



The OPLIN CIRCUIT

News for Ohio Public Library Staff & Management

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A Farewell to Don

OPLIN is currently down one Don.

In late September, Don Nuss accepted a position as the Assistant Director of Information and Educational Technologies with the Dayton Public Schools, and returned to his roots in western Ohio.

Don had served as OPLIN's Technology Manager since March 2000, and was a guiding force in many of the improvements made to OPLIN's network, support services, e-mail, and website. In parting, Don noted that he was "proud to have been part of the OPLIN network and the library community as a whole."

Although he'll be missed, there is one bright side - now we'll know which Don you want to talk to when you call the OPLIN office.

Stakeholders Summarized

This year's OPLIN Stakeholders Meeting (held on September 15th) looked very different from previous versions. For one, it took place in conjunction with the OLC Expo in the Lausche Building near the State Fairgrounds. For another, it was only an hour long. But that hour was crammed with a lot of information. For those who missed it, here's a sampling of what was presented.

The meeting began with a review of the newly-available OPLIN Annual Report (www.oplin.org/oplin/pdf/2006AnnualReport.pdf). This year's report highlights the tenth anniversary of the dedication of OPLIN, with screenshots of the early versions of the OPLIN website. What's not in the report is the news that OPLIN has started the process of developing a new logo, replacing the current logo that seems to feature "retro" technology. (How many of the youngest staff members recognize the 5 1/4-inch floppy disk in our logo?)

Another change that's only briefly mentioned in the Annual Report, but that received more discussion at Stakeholders, is the process of moving the OPLIN infrastructure away from copper-based T1 circuits, by replacing them with fiber-optic circuits. This process started quietly with a pilot project involving the Central Library Consortium, the Westerville Public Library, and the Worthington Libraries. We've learned a lot from this pilot project, and are very pleased with the increased speed and efficiency of these new fiber-optic circuits. Look for more fiber-optics in the network in months to come.

We're also looking at more changes to the OPLIN databases. OLC's Reference and Information Services Division has been involved in helping us collect data about how librarians use online information and how

they think the public uses online information. This data will be used to inform a task force of librarians representing OPLIN, OhioLINK, and INFOhio that will start work next month on refining our collection of electronic information.

What else is in the future? Perhaps web hosting. The OPLIN Board is seriously considering adding a new goal, namely "Assisting public libraries with the implementation of World Wide Web technologies." The Board is quite aware that embracing new web technologies is very important for public libraries, and would like OPLIN to help. What form that help will take is still uncertain, but web hosting and developing website templates are two possibilities currently under discussion.

After the meeting, which took place first thing in the morning, the OPLIN staff manned a booth at the Expo, giving us the opportunity to visit with many of you and follow-up on issues raised earlier. All in all, we were pleased with the format of this year's Stakeholders Meeting, and we'll keep this experience in mind as we plan next year's event. Hope to see you there!

Internet Filter Assistance Grants

For the second consecutive year, OPLIN will be distributing up to \$100,000 for filtering assistance to public libraries. Any Ohio public library system that wishes to install filters to screen out obscene or illegal Internet materials on any of its public access computers is encouraged to apply for funds.

The deadline for applications is **October 12**. Details are available at www.oplin.org/filters.



Introducing the OPLIN 4cast Podcast

In April, OPLIN began publishing a weekly compilation of headlines, topics, and trends that could impact public libraries. This new service is called *The OPLIN 4cast* (www.oplin.org/4cast) and is also available as an RSS feed.

In addition to the weekly news round-up, we've also started a bi-weekly podcast, in which we delve deeper into a single topic or issue involving public libraries. Some of the early podcasts have focused on the Digital



Millennium Copyright Act, Next Generation OPAC, Census Mashups, and YouTube, while the most recent one examines the confusing relationship between the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and E-Rate.

You can listen to the *OPLIN 4cast Podcast* at the 4cast website, or you can subscribe to it directly via iTunes or any RSS reader by subscribing to the following URL:

http://www.oplin.org/4cast/?feed=rss2&category_name=4pod.

Out, Out, Darn Spam!

As a state agency, OPLIN is not legally allowed to filter OPLIN e-mail accounts for spam, only for viruses.

