



Out & About

OPLIN board meeting
Friday, April 11

OLC Chapter Conferences:
NW - Friday, April 18
NE - Thursday, March 19

Tech Connections
Monday, April 28

Youth Services Symposium
Wednesday, April 30-May 1

OLC Management Conference
May 21

OPLIN Board Meeting
June 13

OPLIN Welcomes New Library Services Manager

The OPLIN office recently lost one Laura, but gained another. Laura Watkins left the OPLIN Communications Manager position on February 29. Laura had been with OPLIN since last August.

Laura Solomon started her duties as the new OPLIN Library Services Manager on February 19. Many of you know Laura; she is an accomplished public speaker, trainer, and web developer who brings over ten years of library technology experience to the OPLIN team. She possesses a Master of Library Science from Kent State University as well as several relevant professional certifications.

Before joining OPLIN, Mrs. Solomon worked as the Web Applications Manager for the Cleveland Public Library. Prior to her time at CPL, Laura worked at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, first as a children's librarian and later as web master.

Laura's passion for libraries and technology is evident, and her ability to merge the two is inspiring. She is an exciting addition to the OPLIN team!
-- Stephen Hedges,
OPLIN Director



Laura Solomon, as depicted in Second Life

In addition to her OPLIN gig, Laura is the official webmaster for the sites related to the Second Life Library Project which provides library-related services to Second Life residents and professional networking opportunities for librarians. (You can more information about the project at www.infoisland.org.)

New OPLIN Board Member

The State Library Board was recently asked to appoint a new OPLIN board member for the term beginning April 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2010.

At their meeting on March 17, the State Library Board appointed Holly Carrol, Deputy Director of the Cleveland PL to fill this term.

Holly has also served as director at the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library and as director of one of the regional library systems.

Welcome, Holly!

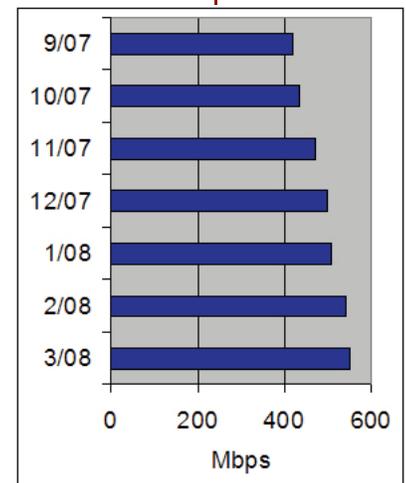
GROWING Pains

Despite state-wide budget cuts across the board, (see **\$\$ Talk**, next page) OPLIN continues to pay more and more each month for bandwidth used by Ohio public libraries.

The cost of bandwidth is increasing and the use keeps going up...with no end in sight!

Current monthly bandwidth cost:

\$36,000.00





We're Everywhere

Did you know...

That OPLIN is on MySpace...

www.myspace.com/ohoplin

...and on Facebook...

<http://www.facebook.com>

...and on Slideshare...

<http://www.slideshare.net/OPLIN>

...and on Twitter...

<http://www.twitter.com/OPLIN>

...and we have a blog...

<http://oplin.org/ohiolibrarynews>

...or two?

<http://www.oplin.org/4cast>

Find out what we're working on, what's new in technology and about what's happening in Libraryland. See you there!

\$\$ Talk

Because of changing economic conditions, the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) recently projected that the current state biennium budget, running from July 2007 through June 2009 (Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009), could fall more than \$733 million short by the end of FY2009.

Accordingly, OBM asked all state agencies to submit plans for immediate reduction of their state General Revenue Fund budgets by at least 10%. The OPLIN state revenue (GRF) is included within the State Library budget, so our budget reduction plan was submitted as part of the State Library plan.

For the current Fiscal Year 2008, OPLIN will be able to cover the loss of \$433,000 in our state revenue by shifting federal E-rate refunds into the account used to pay our Internet bills for the public libraries.

We also fall under statewide restrictions on filling open staff positions, travel and purchasing equipment.

The shifting of E-rate funds, combined with these restrictions and additional cuts in OPLIN support for conferences and training, will keep OPLIN within the new budget guidelines.

In Fiscal Year 2009, OPLIN will have to find some additional savings. The amount of funds available for filtering grants will almost certainly be reduced a little, and we may also have to reassess the databases we purchase with OPLIN funds. Database decisions will be based on the recommendations of a committee composed of public, school, and academic librarians. Purchase of the statewide databases will continue to be partially funded through an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the State Library.

The OPLIN Board will meet this month to consider the feedback we have received from public libraries in the past year as we re-prioritize OPLIN spending in the future.

UPS, please

The OPLIN Support Center staff, along with the State of Ohio NOC (Network Operations Center), closely monitors all OPLIN-provided Internet lines and routers. Whenever a site goes down, several people swoop into action to discover why.

Most of the time, a brief, local power issue has caused the router to bounce (go down and come back up quickly). It would help our tracking efforts greatly if you were to plug your OPLIN router into your UPS (uninterruptible power supply). If you do not have one, please consider using one to prevent an unwarranted mad rush around the state.

Thank you!

Spring Database Preview

OHIONET is currently preparing the spring database trial for libraries, which will run from

April 1 – May 15.

Some basic information is available at http://www.ohionet.org/reference_about.php

Watch for an announcement on the OPLINLIST with complete information.

What is Slideshare & why do I need it?



If you would like to see the slides from recent OPLIN presentations, go to

<http://www.slideshare.net/OPLIN>

While you are there, you can set up a **FREE** account for your library so that you can share your presentations with the world!