

Research and Development Working Group AGM Report

Report To: FOPL Members and Board
Report Name: Research and Development Working Group Report
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A. Recommendation

THAT the FOPL members receive the Research and Development Working Group Report as information.

B. Background

The Research and Development Working Group held their first meeting on September 29th, 2021. The members had an engaging discussion of the looming vaccine mandate imposed by the province. From there, a discussion of needs followed. Analysis of the recent vaccine mandates survey and finding new uses for the FOPL Dataset were also mentioned and accepted by the team.

The Research and Development working group has a mandate to:

- (1) Identify and coordinate training opportunities for FOPL Members such as seminars, workshops, symposia, and webinars
- (2) collaborate in creation of FOPL Trustee training tools
- (3) increase awareness of professional development grant and subsidy opportunities
- (4) create content for the FOPL website relevant to ongoing advocacy initiatives

C. Discussion of Needs, Issues and Work Completed

Pursuant to *creating content for FOPLs website relevant to ongoing advocacy initiatives*, the Research & Development working group has completed phase one of development for an interactive dashboard that will replace the Annual FOPL Data Report which is comprised primarily of MHSTCI data collected from the Annual



Survey of Public Libraries. This report is primarily used as an advocacy tool however, it is long and data can quickly become outdated.

As technology continues to alter all aspects of contemporary business administration, there remain both significant challenges and opportunities. The digital revolution will not reverse. FOPL must continue to push the technological envelope on behalf of its members. Based on the growth trajectory and economic digitization, it is expected that the next iteration of the internet will be bigger, faster, and smarter. This progression will further conflate the methods in which library administration:

A: Consume information

B: Assess & collect data used in the decision-making process

D: The technologies used to report and communicate to stakeholders

Outside of large urban libraries, public libraries across Ontario continue to have trouble hiring high tech staff. The interactive reporting tool developed by the Research & Development Working Group is an attempt to bridge an HR, technological, and reporting gap while proving the opportunity for FOPL members to get acquainted with data solutions. This dashboard will allow FOPL members equal & consistent access to the ministry dataset along with other relevant data, while allowing them the opportunity to use the dashboard for stakeholder management, internal reporting needs and insights generation to better support decision making opportunities.

D. Next Steps

The working group will continue the production of the interactive reporting tool. Projected completion is Fall 2022.