Capital Cash

The State Library of Ohio has filed two capital budget requests
for Fiscal Years 2011-2012 on behalf of OPLIN:

1) Replacement of OPLIN Routers - OPLIN needs to replace 220 routing devices that connect public library data circuits to the OPLIN core located at the State of Ohio Computer Center (SOCC). OPLIN has obtained 71 routers for placement in libraries as well as a new central router at the SOCC through a FY2009-2010 capital budget request. The old routers to be replaced have reached industry end-of-life; OPLIN and the Office of Information Technology (OIT) have therefore not been able to purchase maintenance service for them since June 30, 2008. When a router fails, the Internet connection to a public library entirely ceases to function. Therefore, it is critical that OPLIN be able to maintain service agreements on all routers in the network.

Total amount of request: $200,000.

2) Deployment of fiber-optic Internet connections in OPLIN libraries - When OPLIN was set up in 1996, each public library system in Ohio was connected to the network using a single T1 line. In 1996, Ethernet networks were limited to very short distances, generally less than a mile; T1 lines were the only viable option for building a statewide network. Since 2006, OPLIN has been taking advantage of the fact that telecommunications companies are replacing copper wire with fiber-optic cabling, which allows Ethernet over long distances. Using statewide contracts, OPLIN has been replacing some T1 connections to libraries with fiber-optic Ethernet connections. Unfortunately, until very recently the State of Ohio Ethernet contracts did not cover most of the state, so only a small number of libraries have thus far been able to change to this newer technology.

Since September 2009, the state has had a new contract for Ethernet services with Time Warner Cable, which now makes Ethernet connections available across most of the state. OPLIN would now be able to deploy fiber-optic Ethernet circuits to over 100 additional Ohio public library systems. Time Warner Cable, however, charges $1,500 to install a fiber-optic circuit to a library, and OPLIN does not have the financial resources to pay this deployment cost.

This funding request will deploy broadband, fiber-optic Ethernet circuits at over 100 Ohio public library systems, providing faster and more efficient Internet data transfer from the library to the OPLIN network core at the State of Ohio Computer Center.

Total amount of request: $171,000.

A capital budget request? What's that?

The capital budget is much smaller than the state operating budget (which includes the Public Library Fund) and is intended for special projects rather than day-to-day operations.

Capital funding requests usually help cover costs of construction projects, purchase of real property and major equipment, and other long-lasting assets, such as our routers and connections.

More OPLIN Dynamic Website Kits are coming online.
Take a look!

Wright Memorial Public Library   *http://www.wrightlibrary.org*
Henderson Memorial Public Library   *http://henderson.lib.oh.us*
Harbor-Topky Public Library   *http://www.harbortopky.lib.oh.us*
Marion Public Library   *http://marion.lib.oh.us*

Be sure to watch for the unveiling of completed sites. If you're interested to hear about what the OPLIN Dynamic Website Kits can do for your website, contact the OPLIN Support Center at 1-888-966-7546 or e-mail support@oplin.org

Please see http://oplin.org/webkits for a description of all the features included in a standard Website Kit. Limited customization and graphic design service is also available; please call for pricing.

Coming soon:

Granville Public Library
Bexley Public Library
Cuyahoga Falls Library
Tuscarawas County PL
Dover Public Library
Homer Public Library
Napoleon Public Library
Conneaut Public Library
Chillicothe & Ross County
Puskarich Library
Loudonville PL

Connectivity policy change

From the beginning of OPLIN in 1995, the budget language defining OPLIN gave the Board complete authority to certify participants in the network. Documents from the early OPLIN years clearly establish that the OPLIN Board envisioned providing an Internet connection to one location in each public library system, usually the main library, although from the beginning the State Library received connections at two locations and regional library systems received connections as well.

The OPLIN Board no longer has the authority to certify OPLIN participants; possible participants are now defined by the Ohio Revised Code (3375.64).

A proposed revision of the "Policy on the Provision of Network Services" with language that specifies one connection to one location per participant, with the exception of connections for three State Library of Ohio locations (State Library, SEO Library Center, and OPLIN office) has been accepted by the board.

Spring database preview

2010 Preview Available April 1st

Want to preview a database before you purchase it? OHIONET has arranged with electronic resource vendors for the annual Spring Database Preview to run from April 1 through May 15, 2010.

You may access the preview at http://ohionet.org/ref2010_preview.php

The preview site can be navigated by eResource product title, by vendor, and by category. Login information for each product is listed on the individual product site.

Pricing information for new subscriptions is available by contacting OHIONET. Renewal pricing information for current subscriptions will be sent by OHIONET via e-mail by the end of April.

If you have questions about the preview, please contact Christine Morris: christinem@ohionet.org or 1-800-686-8975, x29.

Would you like to have a current list of e-mail accounts assigned to your library? Just ask! E-mail the OPLIN Support Center at support@oplin.org and we'll send them right to you.

Have you checked out the Ohio Public Library Facebook and Twitter directories?
http://oplin.org/communications
Is your library listed? If not, let us know and we'll get you added.

What is

OPLIN?

Are you a new library director?
This tri-fold brochure will tell you what OPLIN is all about.
http://www.oplin.org/go/newdirectors

I Feel the Need: *The Need to Test My Speed*

When it comes to troubleshooting a slow Internet connection, websites that claim to test your connectivity speed can be misleading.

Every "speed check" website basically works the same way: the "speed" of your connection is based on the amount of time it takes for you to download a specific amount of data from their server to your computer.

Here are some things to keep in mind when you conduct any online speed test:

• Your connection passes through a number of network "hops," each with its own variables that contribute to the overall latency of your individual speed test.

• You will only be able to go as fast as the testing site can transmit data to you. This is especially true for larger connections.

• Your line is only as fast as the slowest node in the network path, so if a router in the testing path is slow, your projected line speed will also be slow.

• High utilization can cause slowness. Your test results will be skewed by all of the existing traffic in your library.

• You should test your speed against the closest ISP, as longer physical distances will slow things down.

• Because Internet pathways are constantly fluctuating, even multiple consecutive tests will show varied results.

• If you have multiple circuits from the OPLIN core to your library, a speed test will only use one of the circuits, even if they're balanced.

If your library Internet connectivity seems excessively slow, contact the OPLIN Support Center for troubleshooting help.

OPLIN Support Center   •   (888)966-7546   •   support@oplin.org   •   http://support.oplin.org