

ecampus
Ontario

Integrating OER Program



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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 investment in the Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS) announced in December 2020, project teams from Ontario's post-secondary sector created 600+ educational resources that have been added to the Open Library as of 2023, and the Government's successive support of this key strategic initiative have continued to expand the Open Library's digital teaching and learning assets.

The Integrating OER Program continues supporting the use, impact, and sustainability of all Open Library resources in 2023-2024. To meet to needs of the Ontario post-secondary sector in digital transformation, this work will:

- Raise sector awareness of all OER in the Open Library,
- 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 and tracking adoptions. 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.

During first year of the Integrating OER Program (Sep. 2022- Mar. 2023), we were amazed to see the response from the Ontario educators among the post-secondary institutions. Through the funding and support provided, the Open Library collected an additional 117 peer reviews.

Since the launch of the Open Library in 2017, there are now a total of 517 adoption reports submitted, representing a total of \$18.8 million learner savings.

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). These sentiments are echoed in York University’s recent “OER Faculty Survey: Data Conclusions” (Open Education Steering Committee, 2022).

Given the growth of the Open Library collection, there is much more content for educators to discover, evaluate, and potentially adapt.

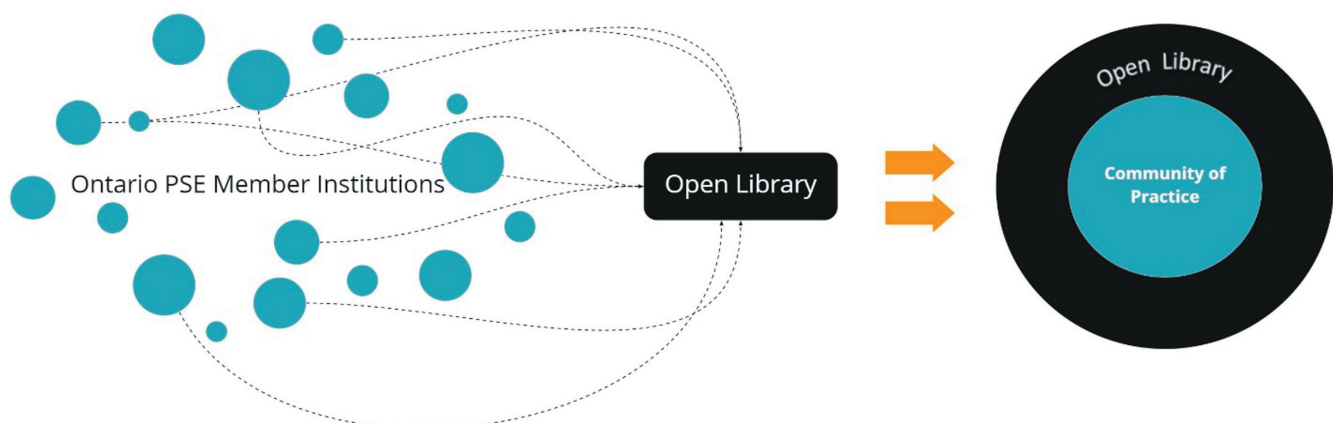
Program Concept

The primary goal of the Integrating OER Program is to continuously support and enable the Ontario postsecondary sector in discovering and engaging with all resources in the Open Library. Over the program period, the Programs Lead will directly engage with the Ontario postsecondary sector through service offerings on OER adoption and OER peer review.

This program is specifically in support of the wider dissemination and engagement with the Open Library OERs, and all supporting resources and sessions will be in support of this work. 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 postsecondary institutions.

The Open Library community of practice will be leveraged where further support in OER adoption reporting, and peer reviews as 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 with support from Open Library Librarians. These events will guide participants through Adoption and Peer Review program stages and collect applications 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.

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:

Reference/Q&A Sessions – Thematic reference sessions for the reviewers, adopters, and editors will be scheduled.

Application Forms – Collect community Contact Information, assess qualifications of participants, collect payment information.

Rubric – Rubric to reflect 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 specific events as necessary to meet program targets.

Ask Questions:

- 1. Email:** If you have any questions about this program, please contact the Open Library team at open@ecampusontario.ca and rbhatia@ecampusontario.ca. Note: Please allow 5 business days to respond to your query.
- 2. Slack Channel:** Leverage and expand existing Open Library community within Ontario for extra events, drop-ins, or specific campus/reference subject events as necessary to meet program targets. Feel free to ask your questions in the #integrating OER Program Slack channel or direct message Program Lead Ridhima Bhatia. In this Slack channel, you can also engage with other participants of this program.
- 3. 1on1/Q&A Sessions:** Feel free to request to Open library or Program Lead, if you have specific questions related to the OER you choose to review, adopt, and update.
- 4. Reference Sessions:** Links for the reference sessions will be shared with you based on different categories such as targeting subject areas, or by type of OER.

General inquiry: open@ecampusontario.ca
Program Lead: rbhatia@ecampusontario.ca

Deadlines to apply and submit.

	Activity	Term	Dates
Peer Reviewer	Apply to become a Peer Reviewer	Summer	August 18, 2023
	Complete and Submit Peer Review Report	Summer	September 4, 2023
	Stipend for Summer Term Reviewers released	Summer	September 29, 2023
	Apply to become a Peer Reviewer	Fall	November 16, 2023
	Complete and Submit Peer Review Report	Fall	November 30, 2023
	Stipend for Fall Term Reviewers released	Fall	December 22, 2023

	Activity	Term	Dates
Adopters	Apply to become an Adopter	Summer	August 18, 2023
	Complete and Submit Summer Reports	Summer	September 4, 2023
	Stipend for Summer Term Adopters released	Summer	September 29, 2023
	Apply to become an Adopter	Fall	November 22, 2023
	Complete and Submit Fall Reports	Fall	December 4, 2023
	Stipend for Fall Term Adopters released	Fall	December 22, 2023
	Apply to become an Adopter	Winter	January 26, 2024
	Complete and Submit Winter Reports	Winter	February 2, 2024
	Stipend for Winter Term Adopters released	Winter	March 1, 2024

	Activity	Term	Dates
OER Editors	Apply to become an OER Editor	Summer	August 10, 2023
	Submit your updated files	Summer	September 15, 2023
	Stipend for Summer Term Editors released	Summer	October 13, 2023
	Apply to become an OER Editor	Fall	November 9, 2023
	Submit your updated files	Fall	January 8, 2024
	Stipend for Fall Term Editors released	Fall	February 9, 2024

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