

OCCUL

Ontario Council of University Libraries



Harris Learning Library, Nipissing University

2015-2016 Annual Report

OCUL & Scholars Portal: Powerful partners in research, teaching, and learning.

Easy access to millions of scholarly articles and books, a platform for geospatial data and maps, online library help in English and French, and low-cost storage and sharing options for research data—these are just some of the research services and scholarly resources available to Ontario’s university researchers, teachers, and students.

At most institutions, these services and resources are made available through the university library. In Ontario, university libraries have an added source for needed scholarly content thanks to membership in the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) and support for Scholars Portal, OCUL’s shared digital research infrastructure. Thanks to this collaborative approach, each of Ontario’s university libraries has a powerful partner in research, teaching, and learning. As a result, Ontario’s universities are able to better provide services and resources that their faculty and students need—services and resources that for an individual university would often be challenging to develop and expensive to provide.

Academic year 2015-2016 posed challenges for Ontario’s universities, most noticeably in the adverse impact on library budgets due to currency fluctuations between the Canadian and U.S. dollars. Nevertheless, through each library’s engagement with OCUL, the impact of these challenges, while serious, was also in part mitigated through the power of collaboration.

Cost savings were achieved and access to scholarship was expanded through online collections such as Scholars Portal Journals (46 million articles), Scholars Portal books (700,000 books), and the research data repository Dataverse.

In addition, services such as the accessible e-book platform ACE, the shared interlibrary loan system RACER, and the bilingual chat reference service Ask a Librarian/Clavardez avec nos bibliothécaires offer collaborative and cost-efficient solutions to common information needs, all while expanding scholarly horizons.

All in all, your library’s participation in OCUL and Scholars Portal represents an effective, efficient, and expansive way to support the research, teaching, and learning missions of Ontario’s universities. We hope this report offers insights about these specific initiatives. In addition, we hope this report encourages a dialogue on Ontario’s university campuses about how we can leverage our libraries participation for utmost benefit to scholars and students.

John Barnett
OCUL Executive Director

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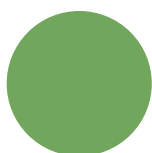
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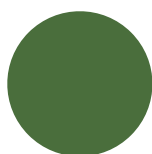
We enhance information services in Ontario and beyond through collective purchasing and shared digital information infrastructure.



Our Mission is to collaborate in the development and delivery of enhanced, innovative, and effective information services and resources for Ontario's universities.



Our Vision is to be a recognized leader, provincially, nationally and globally, in the transformative development and delivery of scholarly resources and innovative services.



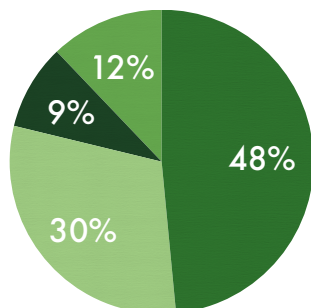
**Collaborate.
Innovate.
Deliver.**

OUR WORK



Brock University Library

OUR TEAM



- Librarians
- Programmers & Software Engineers
- Business & Administration Professionals
- System Support Professionals

OCUL activities are supported by a diverse team of professionals in the OCUL office and Scholars Portal Operations Team (SPOT).

The OCUL office provides support for e-resources, governance, advocacy, communications and business processes for the consortium.

The Scholars Portal Operations Team has in-house expertise in systems administration, client services, data, programming, administration and accessibility.

Both the OCUL office and Scholars Portal team work closely with staff from OCUL's member libraries.

OUR MEMBERS



OCUL is a consortium of Ontario's 21 university libraries. Our strength lies in our commitment to work together to maximize our collective expertise and resources.

As a member organization OCUL works together to:

- **learn** through sharing of local and collective knowledge and bringing in knowledge from outside the province through partnerships,
- **advocate** and represent the interests of the Ontario university library community on various issues, to lend a collective voice to topics that have a broad and important impact on OCUL libraries and the universities and research communities as a whole, and
- **collaborate** on services, including Scholars Portal, for the purposes of efficiency and to provide extended access to resources.

The participation of staff from member libraries is key to OCUL's success. Each of the libraries in OCUL is represented by its Chief Librarian or University Librarian who sits on the Council. In addition to these OCUL Directors, OCUL members are represented on over **22 different** groups and committees that share knowledge, advocate, and provide important input into OCUL's shared services.

