

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.E**

MEETING DATE: **Sept. 25, 2026**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

OPLIN Board comments to the FCC regarding proposed E-Rate Rules

The comment letter to the FCC regarding proposed E-Rate rules highlights the importance of E-Rate to OPLIN's mission, noting that a loss of funding cannot be "made up" through other means, and would result in a direct, significant impact to all public libraries in Ohio. We mentioned how we used E-rate to help deliver fiber access to communities like Chesterhill (population 276) and Powhatan Point (population 1461). In particular, the letter voices concerns we have with the proposal that each library in a consortium must directly submit their own form 479 (CIPA certification) in the E-Rate portal. That is wildly inefficient, and frankly, most libraries in Ohio just won't do it. OPLIN supports allowing consortia to continue to act as the administrative agents for their members, and be required to produce certifications as part of the 471 process or upon request of reviewers.

(And speaking of those certifications, you can complete that paperwork now at oplin.org/erate.)

New Sanborn Maps interface debuting at OLC Convention

OPLIN's interface to the Ohio Sanborn Maps collection required necessary work to bring it up to accessibility standards. In the process, we have enriched the low-resolution, black and white collection by referencing newer, better scans provided by the Library of Congress, and we are implementing the International Image Operability Framework to facilitate API integration. The new interface will have significantly better search capability to expose more of the valuable historical content that the maps contain.

I also hope to have the "Statewide Database Booster Program" site launched shortly before the convention. Libraries will be invited to pledge their financial support for sharing the cost with OPLIN to "boost" select, locally purchased resources to statewide access for all. Our pilot database for the program will be *Gale LegalForms*, a valuable resource that many libraries subscribe to, but which is out of reach for smaller libraries to afford. OhioLINK has a long record of success with this type of shared funding model, which they liken to NPR or PBS: some people pay, but everyone gets it. Public libraries are, of course, very different than university libraries, and OPLIN has failed to make this work in the past, but I'm reasonably optimistic that with the right subscriptions and better tools, we might use this version of crowdfunding to expand equity of access.