

Championing Open Education in Ontario:

The Impacts of the OER Rangers Program

The VLS was built on three key principles:



Collaborative

The VLS prioritized collaboration for sector transformation that impacts all institutions.



Learner-driven

The VLS drove virtual learning excellence for all learners in Ontario, now and into the future.



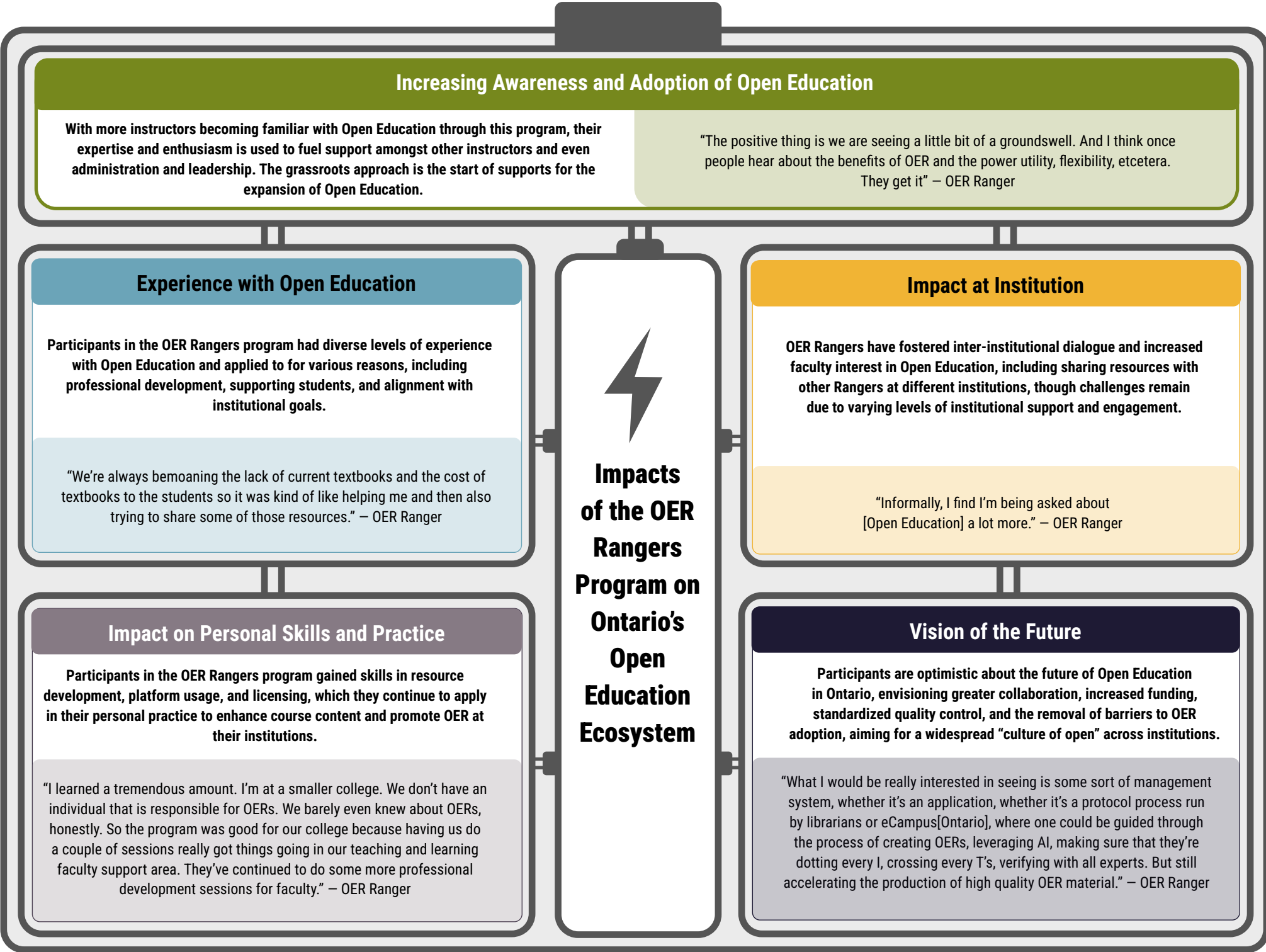
Digital by design

The VLS supported the development of online content that is digital by design.

eCampusOntario celebrates the role of the VLS in supporting innovation. eCampusOntario will continue to communicate the impacts of the VLS across Ontario following its funding from 2021-2024.

As part of the VLS, the OER Rangers program ran from 2023-2024 and provided training for participants on topics related to Open Education, such as creating Open Educational Resources (OER), adapting and remixing OER, development platform usage training, and licensing. 80 participants, from all institutions in Ontario, completed the program. This report will provide an overview of the results of this program.

To learn about the impacts of the program, eCampusOntario conducted four focus groups in February 2025 with OER Rangers. Each focus group was of 4 to 5 participants. One participant from each institution was selected by availability for the focus groups on a first-come, first-served basis. This criterion was adopted to cast a wider net across the province. Questions asked covered several areas, including experience with Open Education, impact of the program on the institution, impacts on personal practice and skills learned, and visions of the future of Open Education in Ontario. Barriers to the adoption of Open Education were also discussed and are included below. Focus groups were transcribed, and those transcriptions were used in the coding of major themes and quantitative findings.



Barriers to Mass Open Education Adoption

Participants identified several barriers to the adoption and proliferation of Open Education and OER in Ontario’s postsecondary education sector, including financial constraints, time limitations, complex licensing issues, lack of general awareness, and insufficient institutional support.

“The problem is money and time. And right now, nobody has any money and we don’t know if we’re going to have time.” – OER Ranger