Cancelling an existing OPLIN e-mail account and signing up for a new one will not stop the spam, it will only delay it. Once an e-mail address is used or published online, spammers will grab it one way or another, so the best thing you can do is to set up filters on your local machine.

The OPLIN Support Center has developed a series of "how to" guides for setting up local e-mail filters for OPLIN webMAIL users. These are illustrated, step-by-step guides to setting up e-mail filters in OPLIN webMAIL as well as Eudora 7, Mozilla ThunderBird, and Outlook. They can be found in the **About OPLIN > FAQ || OPLIN E-Mail Accounts** area of the OPLIN website (the direct link is www.oplin.org/page.php?Id=62-67-338-1279).

While there's pretty much nothing that can block 100% of the spam, these filters block a majority of it. Please share these guides with your staff and call the OPLIN Support Center if you have any questions.

Odds & Ends

E-Rate News

OPLIN recently worked with OLC to review the language of OLC's FAQ on CIPA-compliance, and made some changes to the language about libraries filtering staff computers. See www.olc.org/pdf/OLCCIPAFAs.pdf.

Also, in light of a recent FCC ruling, OPLIN has decided to appeal the rejection of our E-Rate application for Funding Year 2005. We believe there's a good chance we may yet qualify for over \$1 million we were originally denied, due to a clerical error.

OneSearch Fixes

We recently made some small repairs to the OneSearch database search box on the home page of our website. The new version

fixes a previous authentication problem, and the advanced search options are now more focused. Instructions for hosting the OPLIN OneSearch box on your library's website can be found at www.oplin.org/controller.php?l=category&Id=62-8-325-1285.

Antivirus Renewals

Last year, OPLIN began negotiating with various vendors for public library discounts on leading security software. For those libraries that took advantage then, it may be time to renew your licenses.

Trend Micro has already provided a list of updated discount prices, and the other vendors may follow in the coming months at www.oplin.org/security.

Remember - don't just renew your licenses by clicking the prompt provided by the program. This will take you directly to the company website and charge you the standard amount. Call the vendors directly to see if you can get the OPLIN-discounted pricing.

OPLIN Board News

The OPLIN Board is continuing work on new tactical objectives, and has expanded the work to include a review of the OPLIN mission and goals, as well as activities toward achieving the objectives, so the finished product will serve as a strategic plan.

The Board is also making some minor revisions to its bylaws for the first time since 1995; the revised bylaws will be filed with the Legislative Services Commission and the Secretary of State.

The OPLIN Board officers for 2006-07 are: Donna Perdsock, Chair; Gayle Patton, Vice-Chair; Sandi Thompson, Secretary; and Anne Hinton, Treasurer.



Free \$\$\$ for Your Library Zippy Access

That special time of the year is fast approaching... E-Rate season! For those of you who dread the work that goes into it, keep in mind that sure, there's some paperwork involved, but the potential return on that paperwork is well worth the time and effort.

OPLIN files for E-Rate on all of the lines it provides to libraries, but your library can also receive some of this money on its own. You can apply for E-Rate discounts on most of your telecom expenses, including fax lines, cell phones, and pagers, as well as standard and long-distance charges on your business phones.

Libraries large and small have received some significant returns on the investment of a couple of hours of E-Rate paperwork. Two recent examples include:

- Mercer County Public Library in Celina. This medium-sized library in northwest Ohio (with three small branches) received \$22,890 this year in E-Rate money.
- Bluffton Public Library received \$1,545.60. A smaller library, Director Sheryl Schirmer noted that they're using the money to purchase PC-reservation software that also does print management.

Keep in mind that when your library receives an E-Rate refund, that money doesn't necessarily have to go back into the telecom budget. You can use it for anything - books, building projects, computer upgrades, Ellison dyes, storytime puppets, etc.

Still not convinced that you should apply? Consider the very small **Ada Public Library**, which has received almost \$5,000 in the past three years. Director Michel Limer noted that, "The first year was a pain, but now it's pretty much cut-and-paste." They put their money back into their telecom budget, which frees up funds elsewhere.

About 45% of all Ohio public libraries

applied for E-Rate this year, and all of them received refunds. OPLIN would like to see 100% of Ohio public libraries go through the process and get money back. If you're one of the libraries that haven't done it yet - why not give it a try? You have nothing to lose but free money.

