



Reinventing OhioLINK

New Vision Needed for a Changed World

The world today is drastically different than it was in 1989, when the Ohio higher education community conceived a bold vision of “the most powerful statewide library and information system in the nation.” Since beginning operations in 1992, OhioLINK has been viewed as one of the most successful, if not the most successful, academic library consortium worldwide. But in order to respond to the changed world and to succeed long-term, the OhioLINK community must critically consider strategic and fundamental changes. If need be, elements of OhioLINK and Ohio academic libraries must be reinvented.

The World Has Changed

- When OhioLINK was conceived, Ohio students and faculty had few information alternatives. Most information was accessible only in print or other physical formats.
- There was a newly emerging Internet, but no World Wide Web and no Google or Yahoo.
- Information and communications technologies have merged and dominate our daily life. Today’s students have always known: cyberspace, PCs and Macs, video games, e-mail, MP3 players, music file sharing via the Web, cell phones and digital cameras.
- Information creation is exploding globally at rates never seen before.

These Changes Exert Pressure on Libraries

The pressures on libraries are greater than ever before. The problems OhioLINK was intended to solve have either intensified or accelerated, including:

- Rising costs and decreasing library purchasing power under a dysfunctional scholarly publishing system
- A rapidly increasing volume of information
- Expanding user needs and expectations for immediate, desktop access to information resources of all types
- Rapid advancements in the Web and in technology as tools of information delivery
- Ohio higher education’s need to become an increasingly integrated community
- Five years of limitations on Ohio higher education and library funding and a guarded outlook for the future

Internet Milestones

1991

CERN Releases World Wide Web

1993

Mosaic, the first graphics-based Web browser, launches

1994

Radio stations start rebroadcasting 24 hours a day on the Net

1995

Traditional online dial-up systems (e.g. AOL) begin providing Internet access

1995

eBay and Amazon debut

1998

Google launches

2002

Having a blog becomes popular

2003

MySpace debuts

2004

Facebook debuts

Source: Hobbes' Internet Timeline
(c) 1993-2005 by Robert H. Zakon.

www.zakon.org/robert/internet/timeline

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We Can Successfully Meet These Challenges

Despite the pressures and rapid changes of the world today, this remains an exciting time for OhioLINK and Ohio's academic libraries. Four positive underlying factors will help us succeed in the future:

- The OhioLINK community fully understands the transformative effect of collaboration and remains committed to working together.
- The global library and higher education communities are of one mind about the issues facing us all. OhioLINK is an active collaborator with libraries across the globe.
- The array of technological tools with which to achieve statewide efficiencies and cost-effective services has never been richer.
- The need for and ability of the higher education system to positively impact the economy of Ohio and well-being of its citizens has never been greater. In the long run, this will benefit the OhioLINK program.

We Will Achieve Success By Acting on Key Priorities and Initiatives

Priority #1: Utilize user-based research to improve electronic information delivery systems and connect users to needed information effectively.

1. Create the ability to search as many OhioLINK and library resources as possible at one time.
2. Provide access to OhioLINK resources through the popular Web sites utilized by our users.
3. Create customization options to meet individual needs, including options activated by users and options within the system that respond to specific actions.
4. Deliver OhioLINK services to all platforms (PCs, PDAs, tablet devices, etc.).

5. Broadly examine all aspects of library operations and implement collaborative innovations to reduce and control costs and improve effectiveness in the delivery of information.

Priority #2: Provide content statewide through sustainable economic models.

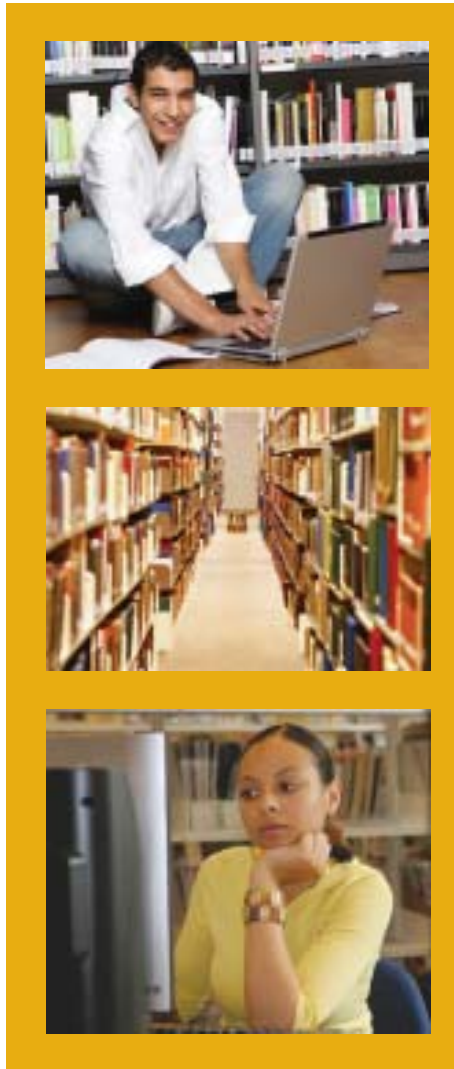
1. Manage licenses aggressively to focus on the most essential and affordable content.
2. Collaborate with other Ohio library, education, and business organizations to coordinate and expand services and value.
3. Investigate all options for more affordable textbook delivery (in coordination with campus book stores and other campus units).