Algoma University
Brock University
Carleton University
University of Guelph
Lakehead University
Laurentian University
McMaster University

Nipissing University
OCAD University
University of Ottawa
Queen's University
Royal Military College of
Canada
Ryerson University
University of Toronto

Trent University
University of Ontario
Institute of Technology
University of Waterloo
Western University
Wilfrid Laurier University
University of Windsor
York University

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES



University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) Library

In 2015-2016, OCUL managed over 180 licenses for electronic resources (e-resources) on behalf of its member libraries.

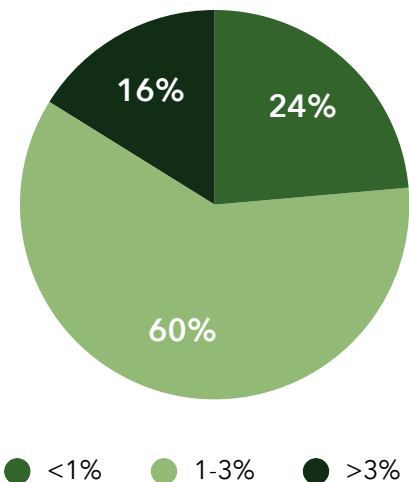
OCUL spent approximately **\$1.58M CAD** on 29 e-resources licenses and **\$14.1M USD** on 152 e-resources licenses, and negotiated consortial discounts of between **5% and 75%**.

| Type of Product | Total CDN\$ | Total US\$ | Total # e-resources | Consortial Discount |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Data | \$107,630 | \$59,558 | 6 | 5% to 25% |
| Database | \$787,861 | \$5,278,844 | 76 | 10% to 75% |
| E-Book | \$235,814 | \$1,302,527 | 20 | 5% to 30% |
| Index | \$38,922 | \$3,584,459 | 46 | 5% to 50% |
| E-Journal | \$23,063 | \$3,836,639 | 26 | 6% to 70% |
| Media | \$380,967 | \$99,131 | 6 | 10% to 60% |
| Tool | \$10,184 | \$17,426 | 3 | 15% to 20% |
| Total | \$1,584,441 | \$14,178,584 | 183 | 5% to 75% |

As a consortium, OCUL is able to provide extra value to its members through:

- multi-year deals with steady pricing,
- established relationships and negotiating power to keep price increases low,
- open possibilities for expanded usage rights,
- negotiation of license terms,
- workflow efficiencies, and
- communicating common values to vendors.

% price increase for OCUL's consortial licenses in 2015/2016



Working on behalf of our members

OCUL members have felt the impact of currency fluctuations keenly in 2015-2016. OCUL continues to build on its existing relationships within its membership and with publishers to find sustainable solutions.

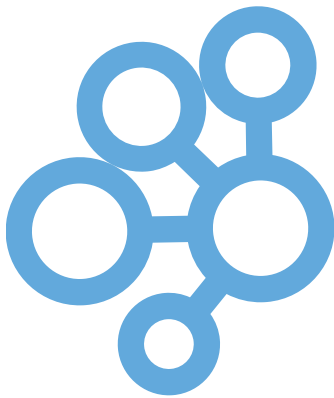
In 2015 OCUL issued a communication to its scholarly publishing partners on behalf of its members, outlining OCUL's shared values and explaining common difficulties experienced within the current economic environment.

This communication along with the follow up negotiations by the OCUL office and members of the OCUL Information Resources Committee emphasized OCUL's common voice and collaborative approach.

In addition, OCUL provides workflow efficiencies to its members by centrally managing and negotiating a large number of license renewals on their behalf. This work is particularly important as OCUL libraries search for ways to remain financially flexible.

SCHOLARS PORTAL

Scholars Portal provides the technological infrastructure that preserves and provides access to information resources collected and shared by OCUL's member libraries.



