

Success Stories in Justice Information Sharing The Ohio OLLEISN Experience



The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police ([OACP](#)), in partnership with the [Ohio Department of Public Safety](#), [Ohio Attorney General's Office](#), [Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services](#), [Ohio State Highway Patrol](#), and the [Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association](#), has accomplished what few states

have—justice information sharing locally but on a statewide scale. Through the Ohio Local Law Enforcement Information Sharing Network ([OLLEISN](#)), located at the Ohio Attorney General's Office, an unprecedented 580 local law enforcement agencies are interconnected and electronically sharing justice information throughout the state through a unique grassroots effort initiated by private, public, and non-profit entities. OLLEISN is considered one of the most complete exchange models for law enforcement information sharing in operation today. Through grant funding made possible by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, provided by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant, Ohio local law enforcement leaders pooled their resources to build OLLEISN to connect local law enforcements' records management systems together into a central store. OLLEISN's vision is to protect the homeland from acts of terrorism, and Ohio citizens from acts of crime, via a network and a culture based on information sharing.

OLLEISN is a multijurisdictional system, meaning Ohio's local law enforcement agencies share record management systems (RMS) information and computer aided dispatch (CAD) information across jurisdictions. The system is guided by model policies and established technical and security standards and contributes to officer safety by making more information about suspects or situations available. According to Corporal Ron Crum, Jackson Township Police Department (www.jtpd.com), "OLLEISN has enabled us to quickly identify many suspects who give false information about their identity. The information accessed revealed existing warrants, as well as caution warnings for police officers making contact with the individuals. OLLEISN access has greatly assisted our department throughout many cases by allowing us to gather information at the time of an incident. Normally, we would have had to wait hours, if not days, for this type of information through other sources. OLLEISN's quick record dissemination has allowed us to further our investigations, add additional charges, and given us leverage to obtain information on other types of crimes that has led to more arrests."

OLLEISN upholds a "give-to-receive" policy, meaning that agencies must share their data before they are permitted to access and search the data contained in OLLEISN. Available 24/7 to

"Information sharing among local law enforcement in Ohio, once a vision, is now a reality. Each day, access to information through OLLEISN that was previously unavailable electronically is helping officers to serve and protect Ohio communities more safely and effectively. OLLEISN allows local agencies to select a CAD/RMS system based upon their internal needs and then provides them with the ability to share their local data with other agencies on disparate systems. The ability to share information is an agency choice and not restricted to a single vendor product. By deciding to participate in OLLEISN, local law enforcement agencies do not have to relinquish local control and management of their records."

Gary Vest
President, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP),
Chair, OLLEISN Steering Committee, and
Chief of Police, Powell Police Department
Powell, Ohio
<http://www.oacp.org/>



authorized users, OLLEISN may be accessed online through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway ([OHLEG](#)) an Internet portal managed by the Ohio Attorney General's Office as well as directly through several CAD/RMS vendors that have been certified by OLLEISN for this functionality.

OLLEISN and OHLEG are strategic partners in facilitating information sharing in Ohio, but are two distinct efforts. OLLEISN collects and shares local law enforcement data through their database located at OHLEG. The OHLEG Search Engine (OHLEG-SE) is a tool developed to allow authorized users to search OLLEISN and other state and national law enforcement databases that are available through OHLEG. The 580 connected agencies share their data with OLLEISN by uploading their local data to the OLLEISN repository through secure hardware VPN connections.

Dave Willoughby, Chief of Police of the New Vienna Police Department (<http://newvienna.net/police.htm>), stated, "The New Vienna Police Department belongs to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and conducts investigations on sexual predators that look for minors to victimize on the Internet. During our investigations, predators will often give us their first name and tell us the city they reside in. Using only these two identifiers, we can conduct a series of queries using OHLEG. Through this process, we have been able to positively identify several suspects. OHLEG has been invaluable in helping us to keep our children safe on the Internet."

The OLLEISN endeavor was facilitated by the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative ([Global](#)) Justice Extensible Markup Language (XML) Data Model ([Global JXDM](#)) for multiple exchange schemas. This highly successful and acclaimed model has led to improved justice information sharing in many states and counties and was the key to making the Ohio project affordable and efficient. XML is a leading mechanism for facilitating data exchange by creating standards of data structure and semantics. Global JXDM is a common XML vocabulary designed specifically for criminal justice information exchanges that is understood

system to system and that enables access from multiple sources and reuse in multiple applications. The OLLEISN technical staff found the Global JXDM to be very usable, starting with the production release, Version 3.0. As subsequent Global JXDM versions were released, most of the extensions needed by the OLLEISN were made available and incorporated.

Throughout development, direct technology assistance was provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), DOJ, through the IJIS Institute ([IJIS](#)). IJIS is a not-for-profit corporation that functions as a single industry voice in the development of new information technology (IT) technical and functional standards and practices in the law enforcement and justice information technology world. Mr. Paul Wormeli, Executive Director of IJIS, extended in-depth help and technical assistance to the Ohio team throughout their planning and implementation phases, including help in forming a concept of operations and architecture. IJIS' Technical Assistance Team traveled to Ohio periodically to review and guide system development progress. Meetings included a review of the OLLEISN data model and its conformance with Global JXDM guidelines. The professional support and guidance provided throughout the entire project contributed greatly to the project's success.

OLLEISN Success: Hubbard

"As the sole detective for the City of Hubbard Police Department, I use this system on a daily basis. OLLEISN is the reason many suspects have been identified and located, such as a recent aggravated robbery that was solved by the use of OLLEISN. Thanks!"

