

COLLABORATIVE FUTURES & OMNI

A Five-Year Retrospective (2019-2024)



Visit ocul.on.ca/omni or email ocul-cf@ocul.on.ca for more information

Since 2019, the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) has worked toward a vision for Collaborative Futures: A large, diverse, Ontario-wide library collection accessed through a shared library services platform (Omni). Powered by knowledge networks and shared workflows, Omni and the Collaborative Futures vision have laid the foundation for future collaboration to manage and preserve print resources in a sustainable way.

OUTCOMES

Over the past five years, the partnership has:

- Adopted a common user interface and experience (Omni)
- Aligned borrowing policies and terms of service across libraries
- Enabled our users to directly request academic materials from across the province and have them delivered more quickly to their pick-up location of choice
- Shared management of shared catalogue records
- Developed shared analytics to help us understand and better manage and steward the Ontario-wide collection

1.55 MILLION

Physical item requests fulfilled through Omni (2020-2024)

December 2019

Omni goes live at 13 Ontario universities:

- Brock University
- Carleton University
- University of Guelph
- Lakehead University
- Nipissing University
- Ontario Tech University
- University of Ottawa
- Queen's University
- Trent University
- University of Waterloo
- Western University
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- York University

January 2020

University of Windsor joins Omni

December 2020

Omni goes live at Algoma University and Laurentian University

June 2021

Students, faculty and researchers can request and borrow physical items from all partner libraries from within Omni

May 2022

Omni goes live at OCAD University

June 2022

Omni goes live at McMaster University

Pick-up and drop-off anywhere service launches: Physical items can be picked up from any partner library location, regardless of home university

June 2024

Omni goes live at Toronto Metropolitan University

PROVINCE-WIDE COLLECTION & REQUESTS

NETWORK OF EXPERTS

23.5 MILLION

Physical items available in collection (2020)

25.8 MILLION

Physical items available in collection (2024)

In addition, hundreds of thousands of records have been cleaned up for better discovery and to more accurately represent the shared collection.

POPULAR SUBJECTS

Requested via the fulfilment network

Teaching

Math & Computer Science

General Literature

Psychology

Drama & Film

"It has been incredible to see the foundational vision of Collaborative Futures, working in the spirit of radical collaboration, come to fruition and significantly develop over the course of the past five years. Working closely together has benefitted our Collaborative Futures members in numerous ways and I look forward to seeing what the next five years bring in terms of innovation, impact, and the further development of this partnership."

Robin Canuel, University Librarian, Lakehead University Chair, Collaborative Futures Steering Committee

246

Ontario university library employees contribute expertise to 23 cross-institutional committees and working groups to support the shared decision-making and collaborative work of Omni.

131

Knowledge-building events hosted by OCUL for 7568 attendees within the Omni knowledge network.

"Having been involved in a few different OCUL committees and communities, and as a member of the Expert Advisory Network, I've come to know an entirely new group of colleagues to collaborate with and learn from. The level of expertise and support our members bring to the community is incredible. In many ways, I see our separate libraries as 'branches' of our shared OCUL library of experts and in that way, we're all coworkers, and to me that's truly remarkable."

Colleen McKinnon, Acting Head of User Services and Engagement, Brock University