

OCUL

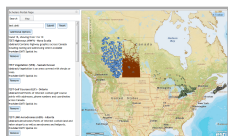
Ontario Council of University Libraries

OCUL's quarterly catch-up... read about what's new in Scholars Portal, announcements from our member libraries and future OCUL plans and initiatives

Issue No. 3 Spring 2011

Scholars Portal Updates

Updates on Scholars Portal services and projects



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News from the Spring 2011 Directors' Meeting

A synopsis of what was on the meeting agenda and links to documentation from the meeting

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An Updated Look for OCUL

A first glimpse of the new look for OCUL's website and a status update on site construction



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Cataloguer's Day - June 27th

Mark your calendars for this daylong information sharing day for cataloguing librarians

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Moving Forward

While colleagues at our institutions are breathing a sigh of relief that another academic term has come to an end, I know many of you are just gearing up to begin projects designed to support your faculty, students, and researchers. The OCUL/Scholars Portal Team is also entering the summer with plans for a number of projects, including preparation for a Fall launch of the new Geospatial Health Informatics Cyberinfrastructure Portal, the initial launch of the redesigned OCUL website, and supporting the migration of our member schools from Illumina to the new ProQuest Platform.

Those of you involved in OCUL committees & groups will also be implementing some of the goals and tactics you so thoughtfully mapped out over the past few months and which were approved at the Spring 2011 Directors' Meeting in May. The plans that you contributed were dynamic, realistic and very much in-line with our Strategic Directions and they will breathe life into the vision we have created for OCUL and our institutions. (A consolidated list of our shared goals is now posted on the OCUL website while a more in-depth listing of the tactics approved at the Directors' Meeting is available to



Photo: Ian Britton

OCUL member staff in the OCUL Reports & Digests <http://spotdocs.scholarsportal.info/display/Rep/Latest+Directors%2527+Meeting+Documents> space on the SPOTDocs wiki along with other documents from the meeting.)

There have been interesting dialogues about the role and work of libraries in the media of late. One look at the number of exciting and innovative projects and partnerships outlined in our Strategic Goals document offers proof of the value we bring to students, faculty and researchers and I thank you on

behalf of the Executive for the time, energy and creativity that went into their design.

I look forward to sharing with you all in the fall some of the fruits of our summer labour, but I do hope that as you roll up your sleeves over the next few months you will also be able to take some time to enjoy the sunshine (whenever it appears) and to spend time with your friends and family.

Have a wonderful summer!

Leslie Weir, Chair, OCUL
University Librarian, University of Ottawa

P.S. At the Spring Meeting of the Directors we took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Carole Moore, Chief Librarian at the University of Toronto, for her work with OCUL over her 25 year career leading U of T. Carole will step down this summer and on behalf of OCUL I would like once again to offer our thanks and best wishes.



Carole Moore

What's on your mind?

Have a topic or service you'd like to read about in the Quarterly? Please send any ideas to [Kerry Kelly](#).

ILL Update

On May 25th the SPOT team held a RACER webinar to update staff at member libraries about new features for the service.

Missed It?

To see the RACER update or to catch any other webinars you may have missed visit our webinar archive page: <http://www.ocul.on.ca/docs/OCUL%20Webinars.html>

Illumina Search Transition

Illumina, our Scholars Portal Search platform, is being phased out over the summer and OCUL schools will be migrating from Illumina to the new ProQuest platform. The Scholars Portal Operations Team (SPOT) will continue to work with ProQuest to ensure a smooth transition for all of our schools.

To facilitate the migration, we have created a separate listserv to provide detailed information about timelines, progress, procedures, and training. Both SPOT and ProQuest will use this new list to broadcast important messages. In addition we anticipate the list will serve as a vehicle for troubleshooting, school-to-school tips, general questions for SP and ProQuest, and discussion.

Any library staff needing detailed information about the transition is welcome to join the list. <https://lists.uwaterloo.ca/mailman/listinfo/ocul-pq-migration>

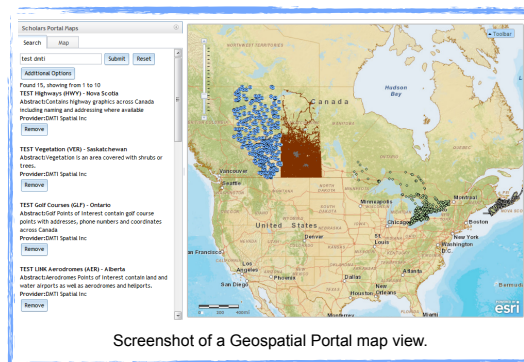
On June 20th, Scholars Portal will also be hosting a webinar for OCUL member library staff, presented by SPOT staff and a ProQuest trainer. For more information or to register please contact Amy Greenberg: amy@scholarsportal.info

Staffing News

In March **Jacqueline Whyte Appleby** joined Scholars Portal as our newest Client Services Librarian and **Jo Ashley** accepted the role of GIS Technician in May. Over the summer the Geospatial Portal team will also welcome Metadata Librarian **Amber Leahey** and GIS Developer **Michael Kyffin**.