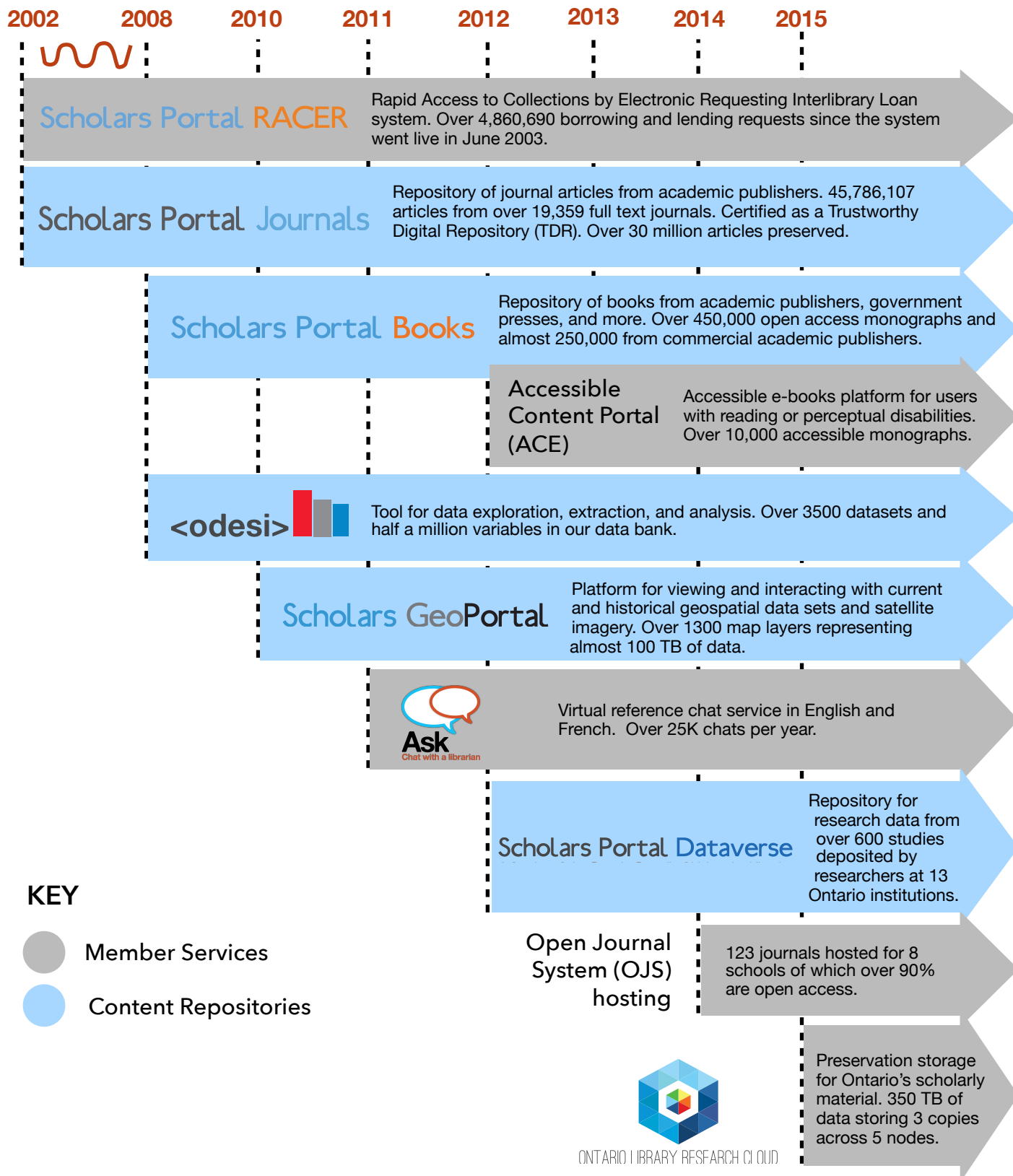
Scholars Portal services include a suite of data, geographical, ejournal and ebook repositories and additional member services including interlibrary loan and a bilingual virtual reference chat service.

The Scholars Portal Operations Team works closely with advisory and expert groups and under the guidance of the Council to support the information needs of OCUL member institutions. In 2015-2016 Scholars Portal has responded to the growing trends of cloud services, research data management and open access to support the teaching, learning and research goals of its members.



Scholars Portal Day 2015, at Ryerson University

Scholars Portal has grown in capacity over the last 15 years to provide important infrastructure for OCUL's member libraries and their communities.



In 2015-2016 Scholars Portal has moved into the growing areas of cloud services, research data management, and digitization of historical content.



