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Open By Default? Concept-Mapping Our Way to Open Access Consensus

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Western Libraries
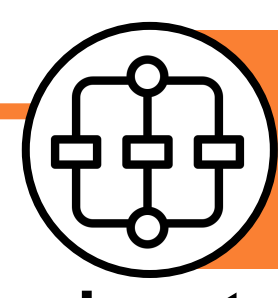
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Ten years ago Western Libraries acquired an instance of bepress' Digital Commons to power its institutional repository and support the open access dissemination of research and scholarship. The face of scholarly publishing has evolved since then, and with Western Libraries pursuing a reorganization that promises to emphasize research and scholarly communication, we saw an opportunity to turn the lens on ourselves and redefine what "open access" means to Western Libraries.

Engaging the principles of design thinking, we invited participants from across Western Libraries and our affiliates to explore how we define open access, and why and how our libraries support it. Using a collaborative concept-mapping approach, all attendees individually answered each question and collaboratively mapped the answers. The concept maps have informed Western Libraries' new statement on open access—one that reflects understandings of open access at all levels of our library system.
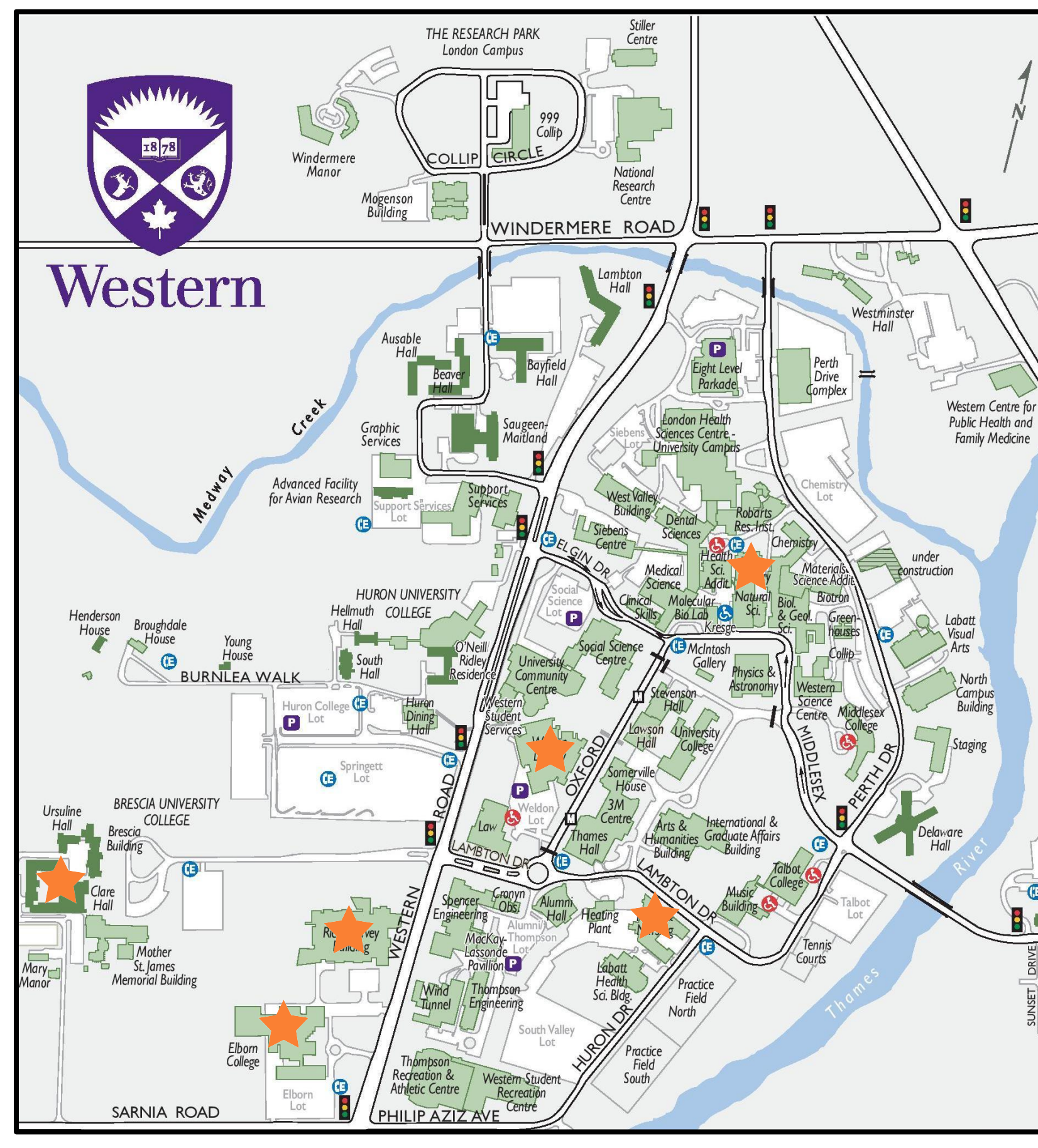
ATTENDEES

