

# K2A (Knowledge to Action) Library Edition

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# Learning Objectives

- ▶ Introduction to public health libraries
- ▶ Background on public health
- ▶ Principles of knowledge exchange (KTE)
- ▶ Library role in KE

# Setting the Stage: Let's talk about Health Libraries

## Hospitals

- **Focus:** clinical questions (example)
- **Clientele:** doctors , nurses, trainees, patients
- **Resources:** teaching hospital; partial teaching hospital; community hospital

## Universities

- **Focus:** supports original research, training/knowledge acquisition
- **Clientele:** faculty and students
- **Resources:** part of a larger system; diversified resources

# Setting the Stage: Public Health Libraries

## Public Health

- **Focus: multidisciplinary in scope;** large subject domains; concentrates on local **community needs** and broader **population health level**; community based interventions
- **Clientele: diversified** public health practitioners (i.e. nurses, inspectors; health promoters, KT specialists )
- **Resources: equitable, diverse,** emphasis on **grey literature**



# Public Health Libraries in Ontario

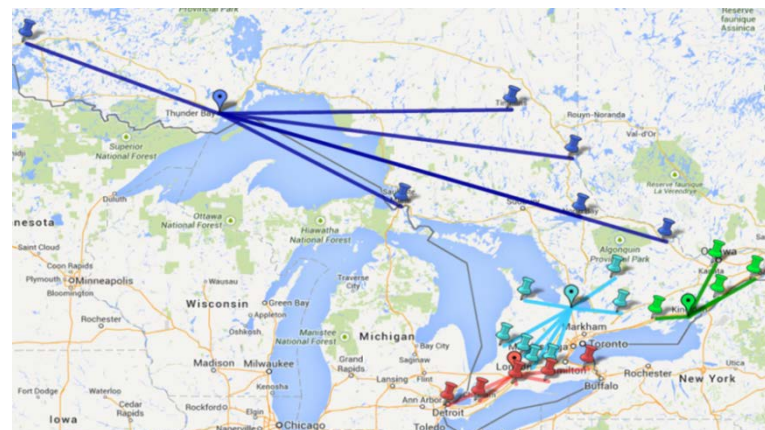
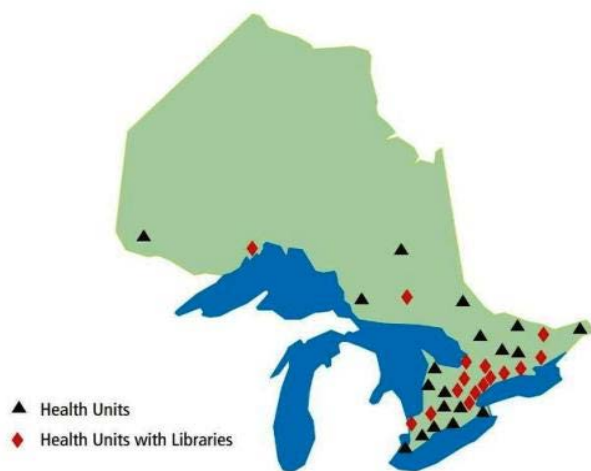
## Public Health in Ontario

- ▶ 12 public health unit libraries
- ▶ Introduced **HUB SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL**- 4 “HUB” libraries, with an additional librarian co-located within existing libraries; providing support to 24 health units without libraries
- ▶ All public health units now have access to a librarian and multiple resources
- ▶ Public health librarians are members of Ontario Public Health Libraries Association (OPHLA)
- ▶ We are both an association and a community of practice

# Where are we?

## Hub Libraries Outreach

### Health Unit Locations and Libraries



# Snapshot of Public Health in Ontario

## ► Stakeholders

- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Public Health Units
- Public Health Ontario
- Various Public Health NGOs

## ► Legislative Foundation

- Health Promotion and Protection Act
- Ontario Public Health Standards (revised 2018)

## ► Impetus for the change in Public Health

- Crises: Walkerton (2000); SARS (2003)



# Emergence of K2A Paradigm

- ▶ Disconnect between research and practice
- ▶ Emergence of evidence-based medicine
- ▶ Evidence-informed public health



