

# Consortium of Ontario Academic Health Libraries (COAHL)

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE 1 – Name

The name of this body shall be the consortium of Ontario Academic Health Libraries (COAHL).  
The official COAHL website is: <http://www.coahl.ca/>

### ARTICLE 2 – Participating Institutions

Allyn and Betty Taylor Library, University of Western Ontario  
Bracken Health Sciences Library, Queen's University  
Health Sciences Library, McMaster University  
Health Sciences Library, Northern Ontario School of Medicine  
Health Sciences Library, University of Ottawa  
Gerstein Science Information Centre, University of Toronto

### ARTICLE 3 – Vision, Mission & Environment

**Vision:** Improved health care by supporting teaching, learning, scholarship and research

**Mission:** The Consortium of Ontario Academic Health Libraries (COAHL) fosters dynamic collaborative and cooperative activities among its member institutions to provide enhanced access to information for health professionals within the universities and their regional affiliations. COAHL is proactive in initiating resource sharing and funding partnerships to enable educational and outreach activities.

**Environment:** Health care is a provincial responsibility. There is a need to share resources and expertise due to the high cost of health information resources and the need for health professionals to be skilled in managing health information from an evidence-based perspective. In addition, Ontario's health practitioners are spread over a vast geographic area and may have limited access to information services and resources.

### ARTICLE 4 – Members

1. There shall be one voting member from each institution who is normally the Director of the health sciences library, or a designate.
2. There shall be one non-voting member from each institution.

### ARTICLE 5 – Powers

1. This Consortium shall have the power to establish bylaws and appoint committees for the purpose of discharging its own functions. Members of these committees do not have to be voting members of the Consortium.
2. Non-voting members can be appointed to represent the Consortium on other bodies.

## **ARTICLE 6 – Amendment procedures**

1. This constitution may be amended by a unanimous vote.

## **ARTICLE 7 – Officers**

1. The Officers of the Consortium shall be:
  - a) The chair: shall serve for a two year period.
  - b) The secretary: shall serve for an alternate two year period, so that the second year for the secretary is the first year of the new chair.
2. Who may be Officers  
Either voting or non-voting members, as defined under Article 4, may serve as officers.
3. Duties of the Officers  
In addition to chairing the meetings the chair shall be responsible for arranging meetings, for consulting with members in the preparation of agendas, for distributing agendas at least ten days in advance of meetings, and for negotiating on the Consortium's behalf with vendors.
4. The Nominations Committee shall consist of the outgoing chair and the secretary. If more than one nomination is received by the Committee, and an election is necessary it will take place at the first meeting of the calendar year. Nominations without the consent of the nominee will not be accepted.
5. The Negotiations Committee shall consist of at least 2 members, with staggered terms of 3 years duration. Terms may be renewed to ensure a transition period or as desired by the members involved.
6. Replacements  
An officer who finds it necessary to relinquish office (through retirement, or otherwise) shall be replaced by a successor elected for the unexpired term. An e-mail vote may be conducted by the Nominations Committee.

## **ARTICLE 8 – Meetings**

The Consortium members shall meet at least twice a year.

Each institution shall be represented at every meeting by a voting member or a designate.

As approved June 19, 1995  
Revision: October 23, 2005  
Revised and approved: September 23, 2010