

The community

ResearchImpact is a service-oriented program designed to connect university research with research users across Canada to ensure that research helps to inform decision-making.

With funding from a grant awarded in 2006, York University and the University of Victoria established Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) units that work to match researchers with key policy-makers in government, health and social service agencies. The ResearchImpact community has since grown to include four other universities and their local community organizations

ResearchImpact uses a broker model: Each institution has knowledge brokers who match the portfolio of research results and research expertise to research needs in both government and community organizations. Meanwhile, the KMb unit equips people with broader skill sets which they can then take into positions in the public, private and voluntary sectors.



The solution

ResearchImpact was an early adopter of ORION's O3 Collaboration service, which is powered by IGLOO Software. It was developed based on input from researchers and educators across Ontario to deliver an online service that could enable communities of interest to collaborate on projects and share and disseminate knowledge to either select groups or the public at large, as well as create a professional network for the Ontario research and education community.

The O3 Collaboration solution appealed particularly to ResearchImpact because of the breadth of tools and resources available in the platform as well as the hands-on guidance of the O3 community manager to coach ResearchImpact on how to best leverage the tools available, including:

- Blogs
- Calendars
- Document sharing and versioning
- Wikis
- Galleries
- Members directory
- Content tagging
- Drag and drop widgets to display content



The challenge

Knowledge brokering is about brokering relationships.

Although human interaction is critical to supporting a clear understanding of the needs and opportunities for the development and use of research, this interaction needs to be facilitated and supported by an enabling technology infrastructure.

ResearchImpact's relationships stretch across different organizations and provinces.

It is because of this that ResearchImpact identified a need for a set of intuitive and robust collaboration and communication tools that were not tied to one specific institution.

The community needed a platform solution that could be easily accessed by all its stakeholders, regardless of location, while maintaining the integrity and security of the information they want to share.

Participating universities across Canada

- York University
- University of Victoria
- University of Guelph
- University of Saskatchewan
- Université du Québec à Montréal
- Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador



COLLABORATION

Putting heads together

O3 Collaboration is all about “putting heads together”.

It's a unique platform of collaboration tools and professional networking solutions developed by and for Ontario's research and education community.

O3 is a place where researchers, educators and students can connect to the minds and resources they need to work faster and more effectively.

Benefits for researchers

- Find and share knowledge
- Discover new partners
- Collaborate across institutions and disciplines
- Find solutions with experts and tools
- Break down barriers to research success
- Accelerate innovation

Benefits for educators

- Find and share resources
- Shape instructional best practices
- Provide a container for knowledge
- Build relationships across schools and boards
- Enhance student achievement



O3 Collaboration is provided by the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network, with support from CANARIE, Canada's advanced research and innovation network.



O3 Collaboration is powered by IGLOO Software

Results and outcomes

With O3 Collaboration, ResearchImpact and its members can access a very powerful collaboration platform that offers the new and innovative tools and resources they need to support their work and research.

Among the capabilities they highlight:

- joining their O3 community by using their institutional e-mail address
- the ability to participate in multiple communities
- not requiring special software, only a Web browser
- filters that give users control and support content management



“I am not aware of any other platform that has such a comprehensive set of social media tools. The document repository, the wiki and the messaging features are of special interest to us. Of particular utility is the ability to form groups in our ResearchImpact community to provide filtered permissions to different parts of the community or to different documents and articles in our O3 community.”

David Phipps, Director, Research Services and Knowledge Exchange, York University

Mash it up!

An element of O3 Collaboration that appeals to ResearchImpact is the ability to bring outside tools and content into its O3 community. ResearchImpact highlights both its Twitter feed and Flickr photos within its O3 community space, as well as videos stored on its YouTube channel. Users also import headlines from Wordpress blogs.



A professional networking and collaboration service for researchers and educators

The O3 Collaboration service is available at no cost to ORION network institutions and affiliated groups and partners. New features are added regularly and remain at the cutting edge of social and professional networking and collaboration technology. O3 Collaboration integrates fully with other Web tools such as Youtube, Flickr, Twitter and others.

Find out more. Ask for a briefing on how to incorporate O3 Collaboration in your work or institution. Contact Gary Hilson - gary.hilson@orion.on.ca.

www.othree.ca