



The OPLIN CIRCUIT

News for Ohio Public Library Staff & Management

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A New Face for Reliable Information

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Take a look—OPLIN has had a facelift! This inaugural issue of *The OPLIN Circuit* reflects our changing look and feel. Our goals for the newsletter remain the same—keeping the Ohio public library community informed about issues that impact the OPLIN network, and dispensing useful information that aids us and the libraries in our joint mission—making sure that all Ohio residents have unhindered access to the information they need.

Our new website (<http://new.oplin.org>) is up and running in cyberspace, and is ready for review by libraries. Our goals for changing the website were to save costs by migrating our resources to an open-source based system that our Support Center staff can manage, to save costs by eliminating the use of numerous contributing editors, and to refocus our sights on the heart of OPLIN's information services—Ohio and subscription database content. At the same time, we hope we've made the site easier to use.

You will notice changes in more than just the look. We no longer have the deep directory of web links, and most of the previous topic areas are gone. Also, some specific items have been lifted to prominent placement on the top page, and all of these are Ohio-centric: **OH! Kids, OH! Teens, OH! Teach, What Tree Is It?, What's the Point?, and What's That Snake?** are now all top-level menu choices.

Select **Research Databases** and you'll find **OPLIN OneSearch**. WebFeat integrated with the website enables us to present a Google-like interface to patrons for easy access to multiple databases and/or Ohio content in a single search. Try it! We hope you're as excited about it as we are. For those who prefer searching databases individually (and for librarians with advanced searching skills) we continue to list the databases alphabetically, and provide help and quick-start information for each one.

You can begin changing your links to OPLIN if you wish. <http://new.oplin.org> will be retained as a URL, so if you link to it now, you won't have to redo your links later. In June, both www.oplin.org and www.oplin.lib.oh.us will begin forwarding to new.oplin.org and access to the old website will disappear (let us all take a moment of silence...) If you do nothing, links to those URLs will begin forwarding in June. If however, you link to sub-pages or parts of the old OPLIN site, you will have to update your links (*see page 4*).

Take a look at OPLIN OneSearch. Enjoy

The New OPLIN Support Center: Part Three

Vincent Riley was born in Newark, Ohio and grew up in Reynoldsburg. His daughter Heather, who he raises as a single parent, attends Columbus State Community College. Although Vince has traveled as far west as California, and as far east as Egypt, Italy, and the Persian Gulf, he still likes Ohio best. His favorite places to go are Cedar Point, the Hocking Hills, and of course... the library.

Vince started working with computers back in 1978 on a TRS-80 Model 1. He later attended Eastland Vocational School

where he learned structured computer programming. In 1982, he joined the Navy and worked on hardware for six years, specializing in Data Communications and Crypto. He then worked for CompuServe (later purchased by WorldCom) in their Network Control Center, first as a Technician, and later as a Network Technical Coordinator. As WorldCom began its downfall, Vince (like many others) was invited to explore new opportunities elsewhere. Eventually, he found OPLIN. To paraphrase Dorothy: "*There's no place like OPLIN*". Or translated for the techies: "*There's no place like 127.0.0.1.*"



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our new format. And watch for more—a **Trainer's' Portal** and **OPLIN Self-Serve** replacing **For Librarians** will follow in July and August. We may look different, but our mission remains the same!

Cleaning Up the ODURT

The OPLIN Database Usage Reporting Tool (ODURT) recently developed some problems. Fortunately, the new version is ready for libraries to use.

We are still testing and tweaking the new ODURT, but libraries are welcome to visit and get their database usage statistics. The address is <http://new.oplin.org/odurt>. No password is required.

Some Notes:

- ODURT now contains **EBSCOhost** stats. These numbers include **NoveList** usage. If your library subscribes to additional resources from EBSCO (such as **Books In Print** or **Auto Repair Reference Center**), that usage may also be reported here. OPLIN will only be reporting totals; you can still use the **EBSCO Admin** tool to access more detailed numbers.
- We are working with all vendors to get stats reported to us in a format we can use. By the end of the year, we hope to be reporting *Britannica*, *AccessScience*, *Oxford Reference*, and *AMICO Library* usage through ODURT.
- **Literature On-Line** usage is not being properly credited to particular libraries. There are stats for this resource in ODURT, but they are not reliable.

