



Out & About

Jan. 12th
Broadband Council

Jan. 15th OLC Board

Jan. 15th & 16th
State Library of Ohio
Board Retreat

Jan. 30th ETM

Feb. 12th & March 18th
"People are Talking about
You" presentation
at OhioNet

Feb. 13th OPLIN Board

Feb. 16-20
Open source SWRS
vendor presentations

March 4th "Web 2.0: The
Stuff That Really Matters"
at NEO

March 13th OLC Board

March 26th
State Library of Ohio
Board Meeting

March 27th
Connect Ohio

March 29th - April 2nd
Computers in Libraries

Good budget news -- for the moment

Lately it seems like every issue of the CIRCUIT has contained more bad news about the OPLIN budget.

Our budget woes began last February (read all about it in the April CIRCUIT), when OPLIN and most state agencies sustained a 10% budget reduction. We handled the \$433,000 cut by shifting federal E-rate refunds and reducing support for training and conferences.

September brought an additional 4.75% cut (see the September CIRCUIT) as the state struggled to deal with a continuing decline in revenues. That brought our total loss up to \$618,000 and forced us to announce the demise of our EBSCO Novelist subscription as of July 2009.

In mid-December, we started hearing rumors that we might see an additional 5.5% cut in the face of an increasingly bleak outlook for the state economy and state revenue. When the reduction was officially announced, however, the State Library budget, including OPLIN, was specifically exempted from the cut. Finally, some good news from OBM!

Of course, the next biennium budget may well be a different story. If there is any reduction in that budget from our current funding, our E-rate funds will be exhausted and the OPLIN budget will be overdrawn by June 2011. A reduction as small as 5% from our current funding would throw OPLIN \$350,000 into the red. The OPLIN Board are agreed that the Internet circuits for libraries simply must be maintained, somehow, which means that other OPLIN services would have to be cut to handle any more budget reductions.

We have served notice that the OPLIN office will be moving out of its current location in June; we have not yet decided on a new, cheaper location. Remember, however, that only about 10% of the OPLIN budget is spent for administrative costs like rent, salaries, supplies, etc. The rest goes directly into services for libraries, meaning that the only way to deal with any future cuts is to reduce the services we provide for free to the public libraries of Ohio.

Managing the OPLIN budget over the next few years will be difficult and will probably force the OPLIN Board to make some very unpleasant decisions. We ask for your understanding.

What have we already done to reduce the OPLIN budget?

- * Reduced the staff from seven to five & formally closed all unfilled positions
- * Discontinued all printing of brochures & newsletters
- * Placed a freeze on all pay raises
- * Limited equipment purchases
- * Applied travel restrictions
- * Dropped Ohio Capital Connection
- * Cancelled the statewide Novelist subscription (effective July 2009)
- * Delayed network equipment upgrades



The latest OPLIN BETA PROJECT

Let's create your new website **TOGETHER!**

Would you like a new website that:

- * looks professional?
- * is easy to manage and doesn't require a tech?
- * meets mobile & handicapped accessibility standards?
- * provides advanced Web 2.0 features & integration with many social media web sites?
- * presents your library to your community as a strong, credible institution?

OPLIN is testing a new service that provides all of these features & more at a modest cost to Ohio public libraries. In these budget-strapped times, it is more important than ever for public libraries to show their communities that they are vital and trustworthy institutions that can provide the same advanced features as other sites.

We know that library staff members have little time to manage websites. Dynamic Website Kits offer options for sites with little investment of time and funds.

Pricing is modest. Our goal is to provide Ohio public libraries with sites that can better meet the needs of patrons & staff.



To learn about our special beta-test pricing, please call (614) 753-2828 or e-mail OPLIN Support.

This beta project is limited to 10 libraries. If you are interested in being a beta tester, please contact OPLIN for details and beta pricing.



Second Life *IN* Second Life

Sign up to for *free* courses taught by OPLIN staff in the virtual world of Second Life. If you have been interested in learning about SL but never tried it, this is your chance to get hands-on, personalized instruction in a comfortable environment.

You'll need a computer with sound, a broadband connection (no dial up) and the Second Life software installed. You'll also need to go through a short tutorial before you will be able to go through the OPLIN courses (more information will be sent out after registration).

To register for one or more of the following sessions, please visit <http://oplin.org/content/learn-about-second-life-second-life> then e-mail Laura Solomon (laura@oplin.org) with the course(s) and date(s) you'd like to attend.

Each class is limited to only 5! *Please join us!*



Don't say, "AH"
say "OH"

How is the word
"OPLIN" actually
pronounced?

It's a long "O" as in
"Ohio." In other words,
it's not pronounced
"AH-plin."

It's "OH-plin."

He's back!

Jay Burton at the State Library of Ohio is ready to present the 2009 edition of his hands-on 30-minute classroom series.

Focusing on the Ohio Web Library databases, Jay will give you hints and tips to make you an expert user of the hundreds of databases that can be searched through the Ohio Web Library.



You can register for his sessions at

<http://host6.evanced.info/ohio/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

The first five people to register will receive a surprise from the State Library and OPLIN!

Pitch that password!

OPLIN Self-service has been discontinued.

Of course, you can still report issues in chat, via phone and by e-mail.

Changing libraries?

Let us know!

Your OPLIN e-mail account needs to be transferred to your new library.

Upcoming training



"People are talking about you"

Thursday, February 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
or Wednesday, March 18th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

People are talking about you...But do you know what they're saying?

You may have spent a lot of money or time marketing your library, only to have your library reputation severely damaged by one angry blogger.

Learn what tools are available to help monitor your library's precious online reputation and some strategies to protect your library brand.

Sign up at <http://ohionet.org>



"The stuff that really matters"

Wednesday, March 4th

- * Which services are worth putting effort into?
- * How can you sell ideas to administrators & staff?
- * What successful models are out there?

Get answers to these questions and maximize your involvement on the Web.

Sign up at <http://www.neo-rls.org>