

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.C**

MEETING DATE: **May 15, 2026**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

E-Rate News

Phishing comes to E-Rate

Some E-Rate applicants have received emails with the subject “Service Provider Document, E-Rate Productivity Center.” The originating domain is “usac.com,” not the correct “usac.org” domain. The “View Secure Message” link in the body of the email is where they’ll get you. USAC has been notified, but in the meantime, be careful.

Square Footage Review

Of course this comes in the height of application review season. Because a new five-year Category 2 Budget cycle starts this year, nearly every Category 2 request is being met with a square footage review. The typical way to pass these is to get a letter from me.

SAM.gov

By August 2026, all applicants invoicing for E-Rate reimbursements will require an active SAM.gov registration for payment. Your library must register for a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) at SAM.gov, and renew the registration annually. Christine created [a guide to help Ohio public libraries](#). No need to do this if you get discounted bills (“SPI”)

Very important: There are many unscrupulous people and organizations that offer “SAM.gov” registration or renewal services for a price. These are all scams. Do not send money to them, and do not be taken in by their false claims of urgency. If you have questions about your SAM.gov registration, contact OPLIN, and we will help you verify the status of your organization’s registration.

Cooperative Database Subscription Funding

Some of the databases available to OhioLINK members are provided via what they’ve called their “NPR Model” of funding: some institutions chip in to fund subscriptions that are available to all. I have been negotiating with a few vendors to try this for selected products. Gale LegalForms, for example, is a mature resource that many libraries already subscribe to, but many could never afford, and the vendor has probably reached the ceiling on their earnings in Ohio for this product. My plan is to announce something like a “GoFundMe” campaign where I’d post the cost I’d negotiated, libraries pledge the amounts they’re willing to contribute, and we’ll see if we reach the target. Look for more news this summer.