

Bridging the research to practice nexus:

The changing role of academic librarians in connecting research with new audiences

This panel presentation will explore the importance of and intersections of scholarly communications and knowledge translation in research and practice. Academic researchers are increasingly being asked to demonstrate the impact of their research beyond the academy walls. In Australia, societal impact measures will be piloted in 2017 and introduced into the Excellent in Research Australia (ERA) framework for 2018. In Canada, a new open access mandate combines with an emphasis on knowledge mobilization and community engagement via various funding opportunities from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), asking how research connects and impacts society.

Information studies is well positioned to nimbly respond to and support the evolving concept of impact in order to meet the changing needs of users. Panellists will discuss key contemporary issues for the field of information studies, including the evolving roles for researchers and library and information professionals in knowledge translation (KT) and promoting good scholarly communications (SC). Presenting perspectives from both research and practice, panelists will explore the need for new and alternative ways to represent and articulate research impacts beyond traditional formats, with an emphasis on making research findings accessible and applicable to those to whom it is most relevant or impactful. Connecting to illustrative examples, panellists will engage participants with recent trends moving toward making research available and address concerns around making it accountable. Participants will engage in a lively in-room discussion exploring the opportunities KT and SC offers for collaboration and improved community engagement.

Keywords: knowledge translation, scholarly communications, research, academic librarians, impact, engagement