# How We Define Knowledge Transfer

“The synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically-sound application of knowledge within a complete system of interactions among researchers and users to accelerate the capture of the benefits of research for Canadians through improved health, more effective services and products, and a strengthened health care system”

**Source:** The Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Developing a CIHR framework to measure the impact of health research [Internet]. Ottawa: CIHR; 2005 [cited 2018 Jan 8]. Available from: <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/MR21-65-2005E.pdf>

# OPHLA Knowledge Transfer: an early timeline

## 2005

- OPHLA presented the idea of **KT** at OPHA conference

## 2007

- Consulted on the public health portal
- Advocated for the Virtual Library
- Created Public health taxonomy

## 2008-2010

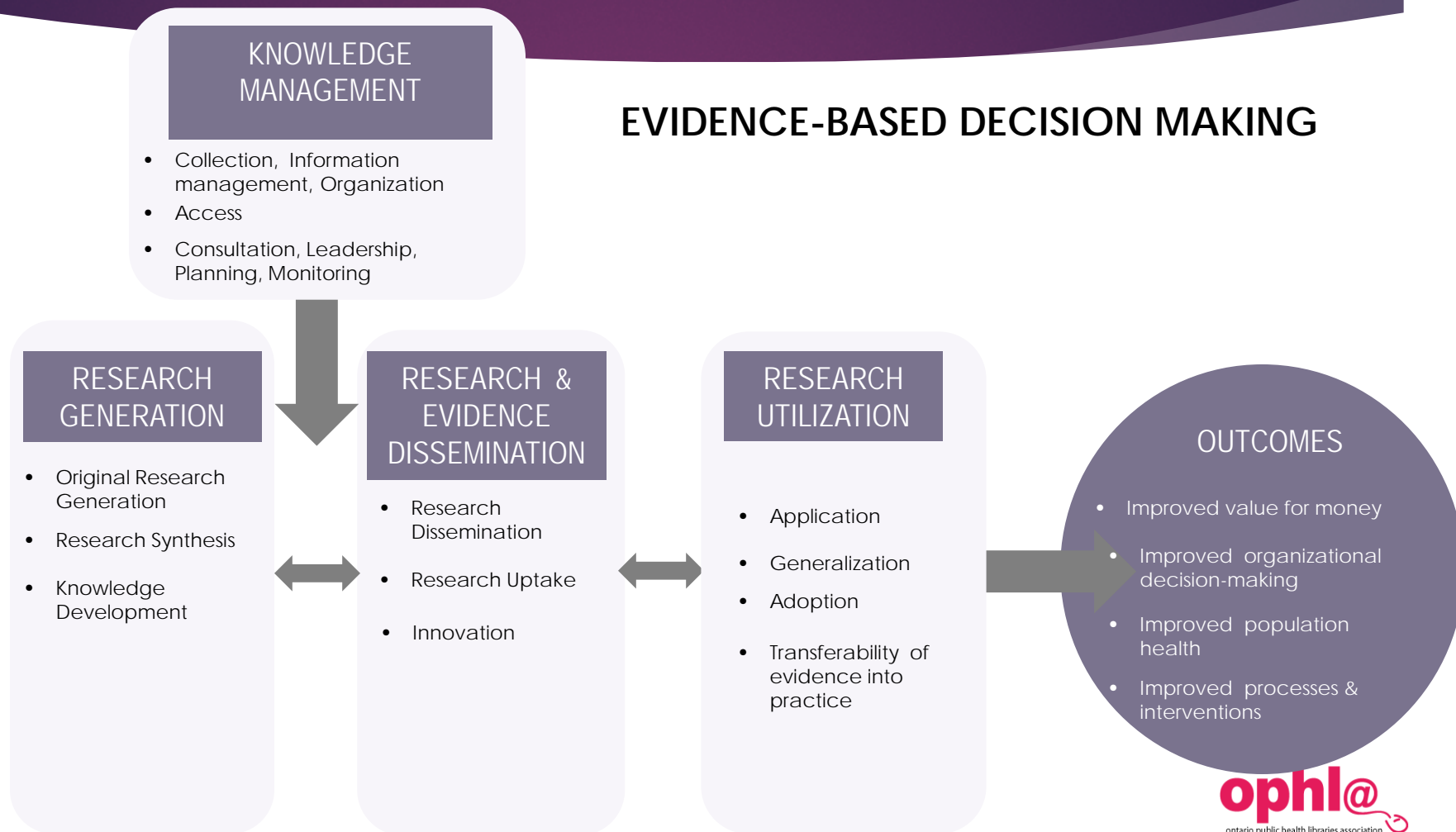
- OPHS live literature searches
- Suite of tools supporting OPHS

