



# STATEWIDE RESOURCE SHARING

A Collaborative Project  
of State Library of Ohio,  
OPLIN, Ohio Library Council,  
and INFOhio

February 2000

## Another Newsletter?

Yes, but only a "limited edition." Statewide resource sharing is coming, and it's coming fast! We want to keep you up-to-date with plans and progress. We'll issue a newsletter approximately every two months until the system is up and running, hopefully in the spring of 2001.

And we want your comments and concerns. OLC has agreed to host a web forum on statewide resource sharing. Members of the steering committee will monitor it on a regular basis to note your concerns and answer your questions. Connect with us at <http://www.olc.org>. Click on "What's New" then click on "Statewide Resource Sharing Web Forum." After that, just follow the instructions to post on the site.

## The Vision

Imagine a state where a citizen can search the catalogues of all or any of the libraries in the state, identify desired library materials, and request the items with a few key strokes. The material will then appear at the requester's library within 24 hours. This is the vision which the library community has for Ohio. Our motto is: "Anyone can get anything at any library at any time."

## Statewide Resource Sharing Receives Funds

The State Library of Ohio board voted at its October 1999 meeting to commit up to \$2 million of LSTA federal funds to enable Ohio's public and school libraries to share materials. This is a one-time commitment and will reduce the dollars available for grants to libraries for one year only. Funds will be used for the development of necessary software. This is the "boost" that was needed to get statewide resource sharing off the ground. Thanks to the State Library board for their commitment to this effort.

## Steering Committee

Many volunteers are working on statewide resource sharing. There are four task forces and a steering committee, which includes the task force chairs.

### Steering Committee Co-Chairs:

Mary Pat Essman, Lane Public Library, Hamilton  
Alan Hall, Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson  
County

### Technology Task Force Co-Chairs:

Peter Bates, State Library of Ohio  
Bob Carterette, Cleveland Public Library

### Policy Task Force Co-Chairs:

Gayle Patton, Loudonville Public Library  
Mary Jane Santos, Delaware County District Library

### Delivery Task Force Co-Chairs:

Steve Hedges, Nelsonville Public Library  
Marilyn Hite, Defiance Public Library

### Funding and Management Task Force Co-Chairs:

Milly Fry, Southeastern Ohio Library Organization  
(SOLO)

Joe Palmer, Mansfield-Richland County Public Library

Ex officio: Roger VERNY and Michael Lucas, State Library of  
Ohio; Carol Roddy, OPLIN; Frances Haley, OLC; Ann  
Hanning, OELMA; Theresa Fredericka, INFOhio



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## Technology Plans – The First Step

The Technology Task Force has begun the process of acquiring the needed system to make statewide resource sharing a reality. Greg Byerly (Kent State University School of Library and Information Science) is serving as a consultant to the project. He is assisting in writing the Request for Proposal and will coordinate the vendor selection process. A subcommittee of the Resource Sharing Task Force (Peter Bates, State Library of Ohio; Bob Carterette, Cleveland Public Library; Jean Banks, INFOhio Technical Support, NOACSC; and Carol Roddy, OPLIN) is helping Greg develop functional and system specifications.

The committee has investigated existing products and projects and has identified potential vendors. It appears that most of the capabilities needed to make resource sharing a reality in Ohio's schools and public libraries are available from one or more vendors. The challenge will be selecting one vendor that is not only prepared to enhance and modify its software to meet functional requirements unique to Ohio, but is also capable of successfully providing the required system on a statewide level.

As always, Ohio is pushing the envelope, both in the scale of the system and in the capabilities being requested. The system will potentially include 250 public libraries and more than 4,600 school libraries. Equally significant is the fact that this will be a patron-initiated resource sharing system that will permit non-mediated requests for materials. The requesting portion of the system is viewed as an extension of the circulation model rather than an augmentation of the traditional interlibrary loan model.

The system will employ a web interface and will be based on the Z39.50 standard. The system will also be capable of permitting all Ohio public and school libraries with access to Internet and an Internet accessible online catalog and circulation system to participate.

As proposed, the system will interface with existing li-

brary automation systems, will include a very sophisticated patron authentication capability, and will coordinate with the state's land-based delivery system. Libraries will be required to participate in the document delivery system in order to use the resource sharing system.

Current plans are for the RFP to be released in early March with responses due from vendors in late April 2000. Once the RFP is released an announcement will be made indicating how to get the document off of the web. Responses will be evaluated by an RFP Evaluation Team in April and May. It is anticipated that some vendors will be asked to demonstrate their systems in early May and that a vendor will be selected by June 1.

Once a contract is signed, the vendor will work to provide a test system, involving several libraries and consortia, by January 2001. Full implementation would begin for public libraries in May 2001 and for schools in August 2001. Obviously, this is a very ambitious timetable and modifications will undoubtedly be required.

## Future Issues

This newsletter will be issued approximately every two months. Future issues will focus on:

- Policies (April)
- Delivery (June)
- Technology (August) By then we should know who the vendor is and be able to give you much more information on what the system will do.
- Management (October)
- Training (December)

In addition to the newsletter, don't forget the web forum at <http://www.olc.org>. And we'll have update sessions at the OELMA and OLC annual conferences this fall. Put these dates on your calendar:

OELMA – October 25-27, Columbus

OLC – November 8-10, Columbus