If you have any questions about the E-Rate process, please call the OPLIN Support Center at 1-888-966-7546. We may not have all of the answers, but we can certainly assist you in finding what you need.

Training is also available around the state:

First E-Rate Workshop:

- Nov. 6 Twinsburg Public Library
- Nov. 7 SEO Annex
- Nov. 8 Southern State Community College
- Nov. 14 NORWELD
- Nov. 15 SWON
- Nov. 17 North Canton Public Library
- Nov. 20 OHIONET
- Nov. 29 SERLS

Second E-Rate Workshop:

- Jan. 4 Clark County Public Library
- Jan. 9 OHIONET
- Jan. 10 Southern State Community College
- Jan. 11 SEO Annex
- Jan. 12 Twinsburg Public Library
- Jan. 16 NORWELD
- Jan. 17 SERLS
- Jan. 18 North Canton Public Library

You can register online for these workshops at <http://winslo.state.oh.us/cregister>.

Letters of Agency/479

This year, OPLIN will be debuting a new, web-based interface for libraries to complete their required E-Rate Letters of Agency/ Form 479s online. All libraries will need to do is print out their form, sign it, and mail it to OPLIN. See? It gets easier every year!

And just for the record, OPLIN will receive **\$1.1 million** this year in E-Rate refunds!

A new, easier way for home users to access OPLIN databases was recently unveiled. Using IP address geolocation, we can now recognize when a user's IP address is coming from Ohio, in which case we ask them to enter their zip code, rather than their library card number. If the IP address does not originate in Ohio, the standard "Enter your library card number" screen appears.

Currently we can recognize about 90% of the IP addresses within Ohio. The zip code information is only being used for statistics, but as we improve the system, we may eventually be able to associate zip codes with individual libraries and tailor the database authentication accordingly.

Libraries will soon be able to view session stats, which will show how many times users visited the databases from particular zip codes. This new method will only affect statewide database subscriptions and OPLIN's authentication scripts. If your library uses OPLIN authentication to provide remote access to additional databases beyond the statewide collection (for example, *HeritageQuest* or *eLibrary*), users will be asked for a library card number.

If you lose access to subscriptions or notice odd behavior, please contact OPLIN ASAP.

