employees and workers have instantaneous access to the vital information necessary to do their jobs, make decisions and promote economic growth.

Ohio residents can access the Ohio Web Library via their local library. More information is available at [www.ohioweblibrary.org](http://www.ohioweblibrary.org).

## OhioLINK Helps Students Complete Papers and Projects

"I've been using OhioLINK for several years now and it has really helped me to complete research papers and lesson plans. It has even helped me find books which I want to read, but can't often buy. **The best thing about OhioLINK is it offers a great place for students to get those hard to find or costly books for research projects or everyday classes.**"

**Kristina Carver**, 2008 Graduate, Mount Vernon Nazarene University

# Keeping It Affordable

## 2008 Financial Summary

### 2008 Expenses

Content and Content Delivery	\$ 8,841,246
Technical Infrastructure	\$ 1,237,015
Staff and Administration	\$ 1,973,761
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$12,052,022</b>

### Funds Received

Combined Capital & Operating Appropriations	\$11,905,194
Annual Membership Fee	\$206,000
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$12,111,194</b>

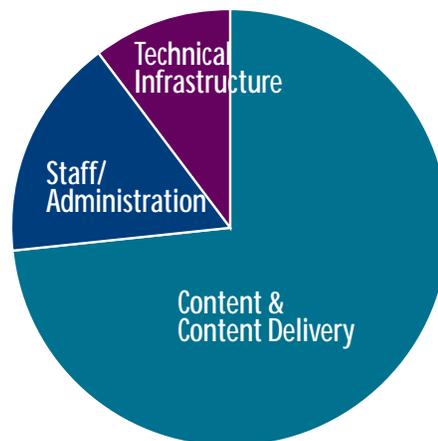
### EJC Costs (2008)

Total:	\$26.7M
Cost funded by OhioLINK	\$4.4M
Cost funded by member libraries	\$22.3M
Average percent of EJC titles originally held in print by Ohio universities	25%
Estimated cost to duplicate EJC in print just at 13 universities	\$120M

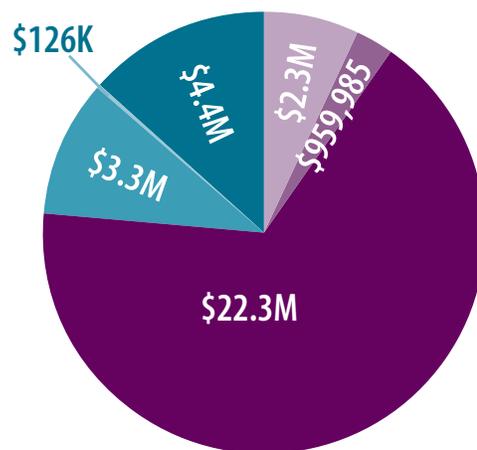
### Statewide Research Databases / Undergraduate & General Journals / E-Books (Fiscal 2009)

Total:	\$6.8M
Cost funded by OhioLINK	\$3.5M
Cost funded by member libraries	\$3.3M
Estimated group efficiency over individual purchases	300%
Estimated cost to duplicate through individual library purchases	\$20.4M

OhioLINK Expenses 2008



Combining Library and OhioLINK Funds to Expand Information Access



- OhioLINK Funds Spent on EJC
- OhioLINK Funds Spent on E-Books
- OhioLINK Funds Spent on Databases
- Library Funds Spent on EJC
- Library Funds Spent on E-Books
- Library Funds Spent on Databases

