

Working Group Report

Report To: The FOPL Board
Report Name: Research and Development Working Group Report
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Working Group: Alicia Kilgour, Niagara Falls Public Library
Jennifer Murley, The Blue Mountains 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.

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 2024

- New member Jennifer Murley was welcomed in 2024. Members Sarah Roberts and Megan Legg are currently on maternity leave and will rejoin the working group in 2026.
- The Working group continues to provide the manpower behind the Data Dashboard. A migration to using Power BI software is under way. Additions and improvements for 2025 will include a breakdown of expenses such as library staffing and collection budgets, funding sources vs. operating budget, programming breakdowns, and a comparative analysis option.

- The working group assembled and hosted information sessions in 2024 including a session on Asset Management.
- Looking forward to 2025, the working group has discussed a survey to better understand provincial library trends, an information session on data for advocacy 101, offering members data dashboard training in the spring, and the skills gap in library leadership.

Next Steps

- *Review & finalize 2025 Workplan.*
- *Upgrade data dashboard with new incoming ministry data*
- *Identify areas of interest for professional development in 2025*