## 2004

- Submission to SARS Expert Panel

# OPHLA Historic Approach to KT

## EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING

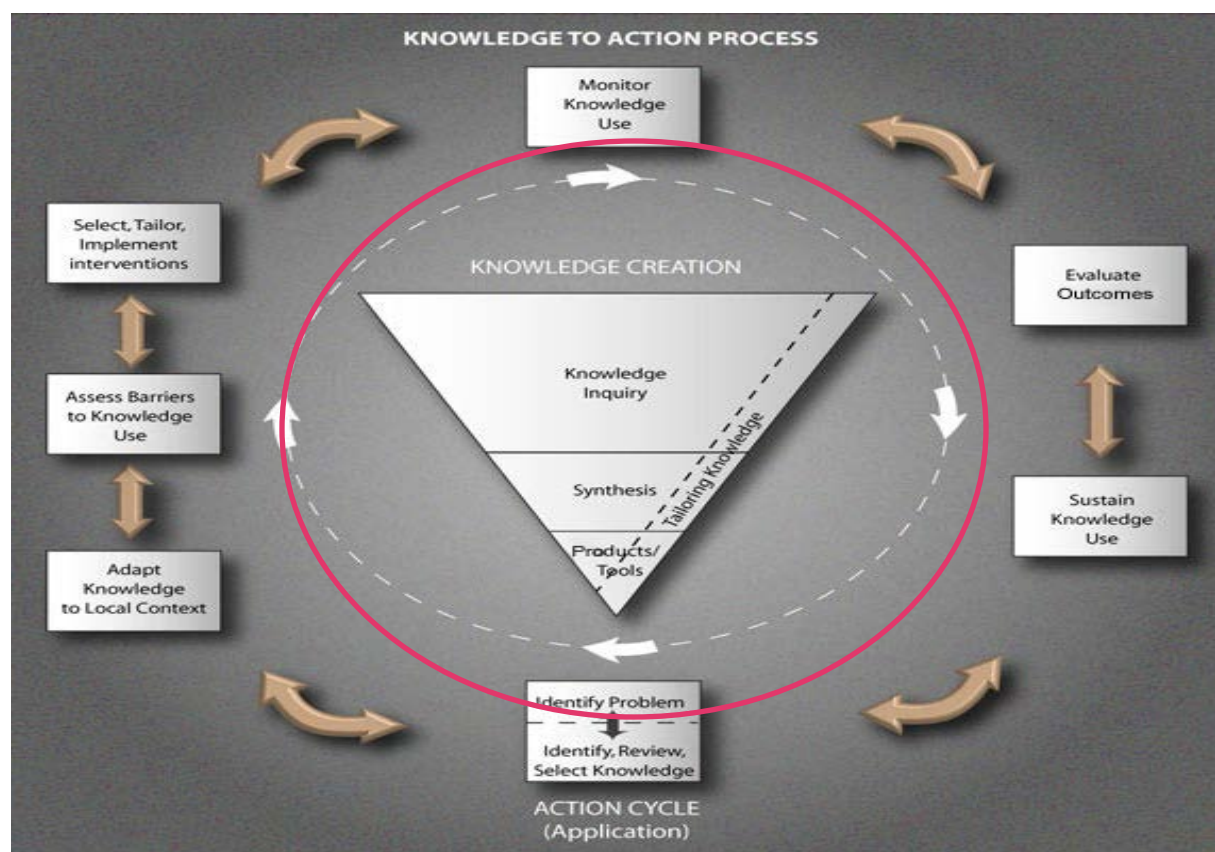


# K2A Today

To practice evidence-based decision making, organizations require specific resources:

