

# SCAVENGER HUNT

WORKSHEET

#1

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

**JOSH MANDEL**

TREASURER OF OHIO

Ohio's Online Checkbook, otherwise known as OhioCheckbook.com, is a first-of-its-kind tool that empowers citizens with unprecedented direct access to Ohio's finances dating back to 2008.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

This exercise will walk you through step-by-step instructions on how to navigate OhioCheckbook.gov for the purposes of this lesson. Each bullet represents an instruction to follow on the website and will lead you to the answer of each scavenger hunt question below it.

1. OhioCheckbook.gov displays over \$473 billion in state spending dating back to Fiscal Year 2008. (In Ohio, expenses are tracked in fiscal years, meaning that spending for 2015 really includes from 7/1/14 – 6/30/15.)

- Go to: [www.OhioCheckbook.gov](http://www.OhioCheckbook.gov).
- Mouse over "Year to Year State Spending" bar graph on the right to see each year's total spend.

**Q: How much did the State of Ohio spend in 2010?**

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. You can also see how the past year's spending is broken down by expense category, such as equipment or supplies.

- Mouse over "2015 State Spending" pie graph on the left to see each category's total spend in 2015.

**Q: How much did the State of Ohio spend on Supplies, Maintenance, & Travel in 2015?**

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. The main feature of OhioCheckbook.gov is the Google-style search bar which features contextual search, meaning that you can start typing a word and it will predict what you might be looking for to offer suggestions you can choose to click. For instance, if you start typing "B-U-C-K" you will see appropriation (or, budget) line items, programs, and even vendors with "B-U-C-K" in their name. Alternate searches may also include agencies, expense types, and Funds.

- Type in "buck" into the search bar and scroll through the search suggestions.

**Q: Name one of each of the following that includes BUCK in its name.**

**A: Appropriation Line Item:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Program:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vendor:** \_\_\_\_\_



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4. Let's search the Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation Appropriation Line Item...

- Click on "Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation" in the list of search suggestions.

**Q: How much was spent on the Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation in 2015?**

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

5. You can also scroll down to see the actual expenditure with the date, vendor, and amount.

- Scroll down. Click up/down arrows to the right of "Date", "Paid To" and "Amount."

**Q: Which agency spent money on the Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation in 2015?**

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

6. For each expense, there is a corresponding check image. On each check, there are 35 pieces of information, including the name of the department paying, the vendor they paid, date, check number, amount, and memo. You can also see where the money is coming from and who to contact if you have questions about the specific expense.

- Click on the "10/6/2014" Department of Natural Resources expense. See the check image pop onto the screen.

**Q: Who is the check written paid to the order of?**

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: What is the contact email address for questions regarding this expense?**

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Exit out of the check by clicking on the "x" in the top right-hand corner of the window.

7. OhioCheckbook.gov also places expenses in context. Is \$610,000 in 2015 for the Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation a lot or a little? The blue "Compare" function (in the top right-hand corner) allows you to compare this expense to other expenses in this "Appropriation Line Item" dating back to 2008.

- Click "Compare." Click "Fiscal Year." Go through the list and click on each year so that all eight years have a blue checkmark beside them. Then, click "Compare."

**Q: How much was spent on the Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation Appropriation Line Item in 2012?**

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_



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8. Let's see what we can find out about the 2012 expenses for the Buckeye Lake.

- Click on the Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation bar for 2012.

**Q: Which vendors received money from the State for the Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation in 2012?**

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

9. If you wanted to see all that the money that DLZ Ohio Inc was paid by the state, you can click on DLZ Ohio Inc in the Paid To field, and it will take you there.

- Click on "DLZ Ohio Inc" to bring up the check for the above mentioned expense.
- Click on "DLZ Ohio Inc" in the "Pay to the Order of" field. See their year to year spending and total transactions.

**Q: How many transactions did the State have with DLZ Ohio Inc in 2010 vs. 2014?**

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

