

COMMUNITY MATTERS: LIBRARY SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY- ENGAGED RESEARCHERS

The **Open Scholarship Commons (OSC)** is a virtual (for now) space offering services and support for technology-intensive work through the UW Libraries.

The OSC wanted to understand the needs of faculty and researchers working in the areas of **public and community-engaged research and scholarship** in order to expand its virtual and physical services to better support them.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Literature Review found that academic libraries and librarians play an increasingly central role in supporting community-engaged and public research and scholarship at their institutions.

FRAMEWORKS OF SUPPORT

An evaluation of over 30 external institutions observed four frameworks or models for support.

01

Toolbox or Toolkit

Discipline or subject-specific guidance, covering everything from planning to implementation.

02

Institute, Center, or Hub

Centralized institutional "place" for all aspects of community engagement.

03

Resources & Services

A combination of resources and services, both online and in person.

04

Experiential Learning

Hands-on learning and engagement through programming, labs, or programs.

INTERVIEWS

10 researchers and faculty members shared their experiences working with **citizen scientists**, local and global **communities**, and the **public**.

THEMES

Researchers and faculty rely on institutional and library services to support their work with the community and public.

They face a number of challenges.

There is a need for additional centralized support.

"We need to reframe what this university is about, to include, not isolate from, other things—to include service back to a regional community, service back to a global community."

"Hear the community in its own voice."

"Long-term relationships come from long-term investments. You have to ask, do you have the investment in this community to pursue this relationship ethically?"

"People are feeling isolated in their own disciplines and centers, but so many people are trying to do the same thing and to not feel so alone in the work."