The **Ohio Public Library Information Network (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 provides broadband Internet connections and related information services to all Ohio public libraries. Our primary mission is to ensure that all Ohio residents have fast, free public Internet access throughout the 251 independent local public library systems in Ohio as well as the use of high-quality statewide research databases. Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO), composed of INFOhio, OhioLINK, OPLIN, and the State Library (with LSTA funds), purchases a basic collection of resources for the Ohio Web Library. The Ohio Web Library is available to Ohio residents either through public library websites or directly from the website maintained by OPLIN, located at *http://www.ohiowleblibrary.org*.

The total annual cost of Internet telecommunications is approximately $3 million, but over $1 million is reimbursed through E-Rate refunds. OPLIN provides $1.5 million toward the total annual cost of the Ohio Web Library collection.

OPLIN Services & Resources

OPLIN offers the following primary services and resources to Ohio public libraries:

- *Internet Connectivity – 256 total library circuits, all Ethernet connections*
- *Research Databases – Simple searching of over 80 database resources for Ohio residents*
- *Network & Database Support – Available M-F 8AM-5PM by phone, email, or chat (http://support.oplin.org)*
- *SMS Text Messaging – Allows libraries to send text message notifications from ILS directly to patrons*
- *Internet Filtering – Free statewide content filtering system available through OpenDNS*
- *Dynamic Website Kits – Affordable, professional Drupal websites with advanced features and options*

OPLIN Staff

OPLIN is governed by Director Stephen Hedges and the 11-member Board of Trustees, who serve for a term of three years. The other four OPLIN staff members are:

- Karl Jendretzky, Technology Manager
- Laura Solomon, Library Services Manager
- Amie McReynolds, Customer Relations & Support
- Vincent Riley, Network Support

OPLIN provides these additional services for Ohio public libraries:

- *E-Rate Training* – E-Rate information workshops presented by Lorrie Germann, State E-Rate Coordinator
- *Database Statistics* – Monthly database statistics for tracking individual public library usage
- *OPLIN Listservs* – Hosted mailing lists (http://lists.oplin.org), including OPLINList and OPLINTech
- *Technology Blogs* – OPLIN publishes two technology-related blogs
    - → OPLIN 4cast
    - → What Does This Mean to Me, Laura?
- *Ohio Government News* – Access to two daily Ohio government information publications
    - → Gongwer Ohio Report
    - → The Hannah Report

OPLIN also provides informational websites for the public:

- *Ohio Web Library* – Simple search interface for the entire statewide resource collection
- *Explore Ohio* – Collection of websites relating to the state of Ohio
- *About:Books* – Online tool to search for books by author, title, or subject
- *Find-A-Library* – Search interface to find any Ohio public library location or website
- *What Tree Is It?* – Identification guide to search for trees by leaf, fruit, or name
- *What's That Snake?* – Identification guide to search for snakes
- *What's the Point?* – Identification guide to search for arrowheads and flint artifacts

Ohio Web Library http://www.ohioweblibrary.org	**What's That Snake?** http://www.oplin.org/snake
Explore Ohio http://www.exploreohio.org	**What's the Point?** http://www.oplin.org/point
About:Books http://www.aboutbooks.info	**OPLIN Circuit** http://www.oplin.org/circuit
Find-A-Library http://www.oplin.org/fal	**OPLIN 4cast** http://www.oplin.org/4cast
What Tree Is It? http://www.oplin.org/tree	**What Does This Mean to Me, Laura?** http://www.meanlaura.com