

SUBJECT: Statewide database funding proposal – information from surrounding states

Cost – How long – Taxpayers satisfied?

Contracts are usually 5 years, or 3 with 2 additional 1 year options

Wisconsin: BadgerLink – Wisconsin’s Online Library

- Program inception: 1998 (23 years)
- Spend \$2.4 million/year – Population 5.88 million (.41 per capita)
- \$74 million (What it would collectively cost to license BadgerLink resources on a per library basis)
- Funding Sources: Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Universal Service Funds appropriated through Wisconsin's biennial budget, and federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Ohio: OWL Ohio Web Library

- Program inception: 2008 (13 years)
- Spend \$4.5 million/year – Population: 11.75 million (.38 per capita)
- EBSCO online resources cost approx \$3 million > \$57 million - What it would collectively cost to license EBSCO resources on a per library basis)
- Funding Sources: Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant through the **State Library of Ohio**, which provides about \$1.5 million per year for five years. In addition, the three Libraries Connect Ohio library networks—**INFOhio**, **OhioLINK**, and **OPLIN**—provide about \$2.5 million in state funds each year from their current budgets.

Indiana: Inspire – Indiana’s Virtual Online Library

- Program inception: 1998 (23 years)
- Spend \$2.2 million/year – Population 6.732 million (.33 per capita)
- Funding Sources: Indiana General Assembly through Build Indiana Funds and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), and through a partnership with the Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI).

Michigan: MeL – Michigan eLibrary

- Program inception: 1992 (29 years)
- Spend \$4.0 million/year – Population 10 million (.40 per capita)
- \$96 million (What it would collectively cost to license MeL resources on a per library basis)
- Funding Sources: State of Michigan as well as federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Quotes from State residents:

“These resources are critical for us to support students and faculty.”

“I’ve been using BadgerLink since becoming a school librarian. I see BadgerLink as the core online library resources.”

"BadgerLink prepares our students to be college and career ready."

“I love the fact that BadgerLink does the heavy lifting for us. We don’t have to find the time to pull everything together to have a ‘full resource.’ If there is a need, they likely have it or have access to it. It’s a value add for Wisconsin taxpayers.”

“Every time I pay my taxes I put in a note saying I don’t mind paying them as long as they keep the library open.”

“I am re-entering the workforce and the LearningExpress Library resume builder enabled me to easily create a professional looking resume. The questions it asked and suggestions it offered gave me confidence that I was including all of the information that today’s employers are looking for in a format that would put my skills and experience in their best light. I haven’t had to create a resume in over ten years and LEL eliminated the stress from this portion of the job seeking process. Furthermore, I am visually impaired and I can use this program successfully with my Windows screen enlargement program.”

“I can’t tell the difference between real news and fake news and MeL is real.”

“MeL is not just MeLCat; it’s databases, teacher resources, library training resources, career resources, and all those other things. I appreciate that MeL is finding a way to teach people “how” to use all of MeL and to recognize its usefulness to ALL library types and sizes.”

“I love the fact that I can link resources from Mel to my school website. I teach 4th grade and we teach a lot of informational reading and research. Teaching the students what credible sites are and what credible information is is very important. Introducing this site will be wonderful. I will specifically link Britannica School Elementary and the ebook k-8 collection.”

Annual Usage Statistics (2019):

Indiana: 330 million searches

Wisconsin: 78 million searches

Michigan: 30 million searches