OPLIN

OHIO PUBLIC LIBRARY INFORMATION NETWORK

Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2019
JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

Board of Trustees FY2019

OPLIN Staff FY2019

The current OPLIN Strategic Plan is online at oplin.ohio.gov/strategic-plan.

2323 West 5th Avenue Suite 130, Columbus, Ohio, 43204
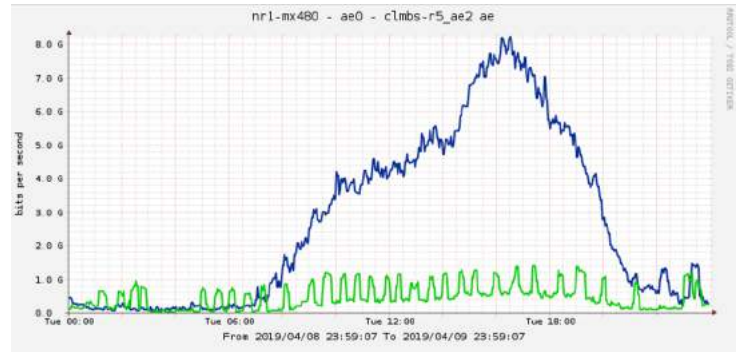614-728-5252   support@oplin.ohio.gov

Internet

OPLIN provides an Ethernet internet connection for Ohio public library systems and regional library systems, a total of **256 circuits**. Circuit bandwidth is determined by usage, ranging in size from a minimum of **100 Mbps to 2 Gbps**. All data traffic from the circuits is aggregated at the State of Ohio Computer Center before routing to the commodity internet, approaching **9 Gbps** at peak times. The majority of this demand for internet access comes from over 1**4,000 public computers** and **22,680,000 wireless session**s in Ohio libraries.
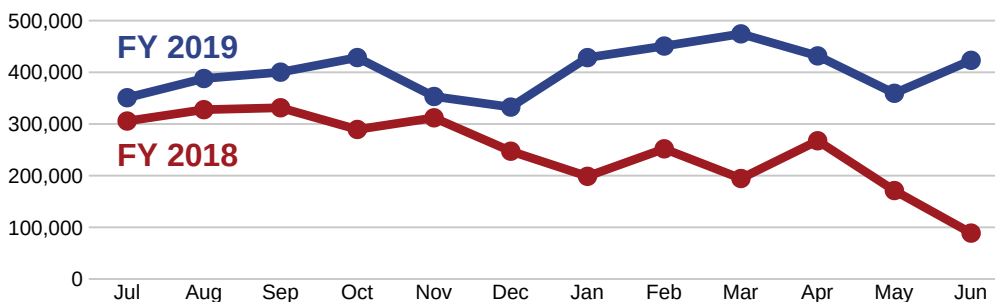
> Data traffic approaches **9 Gbps** at peak utilization.

Databases

OPLIN cooperatively purchases statewide access to information databases in partnership with Libraries Connect Ohio (librariesconnectohio.org). This cost-effective arrangement provides all Ohioans with free access at ohioweblibrary.org to reference tools, newspaper and magazine articles, and continuous learning resources that many individual libraries could not afford. Additionally, OPLIN purchases statewide access to skills development video courses from Lynda.com, and to a premiere collection of genealogy resources. In FY2019, public library users retrieved or viewed **4,821,596** items, at an overall estimated cost of $0.48 each.

Database utilization increased FY2019 over FY2018

$0.48
cost per use

Filtering

OPLIN is required by law to "research and assist or advise local libraries with regard to emerging technologies and methods that may be effective means to control access to obscene and illegal materials." OPLIN contracts with Cisco Umbrella to provide a DNS-based internet content filtering system available to all Ohio public libraries at no charge. As of June 2019, **151** public library systems use this service.

Websites

Ohio public libraries have the option of purchasing an OPLIN Website Kit. These kits are professionally built websites with advanced features and options, with all maintenance, upgrades and hosting handled by OPLIN. Because this is an optional service, the library is charged a small fee to cover the cost of the service. As of June 2019, **84** Ohio public library systems used these kits.

