

2020

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS UNIT ANNUAL REPORT



Connexions Recherche
Research Connections



uOttawa

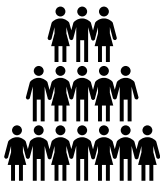
Office of Vice President, Research

University of Ottawa

03/30/2021

OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH CONNECTIONS UNIT

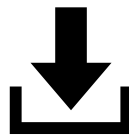
The uOttawa Research Connections unit is part of Research Management Services in the Office of the Vice-President, Research (OVPR). It was established to develop and implement the University of Ottawa Knowledge Mobilization Institutional Strategy 2019-2021. In 2020, the Research Connections Knowledge Mobilization Advisor, in collaboration with many uOttawa stakeholders and the members of the Research Connections Advisory Committee, implemented a range of activities designed to achieve the strategy objectives. The objectives aim to 1) build foundational knowledge and skills in knowledge mobilization, 2) promote the culture of knowledge mobilization, 3) engage knowledge users and 4) evaluate outcomes and generate impact. This report provides an overview of these accomplishments.



2,187 people reached



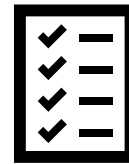
16,603 web and social media impressions



361 downloads of original resources



\$154K worth of Kmb incentives



36 Kmb plans reviewed



\$909,272 in grants

AIM

The aim of the uOttawa Research Connections Unit is to support the implementation of the University of Ottawa Knowledge Mobilization Institutional Strategy by providing knowledge mobilization (Kmb) support to the uOttawa community to help mobilize and increase research impact.

VISION

uOttawa, a top-ranked research-intensive university, is at the forefront of creating new knowledge for a changing world and mobilizing its application in areas of social and economic importance. We engage our local, national and global communities and partners in areas of mutual interest and increase the impact of our research by promoting its uptake into policy, practice, services and products.

DATA SOURCES

To monitor the Research Connections Unit achievements, data is captured for each activity: advice, webpage, communication through the RMS Newsletter and social media, publications, events and workshops, partnerships and collaborations and Kmb plan review in grant applications. Information comes from a variety of data sources such as web analytics and statistics, social media analytics, evaluation surveys, registration log and competition results data from funding organizations. All information is entered into a single Excel file and analyzed using descriptive analysis.



RESEARCH CONNECTIONS UNIT IN NUMBERS

BUILD FOUNDATION KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS RELATED TO KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Since 2019, the Unit has offered or participated in webinars and workshops to provide advice on knowledge mobilization to the uOttawa research community. In total, nine workshops or webinars were organized and promoted, which reached at least 118 participants: Lay Summary Writing Workshops (3), Webinar on Social Media (1), Webinar on KMb strategy (1), Webinar on KMb Assessment Survey Toolkit (2) and SSHRC Grants Information Sessions (2). Over 90% of the participants were highly satisfied with these training sessions.



- **9 workshops or webinars**
- **>118 participants**
- **High level of satisfaction (over 90%)**

In addition, the Unit maintained and promoted existing KMb resources through multiple communication tools: the KMb webpage, the Research Management Services weekly newsletter, the uOttawa Gazette and social media. More than 2,187 people across campus were reached through these communication channels; this led to more than 9,085 website interactions (page views, page scrolls and clicks) and 7,518 social media impressions (views) worldwide in 2020.



- **1 KMb website**
- **31 newsletters**
- **2,187 people reached on campus**
- **9,085 website interactions worldwide**
- **7,518 social media impressions worldwide**

In 2020, we developed KMb tools and resources in partnership with the uOttawa community and some external partners such as Research Impact Canada and the Future Skills Centre. For example, through the Research Connections Unit, uOttawa received a \$20,000 grant from Research Impact Canada and The Future Skills Centre to develop the Knowledge Mobilization Needs Assessment Survey Toolkit, a guide to help organizations to assess KMb needs in their organizations. Since its publication in the summer of 2020, this toolkit has been downloaded 146 times. The Knowledge Mobilization Institutional Strategy document was also published online in the summer 2020 and was downloaded 195 times. Other tools, such as a KMb plan checklist which helps researchers validate KMb plans for tri-council grant applications and the uOttawa KMb resources inventory, were also created.