If you have problems with the ODURT utility, please contact Don Yarman at yarmando@oplin.org.

Information You Can Use! About the New OPLIN OneSearch

Where did all these databases come from?

Probably the most dramatic change to the OPLIN website is the **Research Databases** page. It looks like we added dozens of additional resources. In fact, these are databases we've had all year—we just changed how we present them.

The reason is **WebFeat**, a service that lets you search multiple online databases from a single search box. WebFeat not only erases the lines between databases, it allows us to draw new lines within them. For example, we can include **just the medical references** in *AccessScience* or *Oxford Reference Online* in a search that also includes the medical resources from *EBSCOhost*.

We think that WebFeat is the best way to improve patron access to the wonderful

content that libraries make available to them. And since WebFeat is such a major part of the new OPLIN site design, we expect to be talking about it a lot in future issues of this newsletter.

But now "All EBSCOhost Databases" is gone! How do I get to it?

The link to "All EBSCOhost Databases" was usually just a gateway to **MasterFILE Premier**, the foundation of our resources from EBSCO. *MasterFILE* is included in many of the subject-specific searches of WebFeat, including the default "Basic Search." If you really miss the old "All EBSCOhost Databases" screen, you can find it at <http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?profile=ehost>. But we encourage you to give WebFeat a try.

OH! Teens... Oh, No!

When OPLIN began the project of migrating, scaling back, and redesigning web services, our plan was to completely overhaul the **OH! Teens** area of the site, giving it its own look-and-feel, much like **OH! Kids**. But as time grew short, it became clear that OH! Teens needed more attention than we had originally planned.

Rather than hold up the debut of the rest of OPLIN's new site, we decided to go forward with a preliminary redesign of the OH! Teens

area inspired by a Gameboy videogame controller, and to be perfectly honest, nobody on the OWUG (OPLIN Web Users Group) was entirely satisfied with how it turned out.

Hopefully, another OH! Teens overhaul - with the assistance and input of *actual teenagers* - will happen sometime before today's teenagers become 20-somethings. Of

course by then, who knows? This 2004 look may be the coolest thing imaginable!



OH! Teens has a new look... for now.



Support Center Tips

The OPLIN Support Center receives a lot of repetitive questions from the library community, and similar issues seem to arise at multiple libraries from time to time. Here are a few recent issues that have come up repeatedly:

- **Know Thine FSCS Number:** The seasons may pass, taxes may rise, and the world may come to an end as we know it - but even if your library moves locations or changes its name, your FSCS number is your library's unique identifier, and **it will never, ever change.** So know it, live it, love it. And have it ready when you contact the OPLIN Support Center! (You can find your FSCS at the State Library's website: <http://winslo.state.oh.us/publib/stats.html>.)
- **Levels of Service:** What does OPLIN pay for? How much do I pay? Who pays for a site move? What are the current

prices? All of these questions can be found in OPLIN's *Connectivity Services to Ohio's Public Libraries* document, found in **For Librarians**.

- **Submitted a form lately?:** OPLIN has been experiencing technical problems with the old (current) **For Librarians** area as we migrate it to our new servers. If you have recently submitted a form for circuit, e-mail, or other OPLIN services, and have not heard back from us, please contact the OPLIN Support Center (support@oplin.org) right away. It's possible that we did not receive your request.

In the meantime, we are in the process of transferring all of the webforms from the current For Librarians area to our new web servers at <http://new.oplin.org/librarians>. By the time you read this, the new area will likely be up and running.

Watch for the Annual Survey

As we do every year, we will once again ask all Ohio public libraries to participate in OPLIN's annual survey of public access. The dual purposes of the survey are:

- To report the results to the legislature and other government entities that help make critical funding decisions.
- To track the size and progress of the network, in order to facilitate planning.

