

Working Group Report

Report To: The FOPL Board
Report Name: Research and Development Working Group Report
Prepared by Shaun McDonough, Sarah Roberts

Working Group: Alicia Kilgour, Niagara Falls Public Library
Megan Legg, Innisfil idealAB & Library
Rahul Sabu Joseph, Brampton Library
Rosemary Minnella, West Perth Public Library
Shaun McDonough, Richmond Hill Public Library
Sarah Roberts, Vaughan Public Libraries
Dina Stevens, FOPL Staff Resource

Location: Via MS Teams

Recommendation

THAT the FOPL Board receive this report as information.
THAT the FOPL Board accepts the updated Terms of Reference for this working group.

Purpose

Purpose 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

The Research and Development Working Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis, with additional working meetings held as needed. The members have engaged in discussions around the implications of Artificial Intelligence on the public library, and are currently researching different perspectives on this

Activities 2023

- Brooke McLean, Monika Machacek, have stepped down from the Working Group after having served as a member of the work group since 2021.
- Sarah Roberts joined the Working Group in January of 2023 and will serve as the co-chair with Shaun McDonough. Rosemary Minnella, West Perth Public Library joined in April 2023.

- The Working group launched the data dashboard using 2021 MTCS data in December of 2022. Shaun McDonough presented on the topic at OLA Super Conference in February 2023.
- Shaun McDonough and Sarah Roberts represented the committee at Digital Odyssey with a presentation on the implications of AI for Public Libraries.
- The group commissioned technology communicator Avery Swartz to lead a webinar on October 19, 2023, on the topic of AI in public libraries.
- The Working Group also continues to monitor the implications of Asset Management Legislation & Consolidated Financial Management for libraries and is in the process of organizing a webinar on this topic for this coming fall.

Next Steps

- ***Review & finalize 2024 Workplan.***
- ***Upgrade data dashboard with 2023 ministry data***
- ***Identify areas of interest for professional development in 2024***