

Introducing the CAUL Open Educational Resources Collective Pilot

The CAUL Open Educational Resources Collective will provide a shared open textbook publishing platform for participating CAUL Member institutions. It will facilitate both independent publishing by authors at participating institutions, as well as collaborative, cross-institutional publishing. The Collective will also build community and capacity across CAUL Member institutions to support open textbook publishing.

The Collective has three objectives:

1. Build infrastructure, capacity and achieve tangible outcomes to move the OER agenda forward at a national level.
2. Facilitate collaborative authoring and publishing of open textbooks in targeted priority disciplines, with a preference for the inclusion of local and/or indigenous content.
3. Allow Member institutions to publish their own textbooks (anticipated to be up to two per year) in disciplines of their choosing.

CAUL Member institutions are at various stages of development in terms of their exploration of open textbooks. The aims of the Collective will allow Member institutions with different goals and different needs to benefit from the Collective. The Collective will draw on the strength of networks within the CAUL membership to encourage cross-institutional collaboration on open textbooks and facilitate knowledge sharing.

The Collective will operate as a two year pilot commencing January 2022 under an opt-in participation model.

The pilot will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 will commence in January 2022. During this phase, the Collective will have a single participation tier, 'Connect', that will allow participating institutions to begin publishing open textbooks ('DIY publishing'), supported by training, guides and templates, communities of practice, and an author grant scheme.

Phase 2 will institute a second participation tier, 'Drive', to address the second project objective: Facilitate collaborative authoring and publishing of open textbooks in targeted priority disciplines, with a preference for the inclusion of local and/or indigenous content. The Drive tier will allow authors and library staff from participating institutions to collaborate across institutions on priority textbooks in targeted disciplines. The Drive tier is expected to launch in 2023, however, CAUL Member institutions will be invited to indicate interest in participating in the Drive tier in mid-2022 so that planning for collaborative book projects can commence in the second half of the year.

This document focuses on Phase 1 of the pilot and the 'Connect' tier. The 'Drive' tier will be further developed in 2022 and information about this tier will be made available in 2022.

The Collective model

The Collective model is illustrated in Figure 1 and expanded on in the following sections.