- Systems for finding and acquiring information;
- Professionals skilled in searching, evaluating;
- Storing and disseminating information;
- Knowledge workers and decision makers skilled in appraising and utilizing the information to inform the decision-making process

# How we do it – Our Methods and Tools



# Public Health Librarians Core Competencies - KT

- ▶ Established core competencies for public health librarianship based on Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Core Competencies for Public Health in Canada
  - Actively seeks to participate and facilitate knowledge transfer internally, provincially and within public health libraries
  - Fosters reliability while putting knowledge to work and linking the information user with the right information at the right time





# KT Expertise/Skill Set for the Public Health Librarian

- ▶ Knowledge of research sources
- ▶ Knowledge of literature searching principles and research methods
- ▶ Skill in research synthesis
- ▶ Working knowledge of critical appraisal
- ▶ Knowledge management skills
- ▶ Knowledge of public health experts and issues
- ▶ Knowledge of principles of evidence-informed decision making



# The “New” Public Health Librarian

- ▶ Work “beyond the walls”
- ▶ No longer gatekeeper
- ▶ Information broker
- ▶ Customer-focused approach
- ▶ Leader in knowledge transfer

# K2A – How We Do It In Our Organizations

- ▶ Embedded library practice model
  - Partnership and collaboration with program staff
  - Participation on corporate committees
- ▶ Building information literacy capacity in clients
  - Identify information needs (known and unknown)
  - Locate and promote relevant and credible sources for information
  - Evaluate evidence, sources, tools and processes
  - Synthesize information retrieved
- ▶ Current awareness
  - Tools/products keeping public health staff “in the know”
- ▶ Balancing push and pull

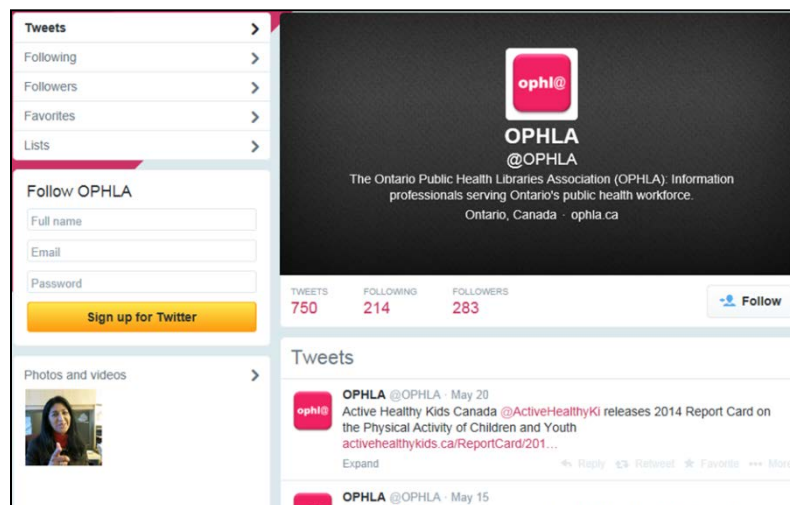
# K2A How we do it – Community of Practice

## OPHLA Examples:

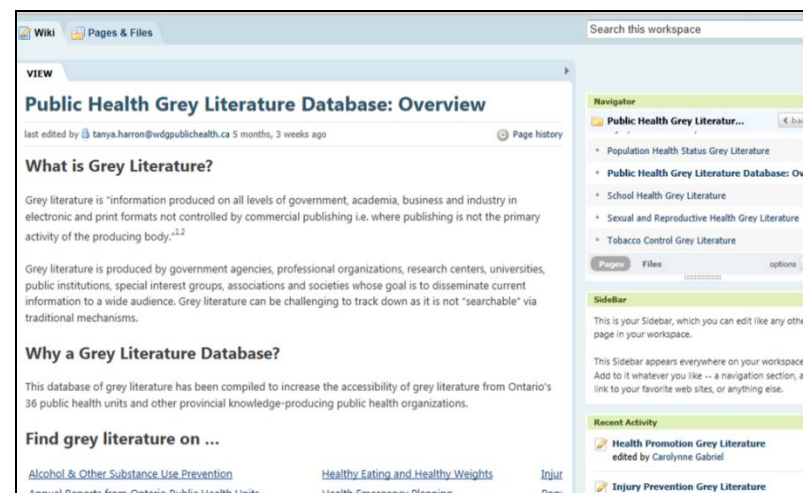
- ▶ Website
- ▶ Wiki
- ▶ Development of live searches to support the public health standards
- ▶ Custom search engines
- ▶ Social media tools
- ▶ Resource sharing to leverage expertise and minimize workload
- ▶ HUB structure and support
- ▶ Supporting joint PH projects