In the Works

This summer the Scholars Portal Team will be focusing on a project to improve member access to shared OCUL licenses, working on the creation of an OCUL virtual reference service, partnering with the Population Health Improvement Research Network to create a new Health Data Directory and putting the final touches on the Geospatial Portal Interface Beta launching in September.



Screenshot of a Geospatial Portal map view.

Scholars Portal Books

Accessibility Update W3C®

In response to recommendations from the accessibility audit of Scholars Portal Books, the following features have now been added to the platform to ensure the service is accessible to all users.

- Bypass blocks
- Heading levels
- Tab index
- Field titles
- ARIA enabled results listings

Work is underway to determine how best to deal with accessibility issues surrounding the e-books themselves including support functionality for XML format books.

E-book Loading

Want to keep up to date with what's been loaded into the E-Books platform? Visit our new wiki page (<http://spotdocs.scholarsportal.info/x/RwZcBQ>) or sign up for one of the RSS feeds we've added to the MARC records page to be alerted when new records are available for downloading.

Need a SPOTDocs login?

Contact Kerry Kelly: kerry.kelly@ocul.on.ca

Follow Scholars Portal on Twitter:
twitter.com/scholarsportal

ODESI

This year, for the first time, ODESI will be offered as a subscription service to universities and colleges not part of the OCUL consortium.

After consultation with the Data in Ontario (DINO) group, a subscription agreement was developed and a pricing model for the service was established. Under the terms of this subscription agreement, institutions with licenses to use particular data sets housed on ODESI (e.g. the surveys that are part of Statistics Canada's Data Liberation Initiative) will be able to access those data sets through ODESI, paying OCUL a platform access fee to cover the costs to OCUL. ~ [View the Poster](#)

Population Health Data



OCUL has partnered with the Population Health Improvement Research Network (PHIRN) to develop a Population Health Database Directory that will be accessible via Scholars Portal. The directory will provide researchers with reliable, accurate information on the health of populations at international, national, provincial and health region levels.

The PHIRN Project will see Scholars Portal staff, funded by a grant from PHIRN, work with researchers to create DDI compliant metadata records for datasets identified as being of high interest to researchers and students.

The Directory is slated to launch Fall 2011.

MarkIt! Student Metadata Program - 2011-12

OCUL is pleased to announce the 2011-12 round of funding for MarkIt!, the ODESI student mark up program. The program supports the hiring of students to mark up statistical datasets, using the DDI metadata standard, for inclusion in ODESI.

OCUL has selected the following institutions to participate in the program from May 2011 to April 2012:

- Carleton University
- University of Guelph
- McMaster University
- University of Ottawa
- Queen's University
- University of Toronto

For more information on ODESI, please visit <http://odesi.ca>

OCUL Website Update

Ta - Da!

Here is a first peek at the newly designed OCUL logo and initial website design. This new site addresses some of the feedback we received from you in our survey last fall. The public face of the site is set to launch over the summer and we will continue to work with our groups & committees on creating site spaces to support their work and make it easier to communicate across our membership.

Not just good looks

Along with an updated and more streamlined interface, the site, being built on Drupal, will now offer improved functionality including site search, user permissions to allow member content to be hosted securely on the site while still offering a public face, and features for polling and communicating via forums.

Once the initial site is ready for testing we will be contacting those members who generously offered to be our initial feedback audience. If you'd like to be a part of our review committee please contact Kerry Kelly:

kerry.kelly@ocul.on.ca

Photo Call

We are also looking for interesting images of member libraries to add to a new gallery for the site. If you have any shots you'd like to share please send them along!



OCUL-IR Update: Collecting CanCon

OCUL is committed to the provision and preservation of academic resources essential for teaching, learning, and research. Central to this commitment is acquiring and ensuring trusted access to the best of Canadian and Open Access scholarly publishing and research.