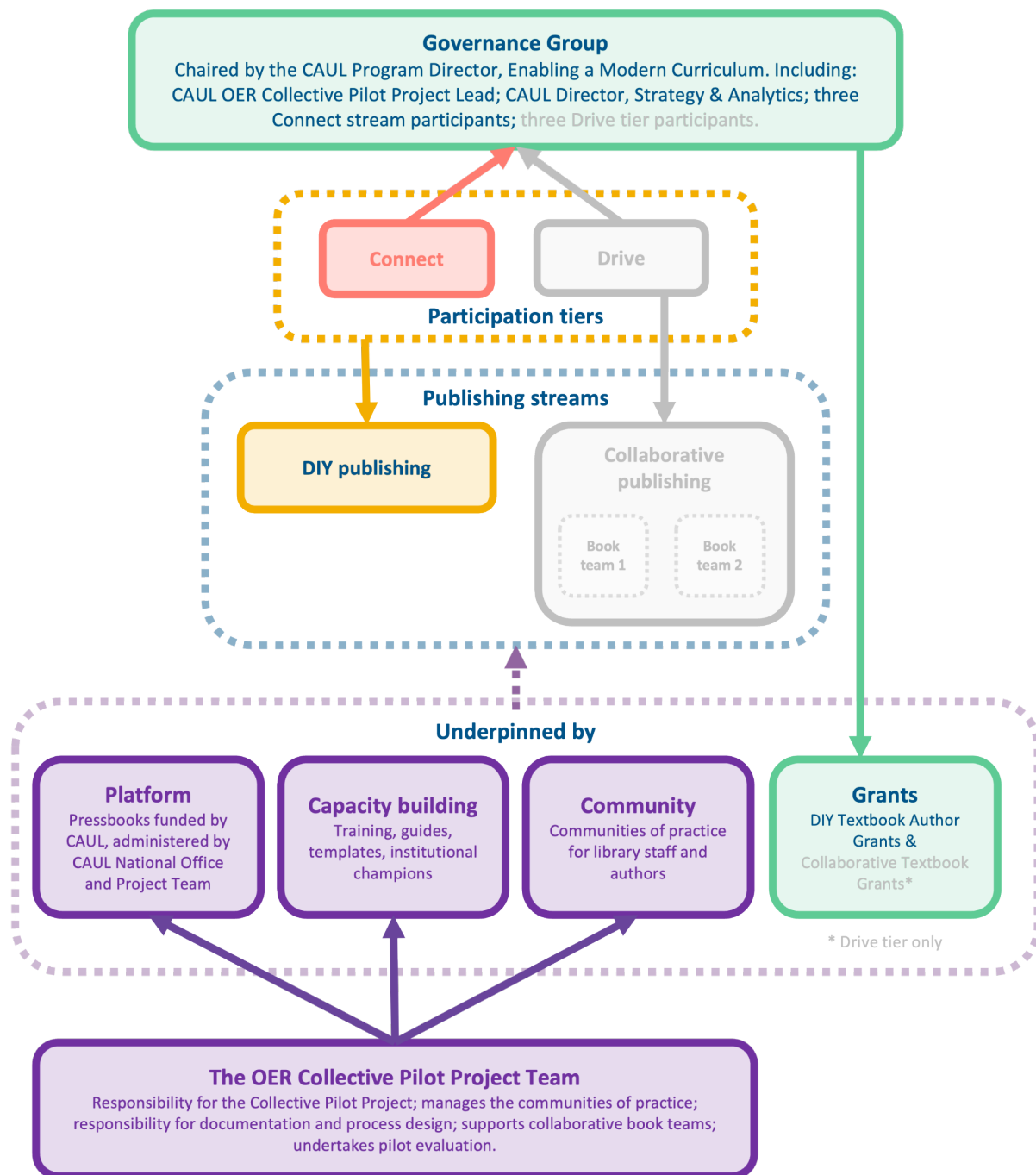


Figure 1: OER Collective model

The diagram above illustrates the model for the Collective in Phase 1, with elements that will be added in Phase 2 greyed out.

Participation tiers

The Collective will launch with a single participation tier - the Connect tier. The Connect tier will allow institutions to participate in DIY publishing of their own textbooks (up to two per year) and to build institutional capacity for open textbook publishing. The Drive tier will be introduced at a later date, with an initial call for expressions of interest in opting into the Drive tier in 2023 anticipated to take place in mid-2022. The Drive tier will allow institutions to participate in both DIY publishing and collaborative publishing.

The Collective, and in particular the Connect tier in Phase 1, is designed for CAUL Member institutions who

- want to try out creating and publishing open textbooks without investing in an institutional platform or developing local processes and documentation
- want to grow the institution’s capacity through participation in communities of practice
- want to contribute to shaping and managing the Collective.

Participation in the Connect tier is available to CAUL Member institutions at \$2,500 per year.

The following table summarises what is included for participating institutions.

DIY publishing	Community & Capacity Development	Collaboration	Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunity to publish up to 2 open textbooks on the shared platform. ● The institution decides what to publish, finds/selects authors, and facilitates the process. ● Institutions will have access to guides, templates and documentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up to 2 library staff can participate in the Collective Library Staff Community of Practice. ● Academic staff from your institution who are contributing to a textbook on the platform can participate in the Collective Community of Practice for Authors. 	<p>Authors can share calls for contributions to their DIY publishing textbooks through the Collective membership and on the website.</p>	<p>Academic staff from your institution are eligible to apply for DIY Textbook Author Grants.</p>

Table 1: Connect tier inclusions

In the following section, the elements of the Collective model for Phase 1 are explained in detail. Further information about additional elements of the model for Phase 2 will be made available in 2022.

Publishing

There will be a single publishing stream - ‘DIY publishing’ - in Phase 1 and available from January 2022.

