American and English Literature Collection (LCO) New Platform Soft Launch FAQ

On August 27, 2020 OhioLINK will begin the soft launch of the American and English Literature Collection on a new e-book platform. Please see more detailed information below.

What is a "soft launch?"

The "soft launch" indicates that the URL for the new platform is temporary. Both the legacy platform and the new platform will be available to end users during the soft launch period.

Is the entire American and English Literature Collection available on the new platform?

There were 1,057 items that were not able to be migrated to the new platform. These items are available on the legacy platform. OPLIN, OhioLINK, and INFOhio are discussing a solution.

Why a new platform?

In 2017, OhioLINK issued an RFP to replace the legacy OhioLINK Electronic Book Center with a visually attractive, easy to navigate, mobile device compatible, online platform for scholarly e-books. The contract was awarded to BiblioLabs, LLC. Work began on the new platform in January 2018 with the format migration and loading of the Chadwyck-Healey content purchased by Libraries Connect Ohio.

What is the URL for the soft launch?

The URL for the new EBC during the soft launch is https://ohioweblibrary.org/db/literature-beta. You can begin using this URL on the launch date.

When will the "beta" be removed from the URL of the new platform?

At some point, after testing, we will redirect the link to the current, legacy platform to the new BiblioBoard platform.

Is the new platform mobile-friendly?

Yes, the new platform works well on mobile devices.

Who do we contact for support?

You can continue to send support issues to support@oplin.ohio.gov. OPLIN staff will forward content issues to OhioLINK and technical issues to BiblioLabs.

What formats are the e-books in?

The American and English Literature Collection (Chadwyck-Healey) e-books use the e-pub format. E-pub users on Android and PCs may need to download an app in order to download and read e-pubs.

Can users do full text searching in the new platform?

Full text searching will be limited to searches within the e-pub that is being viewed. Full text searching across all e-books will be implemented in a later release.

What are "curations, "modules," and "categories"?

The new platform uses the terms curations, modules, and categories to refer to different ways of grouping e-books. To help you understand what these are, we've included explanations below.

Curations are groups of curated content, often based on a particular subject or author. At this time, the curations mirror the modules.

Modules are, in most cases, all of the e-books from a publisher (what we usually refer to as a collection). The American and English History Collection (Chadwyck-Healey) has been broken up into several modules such as "English Poetry 600-1900 and "Shakespeare," in order to provide a better browsing experience.

Categories are groups of e-books related to a particular topic. E-books are placed into categories automatically based on publisher-provided metadata. If a publisher has not provided appropriate metadata and a category cannot be determined for a particular e-book, that e-book will not be included in a category. However, it will be discoverable using search or by browsing a module.

How will users authenticate?

We are using IP authentication and EZProxy, as with the current Literature Collection and most other databases. Users recognized as coming from within Ohio will automatically be proxied in. There are no user-apparent changes to authentication. Please continue your usual practice for IP updates by notifying us at support@oplin.ohio.gov.

Can I get usage statistics from the new platform?

OPLIN is working with OhioLINK to get usage stats from the new platform integrated into https://stats.oplin.org.

Do users have to set up a BiblioBoard account?

Users are not required to set up a BiblioBoard account to use the platform and read the e-books. However, having a user account does offer the ability to save favorites, create bookmarks, add notes, and sync preferences across devices. An email address is not required to create an account.

Will the collection be integrated into my library's current BiblioBoard services?

A handful of Ohio libraries already offer BiblioBoard content to their patrons. We will work with those libraries to determine best practices to minimize patron confusion and direct users to the content they want.