Out & About on the Circuit

OPLIN Board Meeting
October 13, 10am-1pm
State Library of Ohio

32nd Annual ALAO Conference
November 3
Crowne Plaza Quaker Square, Akron

OPLIN Board Meeting
December 8, 10am-1pm
State Library of Ohio



Ten Years of Databases

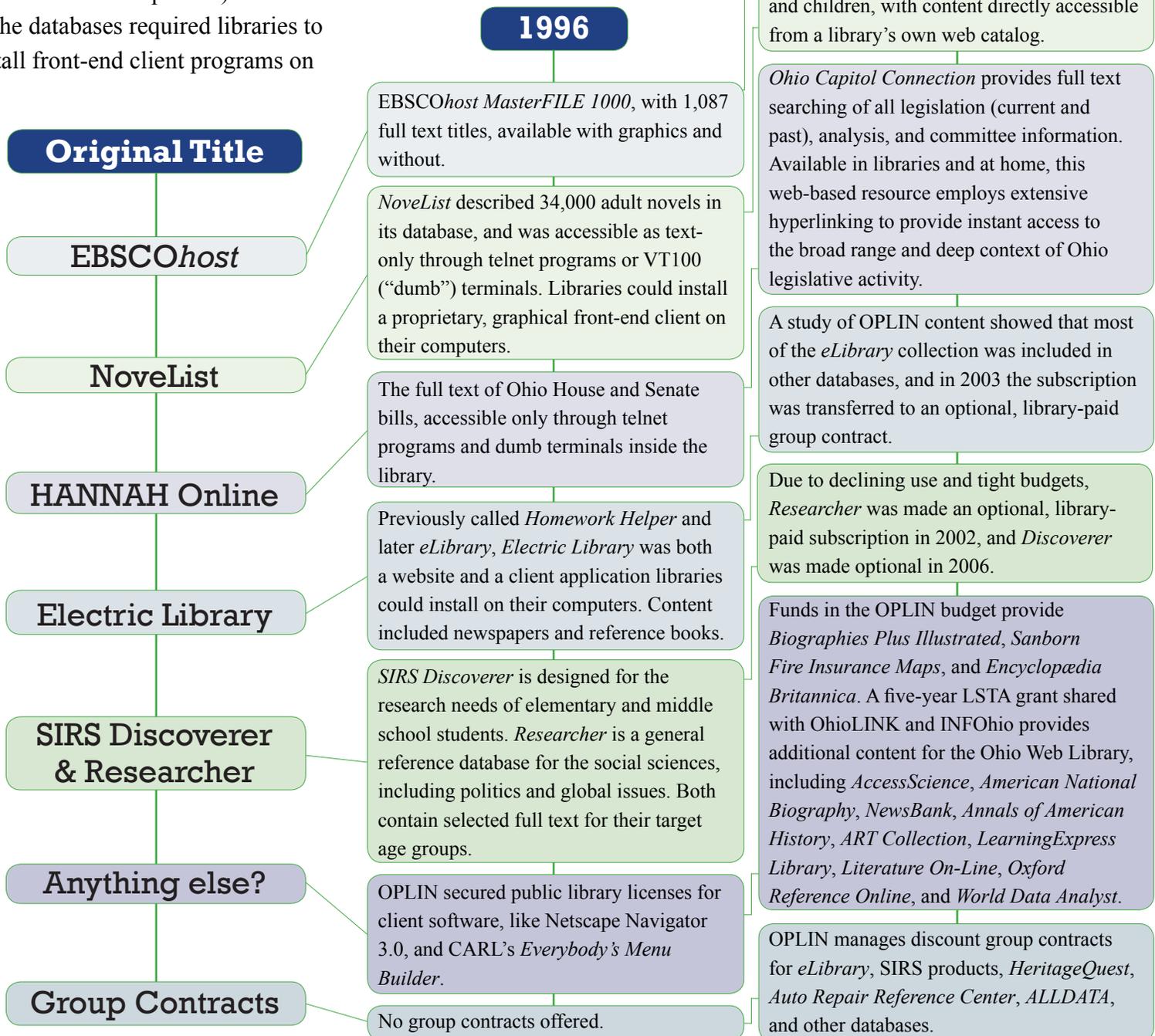
2006

When OPLIN debuted in 1996, it provided Ohio libraries with six subscription databases. Some of these databases were text-only, accessible through VT100 terminals (so called “dumb terminals”) or Telnet programs, but most could be reached through a web browser (Netscape 2.02 or a new browser called “Internet Explorer”). A few of the databases required libraries to install front-end client programs on

their computers. There was no such thing as “remote access” to these subscriptions.

Today, OPLIN provides over 40 different electronic resource collections, all with near seamless remote access. The following chart shows how the content collection has changed in the past decade.

1996





New, User-Friendly Links for OPLIN Authentication

In August, the OPLIN staff created more user-friendly links to OPLIN-provided resources that are less cumbersome than the long links generated by our web content management system. The following chart shows the new URLs:

DATABASE

LINK/URL

AccessScience	www.oplin.org/accessscience
All EBSCOhost resources	www.oplin.org/ebSCO
MasterFILE Premier	www.oplin.org/masterfile
Academic Search Premier	www.oplin.org/academic
+ALLDATA	http://library.alldata.com
+Auto Repair Reference Center	www.oplin.org/auto
Business Search Premier	www.oplin.org/business
Consumer Health Complete	www.oplin.org/health
Kids Search	www.oplin.org/kids
+Literary Reference Center	www.oplin.org/lrc-ebSCO
NoveList	www.oplin.org/novelist
NoveList K-8 is the same as NoveList (different color background and different featured materials). If you want to link directly to it, you can use www.oplin.org/novelist-k8 .	
Searchasaurus	www.oplin.org/searchasaurus
Student Research Center	www.oplin.org/student
American National Biography	www.oplin.org/anb
America's Newspapers (NewsBank)	www.oplin.org/newsbank
Annals of American History Online	www.oplin.org/annals
ART Collection	www.oplin.org/art
+ Associations Unlimited	www.oplin.org/associations
Biographies Plus Illustrated	www.oplin.org/bios
+ CultureGrams	www.oplin.org/culturegrams
+ Discoverer	www.oplin.org/discoverer
+ eLibrary	www.oplin.org/elibrary
Enciclopedia Universal en Español	www.oplin.org/britannica-spanish
Encyclopædia Britannica Online	www.oplin.org/britannica
+ HeritageQuest (ProQuest)	www.oplin.org/heritagequest
LearningExpress Library	www.oplin.org/tests
Literature On-Line	www.oplin.org/literature
NetWellness	www.netwellness.org
Ohio Capitol Connection	www.oplin.org/occ
Oxford Reference Online	www.oplin.org/oxford
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps	www.oplin.org/sanborn
+ SIRS Knowledge Source	www.oplin.org/sks
World Data Analyst	www.oplin.org/wda