Detective Sergeant Robert Altier
City of Hubbard Police Department
Hubbard, Ohio
www.cityofhubbard.com/safety_police.htm

The OLLEISN staff received excellent support and implementation help not only from IJIS but also from researchers at the Georgia Tech Research Institute ([GTRI](#)), who played a key role in developing the software foundations for Global JXDM by providing engineering support and technical guidance. Finally, OLLEISN developers received assistance from DOJ's [Global JXDM Knowledgebase and Help Desk](#).

The Help Desk is a dynamic interactive Global JXDM resource that provides an enhanced level of technical assistance through an online knowledgebase, as well as the ability to submit questions to live support staff via the Web, e-mail, or by phone.

Since becoming operational, OLLEISN's impact on local law enforcement agencies has been substantial. "Our patrol officers have been able to send out investigators to interview suspects that were arrested on only minor charges," said Corporal Crum. "Using OLLEISN, we discovered that some of the suspects were more involved in drug-related offenses than just the minor misdemeanor possession charges that we currently had them in custody for. Normally, these suspects would have been released because we would not have known their involvement and record of convictions in more serious offenses involving the same modus operandi (MO)."

OLLEISN Success: City of Greenville

"OLLEISN and OHLEG have been helpful in my investigations. While there are numerous cases where I have used this tool, one that stands out is a forgery case. When I ran background checks on the suspects, I realized that another agency had also made an inquiry into one of the same suspects. I contacted that agency and we worked together to share information and to solve our cases together. Shortly, thereafter, other agencies called me with the same inquiries due to the same suspects committing crimes in their area. These two suspects were committing forgeries over a large geographical area. Without OLLEISN, the agencies would not have known how widespread the criminal activity was and would not have been able to share information or to collaborate with their efforts. Both OLLEISN and OHLEG have contributed to the successful resolution of many other cases and continue to provide instant access to centralized information instead of having to sort through records."

Detective Jason Marion
City of Greenville Police Department
Greenville, Ohio

www.cityofgreenville.org/Departments/Police/police_homepage.htm

OLLEISN continues to provide assistance (software, hardware, and Internet access) to agencies that desire to participate and to help additional vendors become certified. "Information sharing is such a necessary aspect of law enforcement that being involved in OLLEISN was a 'No Contest,'" said Robert "Bo" Vespit Jr., Chief of Police of the Pemberville Police Department, (<http://pembervillelibrary.org/pemberville/PoliceDepartment.htm>). "The project assisted my agency at no cost by providing two new computers, software and installation, Internet connections, RMS setup with the Law Enforcement Officer's Toolkit, and training and continued outstanding support. Since we are a small rural agency with a very small budget, this project afforded us the opportunity to be connected with all of the surrounding agencies and the entire state. We've been connected to OLLEISN for over six months and have used the search engine frequently in criminal investigations. Without OLLEISN we would still be in the paper era requesting documents from other agencies."

Plans include increasing the number of OLLEISN participants from 580 to 775 by March of 2007 and to enhance the OLLEISN software to expand the types of local records shared. Exploration is now under way as part of Phase 2 of the OLLEISN project to allow officers to share data in real time from disparate, local wireless mobile systems. Law enforcement agencies have been surveyed to determine the extent of the use of mobile data software with wireless connectivity. Approximately 200 agencies that now use wireless-enabled mobile data computers (MDCs) in police cruisers, as well as all of the 580 connected agencies, stand ready as future beneficiaries of a software solution to share real-time data from disparate mobile vendors.

"OLLEISN is a great tool for our department. We have used OLLEISN to assist in ongoing investigations and to build a more extensive database on those individuals involved," said Corporal Crum. "This has assisted us in developing additional evidence against suspects through second- and third-party involvement and to gather statements from these individuals about the primary suspect(s). Although we have only been online since December, OLLEISN has become one of the most commonly-used tools in our department. For a small, full-time, 16-person department in a rural community, it has saved us time and money and has helped to increase officer and citizen safety tremendously. Thank you for allowing us to participate in the program, our service to the community has been greatly improved by its addition."

For more information on OLLEISN, contact Ted Oakley, OACP, 614B761B0330, ted.oakley@oacp.org or oacp@oacp.org.

OLLEISN Success: Ohio State Highway Patrol

<http://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/>

The following are examples submitted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) officers regarding their particular experiences with OLLEISN:



"Our plainclothes officers in the Wayne County area were preparing to serve a warrant on a suspect for breaking and entering and theft. They completed what we call a warrant risk assessment, to determine how 'dangerous' the suspect is. The suspect initially scored very low (meaning he was not a danger), until the officers checked OLLEISN and found he had an outstanding warrant for a weapons-related charge in southern Ohio. This discovery immediately increased his score to the danger level and changed the officers' plan of action." Trooper Kevin Weber's case, District 3 Massillon area

"A plainclothes officer from our Cambridge area was working on a case involving a conveyance of drugs into the prison. The officer was searching for the last known address of the person who had mailed the package into the prison. After checking OLLEISN, she discovered that a military police (MP) officer at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base had arrested the person a month prior. As a result, the latest information on the suspect was obtained to make an arrest." Trooper Laura Taylor, District 7, Cambridge area

"Using OLLEISN, a state trooper was successful in locating a suspect in a title fraud case." Trooper Rayetta Calhoun, District 3, Massillon area