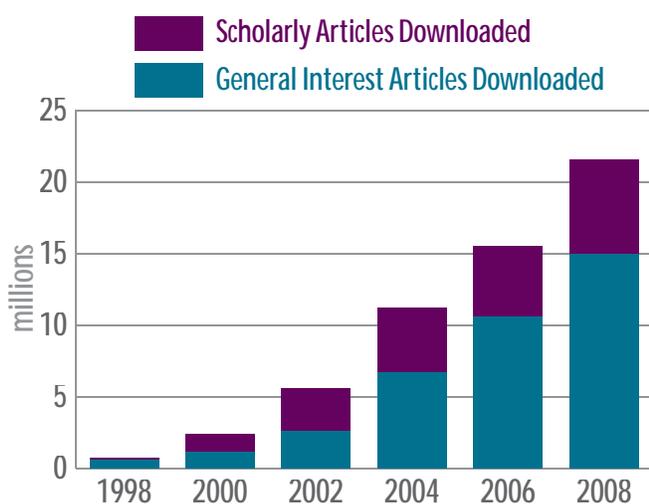
# Increased Information Access

## Results in Increased Information Use

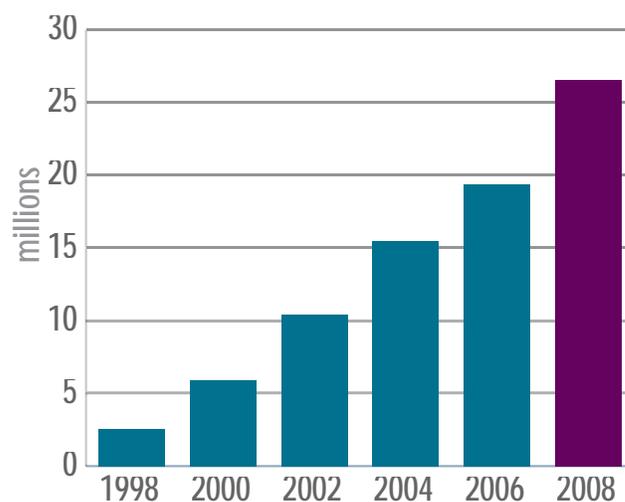
### Resources Available

	1994	2008	Percent Increase
<b>OhioLINK Library Catalog</b>			
Total items	8,072,185	47,890,878	493%
Number of unique items	2,760,000	11,448,794	315%
Items owned by only one member library	1,656,000 (60%)	7,110,590 (62%)	329%
<b>Electronic Journal Center</b>			
Titles	0	8,294	N/A
Articles	0	12,236,868	N/A
Publishers	0	106	N/A
<b>E-Books</b>	0	55,320	N/A
<b>Digital Educational Videos</b>	0	3,176	N/A
<b>Research Databases</b>	18	143	694%
<b>Electronic Theses and Dissertations</b>	0	19,105 (93% with full-text)	N/A

