



Ontario Public Library Guidelines
Monitoring and Accreditation Council

www.ontariopubliclibraryguidelines.ca

Ontario Public Library Guidelines 7th Edition

The Ontario Public Library Guidelines:

- represent community-based, voluntary standards for public libraries and public library services and public library development opportunities in Ontario.
- are developed, monitored and revised by the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council, a broadly-based group, whose membership covers the entire scope of the Ontario public library community.

Accreditation

Libraries that use the Guidelines have the option of seeking accreditation and recognition as an Accredited Ontario Public Libraries from the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council. Accreditation certificates are signed by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and presented at the OLA Super Conference on an annual basis.

Accreditation is valid for five years.

Accreditation can benefit your library in several ways:

- By enhancing the library's profile, credibility and reputation in the community, with grantors and external partners
- By demonstrating to funding bodies that the public library is using public moneys efficiently and effectively and is upholding a strong reputation as a key municipal service in which to invest for the benefit of all citizens
- By indicating to the community that its library is meeting province wide norms and providing high quality services in all aspects of local collections, services and programs
- By indicating that the library is recognized by fellow libraries as a leader and innovator in the Ontario public library community
- By providing a beneficial and realistic set of goals for the public library board and staff to work towards

"The Guidelines and the Council provide all of our libraries a standard. Whether you are small or urban there are questions that will improve your service and policies which you are either missing or could be improved." - OPLG Survey 2017

Voluntary and self-regulated

Whether or not a public library has plans to pursue accreditation, the Guidelines process provides a voluntary, self-regulated process, designed to analyze the state of development of your public library and enable it to plan for, attain and maintain consistently strong levels of services, collections and programs in their community.

Requesting an Audit

To request an accreditation audit please visit: www.ontariopubliclibraryguidelines.ca

An online form will be submitted and you will be contacted by a representative of the Ontario Library Service to coordinate your auditing activities.

The OPLG process in most cases, depending on the size of the library system requesting accreditation, will occur over one single day. An audit fee of \$200 is charged to the library requested accreditation or re-accreditation and is based on a cost recovery model. Reasonable additional fees apply for extra days in the field if a library system cannot be audited in a single day due to geographic considerations or number of branches.

For questions relating to the Ontario Public Library Guidelines please call: 1-800-461-6348 ext. 228

A list of accredited libraries and members of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council can be found at: www.ontariopubliclibraryguidelines.ca

“Libraries tend to operate as islands in many respects. While there are many networking opportunities where we can share best practices, sometimes libraries get locked into operating practices just because that’s the way they have always done something and they might not consider that there are other ways of doing things. I think the Guidelines are a great communication tool for describing what best practices are.” - OPLG Survey 2017

Francophone

The 7th Edition of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines will be translated and made available on the OPLG website in 2018.

First Nations

The First Nations Edition of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines has been discontinued as of the 7th Edition in favour of integrating key aspects such as unique governance structures, Truth and Reconciliation, appropriate cultural elements and needs into the master document. This decision was made by the OPLG to ensure an inclusive template for all First Nation Libraries to use and to challenge non-First Nation Libraries to enhance their services to Canada’s First Peoples in the services, collections and programs they also offer in their communities to urban indigenous populations.

Availability

The free, downloadable versions of the Guidelines and self-auditing checklists and tools can be found at: www.ontariopubliclibraryguidelines.ca

For more information

Contact your Ontario Library Service office:
Ontario Library Service – North 1-800-461-6348
Southern Ontario Library Service 1-800-387-5765