



## Open Scholarship Position Statement

### University Library, University of Saskatchewan

The University Library champions open scholarship to promote equitable and sustainable access to information; facilitate discovery, replicability, and reuse of that information; and increase its impact.<sup>i</sup> Open scholarship refers to the application of open practices throughout the research life cycle and in teaching and learning. It is an umbrella term which encompasses open access, open research, open science, open data, open education, and open pedagogy<sup>ii</sup> We also acknowledge that there are situations and cultural contexts in which making the outputs of research and learning open is not appropriate.

Open scholarship is a significant step toward the University of Saskatchewan (USask) being the university the world needs. It makes USask research, scholarship, and teaching outputs accessible to all those who could potentially build upon them, learn from them, or put them into practice regardless of institutional affiliation, geographic location, or financial means. Open scholarship practices can support equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging and positively impact the broader community. Open scholarship is a global movement that requires ongoing action at the local level.

To advance open scholarship, the University Library commits to the following:

#### 1. Advocacy and Building Skills

- We advocate for a transition to more sustainable, ethical, and mission-driven open access publishing models and infrastructure controlled by and for the scholarly community.
- We actively seek out and participate in local, national, and international collaborations and advocacy efforts to advance open scholarship.
- We provide training and information on open scholarship practices for the USask community and in collaboration with USask partners.

#### 2. Collections and Content

- We invest collections funds in supporting high-quality, sustainable, transparent, and ethical open publishing and infrastructure initiatives that align with the values and missions of the academic community.
- We maintain the Indigenous Studies Portal (I-Portal) which provides full-text access to Indigenous studies resources; we prioritize open access content with community members in mind.

#### 3. Infrastructure

- We maintain an institutional repository, HARVEST, which facilitates open access, better discovery, and long-term preservation for research, scholarly, and artistic work. This includes free, legal green open access to articles, student theses and dissertations, and open educational resources (OERs).
- We support scholar-led diamond open access journals (no fees for readers or authors) through our instance of Open Journal Systems (OJS) software. The University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal (USURJ) is an example.
- We support the preservation and discovery of open digital cultural heritage content through digital preservation and digital asset management systems.
- We develop and support systems used for open access digital scholarship projects.

#### 4. Research and Scholarship

- We encourage and support USask researchers to make all the outputs of their scholarship throughout the research lifecycle open whenever possible and appropriate. This may include protocols, code, lab notebooks, data, reports, presentations, articles, and books.
- We encourage USask authors to retain rights in their published works, support them in understanding and negotiating copyright agreements with publishers, and guide them in applying open licenses to their works.
- We encourage USask researchers to support ethical, mission-driven diamond open access journals and infrastructure initiatives that are in alignment with the values and missions of the academic community when providing their free labour of peer review and editorial work.
- We provide guidance and infrastructure to USask researchers in complying with funder policies for open access and open research data.
- We are actively engaged in making the outputs of our own research and scholarship as openly available as possible.<sup>iii</sup>

#### 5. Teaching and Learning

- We encourage and support USask instructors to find, adopt, adapt, or create open textbooks and other OERs.
- We encourage USask instructors to incorporate open pedagogical practices into their teaching such as the open sharing of lesson plans, activities, and assignments, and the engagement of students in co-creating open knowledge resources.
- We engage students in conversations about open scholarship issues such as equitable access to information and information privilege.
- We are actively engaged in making our own teaching and learning resources openly available and licensed under CC BY wherever possible.

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<sup>i</sup> As outlined in the University Library's Champion Open Scholarship Goal, Strategic Framework 2018-2025: <https://library.usask.ca/documents/strategicframework2025.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> This Statement and definition of Open Scholarship is inspired by the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) Statement on Open Scholarship (2019): <https://www.caul.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/scholcomm/open-scholarship2019.pdf> & UBC's Program for Open Scholarship and Education (POSE): <https://pose.open.ubc.ca/home-page/getting-started/what-is-open-scholarship/>

<sup>iii</sup> This is outlined in our Open Access Commitment: <https://library.usask.ca/documents/oa-commitment.pdf>