

Background

The Open Scholarship Commitment Implementation Working Group was established in April 2022 to support and advance the aspirational goals laid out in the [Open Scholarship Statement of Commitment](#). The working group is responsible for socializing the policy aspirations, developing an implementation plan, and assessing any outcomes arising from proposed implementations.

During the first year of its three-year term, the working group set out to identify possible implementations in support of the aspirational goals laid out in the statement of commitment. This brief report outlines the work undertaken by the working group to brainstorm and collect possible implementation ideas, both through initial internal idea generation activities and later through targeted consultation with librarian colleagues.

Initial Working Group Brainstorming and Idea Generation

As the working group's primary objective is to operationalize the aspirational goals established in the Statement of Commitment, our first task was to begin to generate possible implementation ideas. The working group began this process through an internal brainstorming activity.

Working group members were given a defined amount of time to consider each of the eight aspirational statements and brainstorm all possible implementation ideas. This process was conducted over several meetings and resulted in 36 implementation ideas, which were captured in Padlet and are available for review in the [working group meeting minutes](#).

Librarian Outreach Brainstorming and Idea Generation

While working group members come from across the library, representing different units and functional expertise, it was agreed from the outset that we should engage broadly with our colleagues and encourage participation in the idea generation phase. Returning to the aspirational statements and the various expertise and workflows they implicated, we identified key areas within the library for targeted outreach and located appropriate units or groups that we felt would be able to represent these areas.

As a result of our conversation, we identified the following groups to conduct targeted outreach with:

- Community Engagement Community of Practice
- Technology, Discovery, and User Experience unit (TDUX)
- Teaching and Learning LibGuides Advisory Group
- Open UBC Working Group
- Rare Books and Special Collections, University Archives, Okanagan Special Collections and Archives and Records Management

In addition, the Librarians and Archivists Research Community of Practice (LARC) was initially included on our list of groups to reach out to, but as this CoP does not have standing members, nor regular meetings, it was determined that outreach through this group wouldn't be any more effective than seeking general feedback from the library. As we already had plans to offer all librarians an

opportunity to provide such feedback, it was deemed unnecessary to host a targeted brainstorming session for the LARC community.

Finally, having attended targeted brainstorming sessions through their affiliation with other units, library staff at the Woodward and Biomedical Library asked for a targeted session for their branch. This session was conducted upon request and the implementation ideas generated were added to our master list.

Session Format

Prior to conducting any external brainstorming sessions, working group members agreed on a common approach that would guide each session. Participants were first introduced to the aim of the working group and a summary of work done to date and were then led through a structured brainstorming activity.

To prime the brainstorming portion of the session, participants were first asked to discuss the ways in which they felt open scholarship intersected with their work. These ideas were not recorded, as they were only meant to foster conversation. For the formal brainstorming session, participants were first asked to select three key aspirations from the list of eight aspirations laid out in the Open Scholarship Statement of Commitment. This was done via voting.

Once three aspirations had been identified, session moderators led participants through three rounds of unstructured brainstorming, each tied to one of the identified aspirational statements. Participants recorded their implementation ideas in a Google doc.

In total this approach to outreach and idea generation led to consultation with 35 librarians along with additional staff members both inside and outside of the library and resulted in 46 implementation suggestions.

Open feedback Solicitation via Qualtrics

Working group members were aware that there may be other librarians with an interest in our work and a desire to give feedback. We wanted to facilitate this broad participation in the idea generation phase and created an open and anonymous forum for additional feedback through the use of a Qualtrics survey that mirrored, as much as possible, the in-person session experience.

Survey respondents were able to watch a recording of the brainstorming session led by Katherine and Vanessa for the Woodward and Biomedical Branch and were then guided to select three aspirational statements to provide implementation ideas for.

The Qualtrics survey was promoted in the Library Weekly Update and over the Librarians' listserv and resulted in eight responses, although none resulted in any new implementation ideas being added to our growing list.

Summary of Results

As a result of the working groups efforts, we were able to develop a condensed list of 36 implementation ideas. This final number reflects a deduplicated list of ideas from across our internal and external brainstorming sessions along with an initial removal of suggestions that were beyond the scope of our work. The remaining implementation ideas were then split into four key categories:

communications, documentation, professional development, and workflows to further facilitate execution and planning. In total, the implementation recommendations can be broken down as follows:

- Communications – 16
- Documentation – 5
- Professional Development – 8
- Workflows - 7

Next Steps

Having completed the idea generation phase and identified possible implementations, the working group is now in the process of prioritizing the recommendations and establishing a working plan to direct our efforts in the implementation phase. This puts our work on track with our workplan documentation, in which we outlined our intention to move forward on implementations in year two of our working group, which began in April, 2023.