Because it is crucial to our operations, *OPLIN needs a 100% response rate.* The survey can be found as a webform on the OPLIN website at <http://new.oplin.org/librarians/surveys/2004Survey.htm>.

The survey should be completed entirely by each public library and regional library system and returned by **Friday, May 14, 2004**. This year, as in previous years, we will be following up with phone calls to libraries that do not respond, in order to ensure 100% participation.

Please alert the appropriate person in your organization who can provide the data we need. And thank you in advance for your assistance.

Find a Library. In Fact, Find Your Library.

The new OPLIN website depends heavily on our database of library information. This is most apparent in the **Find a Library** (<http://new.oplin.org/fal>) area. Please visit Find a Library and review the information that OPLIN is presenting about you.

We should have the correct address and phone number (including fax number) for every library and its branches. We should also be listing the address of your website and online catalog, and an e-mail address for patrons to contact you. If corrections are needed to your Find a Library entry, please send them to the **OPLIN Support Center** at support@oplin.org.



The OPLIN Find a Library tool is now faster than ever. You can find it at <http://new.oplin.org/fal>.



New Website, New Links

Unfortunately, with the advent of a new website, any and all direct hyperlinks that your library may have to OPLIN's resources will have to be updated. Below is a list of some of the most commonly linked-to areas of the OPLIN site, and their new URLs:

OPLIN homepage

<http://new.oplin.org>

(Note: within a few weeks, www.oplin.org and www.oplin.lib.oh.us will also point to the new website, but this URL will continue to work.)

Discover Ohio

<http://new.oplin.org/discoverohio>

Find an Ohio Public Library tool

<http://new.oplin.org/fal>

Research Databases (OneSearch)

<http://new.oplin.org/databases>

For Librarians

<http://new.oplin.org/librarians>

ODURT

<http://new.oplin.org/odurt>

What Tree Is It?

<http://new.oplin.org/tree>

What's That Snake?

<http://new.oplin.org/snake>

What's the Point?

<http://new.oplin.org/point>

OH! Kids

<http://new.oplin.org/ohkids>

OH! Teens

<http://new.oplin.org/oh teens>

OH! Teach

<http://new.oplin.org/oh teach>

Ohioana Library

<http://new.oplin.org/ohioana>

And if you want to make direct links to any of OPLIN's **research databases**, please use <http://new.oplin.org> followed by these URLs:

AccessScience

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-57](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-57)

All EBSCOhost Databases

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-22450](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-22450)

Annals of American History Online

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-74](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-74)

Art & Architecture Database

[/databases/artstart.htm](http://new.oplin.org/databases/artstart.htm)

Biographies Plus Illustrated

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-66](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-66)

Discoverer

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-43](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-43)

eLibrary

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-60](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-60)

Enciclopedia Universal en Español

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-56](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-56)

Encyclopædia Britannica Online

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-63](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-63)

Literature On-Line

[/databases/litstart.htm](http://new.oplin.org/databases/litstart.htm)

netLibrary

<http://www.netlibrary.com>

(Note: do NOT use new.oplin.org)

NetWellness 2000

<http://www.netwellness.org>

(Note: do NOT use new.oplin.org)

NewsBank

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-49](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-49)

NoveList

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-61](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-61)

Ohio Capitol Connection

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-44](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-44)

Oxford Reference Online

[/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-59](http://new.oplin.org/controller.php?l=ra&Id=67-59)

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

[/databases/mapstart.htm](http://new.oplin.org/databases/mapstart.htm)

Questions? Contact the OPLIN Support Center at support@oplin.org.

Out & About on the Circuit

There are still opportunities to catch Don Yarman's presentation "Art! Literature! Science!: The Latest Databases from OPLIN" at an **OLC Chapter Conference**.

- Northwest Chapter, Friday, April 16, Toledo Hilton/Dana Conference Center, Toledo.
- Central Chapter, Thursday, April 22, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Columbus.
- Southeast Chapter, Thursday, April 29, Holiday Inn, Zanesville.

Register online at

http://www.olec.org/chap_confs.asp.

You can also chat with the OPLIN staff and get training materials at the **OLC Trade Show**, Friday, May 21. See <http://www.olec.org/Tradeshaw2004Attendees.asp> for more information.

