Managed Branch Connections Pilot
For two years, OPLIN has used the E-rate process and our unique position as a statewide consortium to help libraries get better bids for their branch circuits: we collected branch information from interested libraries, posted those locations on an “omnibus” call for proposals, then helped libraries evaluate and select winning bids, order new services, and file for E-rate refunds. The program has been successful, but it is a lot of work communicating back with libraries, sending reminders when they haven’t replied or when deadlines loom. And we’re aware it’s a lot of work for libraries: E-rate isn’t easy.

We’re exploring the next step: provide libraries with their branch circuits for a fee. We’ll pilot this program with the Clark, Geauga, and Harrison County libraries, ordering and paying for branch connections, filing for the E-rate refunds, and billing the libraries OPLIN’s average post-discounted cost (currently $130 per month for a 1G circuit). Look for more news about this program in the summer.

New Webkit Designs
Laura has created a new model for OPLIN’s website hosting service. Instead of the old design based on columnar layouts, the new sites will use a more contemporary design based on horizontal arrangement of elements. Libraries can select from four design templates. More information about the features available in each and the demo sites can be found at [https://www.oplin.ohio.gov/webkit/templates](https://www.oplin.ohio.gov/webkit/templates).

Database Updates
- OhioNet has negotiated a group discount of up to 15% on LinkedIn Learning renewals for those libraries wishing to pick up the resource after OPLIN’s statewide subscription ends June 30. If you wish to negotiate directly with LinkedIn, the new sales rep is Matt Anderson, matanderson@linkedin.com, (313) 506-5378.
- EBSCO has been moving its subject collections (Hobbies and Crafts, Home Improvement, Science Reference, Small Business) from their legacy platform to the more accessibility-compliant Explora interface. In the process, they’re changing the names, changing “Center” to “Source.” OPLIN staff have updated all the library profiles in EBSCO Admin to reflect the change.
- MASK Authentication has been upgraded to accommodate the new Sierra Patron authentication API, and Derek is working with CLEVNET to improve and streamline authentication with their SirsiDynix system.