A "+" symbol denotes those databases that are optional subscriptions. Check whether your library subscribes before putting these links on your website. As always, don't hesitate to contact the OPLIN Support Center (support@oplin.org) if you have any questions or problems.



OPLIN Database News

Consumer Health Complete

Consumer Health Complete now includes a **Medical Image Collection** comprised of 500 medical-related images from Nucleus Medical Art. The Medical Image Collection is accessible via an additional content source icon entitled "Medical Images & Diagrams" on *Consumer Health Complete*.

EBSCO's *Health Source: Consumer Edition* and *Alt-Health-Watch* databases are both completely contained within *Consumer Health Complete*, which is now the largest consumer health resource produced by EBSCO.

Ohio public libraries can link directly to *Consumer Health Complete* at www.oplin.org/health.

CultureGrams

New additions to *CultureGrams* include: New World Edition Reports for East Timor, Liberia, and Palau; Sortable Data by Region; and Easy Download Tables (for the Kids and States Editions).

EBSCO

Earlier this year, EBSCO announced that they would be changing the domain of their services from epnet.com to ebscohost.com. The transition was completed in August.

If your library uses the OPLIN database page or OPLIN links to connect to EBSCO, then you should have had no problems - we automatically changed the destination of OPLIN's EBSCO links. But if you maintain your own authentication services or if you link directly to the epnet.com domain from your website, you will have had to change the host to ebscohost.com to avoid problems with your access.

Encyclopædia Britannica

Bloggers and webmasters who want to support their opinions or enlighten readers can now do it by giving those readers articles from the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

Although access to the full encyclopedia requires a paid subscription, a web link to an individual *Britannica* article now brings up the article in full. This new feature is part of a program the company says is aimed at giving more people samples of the rich and reliable information in the encyclopedia.

Sites can link manually to more than one article if they like, though there are limits to what users can see. Links from the first article that point to others in the *Britannica* database will take readers to partial texts of those second articles. Non-subscribers who conduct searches at the *Britannica* site will get access only to the site's free content.

Interested webmasters can go to www.britannica.com for details on how to use the full-text linking feature.

NetWellness

In July, the *NetWellness* website was featured in *eHealthcare Strategy and Trends*, a monthly publication for health care executives. The review notes that, "Navigation and layout make it extremely easy to understand how to find information and review content."

New topics added to *NetWellness* in recent months include Bleeding and Clotting Disorders, Oral Cancer, Pulmonary Transplantation, and Amputation.

Ohio Capitol Connection

The *Ohio Capitol Connection* has complete coverage of the upcoming November election in Ohio, with information and profiles of the candidates, links to websites explaining the ballot issues from both supporters and opponents, election news, and more at: <http://web2.ohcapcon.com/2006-primary/2006-election.htm>.

Oxford Reference Online

Recent new titles in the Premium Collection include: *The Companion to the Photograph*; *The Companion to World Mythology*; *Science, Technology, and Society*; *The Oxford Companion to the Garden*; *The Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*; and *The Oxford Dictionary of Animal Behaviour*.

In addition, there are now over 775 maps, including locator, physical and political maps for each country of the world, over 120 island maps, state maps for North America, Canada, and Mexico, and over 100 city maps.

Users can now e-mail links to search results allowing them to share results with colleagues and other Oxford Reference Online users. Simply click the "Email Search Results" button from any search results page and fill in the form to send the link.