

A Decade at the Research Shop: Investigating the Impacts for Community Partners and Students from 2009-2019

RESEARCH QUESTION

What impacts have community partners and students experienced as a result of working with the Research Shop?

PURPOSE

To critically reflect on the Research Shop, its practices, and its impacts
To address gaps and add to existing scholarship on community engaged research and Science Shops

METHODS

Online surveys sent to community partners and students
Surveys distributed via email; response rate of 29% for both groups
Data analyzed using statistical and thematic analysis

“It was a great experience. I really like the opportunity this provides for both community groups and students to interact.”

- Research Shop Community Partner

OVERALL IMPACTS

Community partners and students experience mutual, but distinct, impacts

Both stakeholder groups value the skills developed, knowledge gathered, and relationships built via the community engaged research process

These research results will aid in the growth of the Research Shop, ensuring that it continues to address community and student needs and generates positive, mutually-beneficial impacts

Impacts for STUDENTS

BENEFITS

Building relationships with peers and community partners

- Many respondents appreciated the element of mutual exchange; working with and learning from diverse, interdisciplinary groups

Developing transferable professional and academic skills

- 88% reported that working at the Research Shop increased their knowledge and skills beyond what they had learned in their academic programs

Increasing interest in community engaged work

- 100% reported that their interest in community issues has started the same or increased since working at the Research Shop

Gaining knowledge in new fields

- Including in community engaged research, local community, and knowledge mobilization

CHALLENGES

Varying levels of student interest due to diverse research methods and topics

Managing expectations and responding to unexpected changes in the community

Balancing Research Shop hours with other (personal, academic) responsibilities

Communicating with Research Shop staff and peers regarding experiences, responsibilities, and needs

BENEFITS

Facilitating access to research and data

- Over 90% of respondents reported that the product(s) produced by the Research Shop achieved or somewhat achieved the overall goal

Facilitating access to knowledgeable and motivated students

- 88% continued to work with the Research Shop to access research capacity

Facilitating access to low/no cost research was the most frequently reported positive impact

- 71% reported they worked with the Research Shop due to the no/low cost model

Increasing overall institutional capacity, including the ability to serve their target population and to apply for funding

- 88% noted that the output was useful to the population they serve

CHALLENGES

Working within limited time frames determined by student and Research Shop availability

Experiencing delays and obstacles due to the research ethics process

Spending additional time training students in research content area

Navigating a range of student capacities, interests, and skills

Impacts for PARTNERS