



Celebrating 15 Years

Need for OhioLINK Remains Stronger Than Ever

A globally competitive educational system requires access to the world's scholarship, research and information. Fifteen years after its inception, the need for OhioLINK is stronger than ever. The information problem OhioLINK was created to solve has both intensified and accelerated. The volume of published research materials—books, journals, videos and audio—has exploded and users increasingly demand instant, electronic access to research. Yet, OhioLINK's goal remains the same, to provide that access both electronically via the Internet and through the rapid sharing of physical library materials throughout the state. This fall as OhioLINK staff, together with librarians and staff from member libraries, refine our vision and future plans, we pause to remember how the OhioLINK program has changed the way Ohio faculty, staff and students teach, learn and research.

15 Years Ago
Remember 1992? It was the year the phrase *surfing the Internet* was coined, the World Wide Web turned one year old, and Mosaic, the first graphical web browser, was not yet in use.

It was also the year that the OhioLINK program began operations with six universities and offered the **OhioLINK Library Catalog** and two research databases statewide.

Since then, OhioLINK has evolved its resource offerings and grown to become the nation's leading academic library consortium. By the end of 2007 OhioLINK will deliver its 165 millionth document (includes books, articles and digital media) to support learning and research at Ohio's colleges and universities. This level of achievement demonstrates the value and growth of the program, and would not be possible without ongoing support and cooperation from the 87 participating colleges, universities, and the State Library of Ohio, as well as the Ohio Board of Regents.

From Past to Present
In 1992 students and faculty conducted research in a very different manner. The Internet was available and the World Wide Web debuted just one year previously, but there were no graphic-based browsers like Firefox or Internet Explorer, no Google or Yahoo, and no Internet service providers offering home access to the net.

Faculty who wanted resources beyond what their campus library provided had to travel to another library or wait weeks for journals and books requested via interlibrary loan. Students had little choice but to use the resources available at their campus library, since interlibrary loan was generally too expensive to be offered to them.

Books & Physical Materials
Beginning in early 1994, the research process began to change as students and faculty were able to request items from other libraries online using the **OhioLINK Library Catalog** and pick those materials up at their own library just a few days later. More than 65,000 items were delivered in the first year. Since then, a total of 7.1 million library items have been delivered with more than 756,000 items delivered in the last 12 months alone. Today students and faculty have access not just to the 46.1 million books and materials available at member academic libraries, but also to 700,000 items from two Ohio public libraries. Access will continue to grow as more public libraries are added.

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15 Years of Success



7.1 million
books/materials delivered



165 million
documents, of all types, downloaded



200 million searches
conducted on the research databases

15 Years of Feedback

1995:

"...OhioLINK doesn't just allow for more expedient research; it also enables deeper research.

By providing an extensive network of university libraries that I can borrow from, OhioLINK often supplies me with information that I simply couldn't, or shouldn't do without."

—Chad Ferguson, Graduate Student, Wright State University

1998:

"I can not tell you how the service OhioLINK provides has improved my ability to find and obtain the information that I and the students here seek."

—Dr. Bentley G. Wall, Case Western Reserve University

2002:

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

—Stephen Harp, Associate Professor & Chair, Dept. of History, University of Akron

2004:

"OhioLINK is especially critical for folks like me who live in the poorest, most rural areas of the state where access to resources is limited."

—Candee Basford, Student, Southern State Community College

Read more stories from OhioLINK users, or submit your own online at www.ohiolink.edu/supportohiolink/stories

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Electronic Journals

Finding scholarly journal articles used to be a much more time-consuming process involving going to the library, consulting a print periodical index, and then finding the appropriate journal on the shelves, if it was available. This process started to get easier in 1995, when OhioLINK began delivering full-text, general interest articles to users via library print stations. One year later OhioLINK began offering databases via the World Wide Web.

OhioLINK took an innovative leap forward in 1998 when the award-winning **Electronic Journal Center** launched. What began with less than one million articles from two publishers has grown to include more than 7,200 journals and 9.2 million articles from 100+ publishers. Today the **EJC** is one of the largest, possibly even the largest, collection of electronic journals run by a library consortium. This year OhioLINK users downloaded the 28 millionth article from the **EJC** without ever visiting the stacks.

Electronic Books

OhioLINK began offering electronic books in 2000. Now more than 26,000 e-books are available online, anytime, including encyclopedias, dictionaries and other reference works, literature and poetry collections, scholarly titles, and computer and technology books.

Images, Videos & Sounds

OhioLINK plunged into the multimedia realm in 1999 and launched the Digital Media Center which allowed students and faculty to browse and download art images from museums across the country. In 2002, OhioLINK began offering digital educational videos as well. The video collection, which launched with foreign language video clips from the Five Colleges of Ohio Consortium, has grown to include hundreds of educational films and documentaries. Almost 300,000 digital images, videos and sounds are downloaded each year, with more than 250,000 digital videos viewed or downloaded since 2002.

The Economics of Cooperation

The OhioLINK program has continually demonstrated that by working together and purchasing resources cooperatively, Ohio's academic libraries can increase their buying power many times over and provide access to more resources for the same, or even less cost. In fact, 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.

This Year

In a continuing commitment to improvement, this year OhioLINK upgraded current resources, added three members and launched two new services. OhioLINK upgraded the **Electronic Journal Center** interface to include more customization and personal storage options and improve performance. The **Digital Media Center** was also redesigned.

The new **Electronic Book Center** is similar in concept to the **Electronic Journal Center**. It allows OhioLINK users to find and utilize e-books from multiple publishers using one common interface. Currently, the **Electronic Book Center** contains thousands of scholarly and reference e-books from four publishers.

OhioLINK users also gained access to one of the top ten largest theological collections in the United States when the Theological Consortium of Greater Columbus members, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Pontifical College Josephinum and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, joined OhioLINK.

The highlight of 2007 was the debut of the highly-anticipated **Digital Resource Commons (DRC)**. The **DRC** will enable OhioLINK members and other Ohio institutions to rapidly publish and access the wealth of research, historic and creative materials produced by Ohio's scholarly communities.

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The Digital Resource Commons eliminates redundant and costly local investments by allowing member institutions to create, use, and manage content which is stored and preserved on OhioLINK servers. Wright State University Libraries is the first institution to add materials to the DRC. Several other OhioLINK members will begin contributing materials to the commons over the next year.

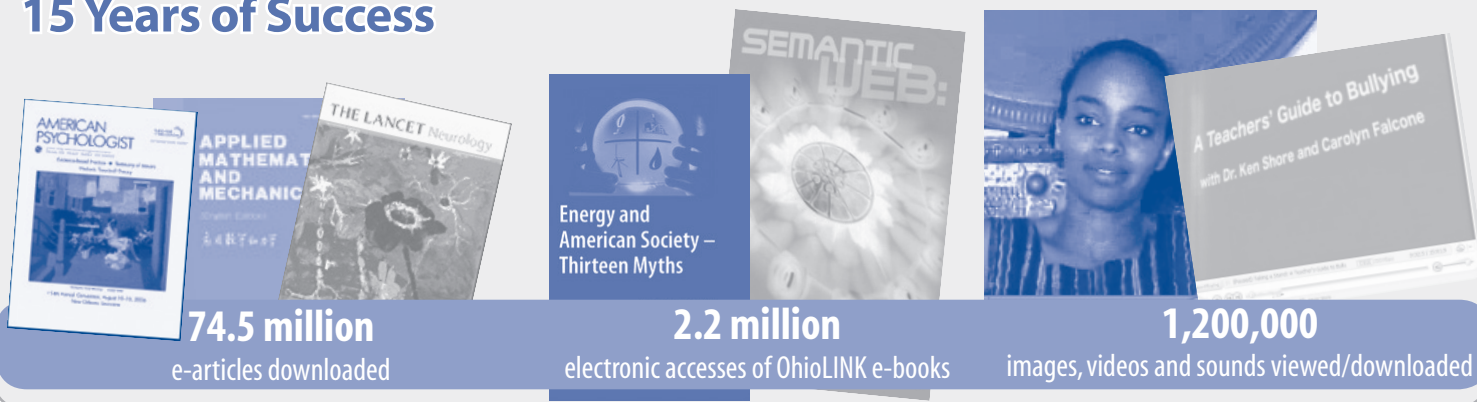
The Future

During its 16th year of operation, OhioLINK will continue to focus on how to reinvent the program in response to a changed world and to fully support the University System of Ohio (USO).

The formation of the USO requires OhioLINK to reexamine its directions and objectives. Even with what has been accomplished to date, how can libraries contribute to the major transformation envisioned for the USO?

Fortunately the OhioLINK community began a self-examination process in 2005 and currently has a robust process in motion to propose and review transformative initiatives. OhioLINK has achieved a great deal thanks to great support, but there is even more the program can and will accomplish over the next 15 years.

15 Years of Success



This Is MY OhioLINK Video Contest

As we celebrate OhioLINK's 15th anniversary, we'd like to know what OhioLINK means to you, how it has helped you or how you would explain OhioLINK to your peers. But don't just tell us, show us, in five minutes or less, your OhioLINK story or commercial in a creative video and you could win a new digital video camera or a 160 GB iPod classic.

The Scoop:

Current students, faculty and staff members at all 87 OhioLINK member institutions are welcome to submit one or more videos. Entries must be submitted **by 11:59 p.m. EST on January 18, 2008.**



Dates to Remember:

- **January 18, 2008** - Video entries due
- **January 21-26** - Three finalists announced
- **January 28-February 8** - Vote for your favorite video
- **February 12** - Winners announced

Find complete contest details and submission guidelines at www.ohiolink.edu/videocontest. Send questions to info@ohiolink.edu.

Complete details: www.ohiolink.edu/videocontest

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
Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 2007
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
Pontifical College Josephinum, 2007
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
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2007
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 87 institutions.

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

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