





Go Further and Achieve More With INFOhio



THE INFORMATION NETWORK FOR OHIO SCHOOLS

Progress Report 2008/2009

Supporting and enriching 21st century teaching
and learning by providing and promoting:

-  **Equitable access**
-  **Quality resources**
-  **21st century learning skills**
-  **Collaborative partnerships**

INFOhio Central

35 East Chestnut Street, 8th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215
(877) 463-6450 toll free • (614) 485-6731 tel • (614) 752-2940 fax
central@infohio.org • www.infohio.org

Go Further and Achieve More With INFOhio



THE INFORMATION NETWORK FOR OHIO SCHOOLS

We Can't Stop Now...

We have a lot to be proud of this year at INFOhio! Despite difficult times, we remained focused on learner achievement and made a big difference. Together, we again grew the number of schools with professionally and cost-effectively run library systems. Together, we grew the use of quality online resources that make a difference in student learning. And together, we trained students, librarians, teachers and administrators in the skills they need for today and will need tomorrow. Yes, we continued to do the work -- proven by research -- to increase the performance of our student learners and educators.

So, let us take a moment to pat ourselves on the back. To be proud that Ohio is a leader in delivering a quality education. And, to recognize that we are effectively and efficiently adapting to the technology changes we are encountering on a daily basis. As we move forward with our innovations, we need to remain focused on preparing Ohio learners to succeed in the 21st century. We have a solid foundation on which to build, a clear vision to lead us into the future, and a shared passion to make a difference. So, we can't stop now!

Our Accomplishments Prepare Us for Tomorrow

As you know, INFOhio is our state's virtual PreK-12 library. We transform teaching and learning by connecting educational resources with the power of information technology. The vision that led to INFOhio was developed in Cuyahoga County in November 1989, when a group of seven library media specialists met to develop a cooperative plan for automating their school libraries with the help of a \$7,500 planning grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation (www.mhjf.org). A key element in their plan involved accessing the library automation software through the statewide Ohio Education Computer Network (OECN). Look how far we have come!

Today, as a statewide cooperative school library and information network, we strive to provide equitable access to quality resources for Ohio's community of students, educators and parents. Our components include electronic resources for schools, instructional development for teachers, and school library automation — all promoting information literacy and media literacy through the use of technology.

Additionally, because schools have such limited resources and shrinking budgets, endeavors such as INFOhio are critical to student success and the future of our schools. INFOhio builds powerful partnerships and strong relationships to help students and teachers succeed. Only by creatively working together with decision makers at all levels — local, regional, state and federal — can INFOhio accomplish its goals and meet the needs of Ohio's students. Our partnerships have been instrumental in INFOhio's past accomplishments, and they are critical to our future success.

INFOhio's Go Further! — Road to Higher Education and Beyond Initiative

Today's secondary school students must have information literacy skills to ensure a successful future in a technology-rich work environment or to pursue a successful post-secondary education. Yet numerous studies confirm that students lack these critical skills. Coupled with the Governor's "Seniors to Sophomores" initiative, this situation compelled Ohio's school and academic librarians to take action. School and academic librarians already work within their individual organizations to prepare young people for an information-intensive world and are uniquely positioned to influence student success.



Based on this premise, INFOhio working with OhioLINK, the state's academic library network, created a joint Task Force and co-authored a white paper that outlines six goals to help Ohio achieve economic competitiveness through the development of an educated, talented and creative workforce. This white paper, which has been presented at numerous conferences, is online (www.infohio.org/12-13TransitionWhitePaper200809.pdf). In addition, a Web page, "Preparing 21st Century Ohio Learners for Success: Helping Today's Students & Tomorrow's Teachers," is available to collect related materials and links for school and college librarians and other educators (www.infohio.org/PreparingOhioLearners.html).

INFOhio — A Success Story

As INFOhio continues to work to provide students with the information literacy skills they need to go further and achieve more, we are inspired by the success and influence we already have had. This year's graduating seniors are the first class to have gone from kindergarten through 12th grade with INFOhio resources always available. And now that the first "INFOhio class" is transitioning into colleges and universities, they will encounter many of the same resources they used throughout their educational experience, making the transition to higher education even easier.

We have been fortunate enough to watch schools add the INFOhio program to their curriculum at an exponential rate over the past 13 years. The implementation of INFOhio has played a role in the success of Ohio students as they transition from PreK-12 to higher education. INFOhio is very proud of the strides Ohio students have made toward improving student learning.

