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Research & Scholarly Communication 2021-22 Report on Publishing Services

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Executive Summary

This report highlights the scope and impact of Western Libraries' publishing services as undertaken by members of the Research & Scholarly Communication Team (RSC) for the period May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2022, in the areas of: Scholarship@Western repository services, journal publishing services, support for open educational resources (OER), and open data publishing.

This report does not include activities or data related to broader support and advocacy for open access, such as general workshops, consultations about open access fees, or consideration of institutional memberships related to waivers for article processing charges. The report also does not include activities related to research data management or services to provide access to data. While these are important activities that further contribute to our mission to make scholarship open and accessible to all, this work does not constitute publishing services as we define them.

Western Libraries' publishing services are guided by the following mission statement:

The publishing mission of Western Libraries is to work directly with faculty and students to achieve their academic publishing goals by providing tools for and expertise in disseminating original scholarly work, advocating for open access, and educating them about ethical and rigorous publishing processes and standards.

Our publishing services directly support Western's strategic commitments to have a greater impact by stimulating our research, scholarship, and creative activity and by promoting teaching and learning for the future. In stimulating our research, scholarship, and creative activity, Western is motivated to "serve not only individual disciplines but also the public good - by advancing knowledge and sharing it." Our publishing services offer access to expertise and infrastructure that facilitate open sharing of scholarship that is created or disseminated at Western, ensuring that knowledge is treated as a public good that can be accessed and re-used by anyone. Western is also motivated to "innovate in curriculum design, instructional strategies, and learner assessment." Our publishing services connect instructors with tools and resources to create free and open learning materials that hold no cost burden to students and that can be used and customized by instructors beyond Western. The services provided through our program also create opportunities for students to showcase coursework on a global scale.

As Western Libraries therefore continues to prioritize open as a key means to increase Western's teaching and research impact, our publishing services will remain a strong and essential program.

Institutional Repository Services

Western Libraries has supported the dissemination of scholarly outputs through our institutional repository, Scholarship@Western (S@W), since 2008. Items in S@W have been downloaded over 11 million times since then and the repository contains 36,711 works. Contents are published and hosted using bepress software, Digital Commons, which includes additional features for showcasing research such as the Expert Gallery researcher profile platform and the newly released Digital Exhibit Solution (DCX).

We support faculty, students, staff, and researchers in the creation of new collections and in the ongoing maintenance of existing collections and publication series. We do this by providing in-depth consultations, facilitating individual and group training sessions, developing workflows and supporting documentation, and maintaining ongoing communication with users. We ensure discoverability of content by validating publication information and enhancing metadata as needed.

Each new collection in S@W is configured based on content type and file formats, and is customized in consultation with users. This process usually involves multiple interactions over a duration of time. In addition to training staff, students, and faculty in how to upload content into S@W, we also offer a mediated deposit service to support individual faculty requests and larger ongoing departmental projects. Mediated deposit involves a variety of collaborative approaches and workflows, such as training administrative staff and research groups to upload or harvest content into S@W, or RSC team members managing the upload of content for multiple concurrent projects.

Over the past year, Western Libraries served as an alpha tester for the Digital Commons Exhibits (DCX) platform and the DC Harvesting Tool (also known as the SCOPUS Harvester), providing feedback to bepress product development teams to improve user experience. There are currently three project teams committed to using the DCX to create digital exhibits, and Western Libraries is working with two departments and three research institutes to integrate the Harvester into their workflows.

Depositing works in S@W fulfills the Tri Agency Open Access Policy on Publications, and reflects Western's responsibility and commitment as a publicly funded institution to return research outputs to the public. As Western works to actualize the principles of open access through the creation of an institutional policy, we foresee an opportunity to increase awareness of S@W through education and advocacy.

Courtney Waugh is the repository administrator, working collaboratively with Sarah Woloschuk (until August 2021), Arielle Vanderschans (as of October 2021), and Joanne Paterson (currently on leave) to manage and support concurrent, and often ongoing, S@W projects.