# K2A - Our Collaborative Products

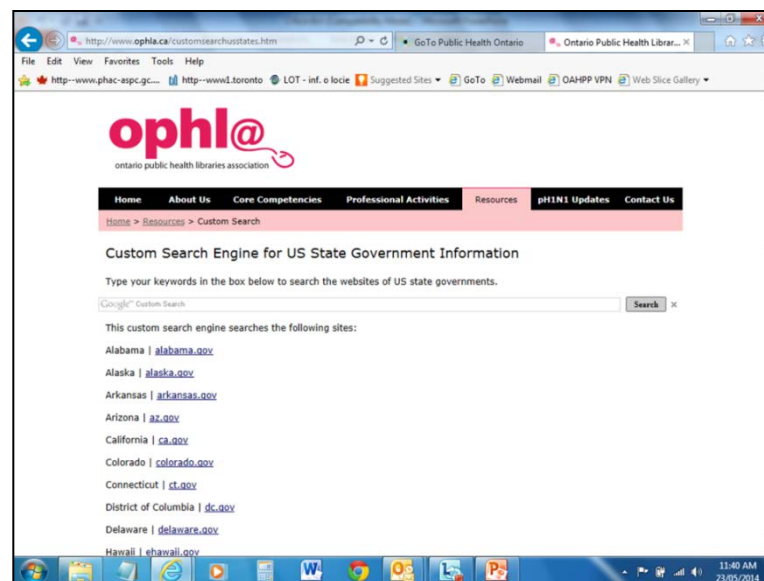
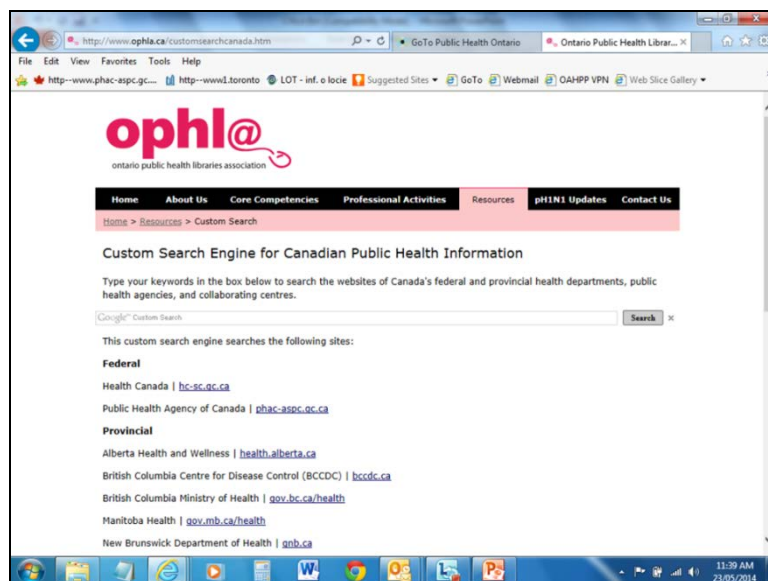
## OPHLA Twitter



## Grey Literature Wiki



# K2A: Our Collaborative Products



## Our Collaborative Products

# Critical Appraisal of Research Evidence

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A Guide from the  
Ontario Public Health Libraries Association

# What Does the Future Hold?

- ▶ **Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability** - equals building expertise in new areas
- ▶ **Patients First** – identifying new evidence to address changes in provincial health systems
- ▶ Peer-review of search strategies to ensure consistency of quality
- ▶ New tools
- ▶ Emerging professional roles extending to:
  - Copyright expertise
  - Publishing support
  - Research support
  - Customization
  - Collaboration 2.0
- ▶ Academic dialog through professional publications in information science



THANK YOU

Questions?

