



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

Knowledge mobilization practices of educational researchers in Canada

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The purpose of this study is to learn more about what practices researchers utilize to disseminate their research to wider audiences. We use SSHRC's term 'knowledge mobilization' (KM) to refer to efforts to connect research to various users.

We recognize that not all research is meant to have direct or immediate application, and that the idea of knowledge mobilization does not apply to all research.

This survey asks ONLY about your most recent completed project funded by SSHRC. It does not include any SSHRC funded project still underway, nor is it about your overall research work.

[please continue](#)

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Information and Consent to Participate

This study has been approved by the Research Ethics Board at the University of Toronto. The research will be carried out in accordance with the University of Toronto ethical standards for research. You are free to decline to answer any question or withdraw from the study at any time without consequence. All participants will be anonymous on the electronic surveys, so the researchers will be unable to identify any individual responses. No identifying information will appear in any written report. All data will be stored electronically and anonymously and the files will be destroyed upon completion of the study. We see no potential risks to your participation in this study.

Should you have any questions regarding your rights as a participant please contact: Office of Research Ethics, University of Toronto, McMurrich Building, 12 Queen's Park Crescent W, 3rd Floor, Fax 416-946-5763. If you have any questions about the research itself, please contact Ben Levin at OISE - ben.levin@utoronto.ca or 416-978-1157.

Please indicate your consent to participate:*

- Yes, I have read the above and I agree to participate.
- No, I do not wish to participate.

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Gender

- Female
 - Male
 - Other
-

Please indicate the number of years since the completion of your PhD

- 0 - 4 years
 - 5 - 9 years
 - 10 - 14 years
 - 15 - 19 years
 - 20 + years
-

In what year were you awarded your most recent completed SSHRC grant?

- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006

(please refer to this research project for the remainder of the survey)

What was the total value of your most recent completed SSHRC grant?

- Less than \$50,000
- \$50,000 - \$100,000
- \$101,000 - \$150,000
- \$151,000 - \$200,000
- \$201,000 +

Institutional Information:

What university or research institution were you affiliated with at the time of your most recent completed SSHRC funded research project?

Please indicate what specific administrative supports you were aware of at your institution to facilitate knowledge mobilization during the time of your most recent completed SSHRC project, as well as which of those supports you accessed for the purpose of that project. (Please mark **ALL** that apply)

| | Available at my institution | I accessed this resource for my SSHRC project |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| No specific administrative supports | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Special personnel to manage or support knowledge mobilization activities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Special personnel to manage or support consulting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Funding specifically for knowledge mobilization work | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Knowledge mobilization work is taken into account in tenure and promotion decisions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There are institutional awards or recognition for knowledge mobilization work | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The institution has set up multidisciplinary teams across the institution to address knowledge mobilization related issues | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If other, please list:

Please indicate which (if any) of the following resources aimed at research dissemination were provided by your institution during the time of your most recent completed SSHRC project, as well as any of these resources that you accessed for the purpose of that project. (Please mark **ALL** that apply)

| | Provided by my institution | I accessed this resource for my SSHRC project |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Training to deal with the media / reporters | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Writing support for researchers (editing and formatting to increase the readability of academic research results) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Support to assist researchers in creating executive summaries of their work | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Training researchers in using technologies for research dissemination purposes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If other, please list:

Project Information

Which of the following best describes the nature of your most recent completed SSHRC funded research project

- Basic conceptual research
- Policy focused research (i.e. research exploring issues with direct policy implications)
- Practice focused research (i.e. research with direct applications to educational practices, such as teaching methods)
- Other

If other, please specify:

If you responded basic conceptual research, and feel that knowledge mobilization is not particularly applicable to your project, please indicate here:

- I do not feel that knowledge mobilization is applicable to my work
- I do feel that knowledge mobilization is applicable to my work

Did you include a section in your original SSHRC proposal on knowledge mobilization?

- Yes
- No

If yes, we would greatly appreciate it if you could send that portion of your proposal to us at **rspe@oise.utoronto.ca**. We are interested in the knowledge mobilization plans made by researchers. Thanks!

Was your SSHRC funded project part of a larger research program?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please briefly explain the broader research program or provide a link to it:

Did you receive any additional funding for knowledge mobilization for your research project beyond your SSHRC funding?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list additional funding sources:

Audience Information

We are interested in the work researchers produce for each other (academic audiences) versus for wider, non-academic audiences. Once again, with no value judgment, we recognize that not all research is meant to be disseminated to non-academic audiences.

Please indicate how relevant your most recent completed SSHRC funded research project was to the following audiences:

| | Strong relevance | Moderate relevance | Slight relevance | No relevance |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Government (provincial or federal) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| School Boards | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| School administrators (principals, vice principals, superintendents) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teachers / Educators | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Students | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Parents | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| General community | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Educational organizations (NGO's, think tanks, advocacy groups) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

If other, please specify:

Did you interact with any of the above audience groups during your most recent completed SSHRC funded project in the following ways?

| | Not at all | Once or twice | Regularly |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Made an effort to get to know target audience(s) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Spent time discussing the results of the research | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Spent time discussing ideas for possible actions arising from the research | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Spent time discussing ideas beyond this particular project | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Dedicated resources (time, money, research assistant time) to | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

capacity building among targeted audiences

Our conclusions from previous work indicate that KM efforts can be described as involving products (such as reports), events (such as conferences), and networks (ongoing interactions among groups of people).