- The 2009 Ohio School Report Card — Educational Progress in Ohio — indicates that Ohio's Performance Index has increased by more than 26% since the 1999-2000 school year. (<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/gd/templates/pages/ode/odedetail.aspx?page=279>)
- The number of Ohio students taking the ACT college entrance and placement exam in 2009 was 88,754, representing 64% of graduating seniors. According to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ohio students have outpaced the national average for the past 15 years. (<http://www.bucyrusonline.com/articles/news/articles/000018/001882.htm>)

Compared to other statewide library programs across the country, INFOhio remains a leader in offering invaluable

services and multifaceted resources and assistance to PreK-12 students, educators and parents. We look forward to continuing that trend in the future.

Collaborative Partnership Empowers Learners

INFOhio uses both traditional and non-traditional public and private partnerships to find solutions that help meet Ohio's teaching and learning needs. Working with library automation vendor SirsiDynix, INFOhio helped develop SchoolRooms[®], an intuitive search engine that provides easy access to all content and software provided through a single portal.

We received national recognition for our innovative collaborative partnership in the December 2008 edition of *School Library Journal*, "Ohio Opens SchoolRooms: INFOhio, SirsiDynix Launch Singular Portal Statewide" (www.infohio.org/ER/SchoolRoomshelp.html). SchoolRooms also received a "Best in Tech 2008" award from *Scholastic Administrator* in March 2009.

In addition, INFOhio could not have achieved such success and recognition without the help of hundreds of educators across the state, who so unselfishly contributed their time and talent to the development and implementation of this groundbreaking product.

Strategic Partnership Delivers Internet2

What does access to an advanced research and education network mean for teachers and students in Ohio classrooms and school libraries? It means enhanced curricular content delivered at speeds faster than the traditional Internet. It means changes in how students learn and how teachers teach in the 21st century. Access to the Internet2 network is now available — without network bandwidth charges — to all school districts that use the Ohio Education Computer Network. The program is funded by the Ohio Department of Education and is administered by the Technology Solutions Group — Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network (mc•tsg). INFOhio has taken the lead to pull together Internet2 Educator and Technology links, background information, training opportunities and other helpful resources (www.infohio.org/educator/internet2background.html).



INFOhio Highlights: By the Numbers for 2008-2009 — Better Than Ever!

✓ **4,639**

100% percent of Ohio schools — regardless of size, location or fiscal resources — with equitable access to the INFOhio Core Collection of Electronic Resources. The collection currently consists of 15 databases including the full text of 6,000 magazines and newspapers (EBSCOhost), World Book Encyclopedia, the Biography Reference Bank and more.

✓ **1.1 million**

Number of students currently served by INFOhio's library automation project

✓ **158,576**

Number of teacher selected resources available from the collections of the Area Media Centers throughout the state via Medianet, the automated booking software package available through INFOhio.

✓ **2,577**

Number of Ohio public and non-public schools online with INFOhio library automation

✓ **921%**

Percent increase since 2001 in the use of INFOhio's electronic resources

✓ **18 million**

Items circulated through 2,430 school libraries

✓ **173,466**

Number of digital titles that have been streamed or downloaded for use in K-12 classrooms statewide since 2006. Over 1,800 digital video titles, licensed at the state level, are part of this collection of resources.

✓ **53 million**

Number of articles retrieved and printed since 2001 from the core collection by students, teachers, educators and parents

✓ **79%**

Percentage of school districts benefiting from INFOhio's library automation project (481 out of 612)

✓ **\$0.45 vs. \$45.00**

Cost per student for INFOhio to purchase these resources centrally for a substantial savings: \$0.45 per student compared to \$45 per student if individual schools purchased only a fraction of these resources.

✓ **67%**

Percentage of public districts (407) that automated ALL of their libraries with INFOhio


✓ **1.8 million**


Number of student classroom viewings of all physical titles during the 2008-2009 school year


✓ **1.2 million**


Number of resources from Ohio's automated libraries and educational media centers available through INFOhio's union catalog, which serves schools statewide as a primary source for copy cataloging


Strategic Direction for FY2009-2013: Tomorrow's Goals

- 

Ensure continued and equitable access to information and learning resources for all Ohio PreK-12 students, educators and parents in support of Ohio's Academic Content Standards.
- 

Help all students and teachers access the right content, in the right format, at the right time to meet their learning needs through **professionally selected resources**.
- 

Institute an **efficient and effective delivery** model for accessing needed 21st century learning tools to help students acquire 21st century skills.
- 

Advocate 21st century learning skills **to enable all Ohio PreK-12 students to be information and media literate reaching their full potential to learn, work and add to the 21st century knowledge base.**
- 

Strengthen **strategic partnerships** which support common statewide programs and initiatives for educational technology and school libraries.