From May 2021 to April 2022, we provided **60 consultations** to faculty, staff, students, and research groups:

- 38 online synchronous consultations or training sessions
- 22 email queries about using S@W, the Expert Gallery, and the DCX to support research dissemination.

Due to inconsistencies in reporting across the team, this number under-represents the volume of consults related to S@W; we more likely provided at least 120 consultations.

From May 2021 to April 2022 there were:

- 1,387,154 full text downloads
- 3,975 media streams
- 5,498 new records added
- 740 ETDs published
- 470 digitized theses added (in collaboration with Crystal Mills and User Services staff)

17 new collections were created:

- *Africa Western Collaborations Day: Virtual Mini Summit on Climate Change Adaptations in Africa*. Project Lead: Dr. Robert Gough, Director, The Africa Institute.
- *Anglican Churches of the Diocese of Huron, London, Ontario*. Project Lead: Dr. Cody Barteet, Visual Arts.
- *Bachelor of Medical Sciences Association (BMSA): BMessays Contest 2022*. BMSA
- *Beyond Giving Voice*. Project Lead: Dr. Gail Teachman, School of Occupational Therapy, Centre for Research on Health Equity and Social Inclusion.
- *Global Health Equity*. Project Lead: Mary Ndu PhD, Global Health Equity Hub Coordinator.
- *Health Education Media Collection*. Project Lead: Dani Dilkes, Faculty of Health Sciences.
- *Inspiring Minds*. Project Lead: Matt Dumouchel, School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies.
- *Institute for Earth & Space Exploration*. Project Lead: Courtney Swindon, Earth & Space Exploration.
- *LIS 9704: Librarianship and Evolving Technologies*. Project Lead: Alex Mayhew, FIMS
- *Network for Economic and Social Trends (NEST)*. Project Lead: Dr. Zachary Taylor, Political Science.
- *Office of Indigenous Initiatives*. Project Lead: Sara Mai Chitty, OII
- *PRECISE Research Group*. Project Lead: Dr. Janis Cardy, School of Communication Sciences & Disorders.
- *Retratos Do Brasil Com Deficiencia*. Project Lead: Dr. Pam Block, Anthropology.
- *Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry Community Engaged Learning*. Project Lead: John Sardido: Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.
- *Undergraduate Student Research Internships (USRI)*. Project Lead: Shelley Bellyou, Western Research
- *Uplifting Blackness: A Showcase of Art by Western's Black Student Community*. Project Lead: Lauren Lee, Western Student Experience.
- *Western Libraries Undergraduate Research Awards*. Project Lead: Jason Dyck, Western Libraries.

7 new e-books were published:

- *Breaking Boundaries: (Counter) Accounts during the Pandemic - Letters to future generations.* Dr. Diane-Laure Arjalies, Richard Ivey School of Business.
- *Deshkan Ziiibi Conservation Impact Bond Project: On Conservation Finance, Decolonization, and Community-Based Participatory Research.* Dr. Diane-Laure Arjalies, Richard Ivey School of Business.
- *End of the Great War in 1918 and its Impact on London, Ontario: Prelude, Celebrations and Aftermath.* Marvin Simner, Prof. Emeritus, Department of Psychology
- *Symphony of Lights: An Exploration of the Stained Glass Windows in St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, London, Ontario.* February 9-18, 2021. Artlab Gallery. Dr. Cody Barteet, Department of Visual Arts.
- *The Heart of Wortley Village: From Crown Land to Urban Community.* Marvin Simner, Prof. Emeritus, Department of Psychology.
- *The London Normal School and Rural Education in Southwestern Ontario.* Marvin Simner, Prof. Emeritus, Department of Psychology.
- *Western Libraries Inclusive Language Guide.* Western Libraries Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

New content was also added to existing collections as part of annual or ongoing project work. The size and scope of each collection varies; we added between 8 and 628 publications to each of these collections:

- Bone and Joint Institute
- Brain and Mind Institute
- Consortium on Electoral Democracy (C-DEM) Reports
- Department of Paediatrics 2020
- GIS Day 2020
- Global Undergraduate Research Awards 2020/2021
- Head and Heart Indigenous Research Fellowship 2020/2021
- Western Student Research Conference
- LIS 9350 - Decolonizing LIS
- Northern Tornadoes Project
- Public Health Casebooks 2020

Readership Highlights

Geographic Readership: Users from 25,042 institutions and 226 countries downloaded works from S@W.

