

THE **PLIN** CIRCUIT

News for Ohio Public Library Staff & Management

Spring 2009

Out & About

March 29th - April 2nd
Computers in Libraries 2009

April 10th
OPLIN Board Retreat

April 14th
Drupal: Community Plumbing
(SERLS)

April 30th
State Library Board Meeting

May 1st ETM Libraries Meeting

May 6th
OHIONET Annual Conference

May 7th
SEO presentation

May 8th OLC Board

May 11th & 12th
ALA Legislative Day

May 18th & 19th
TechConnections

June 12th
OPLIN Board Meeting

The Regional Library Systems
of Ohio bring you ...

TechConnections 2.0.0.9

Ohio's 10th annual library
technology conference

May 19, 2009
9:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
State Library of Ohio,
Columbus

For more information
& to register visit:
www.TechConnectionsOhio.info

See you there!

We resolve...

Right now, our number one concern is the same as yours
- the budget.

The Ohio Library Council is working to remove OPLIN from the Public Library Fund (as it currently stands in the governor's budget) and move it back into the General Revenue Fund where it has been for the last few years. In support of OLC efforts, the OPLIN Board has released a resolution to the Ohio General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) will continue to provide outstanding Internet service to the Ohio public library community and its 8 million patrons, by cooperatively purchasing broadband connections for the 251 public libraries through State of Ohio purchase instruments;

WHEREAS, the Ohio Public Library Information Network will continue to collectively purchase authoritative online information resources for use by all Ohioans through our ongoing partnership with the academic libraries (OhioLINK), the school libraries (INFO-hio), and the State Library of Ohio;

WHEREAS, the Ohio Public Library Information Network recognizes that the public libraries of Ohio have now entered a state of financial distress due to steeply declining revenues and would be further damaged were the Ohio Legislature to draw the funding for OPLIN from the already diminished Public Library Fund;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of the Ohio Public Library Information Network respectfully requests that the Ohio General Assembly continue funding OPLIN from the General Revenue Fund, as it has in previous bienniums, and that this funding be established at 100% of adjusted fiscal year 2009 appropriations (\$3,897,000).

At the OPLIN Board Retreat on April 10th, the main topic will be the implications of the budget. We will keep you posted.



Ten libraries...ten new websites...COMING SOON!



The decision was made to beta test Dynamic Website Kits for Ohio public libraries so that they could create their own easy-to-manage websites on a shoestring budget. Creating new Drupal-based web sites for so many sites so quickly has posed some challenges, but overall, the sites are coming together nicely.

The biggest challenge so far has been the graphics work. Individualized graphics that make clients happy is always challenging.

The most requested “extra” has been the image management modules for photo galleries. We like that people want to share their histories and are making the library websites truly interactive.

The training sessions are going fine; people are most often surprised by all they can do with Drupal and how intuitive it is.

For all of the beta testers, this Drupal package represents a huge upgrade, not only in presentation and ability to manage content, but also in usability and accessibility.

All the beta sites will be totally standards-compliant for XHTML, CSS, Section 508 and WAI Priorities 1, 2 and 3 (the latter 2 are web accessibility standards), making them more friendly to those using mobile devices and the visually-impaired.

As this project progresses, be sure to watch for the unveiling of the completed sites. We’ve started a waiting list for the next round, so if you’re interested to hear about what the OPLIN Dynamic Website Kits can do for your website, please contact the OPLIN Support Center at 1-888-966-7546.

Our beta sites:

Coldwater
Cuyahoga Falls
Delaware County
Franklin-Springboro
Logan-Hocking
London
Marion
Minerva
Troy-Miami
Wright Memorial

Second Life News

GOLDEN LEAF AWARD



2009

Laura Solomon, Library Services Manager, recently received a Golden Leaf Award in Second Life. The “Golden Leaf” award has been established to honor unique and innovative applications of library sciences, education, and the partners who support these efforts.

