

APRIL 2007

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## Running the Numbers

In March, Governor Strickland and his new Administration introduced its first budget in the form of House Bill 119. The fate of this bill will affect the budgets of all state agencies, including OPLIN. Now, the OPLIN budget is probably not the most interesting topic you can imagine. Of course there are plenty of numbers, but there's a lot more than just math going on.

But first, a little background. OPLIN is funded by the Ohio legislature as part of the State Library's budget, which is in turn part of the budget for all state agencies. This state budget covers two years, so it's called a "biennial" budget. Last fall, the State Library submitted a budget request, including funding for OPLIN, to the state Office of Budget and Management. The new Governor's staff considered all the budget requests and proposed his Executive Budget on the same day he gave the State of the State address. The Office of Budget and Management reworked the Executive Budget into a format that could be introduced as a proposed law, and this language was introduced as House Bill 119. Between now and June 30, the House of Representatives, and then the Senate, will hold hearings and debates day and night about the budget (in fact, the House finance hearing on the State Library's budget has already been held). Both chambers of the legislature will make changes to the Governor's proposal, which must then be negotiated to the point where he is willing to sign the bill. The resulting budget will then be in effect from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009.

OPLIN's funding in the proposed budget is the same as it has been for the last two years. Specifically, the State Library will get \$4,330,000 per year from the state's

general revenue fund for supporting OPLIN. If you look at the budget bill, you'll see another three million dollars for OPLIN from something called a General Services Fund. This is not state money; it's what's called "spending authority." In order to spend money OPLIN might get from non-state sources, like E-rate reimbursements, we have to ask in advance for permission - in other words, spending authority. That number is always set high, because you never know what money might come your way over the course of two years, and it's difficult to get additional spending authority once the budget is passed. But since you rarely get enough "outside" money to equal your spending authority, it looks like you are asking for an increase in your budget. In the current budget, for example, we'll probably have a little less than \$2 million in outside money to spend, so a \$3 million budget request looks like we're asking for a more than 50% increase in that budget line. But that line in the budget is really just wishful thinking - if we were to get \$3 million from somewhere, it'd be nice to be allowed to spend it.

There's more about OPLIN in the state budget than just numbers. If you look at House Bill 119, you'll actually see a lot of text about OPLIN. That's because OPLIN is actually defined right there in the state budget language, which is an unusual situation. The budget specifies what OPLIN is, what the OPLIN Board does, who may serve on the OPLIN Board, and even mandates that OPLIN, OhioLink, and INFOhio coordinate their purchases of electronic resources.

One part of the OPLIN budget language has a direct effect on all public libraries. The bill states that "libraries with OPLIN computer

### On a Personnel Note

**Karl Jendretzky** recently moved his chair from the OPLIN Support Center to the Technology Project Manager's office (a distance of about 20 feet).

Karl has been at OPLIN for over a year, and his new job duties will include general network forecasting and planning, maintaining the office servers, acting as a network vendor liaison, and handling any general coding/programming/application needs that crop up from time to time.

We refuse to go easy on Karl. Some of the projects on his plate right away include the SOCC/OPLIN office network reconfiguration and continuing server migration (see "Mirror, Mirror on the Server" on page 3), as well as the impending move to Ethernet connections by libraries throughout the state.

Congratulations, Karl. **Now get to work!**



### *Running the Numbers (from page 1)*

terminals shall adopt policies that control access to obscene and illegal materials.” In order to prove that libraries have met this requirement, OPLIN keeps a copy of each local library’s current Internet access policy in case the public or legislators ask to see it. That’s much better than having legislators contact libraries directly to ask about their policies.

One other small part of the OPLIN budget language is a holdover from the last budget. Each year, \$100,000 of OPLIN’s funding is earmarked to “help local libraries purchase or maintain filters to screen out obscene and illegal Internet materials.” This time, the language does remove the requirement that 50% of the money be spent for the purchase of filters. So once the budget has been passed, OPLIN will be announcing another, slightly different round of grants to public libraries to support Internet filtering.

## Database Preview Period: A New Deal

In recent years, OPLIN has offered libraries the opportunity to subscribe to electronic databases through group contracts administered by the State Library. Typically, OPLIN has announced a spring “Database Preview” period, during which public libraries could test the various products being offered under a group contract. This gave libraries an opportunity to purchase databases above and beyond the ones that OPLIN provides at no charge.

