

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:

- Christina Winter, SCWG Chair, University of Regina (SK 2019/07-2023/06)
- Victoria Eke, Concordia University (AB, 2021/07 -2023/06)
- Christie Hurrell, University of Calgary (AB, 2020/07-2022/06)
- Kate Langrell, University of Saskatchewan (SK 2019/07-2023/06)
- Erin May, Thompson Rivers University (BC, 2021/07 -2023/06)
- Ali Moore, Simon Fraser University (BC, 2021/07 -2023/06)
- Tara Stephens-Kyte, University of British Columbia (BC, 2021/07 -2023/06)

Activities Since the Last Report

Member Updates

As of July 1, the SCWG welcomed existing member Christina Winter, University of Regina, as its new Chair. Four additional new members were appointed to the working group: Victoria Eke, Erin May, Ali Moore and Tara Stephens-Kyte. Many thanks to outgoing Chair Robyn Hall, Director representative Elaine Fabbro, and members Sonya Betz, Devina Dander and Emma Scott for their many valuable contributions, including the pivotal role each played in helping to establish the COPPUL Scholarly Communications SkillShare event alongside continuing members Christie Hurrell, Christina Winter, and Kate Langrell, who has commenced a second two-year term on the group.

Scholarly Communications SkillShare Event

Since spring 2018, the working group has organized a well-attended annual scholarly communications professional development event for COPPUL members. Due to ongoing concerns posed by COVID-19, the 2021 event was again held virtually.

This year's SkillShare took place on Thursday, April 29 from 10AM-1PM (MT). It included six short lightning strike sessions, a presentation on expanding support for open access from the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, and an overview of results from a survey on COPPUL member and affiliate members' scholarly communications activities.

86 librarians and library staff from across the region registered for the event and 82 attended throughout the morning. A post-event survey received 24 responses from mostly librarians. All respondents agreed that the event met or exceeded expectations. Participants noted that the event format worked well in an online environment and that sessions included informative, practical content on a diversity of topics relevant to those with an interest in scholarly communications. While many respondents look forward to this event once again taking place in person, a number also expressed interest in opportunities to participate virtually in the future.

The event program, presentation materials, and more information are posted at <https://coppulscwg.ca/skillshare>. Please contact the SCWG Chair for access to session recordings.

Many thanks to each presenter, participant, and working group member for making this such a great event!

Scholarly Communications Survey

In January, the working group sent COPPUL members and affiliate members a follow-up survey to one conducted by the group in 2012. In addition to collecting comparative data on scholarly communications activities over the last decade, the survey asked questions about how COPPUL might support both scholarly communications and open education activities moving forward. The survey received responses from all COPPUL member institutions and a number of affiliates. Our thanks to everyone for participating!

In April, a summary report of aggregate results were compiled by Robyn Hall, Kate Langrell and Emma Scott, and presented at the aforementioned SkillShare event on April 29. The report is available on the SCWG website at <https://coppulscwg.ca/resources/>.

OER Session at the COPPUL Directors' Meeting

In March of 2021, Christina Winter, Kate Langrell, Carmen Kazakoff-Lane and Cari Merkley presented an OER session at the COPPUL Directors' Meeting. This session gave a summary of OER activities in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, highlights of OER activities and infrastructure at the national level, and concluded with a discussion of the potential roles for COPPUL to consider in its support for open education.

Terms of Reference

In June of 2021, the board approved updates to the working group's terms of reference. The group's purpose and mandate was adjusted slightly to reflect its focus on information sharing and coordinating opportunities for collaboration. Membership was expanded to up to seven members and the Director representative position was removed given competing demands on Directors' time and the active engagement of both the SCWG Chair and COPPUL Executive Director to help communicate SCWG activities to COPPUL Directors and the Board.

The revised, current Terms of Reference are posted at <https://coppul.ca/scholarlycommunications>

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. Of note, recent posts include information about a newly revised open access commitment at the University of Saskatchewan contributed by DeDe Dawson, and a summary of research findings on institutional repository copyright practices contributed by Robyn Hall based on earlier research conducted by Robyn, Robert Tiessen and Patty Galilee. The website also includes copies of the group's monthly meeting minutes.

2021-2022 Work Plan

The SCWG is planning to continue to meet remotely on a monthly basis from September 2021 to June 2022. Meetings will be focused on completing the following initiatives:

1. Western Canada Scholarly Communications SkillShare Event

The SCWG is planning a fifth event for spring 2022. A date and location will be determined and announced later this fall. The event will likely take place in British Columbia, potentially at Royal Roads University as originally intended in 2019 prior to COVID-19 requiring that it be moved online, and will likely include some opportunity for online participation for anyone unable to attend in person. COPPUL members are encouraged to let any member of the SCWG know of any topics they would like included in the program. A call for sessions will go out to members by early winter term 2022.

2. Website/Blog

The SCWG has maintained its own WordPress site for a number of years, however, it would like to explore moving this content to coppul.ca alongside plans to update and restructure that site in coming months. The group will work with the Executive Director to move forward with this initiative.

3. Getting Started in Scholarly Communications Resources

The group plans to develop a curated list of resources for members with an interest in learning more about scholarly communications and becoming more involved with others working in this area of librarianship, including Slack channels, listservs, conferences, and other types of events.

4. Research Roundup & Member Updates

For a second year, the group plans to send out a Google Form to academic librarians and staff across Canada to collect information about recent articles, reports, presentations and other forms of dissemination relating to scholarly communications. Additionally, they will ask for any relevant updates from member institutions about new services and initiatives. This information will be collated and shared with COPPUL membership.

5. COPPUL Newsletter Contributions

As begun in spring 2021, the SCWG Chair will continue to provide the Executive Director with monthly updates about the SCWG's activities for inclusion in COPPUL newsletters shared through the COPPUL listserv to help facilitate communication and information sharing.

Submitted by Robyn Hall (former SCWG Chair) & Christina Winter (SCWG Chair), August 10, 2021