

# Open Investment Strategy at the University of Guelph

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Building Community Across  
Library Teams



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# Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session the learner will be able to:

1. Summarize the benefits of an Open Access Investment Committee.
2. Articulate the importance of open investment evaluation criteria.
3. Identify workflows and administrative structures impacted by investing in open access.

# Org Structure: Functional Teams

Collections & Content

Research & Scholarship

Learning & Curriculum Support

Digital Strategies & Tech

# Evolution of Guelph OA Support

Long-time	Individual advocacy, OA week
2010-present	R&S team supports/promotes author OA
Pre-2017	Collections OA spend – Less systematic
2006-2016	Library OA Author Fund (LOAAF) → BioMedCentral APCs
2016-2018	OA Working Group
2017-present	Open & Accessible Course Content Task Force
2020-present	Open Investment Strategy Committee (OISC)



## Institutionalizing OA

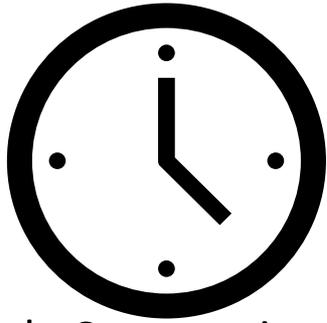
# OISC Terms of Reference

## **Link to Library/University Strategic Priority**

Position the library as the hub of open initiatives in order to enhance sharing of educational materials and research outputs.

## **Mandate**

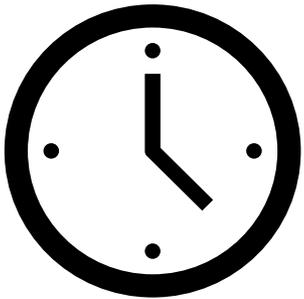
1. Develop and drive an “Open Investment” strategy
2. Develop and maintain investment evaluation criteria
3. Manage OA collections budget: SPEND \$150K/yr
4. Maintain list of OA investments on the library website
5. Work with consortial and other partners to further OA priorities



Scholarly Communication  
librarians spend their time...

## Schol Comm Librarian Life

- Speaking with authors
- Reviewing funding mandates, policies and trends
- Monitoring schol comm ecosystem, particularly policies and publisher behaviour
- **Having no money to fund open resources and open infrastructure**



Oh, and you (researcher) probably  
have to pay an APC...

\$2,500

\$1,100

\$900

A fee that researchers pay to Open Access  
Journals that allows an article to be freely  
available instead of behind a paywall

€500

\$5,000

€3,500

# Have no money? What can we (schol commies) do about it?

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- Work with Collections!!!!
- Fight for APC discounts (100%?) in publishing deals
- Pick winners and losers (fund more small publishers over fewer larger ones)
- Offer alternatives to paying APCs
- Build/fund open infrastructure
- Tell everyone what we are up to...



Am. Chemical Society	\$250 USD flat discount
Cambridge UP	100% discount (hybrid & gold)
Cdn Science Publishing	25% discount
Cogitatio	100% discount
Company of Biologists	100% discount
Elsevier	20% (hybrid & gold, exceptions)
Institute of Physics	100% discount (hybrid & gold)
MDPI Journals	10% discount
MDPI OA Books	10% off BPCs
Microbiology Society	100% discount
PLOS - Biology, Medicine	100% discount
SAGE Publishing	100% discount in select SAGE Choice; 40% discount for gold OA
Taylor & Francis	25% discount for Open Select

# Benefits to Schol Comm Agenda

- Offer our knowledge of the publishing needs of faculty authors and grad students
- Move burden of APCs away from researchers
- Learn more about publishers and readers
- Learn more about how to make change happen (workflows, ERM, finance, budgeting...)
- See and facilitate the entire research/data lifecycle

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a silver pen, writing on a white document. The document features a grid of empty square boxes, suggesting a checklist or evaluation form. The background is softly blurred, showing a window with green foliage outside. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the bottom portion of the image, containing the text 'Investment Evaluation Criteria' in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

# Investment Evaluation Criteria

# Why create evaluation criteria?

- Transparent decision-making
- Values-based investing
- Apples to apples comparisons for a diverse group of initiatives
- Facilitate investment requests from across campus
- Ensure balance of initiatives
- Enable campus partnership opportunities