Top 5 Works

Title	Collection	Downloads
Two Kinds of Ends in Themselves in Kant's Moral Theory	Undergraduate Research Awards	4,411

Clinical Interview for Psychiatric Assessment	Psychiatry Presentations	3,293
A Short History of Aboriginal Education in Canada	Aboriginal Policy Research Consortium International (APRCi)	2,880
Indigenous Women: A Gender Perspective	Aboriginal Policy Research Consortium International (APRCi)	2,363
Role of Remote Sensing in Disaster Management	FIDS: Facility for Intelligent Decision Support	2,092

Top 5 Collections (not including ETDs and other theses collections)

Title	Downloads
Aboriginal Policy Research Consortium International (APRCi)	58,596
The Organizational Improvement Plan at Western University (Faculty of Education)	20,858
FIMS Publications	19,299
Education Publications	14,173
Undergraduate Student Research Internships Conference	13,105

Top 5 Theses & Dissertations

Title	Program	Downloads
Cannabis for Therapeutic Purposes: Older Adult Perspectives, User Characteristics and Motivations for Use (Thesis)	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences	7,727
Effects of methamphetamine on sexual behavior (Dissertation)	Anatomy and Cell Biology	3,925
Girls, Rock Your Boys: Female Tribute Acts and the Reclamation of Rock (Thesis)	Popular Music and Culture	3,747
Civilizational Imperatives: American Colonial Culture in the Islamic Philippines, 1899-1942 (Dissertation)	History	3,696

New and Noteworthy Content

This section highlights four new S@W collections that demonstrate the diversity of projects undertaken by faculty, students, and researchers.

[Anglican Churches of the Diocese of Huron, London, Ontario](#) and [Symphony of Lights: An Exploration of the Stained Glass Windows in St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, London, Ontario](#)

Dr. Cody Barteet, Department of Visual Arts

These two interrelated projects seek to document and preserve the rich visual culture of local stained glass installations, and other architectural features, in London's Anglican Churches of the Diocese of Huron. Courtney Waugh worked closely with Dr. Cody Barteet and graduate students from visual arts to create a robust research collection of some 5,000 digital assets. This core image gallery is hosted on S@W and will be used by students and researchers to create digital scholarship projects focusing on specific aspects of the collection. For example, these images may be used to highlight the work of specific stained glass artists through digital storytelling tools such as StoryMaps with resources and training provided by RSC's GIS Specialist, Liz Sutherland.

Following the creation of the Anglican Diocese image gallery, Dr. Barteet partnered with RSC to publish a catalogue for an ArtLab Gallery exhibition that focused on the visual and aural effects of the art of St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church. Emily Carlisle-Johnston provided expertise and support in using Pressbooks to publish the catalogue as an e-book, which was deposited in [eCampusOntario's Open Library](#) and is also hosted on S@W. Emily also registered a DOI and ISBN for the catalogue.

[Health Education Media Collection](#)

Dani Dilkes, Faculty of Health Sciences

The Health Education Media Library is a community-sourced open access repository of medical, dental, and health education media assets including images, videos, and audio clips. The goal of the project is to provide high quality assets that are representative of a diverse population of both patients and health care providers (emphasizing representation across different ethnicities, genders, ages, body types etc.) and inclusive of stigmatized health care topics.