- Participating institutions can publish up to two DIY open textbooks in Phase 1 as participants in the Connect tier.
- The institution decides what to publish, finds or selects authors, and facilitates the process.
- There is no obligation to publish on the shared platform. Institutions that have their own open textbook platform may choose to publish there instead. However, authors who receive grants will be required to publish their open textbook on the shared platform.
- If an institution requires more books than the allocated quota, they can pay an additional \$500 USD (or AUD equivalent) per additional book to a maximum of two additional books.

Platform

- Textbooks will be published on the CAUL Pressbooks platform.
- The Pressbooks platform will be funded by CAUL for the duration of the Pilot project.
- All projects and Pressbooks user setup will be managed centrally via five allocated Network Manager roles drawn from the Project Team and CAUL National Office.

Support structures

The following capacity building activities and infrastructure will support Collective participants.

Community

- Two Communities of Practice will be established:
 - Library Staff Community of Practice
 - Academic Authors Community of Practice.
- Up to 2 library staff can participate in the Collective Library Staff Community of Practice. One of these staff will be the designated institutional contact for the Collective.
- Academic staff from your institution who are contributing to a textbook on the platform can participate in the Collective Community of Practice for Authors.
- Communities of Practice will be overseen by the OER Collective Project Team with support from the CAUL Engagement & Administration Officer / Project Officer.
- Communities of Practice will meet every second month (in alternating months) and will use an email list and/or Slack to communicate between meetings.
- A half-day community event will be held in February for members of both Communities of Practice.

Additionally, authors developing books for the Collective platform will be able to share calls for contributions to the books they are developing via the Collective network.

Capacity building

- Institutions will nominate staff to join the Library Staff Community of Practice. These staff will participate in capacity building activities and will become the local experts in open textbook publishing.
- The OER Collective Publishing Workflow (see Appendix 1) can be used or adapted by institutions to support DIY publishing.
- The OER Collective Publishing Workflow will be supported by guides, documentation, and templates for each stage of the textbook development process.
- Training in and communication about the Workflow will be provided through the Communities of Practice.

Grants

Author grants are a key feature of the Collective and will incentivise development of open textbooks. In Phase 1, DIY Textbook Author Grants will be available to academic staff from participating institutions who are developing a textbook that will be published on the Collective platform.

- Grants will be awarded annually.
- Grants will be \$1000 per author.
- A maximum of two grants will be available for a single open textbook.
- Grants will be offered in the following categories:
 - General
 - Indigenous authors
 - Early career researchers
 - Niche disciplines.
- Grants will be offered on a competitive basis through a streamlined application process.
- Grants will be paid to the author's institution and may be used for any purpose (e.g. buy out of teaching, professional editing services).
- The number of grants available will depend on the number of institutions that opt in to participate in the Collective:
 - If 10 institutions participate, five grants will be offered (two general and one for each of the other categories)
 - If 15 institutions participate, ten grants will be offered (four general and two for each of the other categories)

- If 20 institutions participate, 15 grants will be offered (six general and three for each of the other categories).

Governance

The OER Collective Governance Group will oversee the Pilot. Membership of the group will be:

- CAUL Program Director, Enabling a Modern Curriculum (Chair)
- CAUL OER Collective Pilot Project Lead
- CAUL Director, Strategy & Analytics
- Three representatives of Connect tier participants.

This group will include representation from participant institutions and will create channels to listen and engage with the community. The group will oversee the grant program.

Operations

The day-to-day operation of the Collective will be overseen by the Director, Strategy & Analytics, with support from the CAUL Engagement & Administration Officer / Project Officer and the OER Collective Pilot Project Team.

Copyright, licencing and author agreements

During Phase 1, participating institutions will be responsible for managing copyright, licencing and memoranda of understanding with authors for DIY publishing titles, supported by guides and templates.

Evaluation

- The Collective Pilot will be evaluated by the Open Educational Resources Collective Pilot Project Team in consultation with the Governance Group.
- Participating institutions will be supported to evaluate their open textbooks published on the platform.

Implementation

Commencement of the Pilot

The Pilot will commence in January 2022.

Pressbooks agreement

Participating institutions will sign an agreement with Pressbooks that covers use of the Pressbooks platform.

Appendix 1: CAUL OER Collective Publishing Workflow

