



OhioLINK and Otterbein's Courtright Memorial Library

The librarians at the Courtright Memorial Library felt it was imperative that the campus community is informed of the impact that the State of Ohio budgetary situation will have for the statewide library consortium OhioLINK and for our library at Otterbein. As you are undoubtedly aware, the State Legislature needs to cut \$3.2 billion from the State budget. Currently, it appears that OhioLINK's budget is likely to be cut by 33-37% (a total of at least \$2.25 million) if the decisions made by the Senate stand. The House had recommended that \$750,000 be cut from OhioLINK's budget and the Senate increased the amount to be cut to \$2,250,000. Since the budget is currently in discussion with the Budget Conference Committee, it is important that anyone, who is willing, contact their State Representative, Senator or member of the Budget Conference Committee to ask that OhioLINK's budget not be cut so drastically. I have included information on what will be cut, talking points to use in better understanding the situation, a draft letter and the names of the Budget Conference Committee to this message.

The Otterbein community greatly benefits from the resources we obtain through OhioLINK. It allows us to offer a wide variety of resources at a greatly reduced cost. OhioLINK is very efficient and saves money for all state supported and private college/university libraries. Since we cannot afford to subscribe on our own to most of the databases we currently receive through OhioLINK, a major cut in the resources we have available will negatively impact the research done by Otterbein faculty, staff and students. The OhioLINK community has struggled with the decision on which databases and electronic resources would need to be cut to make up the budget shortfall. Many factors were used in this decision, including usage and cost per use. If the Senate cut stands (or if the Committee cuts even further), OhioLINK will be forced to cancel at minimum the following resources:

Databases:

Cancellations:

AP Photo Archive
ARTFL (American & French Research on the Treasury of the French Language)
ATLA Religion Index
Gonger News Service (for Ohio State Government & political news)
Images MD (Online encyclopedia of medical images with over 70,000 medical images)
PsycINFO (American Psychological Association)
RLG Arts/Humanities Package
America: History & Life
Art Abstracts
Dissertation Abstracts
GeoRef
Historical Abstracts
MathSciNet (American Mathematical Association – Mathematical Reviews)
Modern Language Association (MLA International Bibliography)

Replacements:

ISI-Thomson (Web of Science) – will be replaced by Scopus (Elsevier)
PAIS International – will be replaced by Public Affairs - Ebsco

Electronic Journals:

Cancellations:

Duke University Press (30 titles)
Emerald (139 titles)
Kluwer Law International (20 titles)
Royal Society of Chemistry (28 titles)
PCG multi-publishing group (97 titles)
Association of Computing Machinery (73 titles)

Reductions (any title with less than 375 downloads will be cut):

Cambridge University Press (125 of 175 titles)

Project Muse (139 of 255 titles)

Sage (125 of 493 titles)

Wiley/Blackwell (280-430 of 980 titles)

Springer (400-700 of 1876 titles)

Elsevier (460-720 of 2013 titles)

Oxford University Press (92 of 168 titles)

The librarians at Otterbein (and throughout the State) recognize the hardships this presents to all of us and hope that the budget compromise that is determined by the Budget Conference Committee can spare many of the State programs that we all use and enjoy, including OhioLINK resources. Nevertheless, should these cuts be maintained, the Library is committed to the research needs of the community and will seek ways to assist your research efforts.

Talking points to use to better understand the drastic nature of these proposed cuts:

Budget Summary. OhioLINK's operating budget for FY 2008 was approximately \$7.4 million. It has been reduced to approximately \$6.6 million in FY 2009 and is at that level in the House version of the state budget bill. The Senate version of the bill has an additional \$1.6 million per year cut. OhioLINK currently spends \$3.96 million of its operating funds on electronic content—electronic journals, databases and electronic books. Electronic content is the only area of OhioLINK's budget where it is feasible to make cuts of this magnitude. The House version of the budget would result in a cut of \$750,000, which is 19% of OhioLINK's operating budget for electronic content. If the Senate version should prevail, the total cut in electronic content would be more than \$2.3 million—approximately 60% of OhioLINK's operating budget devoted to electronic content.