RSC provided expertise and in-kind support for this grant projected funded by eCampusOntario. Emily Carlisle-Johnston worked directly with the project team to advise on options for OER creation and dissemination, and Courtney Waugh facilitated ingest of digital assets into Scholarship@Western, and coordinated training to display content using the Digital Commons Exhibit Solution (DCX) in consultation with Emily and Dani Dilkes.

[Breaking Boundaries: \(Counter\) Accounts during the Pandemic - Letters to Future Generations](#)

Dr. Diane-Laure Arjalies, Richard Ivey School of Business

This is a timely multilingual (English-French-Portuguese-Spanish) edited collection from the field of Critical Accounting. The editorial team included eight accounting faculty researchers from three continents. The book documents accounts, in various forms, of the ways in which humanity has confronted COVID-19. Courtney Waugh worked in collaboration with Dr. Arjalies, Project Manager Julia Bevacqua, and the entire editorial team to facilitate open dissemination of this e-book through S@W from the submission process through final publication. This project began in 2020 and the collection was published in September 2021.

Courtney Waugh and Veronica Berry (MLIS co-op student in 2020) supported this project by registering a DOI and ISBN for the book and advising the editorial team on open licensing, content upload and management, and deposit with Library and Archives Canada.

[Undergraduate Student Research Internships \(USRI\)](#)

Shelley Bellyou, Western Research

The Western Undergraduate Summer Research Internships (USRI) program provides undergraduate students with engaged research experiences and opportunities to learn new research methods and techniques alongside faculty mentors. It also helps develop skills in preparation for future careers. At the end of the summer, students and faculty are expected to share their research with the broader campus community during a virtual exhibition event.

Several members of the RSC team worked in partnership with Western Research to develop and deliver relevant programming on publishing, copyright, data, research tools, and GIS over the summer of 2021 to support undergraduate research projects. In addition, Joanne Paterson advised students and Western Research on best practices for disseminating research openly through S@W using Creative Commons licensing, and supported content upload.

Journal Publishing

Western Libraries has supported open access scholarly journal publishing for nearly fifteen years. We currently use the Public Knowledge Project's (PKP) Open Journal Systems (OJS) software for journal publishing, with hosting services provided by Scholars Portal. We provide support in the set-up and continued maintenance of journals, as well as guidance in editorial policies and practices. We facilitate indexing and dissemination of journal content to increase its visibility and discoverability, and validate standard identifiers for the publication and its content as needed.

Kristin Hoffmann and Emily Carlisle-Johnston are the librarians responsible for journal publishing services.

From May 2021 to April 2022, we provided **126 consultations** to faculty and student journal teams:

- 27 online synchronous training sessions or meetings
- 98 email queries about working with the OJS platform, or about publishing practices or policies
- Overall, we provided consultations for editors from 21 different journals, including customized online training sessions or meetings for 13 journals. Journals that were newly established or new to OJS reached out for assistance more than twice as often as more established journals.

As of April 30, 2022, we host **34 active journals**:

- 14 scholarly journals run by faculty
- 9 graduate student journals
- 11 undergraduate student journals

Eight journals are inactive or ceased, and we maintain their sites for purposes of preservation and access to previously published content. Six journals are in various stages of being launched.

In the last year, our journals published a total of 41 issues and 285 articles. Across all published issues of all journals, articles were downloaded or viewed 500,295 times.

Four journals were launched in the last year:

[Compass](#)

Inaugural issue chief editors: Jonathan Wang and Aishwarya Kulkarni

This is an annual magazine launched by graduate students in the Global Health Systems Program at Western. The publication aims to foster community by showcasing student experiences, featuring alumni stories, and highlighting global health topics.

[International Journal on Homelessness \(IJOH\)](#)

Managing Editor: Dr. Abe Oudshoorn, Arthur Labatt School of Nursing

This journal seeks to promote and advance scholarly communications and academic discourse among all sectors regarding prevention and ending of homelessness globally. IJOH prioritizes the dissemination of knowledge from both the Global North and the Global South, seeking true internationalization of knowledge translation and exchange.

