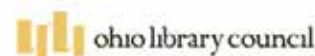# OLC Convention & Stakeholders Meeting

The **2014 Ohio Library Council (OLC) Convention and Expo** will be held this year at the Greater Columbus Convention Center and Hilton Columbus Downtown from October 8-10, with the theme of "Bridging the Past and Building the Future."

OPLIN is a "Platinum Sponsor" of the Convention, which means that we donated funds for wireless Internet connectivity in the areas of the Convention Center where the majority of activities will take place. OPLIN staff will be attending as usual, and we will be located at booth #405 in the exhibit hall at the Covention Center.

Held in conjunction with the OLC Convention and Expo, the **2014 Stakeholders Meeting**, our annual report to Ohio public libraries (our "stakeholders"), will take place on Wednesday,

October 8, from 1:15 – 2:15 PM at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Director Stephen Hedges will review what has happened over the past year and will report on federal and state initiatives that affected both the network connections and the Ohio Web Library collection. OPLIN staff will be available to answer questions from the audience. •

For more information about the OLC Convention:
http://www.olc.org/conventionandexpo.php

Stakeholders PowerPoint Slides (*posted after event*):
http://www.slideshare.net/OPLIN

OPLIN Annual Report FY 2014:
http://oplin.org/sites/default/files/AnnualReport2014.pdf

Ohio Means Jobs

The state's official online employment and career center (http://ohiomeansjobs.com) includes the content of LearningExpress Library. The Ohio Means Jobs website includes multiple employment and student resources (everything from job and scholarship searching to required unemployment activities) and has fewer access restrictions than the Ohio Web Library subscription to LearningExpress Library. As a result, the State Library, OPLIN, OhioLINK, and INFOhio are encouraging libraries to help many of their patrons use ohiomeansjobs.com, instead of the LearningExpress Library website linked through ohioweblibrary.org. •

OPLIN Brief News

OPLIN has launched a survey to collect data about the way librarians search online for information, and the Ohio Web Library search interface for possible improvements. We would like to have responses by October 6 before the next OPLIN Board meeting. Thanks!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZXJZ6YL

E-Rate Information

The federal E-Rate program, administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), provides discounted rates to assist schools and libraries in obtaining affordable telecommunications and Internet access. All public libraries are eligible to receive E-Rate refunds by simply completing some required forms, and once reimbursed, libraries can spend the money on anything that they need. The OPLIN consortial discount averages 50% to 60%, but discounts for individual libraries can range up to 90%, which can be a critical source of additional revenue.

The State Library, OPLIN, OLC, and the regional library systems have sponsored an increased number of free workshops this year. Lorrie Germann, State E-Rate Coordinator, will present the E-Rate workshops to outline the process and assist public libraries in completing Form 470. These workshops will be held in-person at the four regionals, as well as at the State Library of Ohio with a live webinar available.

E-Rate is undergoing significant changes this year. Some of the new rules are very different for public libraries and schools, particularly for WiFi, so it is greatly encouraged to attend one of the public library workshops if possible.

Topics covered during the morning session (9AM-12PM) will include basics, overview of the process, and upcoming changes to E-Rate. There will be a break for lunch from 12-1PM (not provided), and the afternoon session (1-3PM) will include a line-by-line review of the new Form 470, which is the first step in the application process. All workshops are free of charge.

Participants should register in advance through the website of whichever location is being attended. ●

Scheduled E-Rate Workshops, Form 470 (in-person):

- *SWON*, Blue Ash – November 3
- *State Library*, Columbus – November 10 (+ webinar)
- *NORWELD*, Bowling Green – November 13
- *SERLS*, Wellston – November 18
- *NEO-RLS*, Hudson – November 20

OPLIN Brief News

We have started posting information about the Ohio Digitization Hubs project. Preliminary information about the project was previously mentioned in the January 2014 edition of *The Circuit*.

http://www.ohiodigihubs.org

OPLIN Calendar

Wednesday, October 8
Stakeholders Meeting
OLC Convention, Columbus

Friday, October 10
OPLIN Board Meeting
OLC Convention, 10am

Monday, October 13
Columbus Day
Holiday, OPLIN CLOSED

Thursday, October 30
SLO Board Meeting
State Library, 10am-12pm

Monday, November 10
E-Rate Workshop
State Library, 9am-3pm

Tuesday, November 11
Veterans Day
Holiday, OPLIN CLOSED

Friday, November 21
OLC Board Meeting
OLC office, 10am-1pm

Thursday, November 27
Thanksgiving
Holiday, OPLIN CLOSED

Friday, December 12
OPLIN Board Meeting
OPLIN office, 10am-12pm

Tuesday, December 9
SLO Board Meeting
State Library, 10am-12pm

Thursday, December 25
Christmas
Holiday, OPLIN CLOSED

Thursday, January 1
New Year's Day
Holiday, OPLIN CLOSED