# Evaluation Criteria

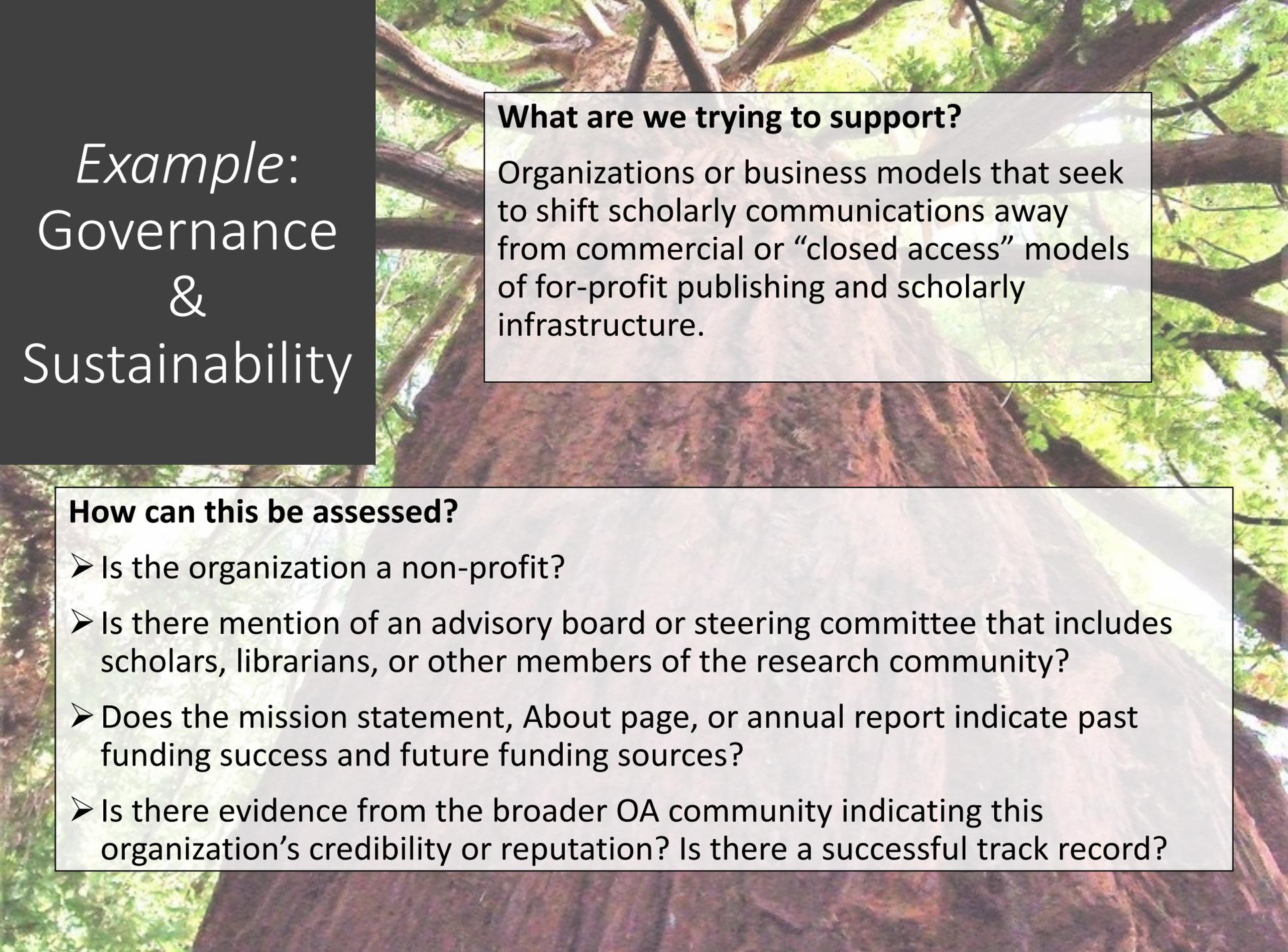
## Key areas of evaluation:

- Indigenization, equity, diversity, and inclusion (IEDI)
- Privacy
- Accessibility (A11Y)
- Pricing and licensing
- Governance and sustainability
- U of G considerations
- Technical considerations

## How is each area structured?

Each section asks 2 questions:

1. What are we trying to support?
2. How can this be assessed?



# Example: Governance & Sustainability

## What are we trying to support?

Organizations or business models that seek to shift scholarly communications away from commercial or “closed access” models of for-profit publishing and scholarly infrastructure.

## How can this be assessed?

- Is the organization a non-profit?
- Is there mention of an advisory board or steering committee that includes scholars, librarians, or other members of the research community?
- Does the mission statement, About page, or annual report indicate past funding success and future funding sources?
- Is there evidence from the broader OA community indicating this organization’s credibility or reputation? Is there a successful track record?

# What resources did we draw from?

Western Libraries

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/scholarship/oasupport.html>

University of Ottawa Library

<https://scholarlycommunication.uottawa.ca/uottawa-initiatives/financial-support>

UC Berkeley Library

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BRZLjPtrBUJyDnxjM\\_suFglogxTj-rve](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BRZLjPtrBUJyDnxjM_suFglogxTj-rve)

# 3 Case Studies

Types of supported initiative:

- Infrastructure
- Advocacy
- Collections/Content

How do we apply the evaluation criteria in decision-making?



