**Ohio Innovation Exchange FAQ**

**General Information**

**What is the Ohio Innovation Exchange?**

The Ohio Innovation Exchange (OIEx) provides a powerful, centralized web portal with access to faculty experts, state-of-the-art university equipment and research support services, in the fields of biomedical, natural and physical sciences; engineering; technology; and mathematics. OIEx currently provides access to more than 10,000 faculty profiles and 1,000 resources from six member universities. The OIEx is designed to foster research collaborations, economic development, and intellectual advancement across Ohio and the globe.

OIEx is an initiative of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, developed in collaboration with Ohio universities and with industry support from the Ohio Manufacturing Institute.

**Who sponsors and supports OIEx?**

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) is the primary sponsor of OIEx, accompanied by strong industry support through the Ohio Manufacturing Institute.

The data and technology underpinnings of OIEx are supported by the Ohio Technology Consortium (OH-TECH), an umbrella organization that includes the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), the Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC) and the Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK).

**Which universities are participating in OIEx?**

Currently, there are six universities participating in the OIEx:

* Case Western Reserve University
* Cleveland State University
* Ohio University
* The Ohio State University
* University of Akron
* University of Cincinnati

The goal is to position OIEx as a resource for showcasing all Ohio universities.

**How does OIEx benefit both industry and academia?**

Benefits for industry: Increasingly, tech, medical, manufacturing and other companies need research, intellectual property and technology licensing opportunities to plan and produce their products or offer the services that their customers need. OIEx provides access to faculty expertise, patents and grant recipients. OIEx also offers information about advanced equipment and services that small- to mid-size companies may not own or have access to. What’s more, university faculty can steer you to a rich source of great employees through student internships and capstone research projects.

Benefits for university researchers and learners: OIEx is a way to expand researcher visibility and impact. Researchers can use OIEx to find other institutional collaborators and needed equipment. These collaborations can also inform teaching and service. Students and junior faculty can use OIEx to find potential advisors or mentors. The potential connections to industry can grow innovative collaborations and provide information on external research funding opportunities.

**How do I locate an OIEx expert/researcher?**

To find a particular researcher’s profile: Select “experts” from the red pull-down menu or click on “browse experts” and enter the name in the search box. The results page will display profiles that most closely match your search term. To find experts who conduct research on a particular topic, enter the keywords in the search box.

Researcher profiles will generally include their biographical information, research publications, social media accounts, grants and patents, as well as their level of experience in working with industry. You can see their Ohio research collaboration network and you’ll also find their email address in case you want to contact them directly. If you don’t find the person or area of research you are searching for, send a request through *Contact Us* and we’ll assist you.

**Do I need to obtain permission to use a research publication I locate on OIEx?**

In most cases, open access publications are available in OIEx profiles as linked PDFs. These resources are available for all users to read, copy, and apply to other works, as long as the author and original source are properly cited. Traditional access publications may have a DOI option for linking to the full text based on institutional subscriptions. Usage rights vary by publisher and publication so look for the usage terms of any works in question.

**Is there an OIEx user or interest community I could join?**

OIEx has a growing social media presence. You can follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn to keep up with system developments, innovations at participating universities, related educational programming, and more. See our homepage for social media information.

**How often is the OIEx database updated?**

Each university provides updated HR directory data on their faculty at various times during the year. Publication records and citation data are automatically updated from external data sources such as Web of Science. In addition to this, faculty from each institution can access and edit their profiles following the instructions provided on the OIEx site.

**Are there OIEx workshops or training sessions offered for universities or interested industry personnel?**

There are not regularly scheduled workshops but sessions can be requested. Please reach out to us via the “contact us” form.

**Information for University Users**

**How do researchers benefit from OIEx?**

OIEx offers a single tool to search for and view the expertise available across multiple Ohio universities. OIEx offers researchers a means of showcasing their publications, grants and contracts, labs, patents, and more. Along with research publication citations, article citation data and altmetric social media tracking is provided. This information is available quickly and easily to potential collaborators at other universities and especially from business and industry representatives who are looking for collaborators.

Researchers have control over their profiles and can add or delete content or even opt out of having their profiles displayed.

**As a faculty member profiled in OIEx, where does the information in my profile come from?**

Faculty directory information (i.e., name, title, department, college) is sourced from each partner university’s online directory.