Priority #3: Maximize access to the intellectual resources of our member institutions and libraries as well as those freely available on the Web.

1. Maximize accessibility of relevant freely available Web resources (e.g. growing array of Open Access journals) in concert with licensed content.
2. Fully develop the Ohio Digital Resource Commons and related services.
3. Obtain grants to accelerate our ability to digitize the intellectual

assets of our member institutions and libraries.

As we strive to transform and reinvent ourselves to serve Ohio students, faculty, researchers and the state more effectively, we ask for your support, energies, creativity, understanding and feedback. ■■■



News In Brief

Call for Proposals: Ohio Digital Commons for Education 2007 Conference

Where can faculty, administrators, librarians and technology gurus all meet to discuss learning, libraries, technology and the convergence of these activities? At the Ohio Digital Commons for Education 2007 Conference, of course!

Be a part of ODCE 2007! The Ohio Digital Commons for Education partners—Ohio Learning Network, OhioLINK, and the Ohio Supercomputer Center/OARnet—are seeking interactive and engaging proposals for presentations, pre-conference workshops and technology demonstrations. Proposals are sought for the following topics:

- *E Squared - Effectiveness and Efficiencies*
- *STEM2: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine*
- *Who are the Learners? - Finding New Audiences*
- *WMP: Wireless, Mobile and Personal*

- *Reinventing the Learning Environment: Walking the Walk*
- *What's the Buzz? Vendor Presentations*

See the complete call for presentations at www.olin.org/conferences/ODCE2007/ODCE2007.php. The deadline for proposal submission is Friday, November 17, 2006.



ODCE 2007 will include keynote speakers, vendor exhibits and technology demonstrations. It will be held March 4-6, 2007, at the Columbus Hilton at Easton Town Center in Columbus, Ohio. Online registration will be available in December.

OhioLINK Recommends Steps to Ensure Ohio Research Remains Available to Scholars

Ohio faculty, scholars and researchers publish thousands of articles each year, in the world's leading scholarly journals. Yet there is no guarantee that Ohio will have access to research produced by its own scholars as the costs and quantity of scholarly journals keep rising beyond the reach of Ohio higher education. OhioLINK has released recommendations that will help authors and their institutions retain the right to disseminate their works electronically, thereby assuring access to Ohio research for the Ohio scholarly community and beyond. The recommendation document, including a sample author publication agreement, is available for downloading at www.ohiolink.edu/journalcrisis.

"The OhioLINK library community believes that research and works produced by Ohio scholars should remain accessible to scholars in Ohio and beyond, regardless of whether that scholar's institution can afford to buy the published research. These recommendations move Ohio another step closer to turning that belief into a reality," Tom Sanville, OhioLINK's executive director, said.

OhioLINK's recommendations to Ohio institutions, faculty and other researchers include:

1. Publish in journals that have responsible rights policies whenever possible.
2. Retain the non-exclusive right to make works openly accessible and usable for the author's non-commercial, educational and research purposes.
3. Deposit works in a campus repository or the Ohio Digital Resource Commons so that those works are available to scholars in Ohio and beyond.

While many journal publishers have changed their policies to embrace an author's right to archive and share their own works for educational and research purposes, it remains the author's responsibility to ensure they do not sign away their rights in publisher agreements.

In making these recommendations, OhioLINK joins many organizations around the nation and the world who are seeking to protect authors' rights to freely disseminate their own works, including the University of California, The Boston Library Consortium and the European Commission.

Read More News Online: <http://olc7.ohiolink.edu/whatsnew>

OhioLINK Member and Participating Institutions with Installation Dates

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

OhioLINK Update

The *OhioLINK Update*, published semiannually, provides information on the developments of the Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK). 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 84 institutions.

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The *Update* is available in print and online at www.ohiolink.edu/about/publications.

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