*Faculty and Students' Thirst for Journals Shows No Bounds*



*Growth in Electronic Images and Documents Downloaded*



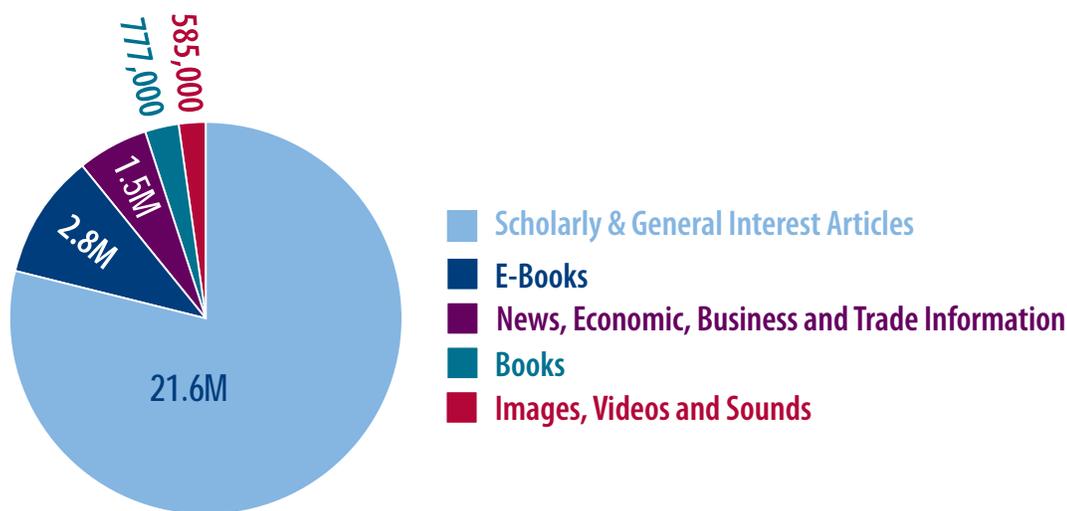
# Increased Information Access

## Results in Increased Information Use

### Resources Used

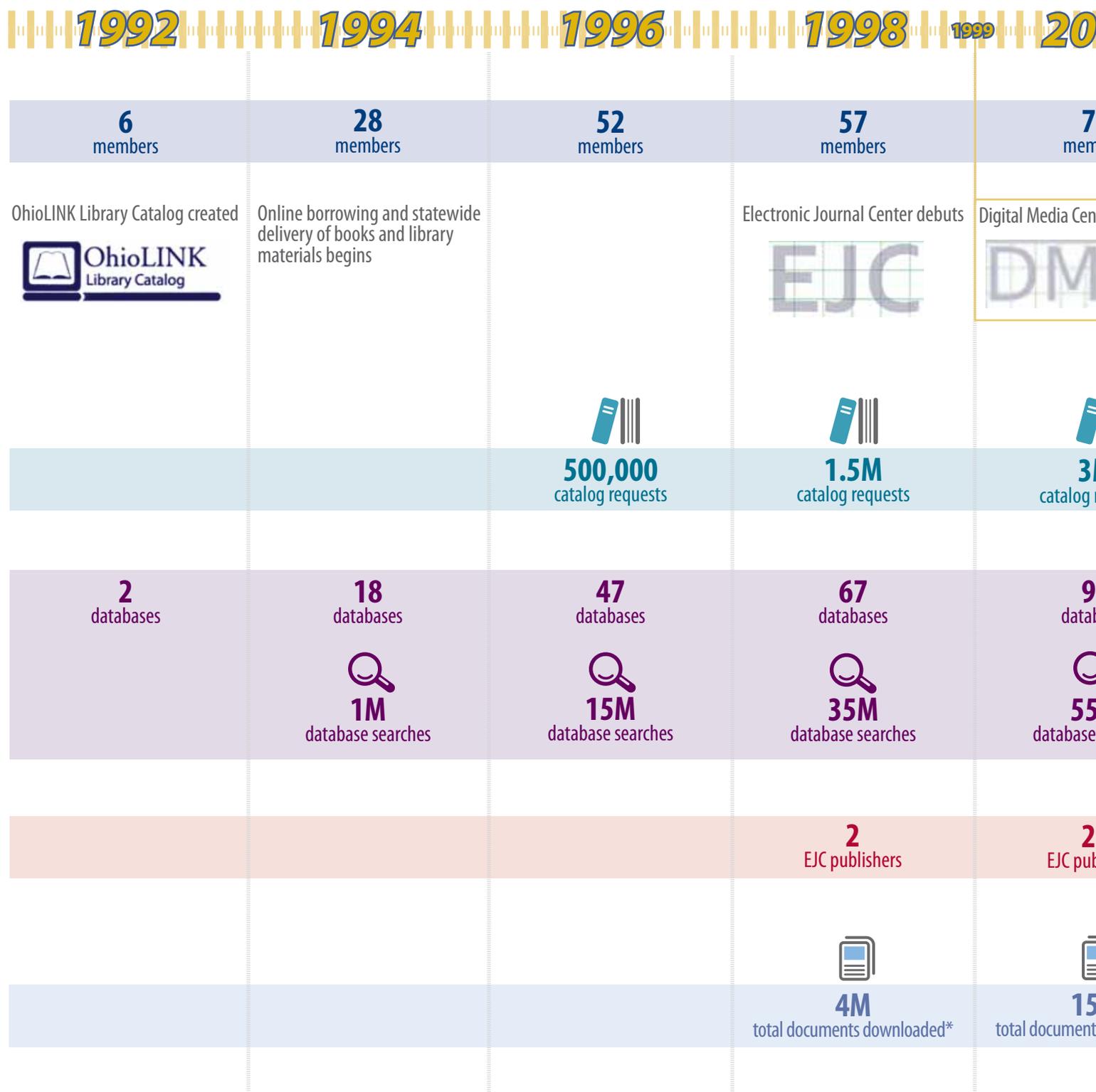
Resource	1994	2008	Percent Increase	Lifetime
Books and library materials borrowed	61,170	777,034	1170%	8,031,891
Catalog searches	432,700	4,774,698	1003%	55,280,774
Journal and magazine articles downloaded	0	21,535,381	N/A	105,183,313
Research database searches	1,000,000	32,151,272	3115%	240,823,078
Quick Search @ OhioLINK searches	0	1,326,791	N/A	4,127,737
Digital Media Center downloads (images, videos and sounds)	0	585,436	N/A	3,179,260
Digital videos downloaded	0	88,747	N/A	370,415