18 ATTENDEES
+1 VIRTUAL PARTICIPANT

science library, business library, copyright, faculty of information and media studies graduate library, map & data centre, weldon research & instruction services, library information resources management, affiliate libraries
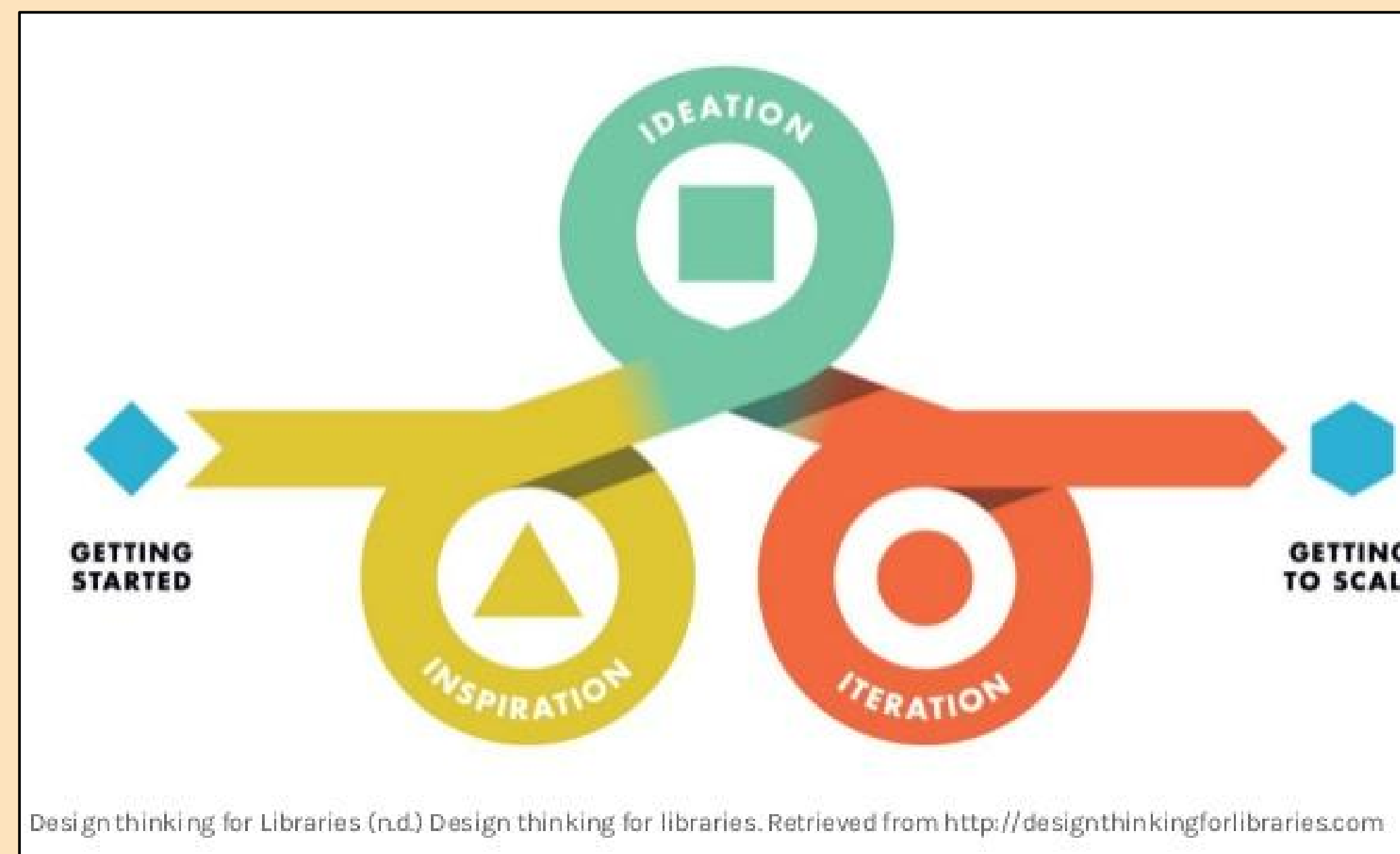
student assistants - library assistants - librarians