[Maple Transactions](#)

Editor-in-chief: Dr. Robert M. Corless, Professor Emeritus, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

The journal publishes works on computer-assisted research in mathematics, applications, and education. Published items may be in various formats, including PDF, video, or mathematically “live” formats such as Maple Workbooks.

Transcr(é)ation

Editor-in-chief: Dr. Marie Pascal, Department of English, French, and Writing at King's University College

The journal is dedicated to intermediality and the dialogues between texts and films, without prioritizing either. This term has been borrowed from translation studies in order to shed light on the benefits of such a dialogue between the media.

In March 2022, we paused acceptance of new titles for our publishing program, to better support our current, active journals. We plan to pause acceptance of new titles for at least a year, which will allow us time to thoughtfully review the services that we are offering to our journals, so that we can determine a baseline set of services that we can sustainably provide. This will also allow us to proactively reach out to all current journal teams to ensure that they are aware of the support we can provide and find out what else they might like from us.

Journal Publishing Highlights

Four initiatives from the past year stand out as noteworthy for their scope and impact for the journals we publish:

- Student Journal Forum 2022
- Upgrade to OJS 3.3
- Coalition Publica involvement
- Indexing successes

Student Journal Forum 2022

Emily Carlisle-Johnston collaborated with the Public Knowledge Project and publishing librarians from nine universities across Canada to organize the 7th annual Student Journal Forum. This was a national event, held virtually on February 23-24, 2022, that brought together 22 presentations by students leading or involved with publishing an open access journal. The two-day event saw over 200 registrants from a variety of schools and jobs, who came together to learn effective practices for developing, sustaining, or providing support to an open access undergraduate journal.

Students involved with three Western-hosted student journals presented at the Forum:

- "A Bridge between Two Worlds: Running a Mixed Media Journal" - [tba; Journal of Art, Media, and Visual Culture](#)
- "Journal Recovery after COVID-19" - [Western Undergraduate Research Journal of Health and Natural Sciences](#)
- "Maintaining a Student-Run Journal Past Graduation" - [Nota Bene: Canadian Undergraduate Journal of Musicology](#)

Upgrade to OJS 3.3

In May 2021, Scholars Portal upgraded our instance of OJS from 3.1 to 3.3. This upgrade provided significant improvements and enhancements to the OJS platform:

- Introduction of article versions

- Refinement and improvement of the final publication steps
- More editorial control over metadata management, editorial workflow, and email templates
- Simplified dashboard navigation
- New features for submission management and communicating with users.

Because of the scope of these updates, Kristin Hoffmann and Emily Carlisle-Johnston provided two online training sessions for editorial teams and documentation that described the changes. Before the update, we also tested the changes on a development site and reported over 130 design updates to journal themes and CSS that Scholars Portal staff addressed for us. After the update, we troubleshooted a small number of questions and issues that journal editors reported. The smoothness of this upgrade was a credit to the excellent technical support we receive from Bartek Kawula and Kaitlin Newson at Scholars Portal.

Coalition Publica involvement

This is a national partnership between Erudit and the Public Knowledge Project to support Canadian scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences to transition to sustainable open access. PKP provides technical infrastructure through OJS so that journals can be easily harvested to the Erudit platform. Erudit then produces XML content to disseminate on their platform; they maintain a high standard for journal metadata, which has improved the quality of publication for journals. Funding from the Partnership for Open Access, which Western Libraries also contributes to from the acquisitions budget, through CRKN, is used to pay royalties to each journal included in Coalition Publica, and this funding helps journals sustain their operations.

Five of our journals are part of Coalition Publica. English Studies in Canada and Comparative and International Education applied in spring 2021 and were accepted, so their content will be included in Erudit as of 2022. Three titles joined Coalition Publica in previous years: International Indigenous Policy Journal, Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science, and Locke Studies.

This year, Coalition Publica produced two metadata guides for journals, which we have used in our consultations with editors to help them meet Erudit's high standards.

