



Beyond bath bombs: Building community and connection at uOttawa Library

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Introductions

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Inclusion
Librarian



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

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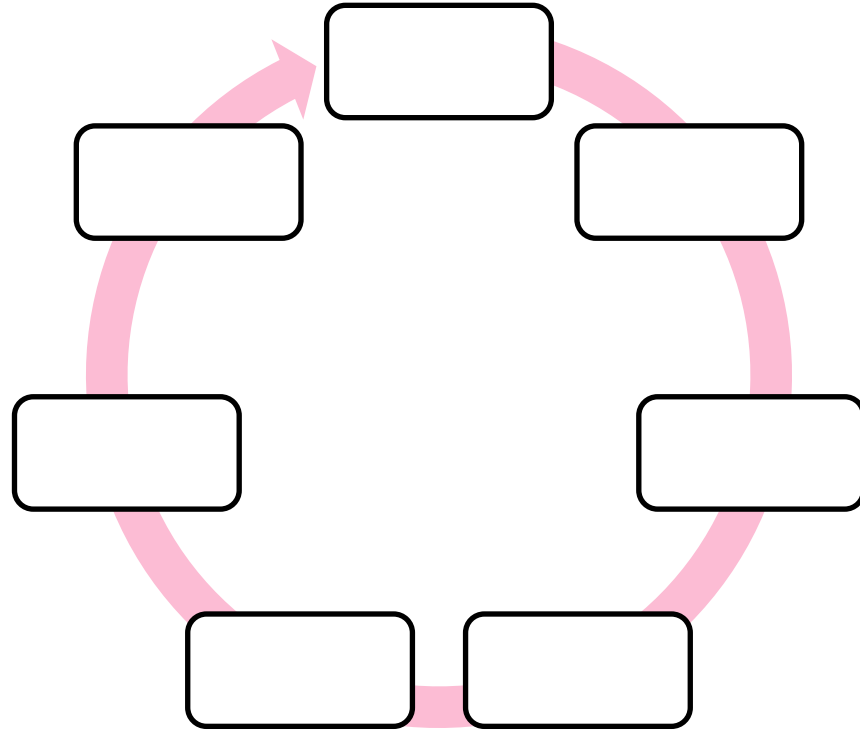
What is wellness?

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>

EDI

IDEA

IDEally


IDAARE

WIDE



Question time:

What gives you a sense of
belonging in a space (virtual or
physical)?