The last two years, the database preview has been conducted in partnership with OHIONET. This year we wanted to simplify things. OPLIN will continue to supply a core number of databases to all public libraries at no charge (you can see the current list at [www.ohioweblibrary.org/contents.htm](http://www.ohioweblibrary.org/contents.htm)), but libraries that want to preview and obtain additional databases, either individually or

under a group contract, can work directly with OHIONET. All of these databases - whether provided free through OPLIN or purchased separately through OHIONET - will be supported by OPLIN. So libraries will get some databases free through OPLIN, can buy more through OHIONET, and can call the OPLIN Support Center if they have problems with any of them. We think this arrangement will be simpler and more efficient for everybody.

OHIONET’s spring database trial for libraries is running from **April 1st to May 15th**. Participation is open to all Ohio libraries - your library does not have to be an OHIONET member to participate.

Look for more information under the **Reference Databases** section of the OHIONET website ([www.ohionet.org](http://www.ohionet.org)).

## Times Change, Logos Change

You may have noticed that OPLIN has a new logo. Actually, two new logos.

Now, before you get all misty-eyed and mourn the loss of the original OPLIN logo (dating to our inception back in 1995), we invite you to take one last, close-up look.

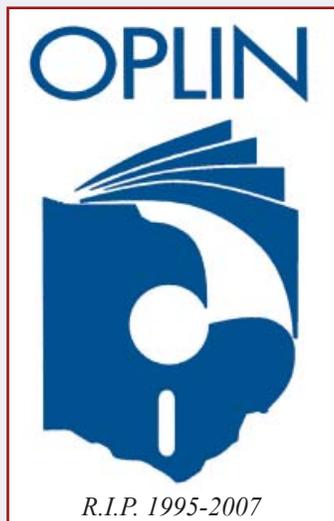
What’s that thing in the center? Yep, it’s a 5 1/4” floppy disk. As an organization that

strives to be at the technological forefront, you can understand where we were coming from when we felt that a logo change was long overdue.

To be fair, the old logo served us well. In fact, when talk surfaced in early 2006 (more like “resurfaced” - it had become something of a yearly ritual) about giving the old logo the heave-ho, one line of argument held that the it was so out-of-date, it had actually become “cool-in-a-retro-kind-of-way.” Alas, the purists relented, and the future prevailed.

The new logos have already been popping up on OPLIN websites and such, but it may take awhile before we expunge every last appearance of the old one. Our hope is that the “power button O” doesn’t go the way of the giant floppy disk anytime soon.

In addition to the usual “OPLIN blue,” the color scheme now includes red, which we hope all Ohioans will appreciate.





# OPLIN News Potpourri

## E-rate: Audited!

In early February, OPLIN underwent a full-scale E-rate audit for the service year that ran from July 2004 through June 2005.

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) - the company that oversees the E-rate program for the FCC - contracted with the KPMG accounting firm to do about 150 such audits around the country this past winter.

KPMG made one minor finding concerning small errors in OPLIN's reimbursement requests that year, which may eventually result in sending a few thousand dollars back to USAC. Considering the complexity of our E-rate applications and the large discounts we receive, we are pleased that this is the only monetary problem the auditors found.

## webMAIL Updates

In addition to a new login graphic, every OPLIN webMAIL user is now sporting a "quota usage" bar graph, which resides directly above your list of mail folders. The new graph illustrates how much storage space your account is using on the server.

The OPLIN Support Center also continues to update the OPLIN webMAIL spam filtering engine. The process of "training" the spam filtering engine is ongoing, but it appears to be improving all the time. You can find out how to set up spam filters for OPLIN webMail or for several popular e-mail clients at [www.oplin.org/spam](http://www.oplin.org/spam).

## Router Power!

Please do not unplug or power off your OPLIN router unless the OPLIN Support Center or the Network Operation Center asks you to, even if you think there may be a router issue. OPLIN needs the router logs

for troubleshooting purposes - and when the router loses power, we lose the logs.

If your library is planning to do maintenance in the OPLIN equipment area and needs to temporarily cut power to the router for any reason, please notify the OPLIN Support Center at least 24 hours in advance.

## Mirror, Mirror on the Server

For several months, OPLIN has been working on some infrastructure changes related to our servers. Previously, some of our servers were located at the State of Ohio Computer Center while other less critical servers were located at the OPLIN office.

We've replaced most of the old servers with new high-density ones running virtual machines, which has allowed us to place "copies" of all the servers at both locations.

This, combined with a high-capacity Ethernet connection between the two locations, will give us the level of server redundancy and reliability we will need to begin offering web hosting services to libraries. If a server at one location fails, its duties should be seamlessly picked up by its "mirror" server at the other location.

