OCUL
Ontario Council of University Libraries

CORE PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIC PLAN

Core Principles

The OCUL core principles are the guidepost for our four-year strategic priorities and our enduring, collaborative commitment to innovative and equitable library services. These principles are reflected in the development and delivery of all OCUL services and initiatives.

Advancing research

OCUL expands the breadth and depth of research resources and services available to member institutions. We seek out innovative strategies for preserving and curating research resources. We advance open access to scholarship.

Advancing teaching and learning

OCUL develops and delivers robust, user-centred and sustainable services to support the academic success of students and faculty at Ontario universities. By working together, we build capacity across member institutions.

Advancing academic libraries as leaders in social change and inclusivity

OCUL is dedicated to diversity and inclusion and values different ways of knowing. We respectfully build and deliver services, resources, spaces and research that support these intentions.

Advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities

OCUL is committed to reciprocal, non-extractive relationship building and constructive action that centres reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. We aspire to transform library practices and experiences by being active in the work of truth and reconciliation.

Developing and supporting robust infrastructure

OCUL enhances the technological infrastructure and staff expertise required to support the evolution of teaching, research, and learning.

Demonstrating value

OCUL advances the efforts of Ontario's academic libraries to transform scholarship and revolutionize the delivery of library services and resources by modeling both an evidence-based approach to its practices and a strong focus on communicating value.

OCUL Strategic Plan 2025-2029

Strategic Priorities	Strategies	Outcomes
Foster Collaboration in Collection Management	• Establish a collective collecting strategy to enhance collaborative stewardship of resources. • Collaborate with OCUL members to broaden the types of publisher collections available through Scholars Portal Books. • Implement a consortial open access framework to guide publisher and hosting decision-making.	• Resource sharing across OCUL is guided by the collaborative collection strategy. • Increased awareness about the value and practices of collective collecting. • Improved long-term preservation and access to materials for Ontario universities. • Ontario university students, faculty and researchers access a large and diverse province-wide library collection.
Leverage Technology for Library Innovation	• With a focus on ethical principles, develop, implement and evaluate AI and machine learning solutions for library services. • Maintain and optimize OCUL and Scholars Portal foundational library technology systems through consistent assessment. • Strengthen Scholars Portal's position as a technology infrastructure partner within national spaces.	• Sustainable technology systems through ongoing evaluation and continuous improvement. • OCUL adopts and integrates emerging tech with agility. • OCUL and Scholars Portal are sought-after partners in regional and national library technology initiatives. • Build capacity at member institutions to experiment, evaluate and use AI and machine learning tools in their libraries.
Strengthen Governance, Adaptability and Organizational Resilience	• Amplify the value of OCUL through strategic communication and partnership engagement. • Implement processes to ensure OCUL is responsive to external changes. • Strengthen the long-term sustainability of Scholars Portal services through strategic governance and financial planning.	• Improved awareness of OCUL's local impacts at member institutions. • Timely, responsive action that enhances member contributions to institutional priorities. • Sustainable investment and infrastructure to preserve and enhance access to Canadian research. • National services are effectively scoped and aligned with key partners.
Cultivate Member Engagement and Enhance Member Capacity	• Identify and address communication challenges to strengthen member connections. • Promote knowledge sharing and collaborative learning through regular member engagement events. • Build member capacity through targeted professional development initiatives.	• Increased capacity at member libraries. • Enhanced sense of belonging among members. • OCUL member library staff perceive collaboration as a given. • Consistent member engagement in OCUL and Scholars Portal governance groups and communities.