A visual representation of the diversity in voices and library staff at our open access concept-mapping event.
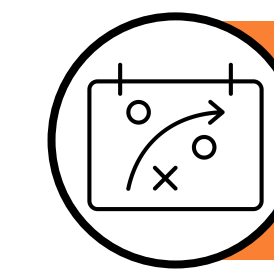
OUR APPROACH

We employed concept-mapping—a design thinking tool—to expose individual understandings of open access, generate consensus around such understandings across Western Libraries, and work through disagreements.

IDEATION — GETTING STARTED — INSPIRATION — ITERATION — GETTING TO SCALE

Design thinking for Libraries (n.d.) Design thinking for libraries. Retrieved from http://designthinkingforlibraries.com

"Design thinking is a human-centered approach to innovation that draws from the designer's toolkit to integrate the needs of people, the possibilities of technology, and the requirements for business success" (Tim Brown, CEO of IDEO).

WHY OUR APPROACH?

Folks in non-administrative librarian roles, library staff roles, and student roles do not often get to have input in the early stages of policy development, and instead work within the boundaries set by administration–even if the policy doesn't reflect their values or understandings. Including a variety of voices from across the library creates a sense of ownership over policy for staff at all levels of the organization.

Likewise, including staff from different levels, roles, and departments ensured that understandings of open access shaped by varying job experiences and user interactions were represented. Doing so has allowed for development of a policy that is relevant to Western Libraries and its external community.