In spring 2022, Kristin Hoffmann was invited to join Coalition Publica's new Library User Group and is serving as the group's anglophone co-chair.

Indexing successes

Getting journals included in indexes and databases is a key step for increasing the journal's findability and giving it a greater audience. Google Scholar automatically finds and crawls OJS journal sites, but most other indexes require that journals apply to be included. These applications typically require comprehensive and accurate information about the journal and thorough journal policies for aspects such as open access, archiving, and publication ethics. Some indexes also evaluate journal content for quality and impact before deciding to accept a journal. Scopus and Web of Science are two prestigious indexes that require comprehensive

applications and evaluate journal content. If a journal is not accepted, there is an embargo period during which the journal cannot re-apply, so it is important to prepare a complete and strong application.

We support journal editors in applying to indexes by reviewing their current policies and information on their website, suggesting additions and improvements, and applying on their behalf (as publisher) if they wish.

Mathematics in Applied Sciences and Engineering (MASE) was accepted for inclusion in Zentralblatt Mathematics (zbMATH), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), and Scopus. MASE has also applied to the Web of Science Emerging Sources Citation Index and that application is still under review.

EBSCO reached out to us about including several titles in various databases of theirs. Seven titles were added to EBSCO databases in the past year:

- Feminist Philosophy Quarterly
- Locke Studies
- Mathematics in Applied Sciences and Engineering
- The Sociological Imagination
- tba: Journal of Art, Media, and Visual Culture
- Teaching Innovation Projects
- Western Undergraduate Psychology Journal

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Open education is the newest service in our open publishing suite. We spent 2021-2022 advocating for OER at student, faculty, and staff levels, which has grown awareness and knowledge about the affordances of OER and options that are available to use OER in the classroom. We have likewise spent the last year establishing the services that we can provide to instructors who are looking to learn more about OER and incorporate it into their teaching. These services include sharing our expertise with open licensing, particularly around assigning open licenses to OER and attributing open content that faculty use or re-share. We provide support in locating and evaluating OER that instructors can use or adapt, and give advice on managing workflows for the creation of OER. We also provide training and troubleshooting for OER publishing platforms, specifically Pressbooks and H5P, facilitate the dissemination of OER to increase its findability, and validate standard identifiers for published content.

From May 2021 to April 2022, we provided **75 consultations** to faculty and staff working on open education projects:

- 17 online synchronous training sessions or meetings
- 21 email queries about copyright, open licensing, locating OER, and assigning standard identifiers
- 37 additional online meetings and email queries for a single grant-funded open education project on which Emily was embedded

We held 5 workshops and teaching sessions on open educational resources:

- 2 offerings of Introduction to Open Educational Resources
- 2 offerings of Finding and Evaluating Open Educational Resources
- 1 Q&A session on options for finding and accessing course materials

Open Educational Resources Grant and Support Program

In January 2022, our publishing program launched its first-ever [Open Educational Resources \(OER\) Grant and Support Program](#) - a program that provides funding and in-kind supports to facilitate integration of OER into teaching. Planning for the Grant and Support Program was led by Emily Carlisle-Johnston; Heather Campbell, Kristin Hoffmann, and Courtney Waugh also contributed to the program planning and development from September 2021 to the program launch. The program proposal was drafted with support and input from the Open Access Standing Committee (OASC), as were strategic decisions about the program scope, eligibility, application process, and campus communications.

The program is a collaboration with the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Information Technology Resource Centre, both of which have committed to providing in-kind supports and expertise to grant recipients. Representatives from both units were included in the proposal evaluation committee, along with Courtney, Emily, and Mariam Hayward from Western Research's Knowledge Exchange and Impact Team.

\$25,000 in funding was made available from Western Libraries to sponsor OER creation, adoption, and adaptation projects.