The following section asks you about the type and amount of products, events and networks you were involved with throughout the duration of your most recent completed SSHRC research project.

How many of the following **academic publications** did you produce from your most recent completed SSHRC research project?

(please feel free to use your final report to answer this question)

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 or more |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Books | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Book chapters | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Refereed publications | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other publications and reports | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

How many of the following **academic events** did you participate in for your most recent completed SSHRC research project?

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 or more |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Events you were invited to | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Events that you initiated (including any events where you had to apply or make a request to present) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

How many of the following **non-academic publication types** did you produce from your most recent completed SSHRC research project?

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 or more |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Plain language summary of main findings | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Recommendations (e.g. policy recommendations, best practice recommendations, etc) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Alternative forms of results tailored for specific audiences (e.g. newsletter, brochure, etc)

If you created alternative forms of results, please provide an example:

How many of the following **non-academic events** did you participate in for your most recent completed SSHRC research project?

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 or more |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Events that you were invited to (e.g. participated in a panel discussion, asked to present to a group of stakeholders other than researchers) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Events that you initiated (including any events where you had to apply or make a request to present) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Did you contact any educational organizations with established networks, in order to use their networks to disseminate research?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please list organizations:

Did you use any existing network(s) that you were previously involved in to disseminate / discuss the results of your most recently completed SSHRC study?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please list:

Did you create a network that included non-researchers for the purpose of sharing the results of your most recent completed SSHRC funded project?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please list or provide URL:

After considering your responses to the previous section - what proportion of time would you say was dedicated to each of the following activities throughout the life of your most recent completed SSHRC study?

(This question is being assessed out of 100 points. Please allocate points depending on where you think you spent the most time. Your total allocation should be 100)

Actually conducting the research:

Creating publications for academic audiences:

Creating publications / products for non-academic audiences:

Attending and presenting at events for academic audiences:

Attending and presenting at events for non-academic audiences:

Participating in networks that only include other academics:

Participating in networks which include non-academics:

Dissemination Mechanisms

There are a variety of mechanisms researchers use to disseminate their work. This section asks about three: online strategies, media relations, and using intermediary organizations (defined below).

Which (if any) of the following online strategies did you use to communicate your research?
(Please mark **ALL** that apply)

- Website(s)
- Listserv
- Social networking tools (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, MySpace)
- Blog(s)

If you used a website or blog, please provide the URL(s):

Was your research communicated through the media?

- Yes
 No

If yes, how was "the story" picked up? (please mark **ALL** that apply)

- I contacted the media myself
 Through my institutions communications department
 The media picked up the story on their own

Please provide an example of the media coverage (source, type, date):

Did you work with any intermediary organizations to help disseminate your research in relation to this project?

(An intermediary organization is one that bridges research producers and research users, such as the Canadian Council on Learning or the C.D. Howe Institute)

- Yes
 No

If yes, please list:

What role did these partners play? (please mark **ALL** that apply)

- They were partners in conducting the research
 Adapted or created products based on my research
 Organized events based on my research
 Disseminated my research through their networks
 Disseminated my research to the media
 Facilitated interaction with a user group (practioner or policy maker)
 Provided professional development based on the results of my research

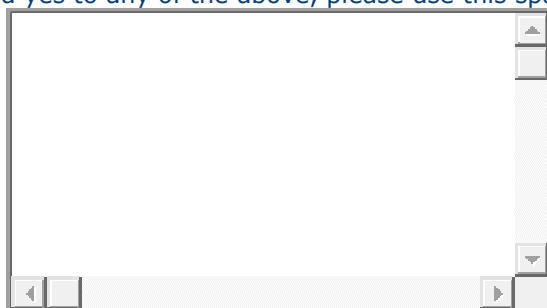
If the intermediary played a role not listed above, please provide a brief description of how they were involved in KM for your project.

Impact

Do you feel your research has had an impact on any of the following:

| | No | I don't know | Yes |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Research related impact (e.g. expanded the current knowledge base on the topic) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Policy related impact (e.g. incorporated into an organizational or system level policy) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Service related impact (e.g. influenced practitioner behaviour, incorporated into professional development) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Societal impact (e.g. changed attitudes, improved outcomes) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

If you answered yes to any of the above, please use this space to elaborate on any impacts:



Do you feel prepared to engage in KM work with non-academic parties (beyond your obvious expertise in your area of research) in terms of:

(Scale 1 = not prepared, 5 = very well prepared)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Create plain language summaries of my work | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Collaborate with stakeholders in relation to my research | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Interacting with media and reporters about my research | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Finding and working with intermediaries to increase the dissemination of my work | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Using technology (e.g. Designing websites, using social media tools) to disseminate my work more broadly | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |