


# OhioLINK Snapshot 2010





## OhioLINK is a Great Equalizer in Ohio Higher Education

Collectively, OhioLINK libraries provide access to 48 million library items, 9,000 electronic journals and 150 electronic research databases. No matter which of the 90 member institutions a student attends—a two-year community college, a four-year independent college, or a four-year state university—he or she can access a collection much more expansive than any single library could afford on its own.

OhioLINK is a consortium, which by its very definition suggests the efficient pooling of resources for the benefit of many. Once digital materials like journals and e-books are purchased, they are held locally, meaning OhioLINK will always own the rights to their distribution. This arrangement, unique even in the library world, allows the member libraries to more efficiently plan the development of their own collections, assuring that the group-purchased content will always be available to their students, faculty and researchers.



## The Benefits of Collaborative Licensing

OhioLINK has been building relationships with content providers for nearly 20 years. Because of this long history and the 600,000 college students, faculty and staff we represent, we are able to deliver unrivaled intellectual assets at very favorable pricing.

**The annual cost to license information continues to increase by an average of 7-10% annually, but OhioLINK licenses have been able to limit that growth to 2-3% annually.**

For example, a single library could spend \$20,000 for a license to a widely requested online service. By choosing instead to get behind the leverage of OhioLINK, the same material could be licensed to all 90 colleges for a total investment of less than \$90,000.

The collaboration also saves members money by keeping prices down over time. The annual cost to license information continues to increase by an average of 7-10% annually, but OhioLINK licenses have been able to limit that growth to 2-3% annually. The long-term compounding impact of this difference amounts to millions of dollars saved.



## Central Catalog Means Efficient Borrowing

All of OhioLINK's holdings are listed in one shared central catalog, including books located at all 90 member libraries, e-journals held on OhioLINK's servers, and other materials available on publishers' websites. With this large shared collection available to their students and faculty, libraries can plan their own collection-building initiatives accordingly, taking into account the needs of their own students. In 2010, students and faculty borrowed 806,000 physical items through OhioLINK.

**In 2010, students and faculty borrowed 806,000 physical items through OhioLINK.**

OhioLINK's teamwork approach also extends to the data-entry side of the catalog. To efficiently maintain and add to the millions of catalog items, member libraries divide the work, ensuring economical workflow and up-to-date listings.

With electronic books and electronic book readers gaining in popularity, OhioLINK has also increased the number of its e-book holdings to nearly 69,000, a 281% increase since 2006. That popularity with patrons is reflected in usage as well: In 2010, OhioLINK users downloaded e-books 4.7 million times, an 18% increase over 2009.



## Electronic Journal Center Brings a World of Knowledge

OhioLINK's Electronic Journal Center contains 25% of the world's scientific content, from large publishers like Elsevier Science/Academic Press and Wiley Blackwell to small presses like Kluwer Law and Berkeley Electronic Press. It is the first place Ohio's college students and researchers turn for the latest journal articles in a wide range of fields, including medicine, engineering, science, psychology, business and the humanities. In 2010, OhioLINK patrons downloaded the full text of articles in our collection nearly 26 million times, a 10% increase over 2009.

**In 2010, OhioLINK patrons downloaded the full text of articles in our collection nearly 26 million times, a 10% increase over 2009.**

The largest EJC acquisition in 2010 was 3.4 million additional articles from Elsevier, a highly regarded publisher in the fields of science and engi-

neering, with titles including "The Lancet" and "Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology and Medicine." The acquisition of these backfiles was a top priority for OhioLINK after a 2008 survey of researchers identified them as a critical gap in OhioLINK's portfolio of resources. The acquisition was approved at the State Controlling Board's November 22, 2010, meeting.



## **Ohio Digital Bookshelf Project Makes College More Affordable**

OhioLINK is guiding the Ohio Digital Bookshelf pilot project to bring affordable, high-quality textbook materials to Ohio's college students. In 2010, 24 schools representing 49,000 students began to offer a single digital version of an Introductory Psychology textbook at 30% of the cost of

a new print edition. At the University of Cincinnati, the school with the largest program participation, students saved over \$60,000 in the first term.

**At the University of Cincinnati, the school with the largest program participation, students saved over \$60,000 in the first term.**

Fall 2011 will present a broader representation of disciplines, including Accounting, Introductory Biology, and Economics. The project will

also introduce Open Education Resources for those teaching the courses, including course files, course calendars, and online assignments, and will focus on gathering analytics to evaluate learning outcomes.



## Digital Resource Commons Offers Space for Unique Collections

The Digital Resource Commons (DRC) is OhioLINK's nationally recognized, award-winning digital platform for saving, discovering and sharing Ohio's unique, historical and scholarly materials. Currently, 30 academic institutions and a number of non-profit organizations have claimed space on the free

repository, which stores more than 250,000 items in 500 collections and serves up more than 3 million page views annually to visitors from 138 countries.

**The DRC was recently honored with the American Library Association's 2011 Award for Cutting Edge Technology Services because of its innovative use of Amazon's cloud computing environment.**

Collections as varied as historic maps of Akron, Mayan archaeology, bio-acoustic recordings, photographs of the Wright Brothers' first flight, and Greek and Latin inscriptions are freely available to the public through the DRC.

The DRC was recently honored with the American Library Association's 2011 Award for Cutting Edge Technology Services because of its innovative use of Amazon's cloud computing environment. With the flexibility of cloud computing, the DRC doubled the number of institutions it serves in just the last few months of 2010.

# OhioLINK Member Institutions