If you would like to learn more about Second Life, classes are scheduled for May. See the dates and times at <http://oplin.org/secondlife>

Sessions are held *in* Second Life, so you will need to have the software installed and you’ll need to go through a short tutorial (you’ll get the details when you register).

Contact Laura (laura@oplin.org) with the courses and dates you’d like to attend.



Spring Database Preview

April 1st to May 15th

OHIONET has announced a spring “Database Preview” period, during which public libraries can test various products being offered under a group contract. This gives librarians an opportunity to purchase databases above and beyond the ones that OPLIN provides.

The database trial is running **April 1st to May 15th**. Participation is open to all Ohio libraries. Your library does not have to be an OHIONET member to participate.

Libraries that want to preview and obtain additional databases, either individually or under a group contract, can work directly with OHIONET. All of these databases - whether provided free through OPLIN or purchased separately through OHIONET - will be supported by OPLIN.

So libraries will get some databases free through OPLIN, can buy more through OHIONET, and can call the OPLIN Support Center if they have problems with any of them.

Look for more information under the Reference Databases section of the OHIONET website (www.ohionet.org/reference_databases).



Database training

Jay Burton at the State Library of Ohio is ready with more of his hands-on 30-minute classroom sessions.



Focusing on the Ohio Web Library databases, Jay will give you hints and tips to make you an expert user of the many 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>

Speaking of the Ohio Web Library... patron handouts are now available.

Last year, we sent business cards with the Ohio Web Library logo and address to each library. We've had requests for more, but because of budget cuts, we weren't able to get more printed. Instead, we have made the file available so you can now print your own. We also have a new descriptive brochure and both can be found at the *Community Toolbox* <http://oplin.org/content/community-toolbox>



While your're there, check out what other database info is available and feel free to share what you have with the rest of the library community.



Do you know about:books?



We regretfully announced last year that the statewide OPLIN subscription to EBSCO NoveList will be canceled when our current contract ends on June 30th.

OPLIN has created a replacement that works like a charm! [about:books](http://www.oplin.org/aboutbooks) (<http://www.oplin.org/aboutbooks>) tells you anything you ever wanted to know about books, authors, subjects and storylines. Get book reviews, author websites, publisher information, and sometimes, even the book itself, if it's free on the web.

Results are retrieved from popular book-ish websites such as LibraryThing, *NYT Book Review*, Good Reads, Shelfari, etc. These sites give you "real people" book reviews and suggestions for further reading.

In addition to the web page, we also have a Facebook app for [about:books](http://apps.facebook.com/aboutbooks). You can see the [about:books](http://apps.facebook.com/aboutbooks) Facebook application at <http://apps.facebook.com/aboutbooks>.

Also, make sure to add the [about:books](http://www.oplin.org/aboutbooks) widget to your library web page so you have instant access to everything [about:books](http://www.oplin.org/aboutbooks) has to offer. You can find those instructions here: <http://www.oplin.org/content/how-do-i-add-aboutbooks-search-box-my-website>

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please send them to the OPLIN Support Center. We welcome your feedback.

***This reader's advisory tool will be a hit with your staff and your patrons.
Go ahead! Give it a try!***



Federal money is coming...let your voice be heard!

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal economic stimulus program, contains several grant opportunities that might be used by public libraries. The ALA has a good overview site of ARRA information at <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/washfunding/fedfund/arra101.cfm>

The \$7.2 billion set aside for broadband grants will be distributed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration -- "NTIA" (Department of Commerce) and the Rural Utilities Service -- "RUS" (USDA). The ALA "Comparison of Application Requirements for NTIA and RUS" document is particularly good.

The NTIA will be distributing their grants under the title "Broadband Technology Opportunities Program." Among other things, this program will provide at least \$200 million to upgrade technology and capacity at public computing centers, including community colleges and public libraries.

The RUS will probably be distributing stimulus broadband funds through their existing loan and grant programs. This may change as their program becomes more defined.

Read what's happening & share your ideas here:

<http://oplin.org/broadbandgrants>