

COPPUL Scholarly Communications Working Group

www.coppul.ca/scholarlycommunications | Report for the September 2020 COPPUL Directors Meeting

About

The Scholarly Communications Working Group (SCWG) was endorsed as a standing committee of COPPUL in March 2012 and has been fully operating since September 2012.

Current members:

- Robyn Hall, MacEwan University (AB, Chair, 2017/05 - 2021/06)
- Elaine Fabbro, Athabasca University (AB, Director representative, 2015/10 - 2021/06)
- Sonya Betz, University of Alberta (AB, 2017/09 - 2021/06)
- Devina Dandar, Royal Roads University (BC, 2017/09 - 2021/06)
- Christie Hurrell, University of Calgary (AB, 2020/07-2022/06)
- Kate Langrell, University of Saskatchewan (SK 2019/06-2021/06)
- Emma Scott, University of Lethbridge (AB, 2020/07-2022/06)
- Christina Winter, University of Regina (SK 2019/06-2021/06)

Activities Since the Last Report

Member Updates

In July, the SCWG welcomed two new members, Christie Hurrell from the University of Calgary and Emma Scott from the University of Lethbridge, while Elaine Fabbro (Athabasca University) kindly agreed to extend her term as Director representative. We would like to recognize and thank our outgoing members, Carmen Kazakoff-Lane from Brandon University and Leonora Crema from UBC, for their active engagement and many contributions in recent years.

Scholarly Communications SkillShare Event

Since spring 2018, the working group has organized a well-attended annual scholarly communications professional development event for COPPUL member library staff. In mid-March of 2020, the group made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel our third annual in-person event that was planned for April 29-30 at Royal Roads University due to COVID-19. In its place, the group organized a half-day online event on April 30 that featured three sessions from the original program, and updates from member institutions. 42 librarians and library staff attended virtually from institutions across all four COPPUL member provinces. The post-event survey received 16 responses. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive regarding both session topics and overall format. Several people asked that we not move away from holding in-person events when once again feasible. However, all respondents greatly appreciated the group's efforts to move things online given the circumstances.

The SCWG extends a tremendous debt of gratitude to the original program committee that planned for our in-person event, which included Devina Dandar (Royal Roads University), Christina Winter (University of Regina), and Inba Kehoe (University of Victoria), and to Devina, Rosie Croft and others at Royal Roads who stepped up to provide the technology and support necessary to move the event online. Much thanks also goes to those who originally intended to present at the event, and especially to those who were able to reconfigure their sessions on short notice to work in an online environment.

The event program and presentation materials are available at <https://coppulscwg.ca/skillshare>.

Issue Briefs

This past year SCWG members completed two new *issue briefs* on:

- [Supporting Student Journals](#)
- [Copyright Support for Scholarly Communications](#)

SCWG Website

Group members have continued to maintain a blog (<https://coppulscwg.ca>), posting information of relevance to COPPUL members on scholarly communications topics, which members can contribute to and follow by visiting the site. The website also includes copies of the group's monthly meeting minutes.

2020-2021 Work Plan

The SCWG is planning to continue to meet remotely on a monthly basis from September 2020 to June 2021. Meetings will be focused on completing the following initiatives:

1. Western Canada Scholarly Communications SkillShare Event

The SCWG is planning a fourth event for spring 2021. A date and location (likely once again virtual given the ongoing pandemic) will be determined and announced later this fall. COPPUL members are encouraged to let any member of the SCWG know of any topics they would like included in the program.

2. Research Plans

Members are exploring doing a follow-up to a 2012 survey that the SCWG sent to COPPUL institutions on the scholarly communications landscape in Western Canada to gain a better picture of how services, staffing and infrastructure have evolved and ways that COPPUL can serve members in these areas.

In recent years, the group has produced issue briefs on timely topics relevant to scholarly communications. These briefs have been tentatively tabled for this academic year. Directors are encouraged to contact the SCWG Chair at hallr27@macewan.ca by early in the fall term if there are areas they would like the SCWG to explore in detail by producing one of these briefs.

3. Website/Blog

Plans are underway to revamp the blog and find ways to ensure content is posted on a regular basis that highlights local initiatives and activities as much as possible.

4. Future Planning

The group will be taking a close look at COPPUL's strategic directions as well as its own terms of reference to ensure that its activities closely align with COPPUL's goals and overall membership needs. They will also explore opportunities to connect with CAUL-CBUA committees given their recent MOU with COPPUL committing to work more closely together. Future planning in the winter term will include identifying a new SCWG chair to lead the group when Robyn Hall completes her second term as Chair in June 2021.

Submitted by Robyn Hall (SCWG Chair), August 31, 2020