

INFORMATION BRIEF

E-Resources in Ontario's Public, School and Academic Libraries

E-RESOURCES FOR ALL LIBRARIES

THE ISSUE:

The purpose of this brief is to ensure that those working in libraries are aware of the current purchasing arrangements in order to:

- Ensure the broadest possible access to information and reading materials for library users;
- Leverage cost-savings and efficiencies; and
- Prompt ideas, knowledge sharing and feedback from the library community for further purchasing opportunities.

CURRENT CONTEXT: E-RESOURCES IN ONTARIO'S LIBRARIES

Public, school, and academic libraries offer e-resources in the form of e-books and online databases. Examples of e-resources include online encyclopedias, collections of peer-reviewed journals, consumer health resources, magazines, music, videos and much more.

Regional and province-wide collaborative negotiation, license management and purchasing amongst libraries are standard practice and results in considerable savings and efficiencies. Collaborative purchasing can also lead to broader, more ubiquitous access for the general public and students.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: HOW E-RESOURCES ARE MANAGED AND PURCHASED

Each library sector develops programs, services, and resources unique to their sectors. For example:

- Public libraries offer resources aimed to support lifelong learning, homework help, career development, and leisure.
- School libraries offer resources for curriculum support, information literacy, research, and reading engagement.
- Academic (college and university) libraries offer resources to support curriculum, research, and academic publishing.

Ontario does not currently have purchasing agreements that span all library sectors with a core suite of e-resources. Consortia purchasing and access is largely segregated to each library sector (public, school, academic). A list of collaborative and consortia purchasing organizations are included in this document.

Funding for e-resources across all sectors is a mix of central/provincially funded, group purchasing paid by individual institutions agreeing to a core suite of products, and by individual institutions not participating in a group purchase.



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MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CONSORTIAL PURCHASING FOR LIBRARIES

In Ontario, the following organizations in each library sector coordinate collaborative negotiation, purchasing and license management of e-resources:

Public Libraries:

Name	Description	Funding	Members	Resources
SOUTHERN ONTARIO LIBRARY SERVICES (SOLS)	<p>SOLS is mandated to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing cooperation and coordination among public library boards and other information providers in order to promote the provision of library services to the public; and Assisting public library boards by providing them with services and programs that reflect their needs, including consultation, training and development. 	<p>From 2008 – 2015, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport provided provincial funding support. Today, each library funds their selected e-resources and cost savings are realized through group purchase facilitated by SOLS.</p>	<p>Open to all public and First Nation libraries in Ontario</p>	<p>Provincial Licensing</p> <p>Supplemental Licensing</p> <p>Consortia Purchasing Agreements</p> <p>Ontario Library Service Download Centre: E-books and audio books</p>
ONTARIO LIBRARY CONSORTIUM (OLC)	<p>OLC consists of 25 public library systems: eight county and regional municipality public libraries and 17 medium-sized public library systems in southern Ontario. It includes over 150 branch libraries and 25 headquarters, serving approximately 8% of the provincial population.</p> <p>The OLC continues to develop collaborative library processes through joint custom programming, negotiations of bulk rates with vendors, and cooperative training and support.</p>		<p>Members</p>	

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Academic Libraries:

Name	Description	Funding	Members	Resources
ONTARIO COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES (OCUL)	OCUL is a consortium of Ontario's 21 university libraries that have a commitment to work together to maximize collective expertise and resources. OCUL enhances information services in Ontario and beyond through collective purchasing and shared digital information infrastructure, collaborative planning, advocacy, assessment, research, partnerships, communications, and professional development. OCUL is an affiliate of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU).	Libraries each fund their selected e-resources and cost savings are realized through group purchase.	Members	Model Licenses Consortial Products
HEALTH SCIENCE INFORMATION CONSORTIUM OF TORONTO (HSICT)	The Health Science Information Consortium of Toronto was founded in 1990 out of a desire to strengthen the relationship between the University of Toronto Libraries and the libraries of health care institutions affiliated with the University's Faculty of Medicine.		Members	e-resources

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College Libraries:

Name	Description	Funding	Members	Resources
ONTARIO COLLEGES LIBRARY SERVICE (OCLS)	OCLS provides support for the libraries and learning resource centres of Ontario's 24 publicly funded colleges of Applied Arts and Technology. OCLS is funded in part by the Government of Ontario. OCLS provides a suite of centrally funded core services for the benefit of all 24 Ontario college libraries.	The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities provides funding to OCLS to support collaborative e-resource procurement services. Libraries each fund their selected e-resources and cost savings are realized through group purchase.	Members	e-resources Model License

School Libraries/Schools (publicly funded, K – 12):

Name	Description	Funding	Members	Resources
ONTARIO SOFTWARE ACQUISITION PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAPAC/CCPALO)	OSAPAC/CCPALO transforms learning and teaching by strategically developing, promoting and licensing digital resources. The committee enables deeper learning for all through communicating, collaborating, modelling and sharing what complex learning looks, sounds and feels like in a technology-enabled learning environment.	funded by the Ministry of Education	Publicly funded education system in Ontario: classrooms and school libraries across Ontario.	e-resources

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School Libraries/Schools (publicly funded, K – 12) continued:

Name	Description	Funding	Members	Resources
THE ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY CONSULTANTS OF ONTARIO (TALCO)	Members of TALCO are instructional leaders or managers for library programs at school boards from across Ontario. Their goal is to advance school library programs through leadership, sharing and professional networking with a focus on inquiry-based learning, multiple literacies and access to differentiated learning resources to engage K to 12 learners.	Funded by individual school boards participating in the group purchase. The suite of e-products have some overlap with, and have been negotiated with the SOLS suite of products, resulting in broader cost-savings across both school and public libraries.	Instructional leaders or managers for library programs at school boards from across Ontario	e-resources Purchase of TALCO negotiated K to 12 E-resources is open to all school boards in Ontario.

Other Purchasing Organizations:

Consortia Canada (www.concan.ca) is an additional purchasing organization that has [21 member consortia](#) in Canada. [Click here for a list of e-resources.](#)

For more information or to provide an update to this information brief, please contact the Ontario Library Association.