Representative publications of featured faculty are pulled in dynamically from third-party databases (e.g., PubMed, Web of Science, CiNii, etc.) and cross-matched to faculty profiles by OIEx’s technologies. Grant data is dynamically sourced from 600+ worldwide public and private funders, while information detailing patents is drawn from the national patent offices of 11 countries.

Faculty have the ability to edit their profiles to include or remove data as needed.

**I’m looking to collaborate on a specific area of research (or with a specific professor). How can I most effectively search the database?**

If you’re looking for experts in specific areas of research (for example, genomics or artificial intelligence), type it in the search bar to see a list of faculty at our member universities that work in that area. You can look at the collaboration networks to identify other potential experts. If you aren’t able to find experts in the areas you are seeking, contact us and we’ll provide you with assistance.

**I am a faculty member from a participating university but my profile is not in OIEx. Why is this?**

At this time, faculty profiled in OIEx are from the fields of biomedical, natural and physical sciences; engineering; technology; and mathematics. The system may be expanded in the future to include additional disciplines. If you are from one of the included disciplines and do not find your profile in the system, please reach out to us via the “contact us” form.

**Can non-faculty university employees have an OIEx profile?**

At this time, the experts profiled in OIEx are faculty. If you hold a non-faculty research position and are interested in having a system profile, please reach out to us via the “contact us” form.

**How can I find out if business and industry employees are viewing my profile? How many “hits” have I had?**

This type of reporting functionality is something OIEx aims to provide to faculty in the future. In the meantime, please reach out to us with specific questions via the “contact us” form.

**As someone who is profiled, can I assign a colleague to manage my profile?**

Yes, when you login to edit your profile, you have the ability to assign someone to “impersonate” or serve as a proxy to modify your records.

**I am a university administrator. Can I run reports in OIEx to pull our publications and other information for benchmarking?**

Report generation by system users is under development and planned as part of future OIEx offerings. OIEx system managers may be able to meet your specific report needs. If you have a particular report need we can explore, please reach out to us via the “contact us” form.

**I am a university student. Why should I use the OIEx platform? Can I use the OIEx to search for scholarships or work opportunities?**

OIEx is especially helpful to students and junior faculty who are looking for mentors and advisors at Ohio institutions. You can search by topics/keywords and limit to those at your university or broaden the search to include experts at any of the institutions. Knowing the experts are in Ohio offers you the opportunity to potentially engage with them in person in addition to online. Contact information for experts is provided and you could reach out to the experts to explore potential informal networking or more formal mentoring opportunities.

Information on scholarships, internships and jobs is on the list of planned, future enhancements for OIEx.

**Information for Industry Users**

**How does the corporate community benefit from OIEx?**

Increasingly, tech, medical, manufacturing and other companies need research, intellectual property and technology licensing opportunities to plan and produce their products or offer the services that their customers need. OIEx provides access to faculty expertise, patents and grant recipients. OIEx also offers information about advanced equipment and other university services that small- to mid-size companies may not own or have access to. What’s more, university faculty can steer you to a rich source of great employees through student internships and capstone research projects.

**I need help with a project and I think one of Ohio’s universities could provide related services for me. Can I find university services on OIEx?**

OIEx includes more than 1,000 records regarding equipment, technologies and research services available at participating institutions. If you are not able to find what you are looking for, reach out via the “contact us” form.

**Are there fees involved in using services or equipment I find in the OIEx?**

Some of the equipment and services indexed in OIEx are available to business and industry, or faculty from other institutions, for a fee. In most cases this is noted in the record and more information about the fees is available via the associated website.

**Are there any categories of industry that are prohibited from using the OIEx?**

No, the OIEx is free and available for anyone to search. OIEx is especially interested in reaching businesses that are already collaborating with Ohio universities or interested in developing new partnerships.

**I’m not sure where to start to find help with my company’s particular challenges. How do I get assistance?**

You can search OIEx by topic/keyword or for particular equipment and services. If you don’t find what you are looking for, please reach out to us via the “contact us” form. Industry liaisons will be able to assist you.

**Is the work I engage in with an OIEx researcher confidential? Can our company request a non-disclosure agreement with OIEx researchers?**

Sustaining university-business collaborations often requires legal agreements. A confidential disclosure agreement (CDA), is one document that the business and university contacts can cover once any partnerships come together.

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