

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background behind the letters is a dark blue gradient. The overall page design features abstract geometric shapes in shades of green, teal, and white.

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

2021-2022
OCUFA
Academic Librarianship Award

Citation for Matthew Rohweder



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Read by

Mindy Thuna, co-Chair, OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards
Committee

David Hutchison, OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards
Committee Member

It is with great pleasure that we present the OCUFA Academic Librarianship Award for 2021-22 to Matthew Rohweder. Since he graduated with his Master's of Information from the University of Toronto in 2014, Matthew has shown himself to be a librarian who cares deeply for the students and faculty he supports. He works hard to raise awareness and make positive changes around issues of equity and accessibility, also contributing to and supporting the profession of librarianship more broadly.

As a liaison librarian, Matthew works with faculty to increase the level of engagement between students, course instructors, and the library. A lecturer, who has worked for over 30 years at several universities, had glowing feedback on this aspect of Matthew's portfolio: "In all my years, I have rarely met a librarian as strong, as student-focused or as engaging as Matt... As we push graduates out into our world, we need them to be leaders that will forge their careers and along the way, use the skills we taught them in university.... Matt and his efforts have been critical in creating a learning environment that honestly I could never have been able to create on my own. My courses were much better because Matt was there."

Another area where Matthew has excelled is in his work around issues of diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. His research about H5P and OERs, combined with his membership on the Laurier Library Diversity and Equity Group, his founding of the LGBTQ2S+ outreach group at the library and his ongoing work as the co-chair of the Laurier Library's Accessibility Committee, all highlight Matthew's multi-faceted contributions to this area. Matthew's colleague writes that "he is devoted to breaking down as many barriers as



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possible in academic libraries, not just accessibility barriers, but also all other diversity, equity, and inclusion barriers.”

Matthew’s contributions to the university library profession go well beyond Wilfrid Laurier. A key area where he has made a significant impact is his conference-related work. Matthew’s work as the lead planner for the E-learning in Libraries Symposium exemplifies his ongoing support for the profession. His work with the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference, where Matthew has held multiple roles over the last six years, serves as another telling example of his contributions beyond Wilfrid Laurier. As noted in an external letter of support, “the work Matthew has done should serve as a model for how librarians contribute to the growth and evolution of our profession. ... I am continually impressed by Matthew’s ability to forge new connections and relationships that further OLA’s mission of empowering our members to build participatory and inclusive communities. He is able to bring together voices and perspectives outside of his own organization, in a way that values diversity of opinion and respectful discourse.”

Congratulations Matthew!



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Every year since 1973, the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship awards have honoured the exceptional achievements made by Ontario university teachers and academic librarians.

At OCUFA, we believe that the quality of education at our universities depends on the professors and academic librarians whose teaching and work touches the life of every student who embarks on a journey of higher learning.

Professors and academic librarians play a vital role in our universities, preparing students for the challenges of tomorrow, while pursuing the new ideas and knowledge that enrich all of our lives and chart a path to a brighter future.