RESULTS

WHAT is Open Access?
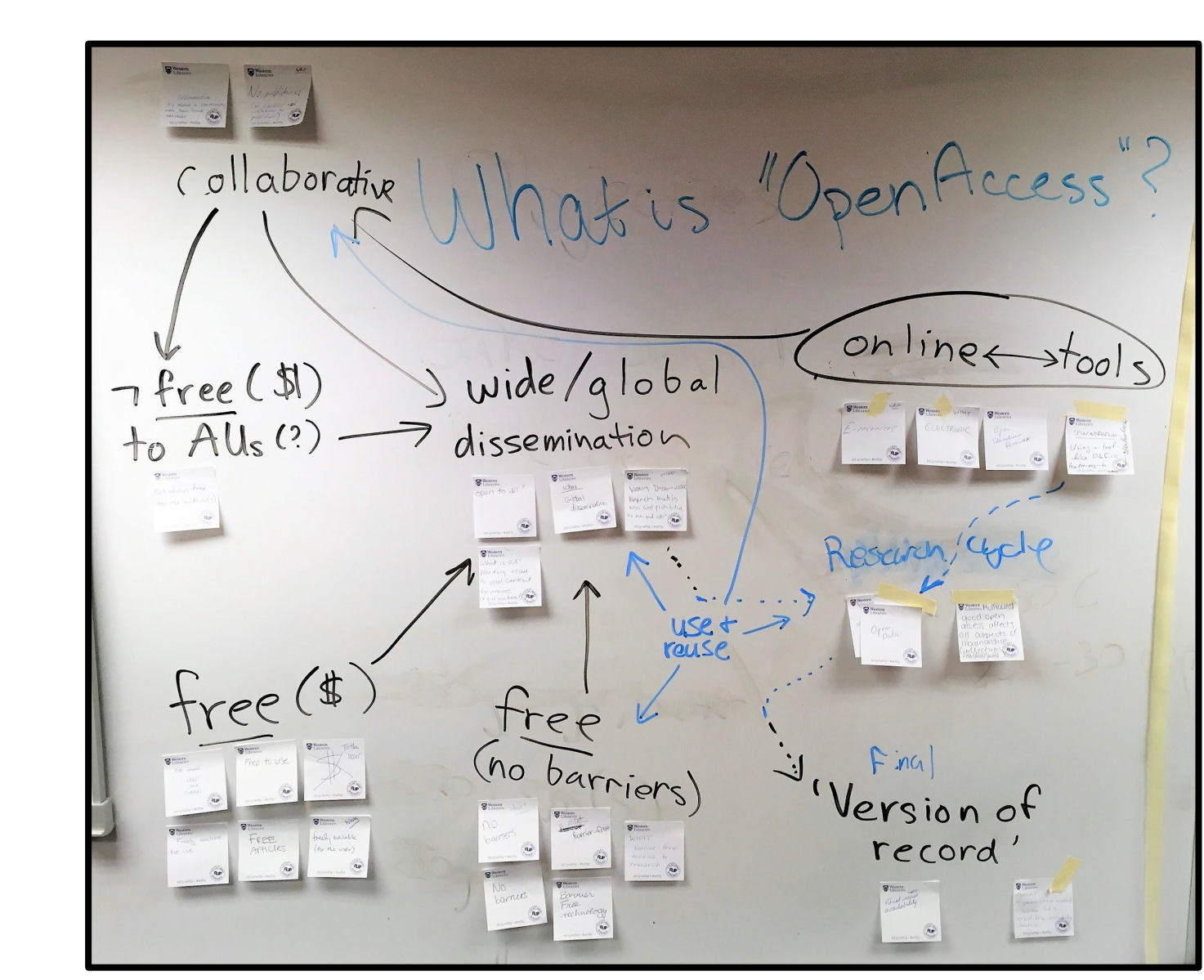
Free ($) Collaborative Global Access Barrier Free

Open Access is the barrier-free, immediate availability of research outputs coupled with the rights to fully use and build upon these outputs. Open Access works are both *gratis* and *libre*: free of cost with additional liberties or rights to retain and reuse.

At Western Libraries we support open culture and partner with researchers in identifying open avenues for disseminating research into the global knowledge base.

NEW OA STATEMENT

WHY do we support it?

Our support for Open Access is rooted in our commitment to:

- Increase the visibility and impact of Western University research on a national and global scale.
- Facilitate equitable access to scholarly materials for the betterment of society, regardless of location, affiliation, or status.
- Enable interdisciplinary research collaboration.
- Create opportunities for innovative scholarship through sharing and reuse of research outputs.
- Make publicly funded research available to communities beyond the Academy.