OPLIN staff will also be at **Tech Connections 5**, June 7-8, at the Fawcett Center in Columbus. Carol Roddy and Don Yarman will be presenting "New @ OPLIN: WebFeat, Self-Service, & Right Answers." More information is at <http://www.rls.lib.oh.us/tc5/>.

OPLIN is sponsoring the OLC IT Division's Security Boot Camp in August. A representative from CERT will present an intensive, day-long seminar on computer security incident response. Space is limited, so register early at <http://www.olec.org/WorkshopDescription.asp?ID=250>.



OPLIN Database News

AccessScience

An **animated introduction** to *AccessScience* is now available; just click on the "Tutorial" link near the top of the home page to start it in a new browser window. (*The free Flash™ Player is required.*) After a brief welcome message, the user has the option to view the entire tutorial or to select from a menu of brief segments describing the features of *AccessScience*, such as topics covered, Encyclopedia articles, the Dictionary, Search, or Biographies. A user guide is also available providing more details about these features. The accompanying sound track can be turned off, if necessary, using the "Audio off" button.

Biographies Plus Illustrated

Wilson recently added the complete content of its title "Leaders of the Information Age" to *Biographies Plus Illustrated*. In Spring 2004, entries from the "Concise Dictionary of National Biography" by Oxford University Press and from the Congressional Directory will be added. For a complete source list, please visit: www.hwwilson.com/databases/wilsbios.htm.

Encyclopædia Britannica

There is a new feature called "**Britannica Highlights**" in the right column of the *Britannica Online School Edition* homepage. You will find interesting Britannica articles here each week.

There are also some major improvements to Britannica's search results. The ***Britannica Elementary Encyclopedia*** now appears at the top of the search results, in the third column, making it easier for young students to find elementary-level articles. The ***Britannica Internet Guide***, magazine article links, and video clips are now in the fourth column.

Also on the search results, you will see a "count" at the top of each column, indicating the number of articles found.

Enciclopedia Universal en Español

There are also new training materials on Britannica's *Enciclopedia Universal en Español* easily available online - a training handout (in English) that you can print out directly from their website.

Go to the *Enciclopedia* home page and click "Ayuda" in the header; this takes you to the **Help** page. Click the link on the

Help page that says "Guided Tour"; this opens three-page training handout (in PDF format) that can be printed out and given to bilingual and ESL teachers or other *Enciclopedia Universal en Español* users.

NoveList

NoveList recently released the ***Book Index with Reviews (BIR)***. This resource gives library staff a powerful new tool to use to engage their most important users - book readers. With BIR, readers and librarians will experience an intuitive, user-friendly interface that delivers impressive, flexible searching power, allowing them to mine the rich content of more than 800,000 fully searchable, full text reviews, as well as information on nearly four million book titles.

Using a unique four-star system, based on input from thousands of libraries and retail outlets, *Book Index with Reviews* provides users with the means to distinguish popular, high-demand titles. No longer will readers be stymied by a long list of books with no way to determine which ones they really want. For example, if a patron who has just learned he or she has diabetes comes into the library, staff can use BIR to help the reader choose the highest quality resources available.

Ohio History

The Summer-Autumn 2003 issue of *Ohio History* is now available for online viewing and downloading (click on "Current Issue" to see the Summer-Autumn 2003 Table of Contents). *Ohio History* is the scholarly publication of the Ohio Historical Society. If you have any questions about the journal, please contact Patricia Walsh, Publications Production Editor, at pwalsh@ohiohistory.org, or call (614) 297-2364.

Oxford Reference Online

A recent update to Oxford Reference gives it improved search functionality. A **Widen Search** option on the search results page means users can broaden a search to the next search level with one click of a button (there are four levels of search).

Quick Search will automatically default to the next level of search whenever no results are found. So, for example, a search for 'Millennium' will default to a 'pattern search' and find results for 'Millennium'.

PLEASE NOTE: OPLIN will distribute **PDF Quickstart guides** for many of our databases at the **OLC Trade Show** in May!