

Strategic Research Plan (2018-2023)
Libraries
December 12, 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Agenda Item	Notes
Review current SRP	<p>Celia Haig-Brown, AVP Research, gave members an overview of the SRP and the current process being undertaken. Chair emphasized the importance of input and feedback from the Libraries in developing the SRP as the Faculty is a significant dimension of research at the university.</p> <p>Chair encouraged members to submit feedback and comments on the SRP website.</p>
Audience Comments/ Discussion	<p>The Libraries, on all institutional plans, is often seen as an enabler for research and researchers. Research being done by librarians is not as visible. Library is also the only Faculty with no research officer, so grant writing and grant applications is difficult without the support. The new SRP should reflect our researchers and how active we are.</p> <p>Member suggested considering Libraries' role in the stewardship of research data, ensuring data is collected in an ethical way, storage of the data and making it accessible. It is a critical role that gets obscured. SRP should address data management plans for research, as it is a very important issue.</p> <p>Members are curious how new models of scholarship will be reflected in the SRP, such as those engaged in media, code development. Chair commented that ideas around different ways of assessing research needs to come from faculty members through the Tenure and Promotion process, where guidelines are developed.</p> <p>The concept of Libraries' role in research creation should include the infrastructure required for research creation, such as the movement of the Library into publishing. It is not just about librarians contributing to research as individuals or on interdisciplinary research teams, it is about owning and naming a place in the publishing landscape, such as installing a monograph press, a library press. This will be a drastic shift but will enable researchers at York to become content creators and not only stewards of information.</p> <p>In terms of the opportunity of digital cultures on the current SRP, the Libraries will be opening a digital scholar centre. Researchers have been expressing the need to preserve data, display data in different ways, e-learning – basically taking the content they have created and doing something interactive with it. Researchers needed a space for people to come together so they have options.</p> <p>Member asked whether the new SRP will be responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Chair replied that meetings have been held with the Indigenous Council, and the theme will definitely be incorporated throughout the plan.</p>

All the existing strengths are interdisciplinary, but doing interdisciplinary research is actually really hard. Member asked if there is a way for VPRI to think of more integrative ways of approaching research and reflect that in the SRP.

Regarding Artificial Intelligence, it may be helpful to breakdown what is meant by “Artificial Intelligence”. Many colleagues have been doing work in the area but have not labeled it as AI. Breaking it down and defining it will allow people to see themselves being involved, a qualifier of some kind is needed.

Member suggested updating the “Digital Cultures” opportunity to “Digital Cultures and Infrastructure”. The expanded term will capture the work of those in this room better, and allow researchers to look at not just the culture of, for example social media, but also the tools themselves. This can also connect social scientists to computer scientists.

The opportunity of “Public Engagement for a Just and Sustainable World” is great but how do researchers make sure that they are tapping into a research question that the public wants answered. In order to complete strong community based research, researchers actually need to spend time in and with the community before any research question is developed. The SRP should incorporate this critical aspect of social research.

Member commented that one important piece that is missing is the scholarship of teaching and learning – it is what faculty members are engaged in on a daily basis. This also ties into experiential learning and integrating research into the undergraduate and graduate curriculum.

The open access policy needs to be referenced in the SRP, as some funding agencies are now requiring open access research data. Compliance and enforcement will be difficult but reflecting it in the institutional research plan will set a good foundation.

It is important to signal that data is the new scholarship, however you define data. Data is not only used as the building blocks of new research but can also be packaged as new kinds of scholarships. This is linked to AI as well.