To this end, OCUL is working to increase Canadian content available to Ontario's students and researchers and now has partnership and content loading agreements with University of Toronto Press and the Synergies Project.

By making metadata for all of these Canadian titles openly available on Scholars Portal, whether the content is Open Access or not, OCUL will help to raise awareness about Canadian scholarly publications.

University of Toronto Press (UTP) Local Loading Agreement

OCUL has recently negotiated an agreement that allows for UTP publications to be loaded onto local Scholars Portal servers ensuring that more Canadian content is preserved and accessible to eligible member institutions now and in the future. The content, which currently consists of 23 journals including backfiles, will be loaded into the Scholars Portal Journals platform over the summer of 2011.

Synergies:

Through our partnership with Synergies <http://www.synergiescanada.org/>, a project to create a digital infrastructure for research published in Canada, OCUL is now offering access to a growing number of Canadian Scholarly Journals through Scholars Portal Journals. Currently 17 Canadian journals have been loaded on the platform through this partnership.

Building on this momentum, and a recent nod of support from the Canadian Association of Learned Journals, Faye Abrams and U of T's Rea Devakos, Coordinator, Scholarly Communication Initiatives, have conducted further outreach to Synergies affiliated publications and have already received a positive response. Wayne Johnston (Guelph), Andrea Kosavic (York) and Peter Zimmerman (Windsor) were instrumental in the initial pilot.

In Other OCUL News...



OCUL Outstanding Contribution Award

We're sorry to say that there were no nominations submitted for the OCUL Outstanding Contribution Awards for 2011. The nominations for 2012 will open in November and offer an online form to make it easier to acknowledge the outstanding work done for OCUL by staff at our member libraries.



The Gathering Space meeting room at Trent's Gzowski College

2011 Spring Directors' Meeting

Trent hosted the spring semi-annual Directors' meeting.

Here is a brief synopsis of what was discussed and some links to more in-depth information

On the Agenda...

May 11th and 12th, the OCUL Directors met at Trent University for the Spring 2011 Directors' Meeting. On the agenda were items including Digital Preservation Policies drafted in preparation for the upcoming audit of the Scholars Portal [E-Journals](#) platform, status updates on current Scholars Portal initiatives including the Geospatial Health Informatics Cyberinfrastructure Portal and the International Polar Year Project, and goals with associated work plan tactics for OCUL groups & committees. Recommendations concerning use of Relais Express and about OCUL's Discovery project were approved. OCUL's support of Knowledge Ontario was fully discussed and resulted in some key decisions. As part of an overall organizational update from the Executive Director, a new document distribution plan was approved that will support timely and effective communication of key information from Directors' meetings.

OCUL member library staff can review meeting documentation by visiting the OCUL Reports & Digest section of the [SPOTDocs wiki](#).

Strategic Plan Updates from OCUL Groups & Committees

Over the winter OCUL committees and groups created goals and tactics documents to help support OCUL's Strategic Directions for the coming year and at the Directors' meeting updated the Directors on the status of some of their current projects. Of note among the work in progress:

- The *OCUL Executive Committee* provided input into a recent COU consultation document for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities regarding the Ontario Online Institute
- The *OCUL Information Resources* Committee members have been working on a Quality Assurance Framework template.
- The Collections group for numeric and geospatial data hosted a recent Health Data Summit in Toronto; *DINO* is working on identifying free data resources
- The *Maps* Group continues to support the Geospatial Portal project, set for Beta launch in September
- The *ODI Working Committee* has continued its work to complete the Ontario Royal Commissions scanning project and quality assurance associated with all materials scanned to date
- The *Scholars Portal Operations and Development* Committee noted a series of recent webinars to enhance awareness of Scholars Portal services within OCUL institutions. (View the webinar archive: <http://www.ocul.on.ca/docs/OCUL%20Webinars.html> - a SPOTDocs login is required for some webinars)

The strategic goals and tactics from each OCUL committee were reviewed and approved. To view a consolidated list of the key goals for the coming year visit: http://www.ocul.on.ca/about/OCUL_Strategic_Directions_Goals.pdf

For more information...

OCUL Reports & Digests

Reports, updates and recommendations from the Spring 2011 OCUL Directors' Meeting are up on the SPOTDocs wiki Reports & Digests space: <http://spotdocs.scholarsportal.info/display/Rep/Latest+Directors%27+Meeting+Documents> (SPOTDocs login required)

Need a SPOTDocs login? Contact OCUL's Communications & Member Engagement Officer Kerry Kelly for more information: kerry.kelly@ocul.on.ca

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