Beyond bath bombs: Building community and connection at uOttawa Library

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Introductions

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University of Ottawa’s land affirmation

We pay respect to the Algonquin people, who are the traditional guardians of this land. We acknowledge their longstanding relationship with this territory, which remains unceded. We pay respect to all Indigenous people in this region, from all nations across Canada, who call Ottawa home. We acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers, both young and old. And we honour their courageous leaders: past, present, and future.
Overview

● Our interpretation of wellness and its connection to EDI
● How we attempted to build connections within our internal Library community
● How we built connections with communities that we work with at the Library
● Challenges we’ve encountered in our work
● Concluding thoughts
● Q&A/Discussion
What is wellness?

How would you define it?
What role does the library play in supporting the wellness of its internal and external community?
"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." -WHO constitution
Wellness wheel

Adapted from: https://umatter.princeton.edu/action-matters/caring-yourself/wellness-wheel-assessment
Question time:

What gives you a sense of belonging in a space (virtual or physical)?
Connecting to our library community
“There is no self care without community care” – Courn Ahn
@courtneyahndesign
Internal library community connections
IncluO Community of Practice

- An internal facing community
- **Objectives:** awareness-raising on equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility and anti-racism topics; resource sharing; safe/brave space for learning and asking questions
- We recognize that the work to create a more inclusive library for both employees and users we serve is ongoing.
Library Training Committee

- Supports library employees maintain and improve their skills and knowledge
- Part of a larger framework for professional development and training support for all members of the Library team
Leading from a place of care
Informal connections
External library community connections
Outreach events

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for organizing this event with such generosity and spirit! (Prof. Kimberly Quiogue Andrews)

From the little Asian decor, snacks and the comfy chairs, not to mention the engagement on the chat and the wonderful introduction. You all made this event amazing. (Prof. Jamie Liew)
Displays & Outreach

La semaine nationale de l'accessibilité

National AccessAbility Week

Livres en vedette

Featured books
Faculty presentations

CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance
Challenges
Middle management challenges

“It is incredibly difficult to get anything done — let alone innovate and rethink the way you do things, or a better manager, or try and break down the white supremacy or settler thinking undergirding the institution — when precarity and scarcity are this ubiquitous.”

-- Anne Helen Petersen
“[S]ometimes less is more, and sometimes………..more is actually less…….. you can try to create a match between the amount of work there is and the capacity of your team to do that work well. ” - Anne Helen Petersen
Challenges from a neurodiverse perspective

"Assuming responsibility to help others is surely a good thing but making the work sustainable is important especially when factoring in Autistic / ADHD tendency to burnout from hyper focus" - Nancy Do
When we interact, we change one another.

—Priya Parker
I will never apologize for embracing joy and beauty—even when the world is falling apart—because joy and beauty are my fuel for activism.

KAREN WALROND
The Lightmaker’s Manifesto
Thanks!

We welcome your questions, reflections & feedback.
Reach out:
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Credits

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