## Bye Bye, Diagnostic Lines

OPLIN recently decided to disconnect the diagnostic lines used to support the OPLIN-provided site routers at each public library. The diagnostic lines had previously been used to remotely troubleshoot router issues. However, the cost to maintain these lines continues to increase as their usefulness decreases.

Moving forward, if there are any problems with your OPLIN-provided site router, an OPLIN employee or OIT engineer will be dispatched to the library site, and any issues will be handled in a timely manner.

OPLIN has already begun to gradually disconnect these lines as we receive their individual bills. It may take several months to complete the project. In the meantime, we recommend that each library removes the modem and associated cables, so that they aren't confused with other working equipment.

Your library is welcome to use these items in other capacities or to simply dispose of them. OPLIN does not need this equipment to be returned, so go ahead and have at it!

## Out & About on the Circuit

**OPLIN Board Retreat**  
Friday, April 13  
eTech Ohio Commission Offices

**OLC Legislative Day**  
Wednesday, April 18  
Hyatt on Capital Square, Columbus

**OLC Chapter Conference (SW)**  
Friday, April 20  
Dayton Marriott

**OLC Chapter Conference (C)**  
Friday, April 27  
Fawcett Center, Columbus

**ALA Legislative Day**  
May 1 & 2  
Washington, D.C.

**Library Partnership Summit**  
Monday, May 21  
Fawcett Center, Columbus

**OPLIN Board Meeting**  
Friday, June 8  
State Library of Ohio



# OPLIN DATABASE NEWS

## AccessScience

In September, AccessScience plans to unveil a fresh new look for their website, as well as many new features. Based on user input and professional evaluation of the current site, AccessScience plans to include the following functional enhancements:

- Search results that go beyond article listings to showcase every item available on the topic in a customized results page.
- Dynamic links to updates, headline news, animations, video, and image galleries that will appear alongside encyclopedia articles.
- The ability to save customized search results.
- Open URL capability.

## Encyclopædia Britannica

The **Britannica Learning Zone** is an all new, interactive PreK-2 learning environment that is now included as part of *Britannica Online School Edition*.

This classroom-tested online resource is designed specifically for young learners. Students will find engaging and developmentally-appropriate activities including an interactive atlas, learning games, engaging audio and video, and effective vocabulary builders. The *Britannica Learning Zone* teaches concepts such as geography, time, shapes, numbers, and reinforces relevant vocabulary, all in a fun and safe online environment. There is also an area where students can demonstrate their creativity and practice what they've learned. The *Britannica Learning Zone* will continue to add more content and features on a regular basis.

Students can begin benefiting from this unique resource today by visiting [www.school.eb.com/learningzone](http://www.school.eb.com/learningzone) or by clicking on the learning zone icon on *Britannica Online School Edition* ([www.school.eb.com](http://www.school.eb.com)).

## HeritageQuest

If your library subscribes to *HeritageQuest* and would like to automatically receive usage stats every month, detailed instructions are now available on how to set it up.

On the OPLIN website, simply follow the links from **About OPLIN > Research Database Information > Statistics** for a PDF document with step-by-step instructions.

## NetWellness

*NetWellness* has been busy making improvements to the design of their website and "What's New on NetWellness" monthly newsletter.

In recent months, *NetWellness* has spotlighted **Cervical Health, Eating Disorders, and Colon Cancer**. The *NetWellness* website has also added the **Women's Health Health Center**, and the new HealthTopics of **Lung Cancer** and **Pain Management**.

## NewsBank

A new Special Report focusing on the **2008 Presidential Campaign** is now available from NewsBank. The current focus is on proposed or declared candidates. There is a section for each person, with articles and a link to their official website. In addition, articles on the two major parties and coverage of the campaign in Spanish are also included.

Information on presidential qualifications, power and election process are available along with coverage of several previous presidential elections to provide needed background to help understand the 2008 campaign.

The Report also contains pictures, related maps, and links to other websites of interest on this topic. Suggested search terms to help locate additional information in your *NewsBank* products are listed to encourage further research. All articles are easily accessed and can be printed or e-mailed from within the Report.

These Special Reports are accessible from the left side bar at [www.oplin.org/newsbank](http://www.oplin.org/newsbank) along with the *America's/Ohio Newspapers* and *America's News Magazines* products. Additional Reports include Women's History, World Health, Iraq, World Environment, and more.

## OHIOLINK Digital Media Center

OhioLINK's Digital Media Center was recently redesigned in order to better showcase the wide range of resources housed there, and to give the entire site a fresh, updated look.

Visitors to **The ART Collection, Literature Online, and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps** databases (provided by Libraries Connect Ohio as part of the Ohio Web Library) will notice the DMC's new, cleaner interface.