NEW OA STATEMENT

Public Good
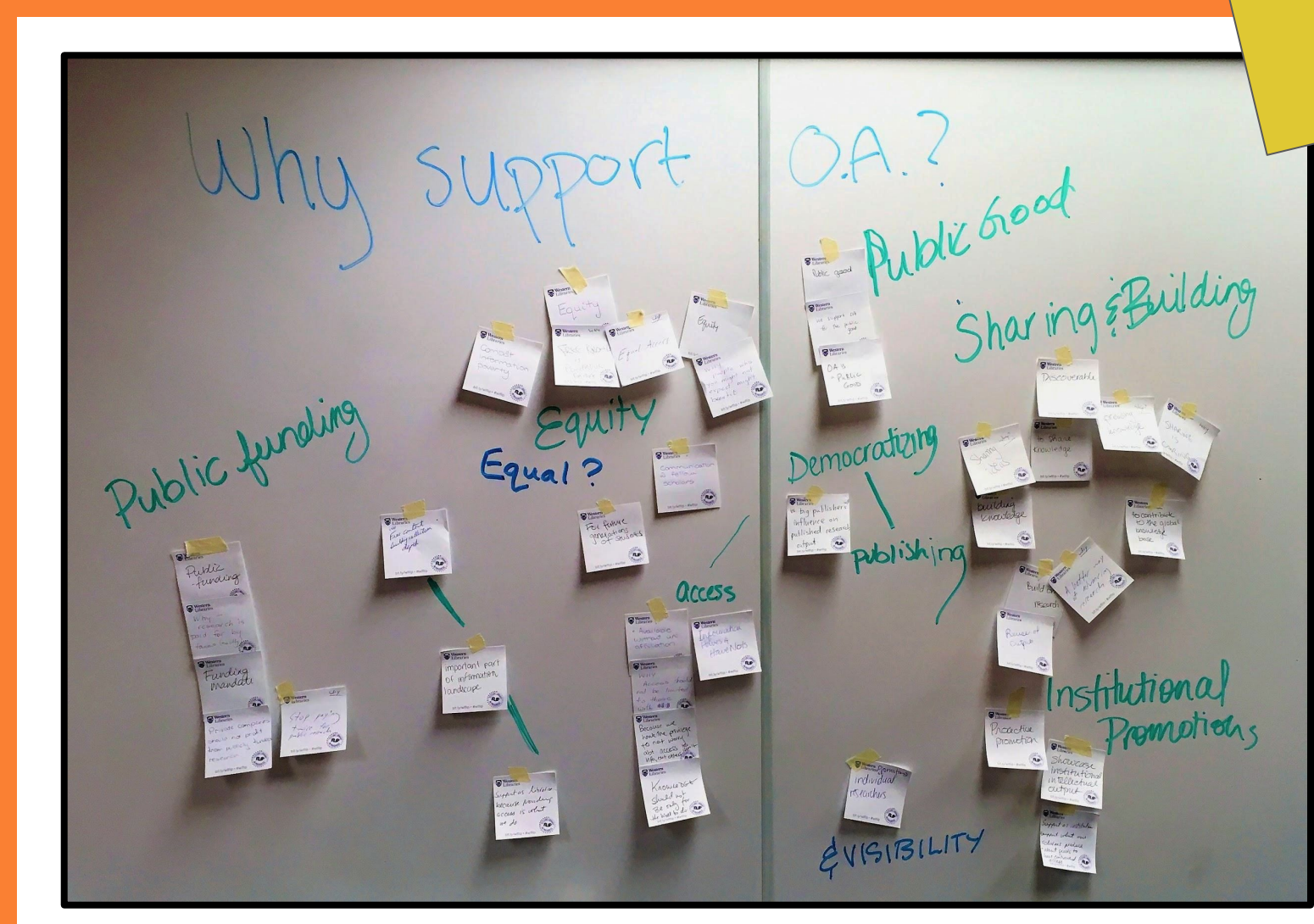
Innovation Equity Visibility Sharing & Building