17 applications totalling \$99,000 in requested funds were received. 5 projects were selected by the evaluation committee:

Adopting OER in Nursing to Further Student Learning in Mental Health

Project Lead: Dr. Alexis Smith, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Nursing

Adoption project: \$500

Indigenous Teaching and Learning Series Module: Working with Indigenous Students

Project Lead: Dr. Candace Brunette-Debassige, Faculty of Education

Creation project: \$7,500

The Living Tree of Mathematics: Word Problems through World History and Cultures. A multi-media book for students at Universities and beyond.

Project Lead: Dr. Vera Sarina, Faculty of Education

Creation project: \$4,500

Project Open & Accessible: Instructor tool for evaluating OERs for course inclusion

Project Lead: Dr. Donna Kotsopoulos, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Social Sciences

Adaptation project: \$5,000

A STROKE of Genius: Teamwork makes Dreamwork

Project Lead: Dr. Courtney Casserly, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Clinical Neurological Sciences

Creation project: \$7,500

Emily Carlisle-Johnston and Kristin Hoffmann are the librarians who will be the primary liaisons for each of the grant-funded projects. This will involve hosting cohort meetings and consultations, leading workshops, and providing the following in-kind supports:

- Locating additional existing, openly licensed resources.
- Explaining copyright and Creative Commons licensing.
- Using Pressbooks open publishing platform to migrate or create text content.
- Metadata, repository deposit, ISBNs, and/or DOIs.

Open Data Publishing

Western Libraries has been publishing open data since 2018. We use the Dataverse platform hosted by Scholars Portal (which is being rebranded as Borealis), with a specific instance for Western Libraries. The Dataverse platform supports researcher data deposit at Western and provides a platform for searching and downloading researcher-created data.

While data sharing is not yet mandatory for researchers at Western, it is starting to be encouraged by Canadian grant funders and will be mandated for some funding grants by spring 2023. Data publishing is also strongly encouraged by some journals, particularly in disciplines such as biology and economics, where data often accompanies publications for the purpose of replicability. We expect data sharing to become an increasingly expected and established practice among researchers.

Within our data publishing service, we provide support in organizing datasets and selecting file formats for preservation, and guidance on publication of datasets.

Kristi Thompson is the librarian responsible for open data publishing services. Liz Hill offers support for this function as well.

From May 2021 to April 2022, we provided 29 consultations to researchers on data publishing:

- 4 online synchronous training sessions
- 25 email queries

Many users required extensive support and multiple consultations. One custom hour-long Dataverse training session was developed for members of a specific research team that has so far deposited one data collection and expects to publish several more. Other consultations have included dataset review, data format support, and consultation on writing data documentation.

In 2021-22, we published:

- 7 data collections in 2021

- 11 data collections so far in 2022

These datasets cover a wide range of topics, including hyperglycemia, tornadoes, rats, and COVID-19 infections in schools. All datasets are published with an open license that allows access, download, and reanalysis.

In total we have 30 data collections and 743 files stored in our institutional collection, which were downloaded 1,213 times from May 2021 to April 2022.

Data Publishing Highlights

In the fall of 2021, two Western research teams were among the eleven successful applicants to the NDRIO-Portage COVID-19 Data Curation Funding Call, the first Canadian federal funding awarded specifically for publishing data under the FAIR principles of openness. Librarian Kristi Thompson is a co-applicant on one grant and is providing in-kind support for the other.

In June 2022, Scholars Portal Dataverse became [Borealis, the Canadian Dataverse Repository](#). The new name evokes connections to the Canadian landscape and reflects the growth to a national service, now used by more than 60 academic libraries and research institutions across Canada.

Canada has also developed a national, federally funded data deposit and discovery platform known as FRDR (the discovery portion of this platform is being spun off under the name of Lunaris). FRDR provides archival services for “big data,” extremely large data collections that cannot be handled by the Dataverse software. Kristi Thompson has been deeply involved in the development, testing, and launch of this service as a member of several working groups, most recently the FRDR/Lunaris Discovery Redesign Working Group.