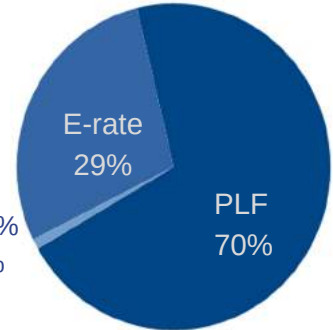See a full list of OPLIN's services at **oplin.ohio.gov/services**.

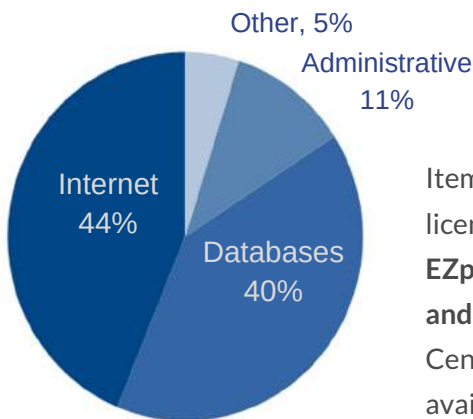# Financial Statement

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Revenue

Since Fiscal Year 2012, OPLIN has received an annual transfer of **$3,689,788** from the Ohio Public Library Fund (PLF). The other major source of revenue is annual reimbursement of a portion of internet costs distributed through the Schools and Libraries division of the federal universal service support program (E-rate). The OPLIN state budget includes **$2 million** in "spending authority" to permit the expenditure of these federal funds.

Minor revenue comes from refunds from telecommunications companies, and fees charged to public libraries for the SOCC Co-Location Service (oplin.ohio.gov/co-location-service) and Website Kits (oplin.ohio.gov/webkit). Website Kits and Co-Location are the only OPLIN services for which fees are charged, since not all public libraries use these services. These fees are kept low, covering only actual costs incurred.

E-rate 29%

PLF 70%

Webkits, 1%
Telco, >1%

Expenditures

Most OPLIN funds are divided equally between internet connectivity for public libraries and information databases for all Ohioans. Staff salaries, rent, board expenses, office supplies, and everything else that does not directly benefit libraries are considered Administrative, almost **90% of expenditures were for direct services to libraries**.

Other, 5%
Administrative 11%
Internet 44%
Databases 40%

> 66 90% of expenditures were for direct services to libraries.

Items in the "Other services" category include annual **OpenDNS** licenses for filtering the internet, used so far by 151 library systems; **EZproxy**, which supports remote access to databases; **E-rate training and support**; and the rent for space in the State of Ohio Computer Center, housing critical support systems and the **Co-Location Service** available to public libraries and library consortia.

Revenue

Public Library Fund	$3,689,788
E-rate reimbursements	$1,497,022
Website Kits	$50,890
Telco refunds	$1,188
Total:	$5,238,888

Expenditures

Internet	$2,502,911
Databases	$2,308,594
Administrative	$627,994
Other Services	$279,993
Total:	$5,719,492

OPLIN *by the numbers*

256 INTERNET CIRCUITS FOR LIBRARIES

9 Gbps PEAK BANDWIDTH UTILIZATION

84 WEBSITE KITS

75% LIBRARIES USING INTERNET FILTERING

1.58 million SMS NOTIFICATIONS SENT

105 libraries USING SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING

2,337 LISTSERV SUBSCRIBERS

4.8 million DATABASE ITEM RETRIEVALS

23 years *serving Ohio public libraries*

The **Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN)** provides broadband internet connections and related information services to Ohio public libraries. Our vision is to ensure that all Ohio residents have fast, free public internet access through the 251 local public library systems in Ohio, as well as the use of high-quality statewide research databases.

OPLIN is defined in the Ohio Revised Code section 3375.64 as "an independent agency within the State Library of Ohio, for the purpose of ensuring equity of access to electronic information for all residents of this state." Planning for OPLIN started at the beginning of 1994 under the leadership of the Ohio Library Council (OLC) and it was established in the State Library budget in fiscal year 1996.

OPLIN collaborates with other state agencies, receiving extensive operational support from the State Library of Ohio and network management assistance from the Ohio Office of Information Technology (OIT).

https://oplin.ohio.gov