



# OER Participation Guide

*ecampus*  
Ontario



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## Purpose

As a key teaching and learning resource for Ontario's post-secondary sector, eCampusOntario's Open Library provides access to open educational resources (OER) and to an open publishing platform for the creation of OER. The Open Library supports, tracks, and provides information on OER adoption and reviews as a part of the work of expanding the impact and advocacy framework of OER. Through the Government of Ontario's historic 2021 investment in the Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS), project teams from Ontario's post-secondary sector created 600+ educational resources that have been added to the Open Library as of 2022, and the Government's successive support of this key strategic initiative will continue to expand the Open Library's digital teaching and learning assets.

To support the use, impact, and sustainability of these resources, the Virtual Learning Strategy also includes support for the development of an OER adoption and peer review model. To meet the needs of the Ontario post-secondary sector in digital transformation, this work will:

- Raise sector awareness of VLS-funded materials,
- Increase the use, adoption, and development of OER toward digital transformation in the Ontario education sector,
- Develop an OER peer review rubric appropriate for the wide ranging, and innovative OER formats now available in the Open Library, and
- Establish a framework for adoption and peer review activities based on research and best practices in field.

## Integrating OER Program

### Background

The Open Library has established practices in supporting OER adoption, tracking adoptions (372 adoption reports to a total of \$15.5 million learner savings), and in collecting peer reviews (172 total). For adoption, the Open Library has developed templates for adoption tracking, and solicits adoption reports through various communication channels. Peer review in the Open Library, like many other OER collections, has been focused on open peer review of open textbooks. However, as the open education community and digitally enabled pedagogical practices have developed further, our catalogue has become more diverse in its available assets. The VLS investment exponentially grew the Open Library collection in terms of number of resources as well as formats and complexity of OER (e.g., learning objects, videos, augmented and extended reality modules). The investment has furthered the potential impact of the Open Library, which already is an important part of the Canadian open landscape through the annual participation with Open Education week, active support of the Ontario post-secondary sector in OER creation, and the continuous development of the Open Library itself.

### Barriers to Adopting OER

To support the discovery, adoption, and use of these open resources, it is necessary to uncover and address common barriers to OER adoption and peer review to ensure a robust framework will be valued and widely used. American faculty have reported time constraints around and finding relevant OER as major barriers to adoption (Hollister & Patton, 2021; Lantrip & Ray, 2021; Todorinova & Wilkinson, 2020). The Jung et al. (2017) study of Oregon College's faculty perceptions of open textbooks indicated that the quality of open textbooks and availability of supplementary materials are also concerns. "Time was the greatest challenge for faculty in the

adoption process, followed by availability of OER, quality of OER, and availability of OER ancillaries” (Jung et al., 2021, p. 907). Given the growth of the Open Library collection, there is much more content for educators to discover, evaluate, and potentially adapt. The Integrating OER Program is designed to address these challenges for the Ontario post-secondary sector in support of increased accessibility and use of OER for transforming digital teaching and learning practices.

## Program Overview

### Key Definitions

**Adoption:** The use of an OER in an educational experience such as a course, workshop, or lesson to support the learner in reaching the learning outcomes.

**Review:** The evaluation of the quality of OER by subject matter experts.

**Subject matter experts:** Educators who possess mastery in the subject area. For SMEs applying to conduct peer reviews, the Open Library defines mastery as someone who has an advanced degree in the subject area and who has taught in the subject area within the last 12 months.