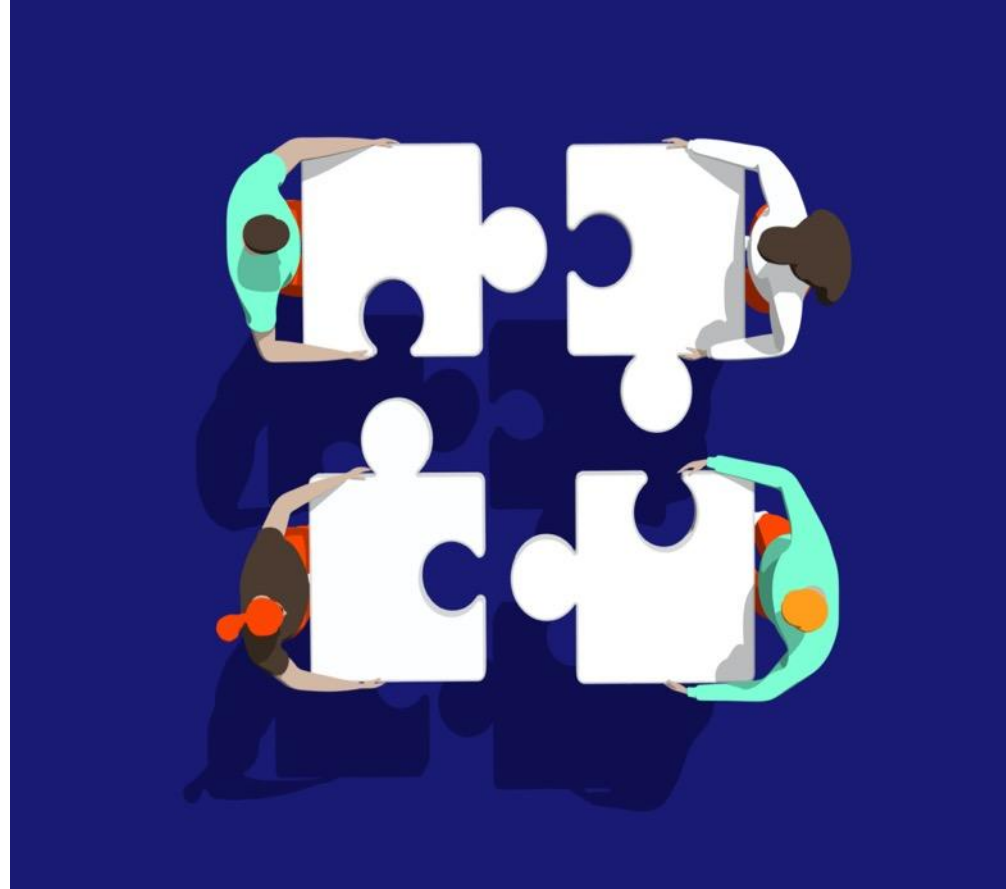


**Connecting
to our
library
community**



**“There is no self care
without community
care” – Courn Ahn**
@courtneyahndesign

Internal library community connections



Graphic by [Musicman80](#)

IncluO Community of Practice

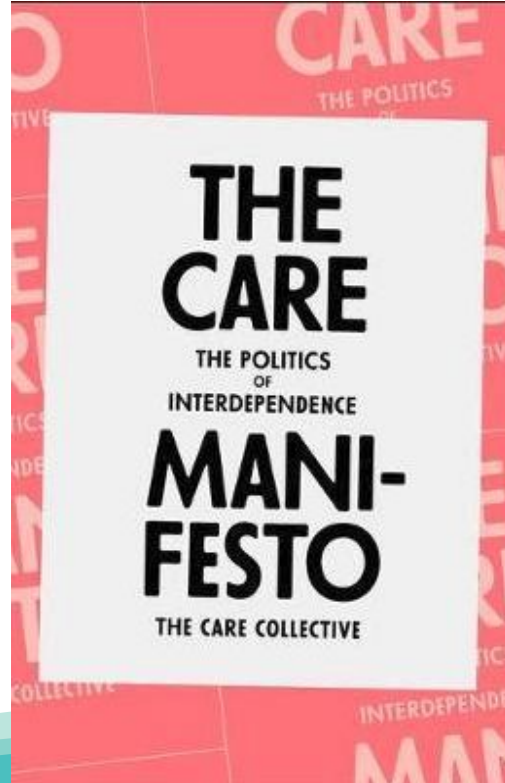
- An internal facing community
- **Objectives:** awareness-raising on equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility and anti-racism topics; resource sharing; safe/brave space for learning and asking questions
- We recognize that the work to create a more inclusive library for both employees and users we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



Microsoft Teams



External library community connections



Image by [artinspiring](#)

Outreach events



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

La semaine nationale de l'accessibilité



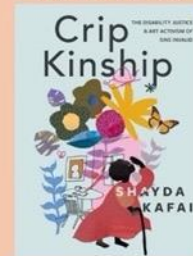
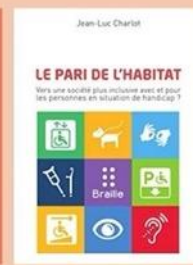
National AccessAbility Week



Displays & Outreach

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


Challenges from a first time Inclusion Librarian

“[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

A decorative graphic in the top-left corner consisting of several overlapping, curved bands of teal and light blue, creating a sense of movement and depth.

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

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of several overlapping, curved bands of teal and light blue, mirroring the design in the top-left corner.



**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

Unlocking Us
WITH BRENE BROWN



Thanks!

We welcome your questions, reflections & feedback.

Handout: <https://bit.ly/beyondbathbombs>

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