EZproxy
Back in 2004, OPLIN bought an unlimited site license for EZproxy; it cost $1000, and since then it has supported remote access to all databases. The server runs 252 instances of the program, each with a unique IP address: one for each library system in Ohio, and a single IP that connects geo-located users to statewide subscriptions. OCLC acquired EZproxy in 2008, and eventually OPLIN needed to begin purchasing software upgrades and support. Presently, EZproxy costs just under $50,000 per year.

OPLIN has always let libraries use its EZproxy to grant patrons remote access to the databases they subscribe to on their own, but quite by accident, we seem to have kept this a secret. We knew many libraries purchased and managed their own local copies of EZproxy, and we assumed it was because it offered something we didn’t: direct management of the stanzas, more rigorous authentication than OPLIN’s barcode validation patterns, additional statistics. Maybe, though, libraries just didn’t know we would let them use our proxies?

So, we’re slowly spreading the word, and working with a few libraries to learn more about their particular needs and whether OPLIN can make adjustments to meet them. If your library has particular requirements of your EZproxy that OPLIN currently isn’t meeting, we’d be interested in knowing what those are. We might be able to save you some money.

LinkedIn Learning
OPLIN’s statewide agreement for library access to Lynda.com ends June 30, 2021. We had planned to issue an RFP for a statewide career skills development resource in the winter, but instead we will start this process this fall, so that a decision about the future of the Lynda agreement will be made before the company restarts the transition to the LinkedIn Learning platform. This week, Lynda began emailing library account administrators about the transition. Even though ours is a statewide purchase, Lynda’s account and communication systems treat each library as if the subscription is managed independently. Despite what the library messages imply, LinkedIn has scheduled Ohio’s upgrades for the week May 3-7.

If the RFP process selects LinkedIn Learning, we’ll migrate as planned. But if some other product is selected to replace Lynda.com, we will work to make sure that those libraries that want to continue providing LinkedIn Learning locally will have a smooth transition. I see little point in transitioning libraries to the new product when it is vanishing a few months later, and will lobby to keep the legacy platform live until the end of June.