



A Continuum of Collaboration: a Strategic Framework for COAHL

The member institutions of COAHL have a common vision to support teaching and learning as well as research and scholarship for students, faculty and researchers in the health sciences disciplines in their institutions. COAHL collaborates to support and promote the sharing of information on trends in health education; on issues concerning scholarly communication and access to information; the sharing of evidence-based best practices in areas of key interest; and the sharing of resources to benefit Ontario health care practitioners, researchers and students.

In teaching and learning COAHL:

- Monitors educational trends (e.g. distributed health education, inter-professional health education) and supports health education by being involved with curriculum integrated informatics instruction.
- Collaborates with educators (e.g. The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada) in order to advance the common mission of providing the best possible instructional support, and ensures that desired educational outcomes, and professional accreditation standards, are met.
- Seeks partnerships (e.g. at clinical training sites) with other areas of the university in order to maximize support of health education programs.
- Shares best practices and the use of new technologies in support of the education programs offered in each of the institutions. We serve user groups who are leaders in adapting technologies for education. This provides opportunities for knowledge transfer between COAHL libraries and librarians in their parent institutions.
- Collaborates on advocacy to advance the role of health libraries locally, provincially and nationally.

In research and scholarship COAHL:

- Shares a common interest in ensuring access to evidence-based and other essential health information resources. COAHL libraries negotiate as a group, and at times collaborate with partners (e.g. OCUL, OLRN and their respective teaching & community affiliate hospitals). COAHL maintains excellent communication with publishers, vendors

and OCUL in order to attain the best possible outcomes for member institutions. COAHL influences publisher practices through constructive discussions about contractual access arrangements to health information resources.

- Shares knowledge and best practices to support e-research applications (e.g. software) to help faculty track and organize their research output. Our institutions receive major funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the National Institutes of Health, which now require open access to results from grant-funded research. COAHL members collaborate to advance the awareness of issues relating to scholarly communication and work toward preserving scholarly outputs of member institutions.

Benefits of COAHL collaboration for its home institutions

- Discipline specific (or focused) collaboration among the member universities and between those universities and their teaching hospitals.
- Best practices and evidence-based librarianship modeled for/transferred to other disciplines.
- Common levels of service for all members of the universities who are in clinical learning sites as well as research institutes.
- Advocacy for, and instruction on, more effective use of library resources in support of research, scholarship, teaching and learning.
- Opportunities for the professional development of information services staff in COAHL member institutions.

Last modified: June 12, 2009, AB