- **4 tools or document developed**
- **\$20,000 KMb grant awarded to develop the Knowledge Mobilization Needs Assessment Survey Toolkit**
- **20 requests for the KMb plan checklist**
- **146 downloads for the Knowledge Mobilization Needs Assessment Survey Toolkit**
- **195 downloads for the Knowledge Mobilization Institutional Strategy 2019-2021**

PROMOTE A CULTURE THAT RECOGNIZES THE VALUE OF KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION IN RESEARCH

Since its creation, the Unit has implemented a range of activities to promote the culture and value of knowledge mobilization across the uOttawa campus.

- Incentives were offered to Faculty and research centres and institutes to recognize and support their knowledge mobilization efforts through the Knowledge Mobilization Excellence Award (2018-2019 and 2019-2020) and the Knowledge Mobilization Grants programs (2018-2019 and 2019-2020).
- The Spotlight on Research Connections events were organized to promote best practices in KMb.
- Advice and support on the development of KMb plans in grant applications were provided to Faculty members. Of the 36 KMb plans and grant applications reviewed by the Research Connections Unit staff, 7 applications were funded for a total of \$909,272 received.
- Knowledge mobilization was imbedded in institutional planning documents, including the uOttawa *Transformation 2030* Strategic plan and the OVRP Strategic Research Plan.
- The Research Connections Advisory Committee was launched to promote institutional collaboration. The members are:
 - Terry Campbell, Executive Director, Research Management Services, OVRP (Chair)
 - Éric Champagne, Professor and Director, Centre on Governance Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences
 - Christina Clark-Kazak, Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences
 - Lidiane Cunha, Knowledge Mobilization Officer, Telfer School of Business
 - Anne-Marie Gagnon, Senior Research Advisor, Faculty of Health Sciences
 - Ian Graham, Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Principal lead for the Integrated Knowledge Translation Research Network
 - Cintia Quiroga, Assistant Dean of Research, Faculty of Law
 - Monique Roy-Sole, Director, Office of Communications and Marketing, OVRP
 - Arturo Segura, Director, Centre for Research Opportunities, OVRP
 - Nicola Urbani, Executive Director, Innovation Support Services, OVRP
- The Ottawa IRIS Project was funded to build the capacity of uOttawa to be an institutional leader among academic institutions in the practice of knowledge translation and knowledge mobilization

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and to advance this scientific field. This project aims to better understand current KMb practices across the university community and to provide pathways and training opportunities for researchers at uOttawa and its affiliated institutes and centres to optimize the impact of their research results. This project was funded by the Integrated Knowledge Translation Research Network (IKTRN), led by Dr. Ian Graham, professor in the uOttawa School of Epidemiology and Public Health and the uOttawa Office of the Vice-President, Research (\$164,000 over two years).

These activities ultimately led to:



- **\$154,000 in funding to support and recognize KMb for researchers, centres and institutes**
- **140 participants to the Spotlight on Research Connections events with high levels of satisfaction**
- **42 requests for KMb-related advice**
- **36 KMb plans reviewed for 12 competitions**
- **\$909,272 in grants received from supported applications**
- **\$164,000 funded KMb research – Ottawa IRIS Project**

ENGAGING KNOWLEDGE USERS AND DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

In 2020, the Unit collaborated with many different internal stakeholders. The focus this year was to establish new relationships with key internal stakeholders involved in the KMb process that share the same values. In total, 12 partnerships were established with other uOttawa services or groups:

- uOttawa Library
- uOttawa Innovation Support Services
- uOttawa Centre for Research Opportunities
- uOttawa Media Relations
- uOttawa Research Communications
- uOttawa Conventions and Reservations
- uOttawa Centre for Academic Leadership
- uOttawa Information Technology
- uOttawa Centre Michaelle-Jean
- Research Connections Advisory Committee
- Integrated Knowledge Translation Research Network
- Ottawa IRIS Project team

These stakeholders were involved in many ways in implementing the KMb institutional strategy: some facilitated the development of tools or workshops as well as the organization of workshops, others supported the communications and promotion of the unit's activities, and in some cases the unit contributed to the success or promotion of the stakeholder's own KMb-related activities, projects or services. These reciprocal partnerships are the cornerstone of the coordinated efforts to support knowledge mobilization at the University of Ottawa.

