

Librarian & Archivists Forum Minutes

February 10, 2026

Co-chairs: M. Mills and E. Carlisle

Minutes: D. Fiander

Approval of Agenda: Approved, E. Bourgard

1 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Christina Zoricic provided a land acknowledgement.

2 MEETING MINUTES

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Approved E. Bourgard

2.2 Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Forum

[Notes of November 26, 2025](#)

Approved: Shawn Hendricks.

2.3 Standing Agenda Items

2.3.1 Committee reports

No committee reports were submitted

2.3.2 Regular written and verbal reports

2.3.2.1 *Report of the Vice Provost and Chief Librarian*

See attached report below

2.3.2.2 *Budget and Resource Allocation*

No report submitted

2.3.2.3 *Academic activity support fund*

No report submitted

2.3.2.4 *Disciplinary Community of Practice and Library Directors Standing Committee*

No report submitted

2.3.2.5 *Projects and initiatives*

No ongoing Forum projects or initiatives at this time.

2.4 Business Arising

2.4.1 Continuing discussion about the scope of the “Research Enterprise”

See notes attached below, provided by M. Barry

2.5 New Business

2.5.1 Reflections on the Biennial Review and Report process

The members held a fruitful discussion about the BRR process with the VPCL.

2.6 Any Other Business

2.7 Adjournment

C. Zoricic, Approved.

**Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian Report
Librarians and Archivists Forum
February 11, 2026**

Budget

Western's 2026-27 budget is still in development. It is expected that Western Libraries will receive a preliminary response to its December 2025 submission by the end of the month.

Job Descriptions

Per the Letter of Understanding "Job Descriptions" in the UWOFA-LA collective agreement, several units have proposed revised job descriptions or have asked to meet about job descriptions. Some initial conversations have taken place but were paused during the budget submission process. Conversations will resume in late winter/early spring.

Library Leadership Recruitments, Update

At the November Librarians and Archivists Forum the group began a conversation about Library Director and Head roles. This feedback was useful for the Senior Leadership Team. These roles were also discussed at Joint Committee. As communicated in the all-staff message of January 20, 2026, permanent, rather than acting, Director roles will be posted. A search will also take place for a Head of Archives and Special Collections (ASC). These searches will be limited to internal UWOFA-LA candidates with a Continuing or Probationary Appointment and are now in progress. Following the outcome of these searches, Forum should revisit this topic in the spring.

The Associate Chief Librarian search process is still in progress. More information will be shared when possible.

UWOFA-LA Positions, Brescia MOU

The two (2) positions created through the Brescia memorandum of understanding are currently being directed towards a librarian role in Research and Scholarly Communication, and an archivist role in Archives and Special Collections.

OCUL Directors Meeting at Western, May 2026

The directors of OCUL (Ontario Council of University Libraries) will meet at Western on May 4-5. This includes the Directors/University Librarians of Ontario's twenty-one universities, as well as schools like Royal Military College, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and others, plus approximately ten OCUL staff.

Librarian and Archivist of Canada to Visit Western, June 2026

Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada and current President of IFLA, has accepted an invitation to visit Western Libraries/London in spring 2026. Please save Tuesday, June 2 for an event with Leslie; final details will follow. FIMS, London Public Library, and other local partners will also be included. Leslie was previously the University Librarian at the University of Ottawa, so she has a deep understanding of academic libraries and librarianship.

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Research Enterprise Activity Feedback from Librarian & Archivist Forum

Matt Barry

February 10, 2026

Most of the library's work is about supporting research:

- Research lifecycle – circular, we work within it ...
- What research enterprise is: like a sun spreading vitamin D with rays overlapping research cycle in multiple points
- Supporting research enterprise is helping users find, create, disseminate info; basic to basics – what we do in the library
- Research support = all facets, DDM, UX, GIS, etc.
- Where do we see ourselves? The research lifecycle from undergraduate to graduate– all of our work is connected to research cycle
- All work reflects the research enterprise

Sentiment that the new focus is meant to indicate a shift in who we prioritize:

- Prioritizing service offerings towards providing support to different levels of research carried out across the university
- Faculty and graduate student reorientation, at the expense of undergraduate students
- We do support researchers, the way this is presented feels things need to change, but no guidance on what that is

Desire for a single, shared definition:

- If we can't define the research enterprise internally, how can we work externally
- Coming to a shared definition of what it means
- Lack of clarity for what this means for WL or how we're supposed to carry out this vision
- It would have been helpful to have a definition for what the research enterprise means – getting clarity

Does research only mean academic scholarship?

- Is everything we do research? Can research mean more than just academic activity? (Classroom learning, etc)
- Theory + practice

Desire to ensure that “invisible” work is acknowledged:

- Tension: how do we make sure everyone at WL sees themselves in the work we do
- Certain depts within WL (CMDA) are not seen as research-supporting; we do things so seamlessly it looks free(eg. Google Scholar)

Neoliberal connotations of the word, “enterprise”

- What is meant by enterprise and how is it applied?
- Word enterprise creates tension between money/corporate and love of knowledge, curiosity, teaching; not losing faculties that don't bring in money
- Not pleased with word, "enterprise", producing research as though it's a product
- ... adding [the] word "enterprise' feels corporate

Other / uncategorized:

- Supporting the research enterprise means facilitating access to resources, tools, and expertise
- Where do we intersect with Western Research?
- Research is changing but our systems change slowly---support traditional research methods, run risk of appearing outdated