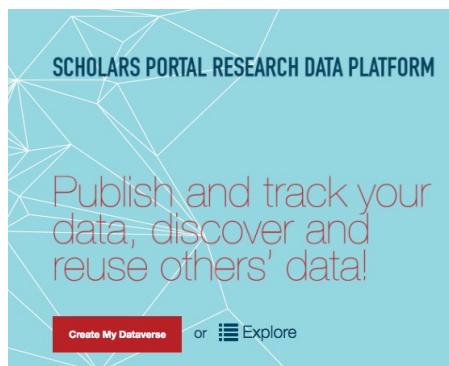
Cloud Services

Launched in 2015, the **Ontario Library Research Cloud (OLRC)** provides preservation storage for Ontario's scholarly material on five regionally distributed nodes. Data is copied and stored at three different nodes for additional preservation security. Scholars Portal is developing a range of tools and user-friendly interfaces now that the core infrastructure is in place.

Research Data Management

As the nature of the scholarly record changes the role of libraries in the support of Research Data Management grows. Scholars Portal is poised to help its member libraries deliver the tools and the knowledge support increasingly needed at their institutions. **Scholars Portal Dataverse** provides researchers from all Ontario universities with a place to store, track and share their data. The Scholars Portal Database currently holds studies from researchers at 13 Ontario universities.

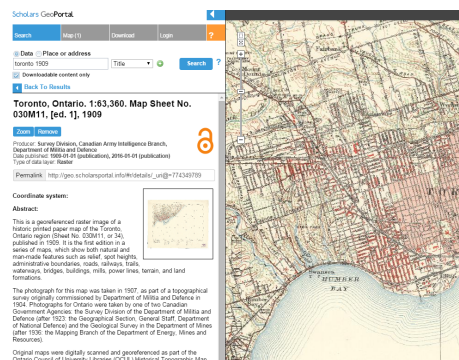
dataverse.scholarsportal.info



Digitization of Historical Content

Scholars GeoPortal is OCUL's geographical information system (GIS) interface that allows users to search, preview, add layers, clip, and download geospatial data. In addition to the existing 1300 map layers representing almost 100 TB of data, Scholars Portal is in the process of loading a large collection of digitized and georeferenced historical topographical maps that will increase access and interaction with these otherwise static texts.

geo.scholarsportal.info



LOOKING AHEAD

In academic year 2016-2017, OCUL will continue to work collaboratively with Ontario's university libraries to perfect and increase access to research services and scholarly resources.

Initiatives such as Collaborative Futures, further development of a research data management infrastructure, and participation in scholarly publishing and Open Access endeavours will keep OCUL and its members actively engaged in and responsive to the changing research landscape in Canada and internationally.

Collaborative Futures

The Collaborative Futures initiative has as a goal the investigation and procurement of a shared next-generation library services platform, which will enable the organization, discovery, and preservation of the rich scholarly content held by Ontario's university libraries. A deeper aim of this project is to foster a more collaborative approach to collections management across the province, to limit duplication of effort, and to allow libraries to focus more on specialized services and collections for their local audiences. Currently 18 of 21 OCUL member libraries are participating in this effort with the aim to begin implementation of the library services platform in 2017-2018.

Research Data & Digital Preservation

OCUL and Scholars Portal will continue to build partnerships and pursue the development of services in research data management and digital preservation for Ontario's universities. In 2016-2017, Scholars Portal is working in tandem with Queen's University Library to hire a research data management systems librarian, a position that will play a key role in advancing the goals of the national Portage data management initiative.

Scholars Portal will also develop tools to assist with hosting, ingesting, and preserving digital content within the Ontario Library Research Cloud (OLRC), a geographically distributed storage system for Ontario's university libraries. Scholars Portal will partner with selected OCUL member libraries to develop these tools.

Open Access

During 2016-2017, OCUL and Scholars Portal will continue to build relationships across Canada in support of Open Access. Scholars Portal will investigate the opportunities for open educational resources (OERs) and open textbooks and identify possibilities for a future collaborative approach to fostering and showcasing this vital content for teaching and learning.

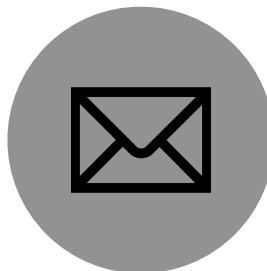
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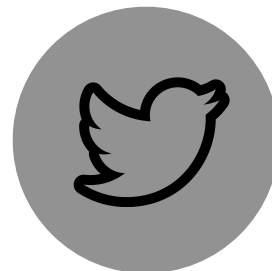
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