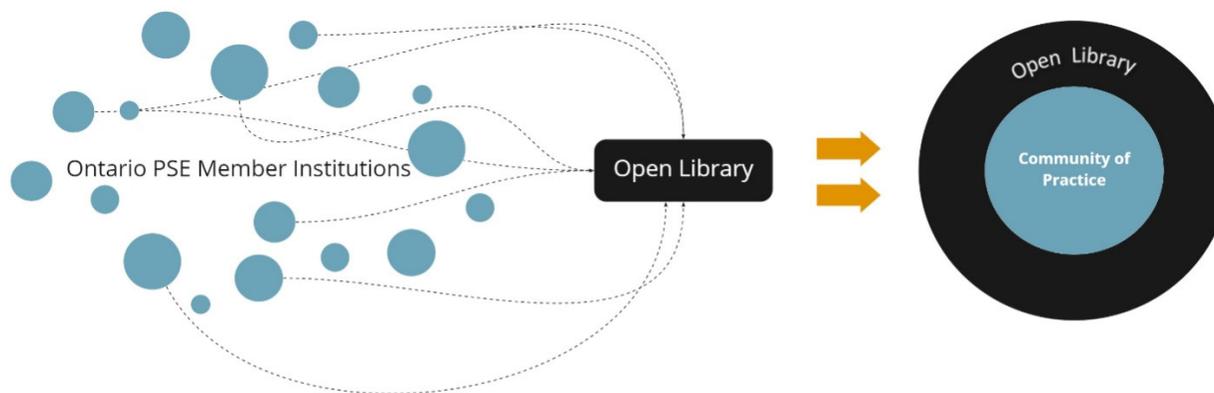
### Program Concept

The primary goal of the Integrating OER Program is to support and enable the Ontario PSI sector in discovering and engaging with the Open Library’s VLS Collection. Over the program period, the Programs Lead will directly engage with the Ontario PSI sector through facilitated events and service offerings on OER adoption and OER peer review (see Appendix A for Tentative Program Schedule).

This program is specifically in support of the wider dissemination and engagement with the VLS Collection, and all program activities below are in support of this collection. Using open calls to participate in the program activities and events will support equity goals.

By implementing this additional focus on OER Adoption and Peer Review, the eCampusOntario Open Library will expand the existing community of practice to create more inroads into existing and new Ontario post-secondary institutions.

The Open Library community of practice will be leveraged where further support in OER adoption reporting and peer reviews is needed.



## The Open Library's Commitment

The Open Library Programs Lead will be the eCampusOntario point of contact. The Programs Lead will host Adoption and Peer review events. These events will guide participants through Adoption and Peer Review program stages and collect application to participate from interested individuals.

The Open Library program lead will also collaborate with institutional representatives where campus-specific events are requested and ensure that program targets are met.

eCampusOntario will disburse funding to program participants based on the program requirements and timelines below.

## The OER Peer Reviewers Commitment

Program participants who engage as OER peer reviews will submit their interest directly with the Open Library. Funding for peer reviews is reserved for reviews of OER in the VLS Collection. Peer reviewers will:

- Reside and teach at a publicly assisted college, university, or Indigenous institution within the province of Ontario,
- Be a subject matter expert of OER content being reviewed (the Open Library defines subject matter expert as someone who has an advanced degree in the subject area, and who has taught in the subject area within the last 12 months),
- Comply with the Open Library's guidelines and requirements of OER peer review,
- Provide honest and constructive feedback on the selected OER based on the Open Library's OER Review Criteria (see Appendix B),
- Complete the application form to participate as a peer reviewer by the specified deadlines,

- Complete their peer reviews of VLS resources by the specified deadlines, and
- Understand and accept that completed peer reviews will be published on the Open Library website.

Upon completion of the peer review, eCampusOntario will disburse \$300 per completed peer review in recognition of the participant's time and academic contributions to the Open Library. This program is limited to one review per person.

eCampusOntario reserves the right to reject applicants for peer review if the participant cannot demonstrate that they meet the criteria for "subject matter expert" as defined above. Where the number of qualified applicants exceeds the limited number of paid peer review opportunities within a fiscal year, reviewers will be accepted into the program on a first come basis.

All funding disbursements will require the participants to meet program deadlines and funding will be disbursed at set times.

## The OER Adopters Commitment

Program participants who engage in OER adoption can participate in program activities and services supporting adoption or through self-report directly through the Open Library website. Funding for adoptions reports are reserved for adoptions of OER in the VLS Collection. The program participant for OER adoption will be expected to:

- Reside and teach at a publicly assisted college, university, or Indigenous institution within the province of Ontario,
- Agree to use an OER in an educational experience such as a course, workshop, or lesson to support the learner in reaching the learning outcomes,

- Engaged to teach at a publicly assisted college, university, or indigenous institution in the Fall 2022, or Winter 2023 terms,
- Complete the application form to participate as an OER Adopter by the specified deadlines,
- Complete the Fall or Winter term adoption reports, confirming OER adoption by the specified deadlines, and,
- Provide the necessary and accurate information for reporting OER adoptions.