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# Open Infrastructure: OA.Works



Non-profit. Long history of partnering with libraries



“To build powerfully simple open access tools”



Tools built on open-source code

InstantILL Shareyourpaper.org

**OA**  
**WORKS**

# InstantILL

## Purpose:

Improve ILL request processes and cost using existing OA infrastructure

## Status: Rejected

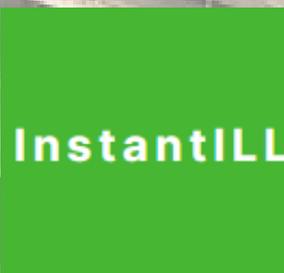
## Rationale:

Cannot integrate with LSP (Alma/Primo VE)

➤ Future Alma integration planned

## Follow-up:

Monitor for improvements



# ShareYourPaper

## Purpose:

Simplify OA self-archiving in institutional repositories

## Problem addressed:

Few author OA publication deposits in U of G repository (the Atrium) because it's tedious and cumbersome

## Status: Approved (pilot)

## Rationale:

- Improve Guelph author visibility
- Expands Open Infrastructure options – diversifies non-profit ecosystem
- Supports library strategic priority to become hub for open initiatives, by increasing repository use



[Shareyourpaper.org](http://Shareyourpaper.org)

**OA.**  
**WORKS**

# Open Advocacy: SPARC

## Purpose:

- Promotes Open scholarship; builds OA community
- “Supports systems for research and education that are open by default and equitable by design”

## Problems addressed:

- OA is not yet universal
- OA skills development
- OA community is globally dispersed
- Access to decision-makers

## Status: Approved

- Long-time ongoing

## Rationale:

- Successfully promotes policy changes towards Open
- Provides resources that help inform library OA decisions
- Builds solidarity in OA community-of-practice
- Guelph library staff highly engaged



**SPARC\***

# Open Content: MIT Direct2Open

## Purpose:

- OA model driven by collective, equitable support from libraries
- Innovative business model for OA book publishing. Based on successful Annual Reviews S2O.

**Status:** Approved (3 years)

## Rationale:

- Content relevant to Guelph
- Collaborative funding for global community access
- Challenges publishing oligopoly
- Experiment in sustainable OA funding
- Publisher consistent with OISC values



# Workflows & Checklists

**THINGS NEED TO GET DONE.  
EVERYONE IS BUSY.**

OISC → Decisions: Assessment

Acquisitions → Invoicing: Vendor competence

ERM → Linking: Metadata, interoperability

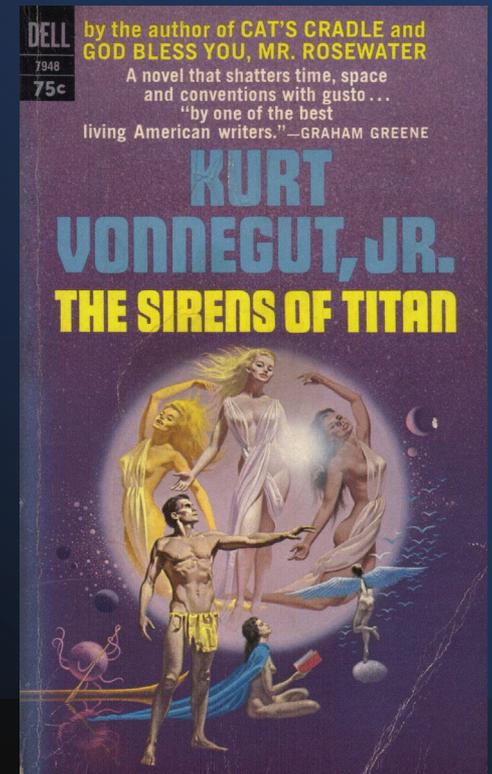
R&S → Outreach, R&P admin: Faculty,  
grad, Office of Research Services

Comms → Messaging: Social media

- ✓ Investment criteria
- ✓ Licensing checklist (e.g. SCOSS)
- ✓ Entitlements (e.g. MIT D2O)
- ✓ Renewal criteria - performance
- ✓ Budget management (Alma)

“There is no reason why good cannot triumph as often as evil. The triumph of anything is a matter of organization. If there are such things as angels, I hope that they are organized along the lines of the Mafia.”

- Kurt Vonnegut



# Future Directions

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- ❖ Renewal criteria → accountability
- ❖ Communications plan
- ❖ Understanding Read & Publish Agreements
- ❖ Enhanced Access → accelerate document delivery
- ❖ More money for OA → nuke a Big Deal
- ❖ Institutionalize culture of Open
- ❖ Smash capitalism

# Learning Outcomes redux

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# The end.

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# Opportunities to Support:



Equity in scholarly  
communication



Community-owned  
infrastructure



Public goods/social relations,  
not commodities



Systemic change

# Challenges



Risk: Rapidly evolving, unproven business models



More investment opportunities than money



Tracking expenditures



Creating budget space