COVID-19
Teleworking is not a hardship for the OPLIN staff, and the agency runs at full speed even with the office suite vacant. (Which is good, because early in June, a water line above the OPLIN offices developed a leak, and the landlord has yet to repair the damage.) Most of the expanded offerings from databases have expired, although remote access to Ancestry has been extended through July. The quarantine did make it a challenge to complete site inspections for new library circuits due to come up July 1, and the state has made it a little more difficult to get into the State of Ohio Computer Center to do maintenance in the Co-Location Space (oplin.ohio.gov/co-location-service), but generally it’s business as usual.

Database and Service Renewals
We are expecting no changes to the database collection in FY2021, which started July 1. Most databases are starting year 3 of a 5-year agreement. We renegotiated the genealogy package pricing, and will keep African-American Heritage, Ancestry Library Edition, Fold3, and HeritageQuest for another 3 years.

Lynda.com will remain on the current platform through December. The company will likely want to migrate libraries to the new LinkedIn Learning platform early next year. That is also when we expect to release an RFP for a career skills development resource, as the current 3-year agreement for Lynda.com ends June 30, 2021.

Renewals for other services (Umbrella/OpenDNS, EZProxy) are working their way through the state administrative processes. We are not expecting to renew Infosec IQ, the phishing education and training service; access to that will end in October.

Database Marketing
Best practice is for libraries to curate the statewide database links and present them on their own websites, but we do maintain a generic public portal at ohioweblibrary.org. A new design of that site launched in June. In addition to the refreshed look, we fixed some accessibility issues with the old site.

OPLIN’s iSchool intern Hannah Simpson finished her work developing marketing kits for each of the statewide databases. The kits contain logos and templates for print and digital promotions, including graphics sized specifically for targeted social media campaigns. Explore the materials at oplin.ohio.gov/tips-marketing.