Upon completion of the adoption requirements, eCampusOntario will disburse \$300 per participant in recognition of the participant's working time spent evaluating and selecting OER.

eCampusOntario reserves the right to reject applicants for OER adoption if the participant cannot demonstrate that they meet the criteria as defined above. Where the number of qualified applicants exceeds the limited number of paid OER adoption opportunities within a fiscal year, OER adopters will be accepted into the program on a first come basis.

All funding disbursements will require the participants to meet program deadlines and funding will be disbursed at set times.

## The OER Author's commitment

VLS project teams are eligible to participate in this program as OER Authors who commit to receiving feedback and making edits to their OER in response peer review feedback. The program participant for OER Authors will be expected to:

- Identify one project team author to lead the updates and receive the funding directly (note: eCampusOntario will provide one disbursement per project, and cannot distribute the grants in any other division or manner),

- Apply to be a participant of the program by the deadline,
- Respond to Open Library team communications within 5 business days for the duration of the program,
- Review all completed peer reviews for their OER and give due consideration to any feedback they receive,
- Submit updated and edited OER files to the Open Library by the program deadline.

Upon submission of the updated OER files, eCampusOntario will disburse \$550 per project team in recognition of the team's additional working time spent on improving the quality of the OER.

eCampusOntario reserves the right to reject or disqualify applicants for OER updates if the participant cannot demonstrate that they meet the criteria as defined above. Where the number of qualified applicants exceeds the limited number of paid OER update opportunities within a fiscal year, OER Authors will be accepted into the program on a first come basis.

All funding disbursements will require the participants to meet program deadlines and funding will be disbursed at set times.

## Program targets

The overall program targets are as follows:

- 100 reported adoptions of VLS resources,
- 100 completed peer reviews of VLS resources,
- 50 reported edits & revisions to VLS resources based on reviews.

The Open Library Programs Lead will engage in program activities to reach these program targets.

## Program Structure

### Program Activities

The Open Library will deliver events, services, and activities led by the Programs Lead directly to the Ontario post-secondary sector. The Programs Lead will cultivate a community of practice during the program to build a closer relationship between the Open Library and our member institutions engaging with OER adoption and peer review work. The key components of the program include:

- **Program Workshops** – Introduce the program, criteria, and Promote VLS Collection.
- **Application Forms** - Collect community Contact Information, assess qualifications of participants, collect payment information.
- **Rubric** – Updated rubric to reflect new range of formats within the Open Library since the introduction of new resources produced thanks to Virtual Learning Strategy.
- **Community** – Leverage and expand existing Open Library community within Ontario for extra events, drop-ins, or special campus/reference subject events as necessary to meet program targets.

Fall Events and Deadlines	
Workshop	Deadlines
<b>September 14, 2022</b> <b>Peer Review Workshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline to Apply to be a reviewer <b>September 23, 2022</b></li> <li>• Deadline to Complete revieww <b>November 14, 2022</b></li> </ul>
<b>September 28, 2022</b> <b>OER Adoption Workshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline to Apply to be an Adopter <b>October 7, 2022</b></li> <li>• Deadline to Submit Fall Adoption Reports <b>January 6, 2023</b></li> <li>• Deadline to Submit Winter Adoption Reports <b>Friday, March 4, 2023</b></li> </ul>
<b>November 8, 2022</b> <b>OER Edits Workshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline to Apply to update/edit a VLS Resource <b>November 25, 2022</b></li> <li>• OER Edits Due <b>February 28, 2023</b></li> </ul>

## Contact

If you have any questions about this program, please contact the Open Library team at [open@ecampusontario.ca](mailto:open@ecampusontario.ca).

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