

COPPUL Scholarly Communications 2021 Survey Results

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This survey, conducted January-February 2021, is a follow-up to a [2012 survey](#) also distributed by the COPPUL Scholarly Communications Working Group. Responses were received from all 29 COPPUL-member libraries. Results are intended to inform COPPUL support for scholarly communications while also providing comparative data to illustrate changes to the scholarly communications landscape in Western Canada over the last decade.

Questions	Yes %	No %	Planned %	Change from 2012
Hold outreach events for faculty on scholarly communication topics	91%	0%	9%	↑ 6%
Hold outreach events for students on scholarly communication topics	61%	30%	9%	↑ 11%
Hold education events for library staff on scholarly communication topics	52%	30%	17%	↓ 11%
Include scholarly communication topics in information literacy instruction sessions for students	70%	26%	4%	↑ 12%
Have a library web presence on scholarly communication topics aimed at campus community	91%	0%	9%	↑ 12%
Job descriptions for library staff include scholarly communication duties	78%	22%	0%	↑ 31%
Have assigned library staff members to be responsible for scholarly communication activities	91%	9%	0%	↑ 28%
Have a library committee on scholarly communication that includes library staff only	22%	70%	9%	↓ 4%
Have a library committee on scholarly communication that includes other campus stakeholders (i.e. faculty, editors, University press, research office)	4%	83%	13%	↓ 12%
Offer services such as copyright, author rights, and/or open access mandates compliance advising	96%	0%	4%	↑ 17%
Have an institutional repository	100%	0%	0%	↑ 45%
Have a fund to pay author fees for open access journal publishing	35%	65%	0%	↑ 13%
Library serves as publisher for new models of scholarly communication (e.g., open access journals)	61%	30%	9%	↑ 16%
Provide collection funds to support open access publishing/publishers *	52%	35%	13%	N/A
Have an open access mandate, policy or resolution for the institution *	26%	43%	30%	N/A
Have assigned library staff members to support the development or use of open education resources *	74%	26%	0%	N/A

Notes: Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number. *Indicates questions added or modified from the [2012 survey](#).

Summarized Responses

Answers to open ended questions are summarized below.

1. Areas of scholarly communications that libraries are involved in not mentioned above include:

- *Metrics/research impact:* Activities in this area included supporting scholars in developing an online presence or managing their online author identity (with tools such as ORCID), as well as supporting scholars in their use and understanding of scholarly networking platforms.
- *Open access publishing supports:* Some respondents noted providing specific advice to researchers on recognizing “predatory” publishers and conferences.
- *Open education:* Initiatives included developing policies around open education, running certificate programs, and assisting instructors with locating and reusing open resources.
- *Open data:* Respondents noted offering various workshops and training sessions focused on research data management. Other activities included participating on university committees to developing institutional research data management strategies, launching data repositories and promoting data archiving.
- *Other areas included:* Support for digital humanities, copyright, web archiving, and developing a scholarly activity procedure and training program.

2. Summary of the role respondents felt COPPUL should play in supporting scholarly communications.

- *Community building and professional development:* A majority of respondents noted the important role for COPPUL to play in continuing to support a community of practice by facilitating collaborative information sharing, training, and networking opportunities among members working in areas of scholarly communications. Respondents noted grappling with a number of areas where peer support and professional development opportunities are valued, including operational concerns and capacity issues, relationship building and advocacy on campus, policy development, mandate compliance, the implementation of new services like data repositories, and facilitating discovery of open access books from academic presses.
- *Infrastructure:* A majority of respondents noted supporting access to products that reduce technological barriers to providing scholarly communications services, including existing platforms like the Arca shared repository through BCELN and Dataverse data repository through Scholars Portal, as well as additional platforms like Open Journal Systems for open journal hosting and Pressbooks for open access book hosting.
- *Collaboration:* A number of respondents noted the importance of supporting collaboration and information sharing between the Scholarly Communications Working Group and other COPPUL groups, particularly around digitization of scholarly resources, and collection development to foster further dialogue on strategies for open investment. Respondents also noted the importance of connecting outward, fostering information sharing and professional development activities that involve national efforts by, for instance, CARL and CRKN.
- *Advocacy:* Respondents encouraged COPPUL to lobby in support of open access strategies that enable broad participation of members and representation of members’ communities and regions in initiatives supporting equitable, sustainable access to scholarly resources.

3. Summary of the role respondents felt COPPUL should play in supporting open education.

- *Infrastructure*: Possibly explore supporting shared infrastructure (e.g., publishing platforms like Pressbooks, an open education resources repository).
- *Skill and knowledge building*: Provide resources and training/education opportunities (e.g., webpage about finding open education resources repositories and resources).
- *Community building*: Determine the need for a community of practice regionally, to facilitate collaborative information sharing (e.g., best practices) and networking, and what role COPPUL might play in that. Also, could COPPUL have a role in existing initiatives (e.g., partner with CARL on their existing community supports, and/or collaborate with them on new initiatives).
- *Advocacy*: Promote and raise awareness of the many benefits of open education resources, maybe in collaboration with other regional/national consortia; possibly develop an official position statement and advocate at high level (e.g., federally).
- *Funding*: Explore offering funding supports similar to recent initiatives by CAUL-CBUA to provide grants for adaptation and creation of open resources, and sponsoring events and educational opportunities.

4. Additional comments summarized.

- Respondents expressed interest in sharing more information about the following topics with the broader COPPUL community at future professional development events: library publishing support for open education resources, production and delivery systems for open education resources, working with faculty on alternative scholarly communication and dissemination methods, knowledge mobilization, models of mediated deposit support for institutional repositories, advocacy for open infrastructure, and supporting community scholars.
- Some respondents asked additional questions in their free responses, such as:
 - Is anyone working on scholarly communications as it applies to disciplines considered “non-academic”, such as trades education?
 - How are we protecting user privacy as vendors look to sell our users’ data?
- Affiliate COPPUL members were also given an opportunity to respond to this survey. Of the 6 institutions who responded, including polytechnical, college and research libraries, responses were consistent with those of COPPUL members in terms of existing scholarly communications activities, and a desire for shared infrastructure, resource sharing, community building and professional development opportunities. It was also noted that many of these activities benefit from collaboration and unique perspectives brought by a diversity of voices, alongside a request that COPPUL continue to make its programming and initiatives open to affiliate members where possible.