HOW do we support it?
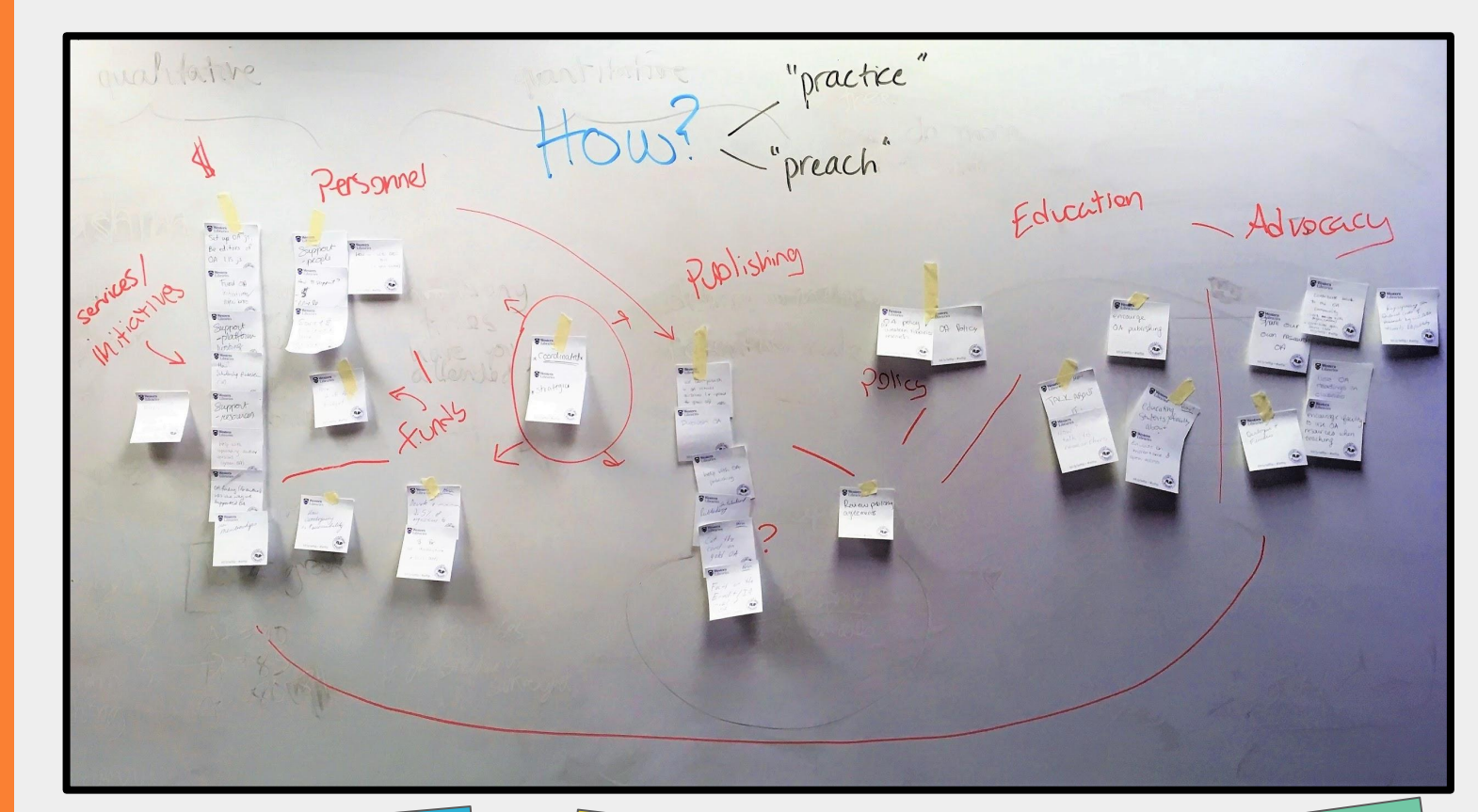
Funds ($) Education & Advocacy Publishing

At Western Libraries, we strive to leverage our position as a leading research institution to contribute to and shape the future of open access. We do so while anticipating the needs of our local community and partnering with Western researchers to advance open access. We provide:

- Individual Support
- Education
- Self-Archiving Support
- Institutional Memberships
- Journal Publishing

**Each of the stated initiatives is also followed by a few lines that explain the initiative.

NEW OA STATEMENT

Services/ Initiatives

APPROVAL

Order of creating and receiving approval for Western Libraries' new Open Access statement:

1 Our event, at the start of Open Access Week

2 Data interpreted and new Open Access statement written by three members of the Scholarly Communications Subcommittee, who also planned and/or led event

3 Statement approved by all members of Western Libraries' Scholarly Communications Subcommittee

4 Statement approved by Western Libraries' Research Support Standing Committee

5 Statement approved by Western Libraries' Senior Leadership Team

New Open Access statement posted on Western Libraries' website.

References

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**All icons are from The Noun Project.