Partnerships with external organizations and stakeholders have also contributed to the development of the Unit, bringing it closer to achieving its objective of facilitating knowledge user engagement in research. These include partnerships with:

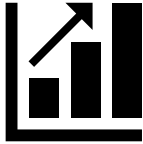
- Research Impact Canada Network



- Ottawa KMb Community of Practice

EVALUATE OUTCOME AND GENERATE IMPACT

To contribute to KMb scholarship and to share the Unit's experience with other institutions nationally and internationally, staff presented at three conferences on topics which included the development of the uOttawa KMb Institutional Strategy and uOttawa's experience with research impact assessment tools.



- **4 Presentations to national and international conferences (Society of Research Administrators International (1), CARA (1), Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum (2))**

Finally, we have undertaken a review of research impact assessment frameworks and indicators, and this has led to connections and collaborations with international research impact experts, such as Sarah Morton founder of the Matters of Focus and the Outnav impact assessment software and David Budtz Pedersen, Professor of Science Communication at Aalborg University in Copenhagen.

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS UNIT KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Check out our key 2020 accomplishments in supporting the uOttawa community to mobilize and increase the impact of their research!

The uOttawa KMb Webpage is viewed as a key KMb resource nationally!

During the 2020 Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum, the [uOttawa KMb webpage](#) was praised as a "Key KMb Resource" by external stakeholders.

Knowledge Mobilization is now embedded in the University of Ottawa's Strategic Plans!

- Transformation 2030: more connected and more impactful
- Research Strategic Plan: "Engage local, national and international communities and partners in areas of mutual interest and increase the impact of our research by promoting its uptake into policies, practices, services and products."

Read the stories of the 2019-2020 Knowledge Mobilization Excellence Award!

- Patrick O'Byrne- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Lynne Leonard - Faculty of Medicine
- Ryan Katz-Rosene - Faculty of Social Sciences

Read the stories of the 2018-2019 Knowledge Mobilization Excellence Award!

- Bénédicte Fontaine-Bisson – Faculty of Health Sciences
- Stéphanie Gaudet, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Manisha Kulkarni, Faculty of Medicine

Knowledge Mobilization Grants were awarded to 13 research centres and institutes.

LIFE Research Institute

CRCCF

CAMaR

CRECS

uOBMRI

ISSP

HRREC

CRHN

CLTS

CHLPE

Centre of Governance

CIPS

CIRCEM



The uOttawa KMb Institutional Strategy promotional video was a success!

The [video](#) created to promote the uOttawa KMb Institutional Strategy caught the attention and was praised by uOttawa communication experts and KMb experts nationally. It was **viewed 1,414 times** and led to 10 meeting requests from internal stakeholders (6) and external stakeholders (4).

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT WHAT WE ARE DOING

"What this has brought me is an awareness of my practice, a way of naming and identifying my knowledge mobilization activities. I used to practice it unconsciously. Now I practice it in a conscious way and I assume it more as a function of my work as a researcher." (Eric Champagne, Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences) – translated from French

"Support for the entire grant application and especially for the knowledge mobilization plan, which certainly helped me to obtain the grant in question; I benefited from the tool (checklist) for the knowledge mobilization plan, which helped me present an excellent plan." (Simon Lapierre, Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences) - translated from French



"Staff at the University of Ottawa have made exceptional contributions to the RIC network by actively serving on our Communications, Evaluation, Bilingualism and Governance Steering Committees, as well as RIC Award working group. They have championed RIC initiatives by providing feedback on RIC initiatives such as the RIC Toolkit, sharing resources among members of the network, and participating in the RIC evaluation. They shared uOttawa experience about conducting a knowledge mobilization needs assessment survey by developing a Knowledge Mobilization Needs Assessment Planner." (Research Impact Canada Network)

