

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.C**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

E-Rate at the Supreme Court

On March 26, the Supreme Court heard arguments in the case *FCC v. Consumers' Research* over the constitutionality of the E-Rate program ([transcript](#)). Consumers' Research has challenged that the Universal Service Fund is a tax, and the FCC has improperly delegated authority over those funds to another party (away from Congressional oversight). The hearing was anticipated to last an hour, but ran to three hours. Most observers have the sense that the majority of the Justices are reluctant to overturn USF, recognizing that the program has a long track record of success, that actual USF expenses have grown little over the long history, and that overturning it based on a "nondelegation principle" would impact many other federal programs. The Court is likely to issue its decision before June 30, 2025.

Statewide Web Based Digital Skills RFP

A proposal has been selected to provide a statewide digital literacy training platform (Northstar or equivalent), and final approvals are working their way through the state's OhioBuys platform and the release of federal funds.

Statewide Databases

Except for the genealogy resources, the statewide databases are partially funded by an LSTA grant to the "Libraries Connect Ohio" partnership—OPLIN, INFOhio, and OhioLINK. It was feared that the federal spending pause and disruptions to IMLS might necessitate cuts in the statewide subscriptions. I expect that Mandy Knapp will share what details she can regarding the current state of federal funds the State Library can access; for my part, I can report that we have been given permission to ask for LSTA support for Year Three of the current database subscription package at the next State Library Board meeting, May 15. We are therefore not expecting any changes to statewide subscriptions for the next fiscal year.

Email-to-Text Gateways

Major cell carriers have long offered email-to-text gateways, but most SMS carriers will be [discontinuing](#) that service by June 2025. If your library sends ILS notices to <patronnumber>@<carrier.tld>, we invite you to switch to using OPLIN's service. OPLIN's SMS service delivers library notices to patrons as native SMS, and complies with federal laws for spam prevention. We currently send over 10,000 SMS/day. Cell carriers disabling their email-to-text gateways will not affect delivery through OPLIN's service. Learn more at <https://www.oplin.ohio.gov/sms>.