

While Open Access is easily recognized as a public good, efforts to establish Open Access in universities face a number of challenges:

- ❖ The conservative structure of academic life reinforces existing habits and patterns of scholarly publishing
- ❖ The act of publishing is intimately tied to the professional and individual identities of faculty members
- ❖ Discussion about Open Access mandates can quickly raise questions of academic freedom.

Campus collaborations were effective in meeting these challenges at Concordia University, by:

- ❖ Securing pan-university support for a principle that has a complex impact on scholarly publishing, and
- ❖ Creating the necessary structures to sustain institutional Open Access practices.



## Open Access At Concordia University

Concordia University in Montreal is one of Canada's largest comprehensive universities, with some 45,000 full- and part-time students and well over 1,500 faculty members on two campuses.

- ❖ In April 2010, Concordia became the first Canadian university to adopt an institution-wide 'green' Open Access mandate with the passage of a Senate Resolution encouraging faculty and students to make peer-reviewed research and creative output freely accessible.
- ❖ Active deposits of current faculty research in Concordia's Open Access repository (Spectrum) are maintained by Concordia University Libraries, notably using a database of publication alerts. Implementation of a usage statistics plug-in demonstrates concretely to faculty the impact of depositing research in Spectrum.
- ❖ By early 2011, the School of Graduate Studies required full electronic submission of all theses in Spectrum.
- ❖ An Open Access Author Fund was established in 2011.
- ❖ In September 2011, the University Senate approved the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge.

These initiatives were realized through campus collaborations that ensured discussion, publicity, and support for Open Access thinking and action. The collaborative framework developed at Concordia is relevant to other universities looking to build and sustain habits of Open Access in campus scholarly practices.

The process, roles of the players, and key factors for success in this campus dialogue are detailed in this poster.

## Collaborative Open Access Initiatives at Concordia University

Initiative	Description	Timeline	Partners	Impact
<b>Campus Mandate</b>	A <a href="#">Resolution on Open Access</a> was passed by Concordia's Senate with an overwhelming majority in April 2010.	February 2009- April 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Access Working Group</li> <li>University and Academic Administration</li> <li>Senate and Faculty Councils</li> <li>Faculty</li> <li>Students</li> <li><a href="#">Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2010</a> conference organizers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respect for disciplinary differences</li> <li>Accommodation of creative work in Resolution</li> <li>Articulation of the value of Open Access principles</li> <li>Open campus dialogue held in many venues</li> <li>Efficient timeline</li> </ul>
<b>Spectrum: Concordia University Research Repository</b>	<a href="#">Concordia's Open Access institutional repository</a> was launched in October 2009. By fall of 2011, Spectrum has made available 312 articles, more than 70 monographs and book sections, and over 8000 theses.	2006- October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library</li> <li>VP, Research and Graduate Studies</li> <li>Open Source software providers (EPrints)</li> <li>Spectrum Working Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Credibility</li> <li>Campus recognition of value of Open Access</li> <li>Cost sharing</li> <li>Robust platform for exposure of Open Access campus publications</li> <li>Interoperability</li> </ul>
<b>Mandatory Electronic Deposit of Theses and Dissertations</b>	As of January 2011, the Office of Graduate Studies at Concordia requires that students submit their theses and dissertations in electronic format via the Spectrum research repository.	October 2009- January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office of Graduate Studies</li> <li>Library</li> <li>Students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efficient transition to full ETD, including harvesting</li> <li>Campus buy-in</li> </ul>
<b>Concordia Open Access Author Fund</b>	<a href="#">A fund to support Concordia authors</a> who have published a peer-reviewed journal article in an Open Access journal that charges author processing fees was set up as a joint initiative of Concordia Libraries and the Office of Research. Strategic Funding for the initiative is provided by the Office of the President.	December 2010 – August 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President</li> <li>VP, Research and Graduate Studies</li> <li>Open Access Working Group</li> <li>Library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad financial support</li> <li>Legitimacy of new funding models for scholarly publishing</li> </ul>
<b>Research Deposits in Spectrum</b>	Concordia librarians have initiated outreach projects to encourage deposits of retrospective research in Spectrum. A growing number of faculty from a variety of disciplines are successfully depositing their publications in the repository.	October 2009-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library</li> <li>Faculty</li> <li>Departments</li> <li>Spectrum Working Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Builds on faculty-librarian liaison</li> <li>Shared knowledge of research production</li> <li>Engagement of librarians in faculty research</li> <li>Enhanced role for library in documentation of campus research</li> </ul>
<b>Signature of the Berlin Declaration</b>	In September 2011, Concordia's Senate unanimously recommended that the University President <a href="#">sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge</a> on behalf of the university.	July 2011 – September 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library</li> <li>University and Academic Administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External validation</li> <li>External influence</li> </ul>

## The Players in Concordia's Open Access Collaborations

Collaborator	Roles	Key Attributes
<b>Library</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leadership</li> <li>Organizer and support</li> <li>Information resource</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Politically neutral</li> <li>Spectrum Open Access platform support</li> </ul>
<b>Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support at Senate</li> <li>Departmental advocates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment to Open Access benefits</li> </ul>
<b>Faculty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer support from experienced researchers</li> </ul>
<b>Academic Administration:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizer</li> <li>Administrative support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support for Open Access initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>University Administration: President</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic affirmation of the importance of the community engagement and social responsibility aspects of Open Access</li> </ul>
<b>Faculty Councils and Senate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support</li> <li>Venues for campus discussion and action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neutral venue for specific disciplinary issues</li> <li>Ensured campus-wide discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Open Access Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning and leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad-based group, representative of campus interests</li> </ul>
<b>Spectrum Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support</li> <li>Policy review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campus representation</li> </ul>
<b>Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2010: Convenor and Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leadership</li> <li>Timeline for mandate discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative of national interest in Open Access</li> <li>Wider venue for discussion and awareness</li> </ul>



## Further Reading

Beasley, Gerald. "The Senate Resolution on Open Access at Concordia University." *Feliciter* 57.3 (2011): 101-102,113. [spectrum.library.concordia.ca/7777/](http://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/7777/)

Shearer, Kathleen. "Open Access at Concordia University: A Report for the Office of Research." Retrieved from <http://library.concordia.ca/research/openaccess/OACConcordiaDiscussionPaper.pdf>

## Web Links

*Spectrum Research Repository:*  
[spectrum.library.concordia.ca](http://spectrum.library.concordia.ca)

*Concordia University Libraries Open Access Web Pages:*  
[library.concordia.ca/research/openaccess/](http://library.concordia.ca/research/openaccess/)