OhioLINK Items Delivered in 2008

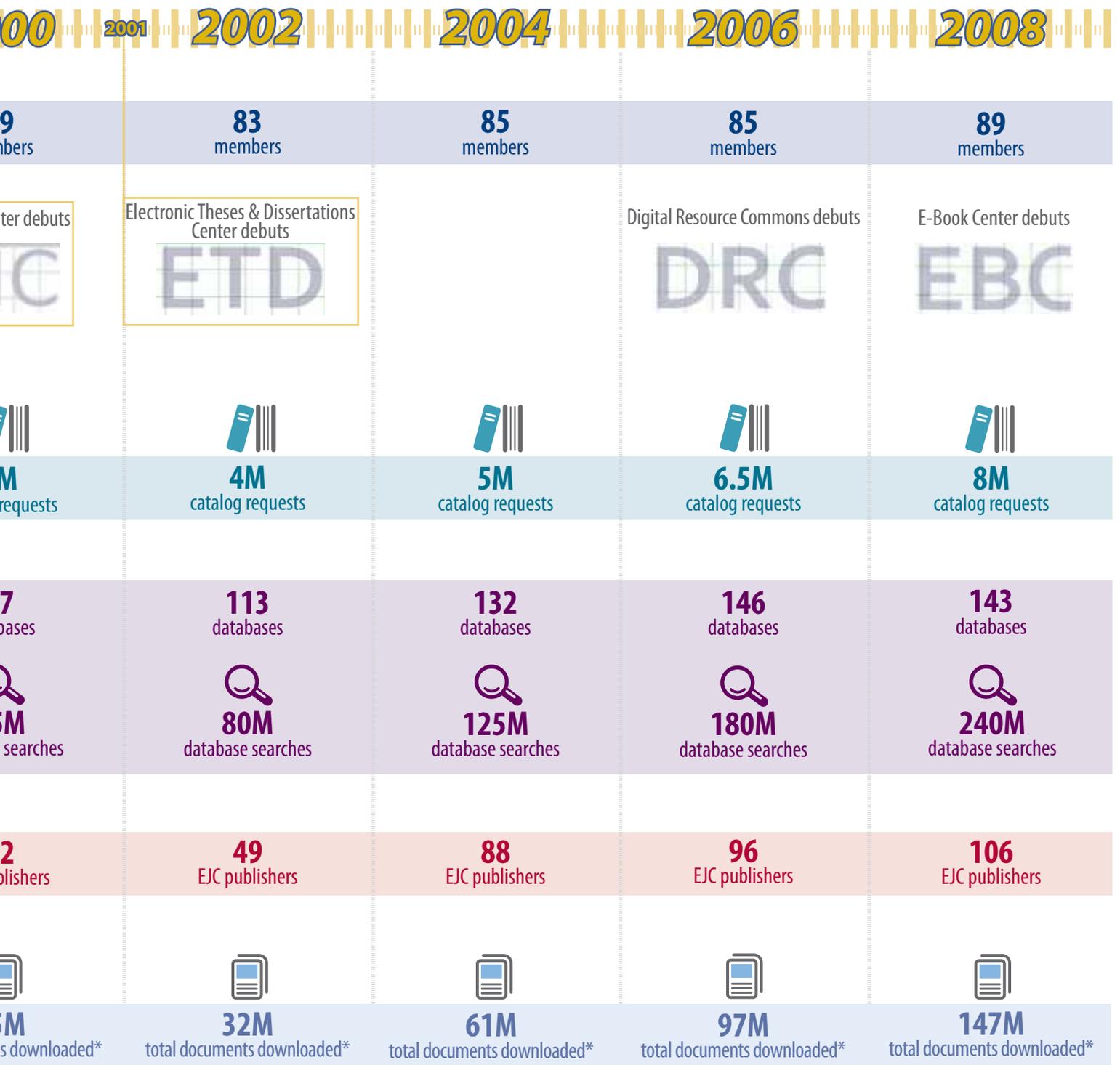


# OhioLINK Milestones, 1992 - 2008

Connecting



# Students and Faculty to Information Since 1992



\*includes all articles, e-books, multimedia items downloaded

