



STATEWIDE RESOURCE SHARING

A Collaborative Project of
State Library of Ohio, OPLIN,
Ohio Library Council, INFOhio,
and Ohio Educational Library
Media Association (OELMA)

July 2000

Moving Library Materials—Here, There, and Everywhere

Delivering the Goodies

When all the procedures for statewide resource sharing are in place, when the policies have been adopted, when the computer system has been set up and people can finally request materials from libraries across the state, the final step in the process will be moving that material around the state—day, after day, after day. Delivery may not be as exciting and glamorous as the technology involved in statewide resource sharing, but, without delivery, there is no resource sharing.

For the past two years, the Delivery Task Force has been working to design a delivery system for moving requested materials around the state. Early in the process, we realized that we knew very little about the transportation industry, so we hired Dan Bolger, a transportation consultant, to assist us. Mr. Bolger developed a Request For Information that was sent out to delivery vendors in 1998 to get an idea of the costs and expectations involved in a statewide library delivery system. This RFI will serve as the basis for an RFP to be sent out again this year or early next year, in preparation for implementing a system in July 2001.

What Kind of Delivery?

Daily delivery, for one thing—five days a week. And easy delivery, without a lot of paperwork involved for the library. And fast delivery, ideally within 24 hours. The idea here is to keep the system moving as quickly as possible. If some libraries only get pick-up and delivery two or three times a week, then requests to those libraries will take a day or two longer to arrive at their destination, because the material has been sitting in the library waiting for pick-up. Likewise, pick-up on demand can add time to the delivery cycle, because some libraries will be too “polite” to call and request pick-up for one book; they’ll wait until they have enough to make the trip “worthwhile.”

From a delivery company’s point of view, a regular, daily route of pick-ups and deliveries, with a set “per stop” charge instead of a “per package” charge, is the most cost-effective way to operate, allowing them to reduce their delivery charges to the library.

So in the interest of simplicity, economy, and speed, the task force is requesting daily delivery for all participants, handled by one company (no “interlines” shipping), administered by the State Library, and priced on a per-stop basis.

Delivered Where?

These are the projected delivery points, at least for the first year of operation:

1. Academic Libraries (OhioLINK) – projected to be about 120 stops;
2. Public Libraries – probably most of the 250 public library systems in Ohio, plus branch libraries of those systems that want to include them in the delivery system (at additional per-stop cost); and
3. School stops including school districts (one delivery per district), Educational Service Centers, Area Media Centers, Data Acquisition Sites, Special Education Regional Resource Centers, and Regional Professional Development Centers—probably about 800 stops.

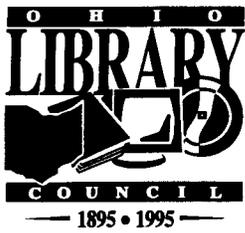
What Gets Delivered?

Library materials. These materials will be packaged in bags or boxes, each bag or box going to one destination. The libraries will pre-sort all materials into the containers or bags. The State Library intends to furnish the bags and boxes required, primarily canvas bags of approximate sizes ranging from 21" x 14" to 21" x 30", and hard plastic or corrugated containers with dimensions up to 24" D x 18"W x 18"H. Libraries may also use 9" x 12" or larger envelopes if they don’t want to use a canvas bag. Labels with recipient’s and sender’s addresses will be affixed to each package. The delivery vendor will supply a custom manifest form on which to note how many packages are being sent to each site.

How much does it cost?

Good question. Current customers of the U.S. Cargo system are paying \$7.67 per stop. However, several factors may push this price up or down by July 2001. One factor is

continued on next page



35 East Gay Street
Suite 305
Columbus, OH 43215

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, OH
Permit No. 1018

AUTO***3-DIGIT 432
Michael Lucas
State Library of Ohio
65 S Front St
Columbus OH 43215-4131

81



the cost of gasoline, since that will be one of the vendor's largest expenses. Another factor is the growth of e-commerce, which has increased the demand for delivery services. Increased demand may result in more companies getting into the delivery business, which could drive prices down, or the demand may outrun the supply of companies and drive prices up. Nobody knows quite what to expect.

We do know, however, that the cost will be paid entirely by the participants. Despite our best efforts, we were not able to convince the legislature to pay part of the cost of delivery.

Throughout the process of planning a delivery system, the Delivery Task Force has been guided by the "keep-it-simple" principle. The goal is to have a system that works. It may not be the most elegant system, it may not address everyone's individual wishes, but if it consistently gets the materials to their destination in a timely manner, then it will be a success. We can always add the fancy features later.

Thanks to All

Thanks to all the people who have participated in the Delivery Task Force. Since the inception of the project, the following people have given of their time and wise counsel to the plans for delivery.

Eric Anderson	Ohio Valley Area Libraries
Helene Azunsenis	Cleveland Public Library
Stephanie Baird	Tuscarawas County Public Library
Marge Baker	Stark County District Library
Dan Bolger (consultant)	The Bolger Group, Lancaster
Gary Branson	London Public Library
Terry Cook	Oberlin Public Library
Michelle Fabbro	Indian Creek Junior High School
Beth French	Cuyahoga County Public Library
Stephen Hedges (co-chair)	Nelsonville Public Library
Hollis Helmecci	North Baltimore Public Library
Lisa Hickle	State Library of Ohio
Marilyn Hite (co-chair)	Defiance Public Library
Cynthia Husted	INFOhio
Steve James	INFOhio
Karen Longfield	Wadsworth High School
Judith Meyers	Wilmington Public Library
Brenda Momirovic	Stark County District Library
Laura Moorman	Westerville Public Library
Ward Murrey	SEO Regional Library Center
Donna Perdzock	Euclid Public Library
Julianne Phillips	Columbus Metropolitan Library
Nancy Russell	Columbus Metropolitan Library
Kip Ryan	State Library of Ohio
Shahin Shoar	Granville Public Library
Debra Tristano	Tuscarawas County Public Library
Steve Wood	Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library

Watch for the Next Edition

The next edition of the State-wide Resource Sharing Newsletter will be coming your way in late September. We'll have exciting news regarding the software which will operate statewide resource sharing—what it will do and how it will make it easy for your patrons to initiate borrowing from any library that participates in this program! Watch for it!