What would be cut? This level of budget reduction for OhioLINK would result in loss of access to major portions of the electronic research information that OhioLINK licenses on a statewide basis and makes available to over 600,000 faculty, students and staff at all OhioLINK institutions throughout the state. It would result in loss of electronic access to approximately 1,500 electronic research journals and 15-20 core bibliographic databases that document research literature of various fields.

Importance of research information to education. Access to current research information is critical for the quality of higher education throughout the state. Such information reflects the current state of global knowledge in all disciplines. The quality—and even the validity—of student research projects at both undergraduate and graduate levels is dependent upon such information. In addition, Governor Strickland's strategic plan for higher education stresses the importance of structuring the state's higher education institutions in ways that facilitate the ability of students to transfer among institutions as they complete their education; OhioLINK resources provide a single information support environment that is common to all academic institutions in the state, one that is familiar to all students no matter what institution they attend.

Importance for Ohio's research output. Ohio's research output is dependent upon ready access to the latest research information. It's a simple fact that new research builds upon existing research. Such heavy loss of access to research literature will severely compromise the state's continuing research output, especially in scientific, technical, and medical fields. OhioLINK's rich information resources also help attract top researchers.

Importance for economic development. Ohio's economic development is closely linked to the state's research productivity. The access to research information that OhioLINK provides is critical to the development of new technologies that fuel economic growth. OhioLINK research information resources provide strong support for Governor Strickland's higher education strategic plan, which emphasizes the importance of increasing Ohio's higher education research output as a means of fostering economic development in the state.

Importance for faculty recruitment. OhioLINK is a critical factor in recruiting and retaining faculty at higher education institutions throughout the state. Faculty who consider jobs at Ohio institutions come here knowing that they will have ready access to the book holdings of all academic libraries in the state as well as rich electronic access to the most recent research literature. This competitive advantage for the state will be significantly eroded by major cuts in OhioLINK's electronic resources.

OhioLINK's cost-effectiveness. OhioLINK's economic model is extremely cost effective. The agency uses modest state funding in combination with acquisitions dollars from libraries across the state in order to license electronic content from major publishers on a statewide basis, providing maximum leverage and buying power. The result has been markedly increased access to research information coupled with effective cost containment. If individual

libraries licensed these resources independently, the cost to state institutions alone would be many times more expensive.

OhioLINK is a national model. OhioLINK is the most admired academic library consortium in the nation, highly respected for its tradition of cooperation, innovation, and efficiency. It's an outstanding example of an effective partnership between state government and both public and private higher education institutions statewide.

Draft letter:

Dear Representative / Senator :

I am writing to express deep concern about the Senate's proposed budget for OhioLINK, a program under the Board of Regents. I write to ask that you contact members of the budget conference committee and ask them to maintain OhioLINK's budget at the level in the House version of the state budget bill.

The Senate bill has a \$1.6 million reduction in OhioLINK's budget that would come on top of the \$750,000 reduction that's in the House version. That level of budget cut for OhioLINK would result in the loss of access to major portions of the electronic research information that OhioLINK licenses on a statewide basis and makes available to all faculty, students, and staff at higher education institutions throughout the state.

OhioLINK provides current research information essential for the quality of higher education throughout the state and access to the latest, global research knowledge, especially in scientific, technical, and medical fields. OhioLINK is also critical for Ohio's research output and for the development of new technologies that fuel economic growth.

OhioLINK, which is built upon the close cooperation of all academic research libraries in the state, serves as a national model for innovation and efficiency. By licensing with publishers electronic research information on a statewide basis OhioLINK achieves a degree of cost effectiveness that is the envy of other states. OhioLINK is also a crucial factor in recruiting and retaining faculty and researchers at both public and private universities and colleges throughout the state.

Thank you for anything you can do to maintain the strength of this important program.

Sincerely,
Your Name

Senate and House Leaders

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Budget Conference Committee

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If you need additional information, please contact Lois Szudy, Library Director, Courtright Memorial Library, at 823-1444 or your library liaison.