

OLS: MORE Millions of Resources at Your Fingertips

by Cherie P. Pandora, Consultant to INFOhio LSTA grant



- Has your budget been cut yet again?
- Is it harder to get the right resources into the hands of your teachers and students?
- Do you have trouble finding enough books for your discussion groups?
- Are you frustrated because you can't afford the DVDs that your teachers need to enrich their lessons?
- Do you wish that you could borrow books and DVDs in the same way that colleges do?

If you answered **YES!** to any of these questions, the solution to your dilemma is Ohio Libraries Share: Moving Ohio Resources Everywhere (OLS: MORE). OLS: MORE supplements your collection and expands your library's resources. Wouldn't you love to know that you will be able to meet the needs of students, teachers and administrators? OLS: MORE allows you to tap into the resources of over 100 public and school libraries, providing you with books, DVDs, videos, music and audio books. With such a wealth of resources available at the click of a mouse you can meet the needs of all students—your gifted as well as special needs students. As an added bonus you can introduce your students to those Inter-Library Loan (ILL) skills that they will need in college by allowing them to order their own books.

OLS: MORE is not intended to replace your operating budget for new books and materials; your library still needs to be the first library that your students and staff consult in order to meet their needs. Think of the OLS: MORE network as an extensive warehouse of supplemental materials just waiting to help your students to succeed.

You can use OLS: MORE to differentiate learning. Let's say that you have an inclusion class that needs material on World War II but some of your students read at a fourth grade level. You can use OLS: MORE to search for materials to supplement items from your own K-12 libraries. Conversely, you can locate higher level reading materials to supplement Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate projects.

Ohio Libraries Share: MORE (OLS: MORE) consists of nearly 100 participating libraries containing nearly 17 million volumes and 2.5 million patrons. Patrons from any participating library can request an item from another participating library and pick it up at the patron's home library.

Technical requirements are simple, there is no equipment to buy, no software to purchase—all you need is a current Internet browser on your computer and Adobe Acrobat. Your only cost pays for the delivery service through which you receive access to millions of K-12 appropriate resources throughout the state. (More specific information on cost appears later in this article). While you will

be expected to do some lending, you need not lend materials that do not circulate to your own students (e.g., reference materials) or those that are on reserve for your own teachers.

OLS: MORE improves student learning. OLS: MORE provides a wealth of materials to better meet student needs. OLS: MORE can be used to borrow those materials that you need just this one time to enhance learning; perhaps a science class needs additional information on tsunamis and earthquakes in light of the disaster in Japan. OLS: MORE can help you to gather these items at reading levels suitable to meet your students' needs. OLS: MORE can help you to gather books for Book Clubs, literacy circles or for student, or faculty, discussion groups. As an example, often English teachers would come to me and need an additional 10 copies of a novel for class. While I couldn't purchase 10 extra copies of *The Old Man and the Sea* for the classes, I could certainly borrow them. You can also provide enrichment materials such as materials in another language for your English as a Second Language learners or for students studying a foreign language.

"MORE is easily the most successful and appreciated program our school library participates in. Since our school district lies in rural Appalachia, staff and students love having the items they order on-line delivered directly to school. I can't imagine why any school library/media center would not participate in this service.

—Suzanne Roberts, Library/Media Specialist-Southern Local School District - Perry County, Ohio

OLS: MORE helps administrators. How often have you been asked to purchase a costly curriculum publication for an administrator to use just once? It seems that much of what they need for their own research is not yet in an electronic format and it often has a purchase price of more than \$50 per work. If your superintendent, headmaster or principal has a special focus this is one way to gather materials to meet that need. Four years ago our high school focus became creating Professional Learning Communities. We needed multiple copies of a guidebook for staff and additional copies of the book we planned to assign to students. OLS: MORE is the perfect answer to the dilemma of multiple requests for the same book. One relatively unknown benefit of being on the OLS: MORE delivery system is that you now have access **to delivery across the state**. Think of the items that athletic directors and coaches send back and forth through the mail. Think of choral music and band directors who send packets across the state for competitions and festivals. Mailing costs can be saved and the items can now be sent via the delivery system without any additional cost!

The only costs incurred are for the delivery service. The cost of delivery for next year has not yet been determined, watch for an announcement on the INFOhio website. We recommend the following ways to save on costs and provide your students with millions of resources.

1. Check to see if your public library already utilizes the state-wide delivery carrier. If they do, you may be able to participate and have a school van pick up items from the public library as it makes its rounds to your other buildings.
2. Collaborate by sharing the costs with a district that is close to you. One school would remain the delivery point and you can work out how items are retrieved by the other school. Again, check to see if the normal van delivery can make a stop at the other district.
3. Check with your local PTO/PTA and Educational Foundation. They may be willing to fund this creative way to encourage reading and to help students with research projects.

4. Last year's cost for two deliveries per week was \$1,374. If you have a school of 2,200 students then your cost is 62 cents per pupil; if you split the cost with another agency your cost can be much lower. If your district has 5,000 students then your cost falls to 27 cents per pupil. For district-wide participation only one school would serve as the official delivery point; materials can then be distributed to other buildings via your own inter-building delivery system.

Getting the right resources into the hands of our students, teachers and administrators has always been a difficult task, yet school librarians always find creative solutions to their problems. Consider OLS: MORE to be your solution to the problem of a shrinking book collection or a shrinking budget.

Helpful websites:

For further information check out the OLS:MORE website at www.infohio.org/librarystaff/MORE.html

If your school is automated with INFOhio please contact Juanita Markham Juanita@noacsc.org If your school is automated with another system please contact Nicole Merriman at the State Library of Ohio nmerriman@library.ohio.gov



Cherie Pandora is a consultant to INFOhio. She has been an educator for 35 years and retired from teaching in 2010. Cherie received her Educational Specialist degree from Cleveland State University, her MLS from Kent State University and her B.S. in Education from Miami University, with certification in Educational Media, K-12 and Social Studies Comprehensive. She also holds licenses as a Supervisor, Middle School Principal, and High School Principal. As a member of OELMA, Cherie has served as its NE Ohio Regional Director and is a frequent presenter at OELMA and eTech conferences.

Most common uses of MORE with students:

Promote Literacy. Gather books for Book Clubs or discussion groups.
Literature studies. Provide extra copies of novels for a unit.
Collection Development. Expand collection by borrowing materials.
Special projects and rarely used materials. Enhance learning.
Foreign language publications for English Language Learners or students in advanced classes in a foreign language. Enrich learning.

Most common uses of MORE for administrators:

Staff development. Borrow books, DVDs to support annual goals.
Graduate school research needs. For teachers and administrators
Administrative needs that are curriculum-related
School board needs that relate to school law
Multiple copies of books for professional learning community discussions
