

# The Open Access Author Toolkit: Growing a Campus Community and Practice of Open Access Scholarship

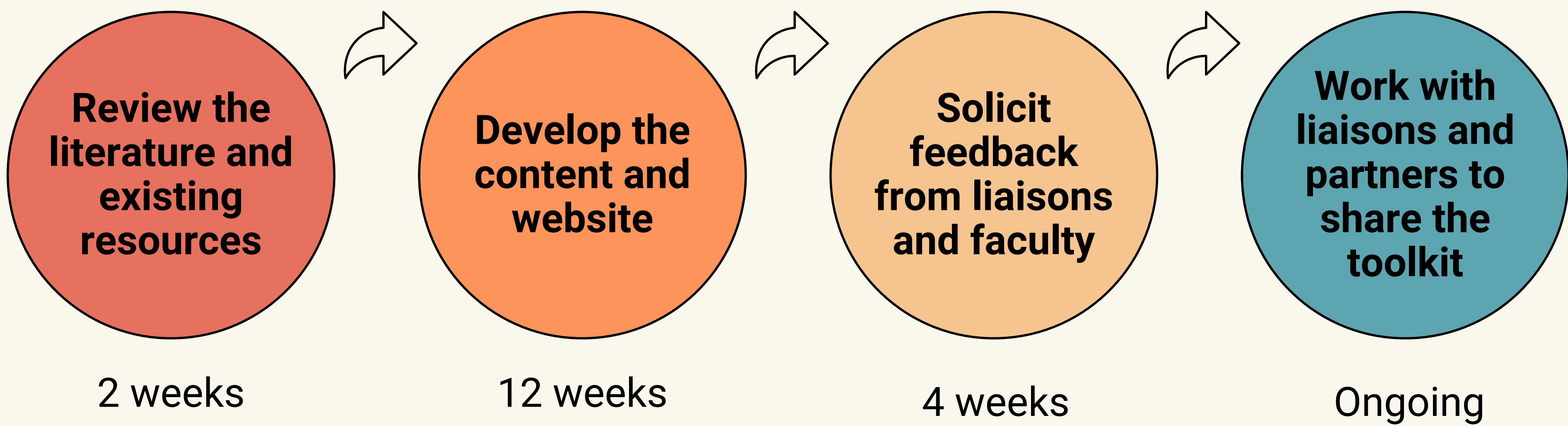
## OVERVIEW

The August 2022 memo from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, which released guidance that any federally funded research must be made openly available immediately starting in 2026, signals a growing understanding in the broader research community—that research should be freely available to the public. However, open access policies, funding, and procedures can prove difficult to understand, and authors may face ambiguous messages when navigating the publishing process. Atkins Library at UNC Charlotte sought to bridge this gap by creating an Open Access Author Toolkit, ultimately aiming to build a more robust open access culture and community on campus.

The Open Access Author Toolkit is designed to support authors in understanding open access best practices, resources, and considerations for publishing research. Join us in exploring how universities can develop user-oriented resources around a complex and often misunderstood topic to create a more engaged open access community.

## PROJECT STEPS & TIMELINE

The toolkit was created largely by an MLIS student through a 10-week fellowship, wherein the fellow developed the website, major content areas, and an outreach plan. After the fellowship concluded, a librarian created more content, conducted assessment, and implemented the outreach plan.



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## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

When developing content for the toolkit, we aimed to understand and center author needs to make the content as user-oriented as possible, researching and connecting best practices and principles from the literature.

	<b>Cover the fundamentals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goal: Someone completely new to OA could find OA options for their work</li><li>• Included a glossary of terms often used in this space</li></ul>
	<b>Tailor by discipline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Postprint policies and funding opportunities vary by discipline</li><li>• Created pages for different disciplines about OA practices</li></ul>
	<b>Prioritize clarity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clean, navigable design: evaluated platforms (LibGuides, Google Sites)</li><li>• "Less is more" approach to content</li><li>• Eliminate jargon</li></ul>

## CHALLENGES

1	<b>Time-intensive work:</b> Developing and iterating the content took several months of work between two staff members
2	<b>Tailoring content:</b> OA practices can vary greatly by discipline and subdiscipline. Understanding these nuances takes a lot of work.
3	<b>Outreach:</b> Ensuring our resources are used and reach people is a constant effort. We anticipate we'll devote a lot of work to this.

## LOOKING AHEAD

We are continually adding content to the toolkit, especially within the database of journals featuring postprint and APC policies.

We are also exploring additional outreach opportunities and ways to measure engagement with the site.

**Want to see the site?** Visit the OA Author Toolkit at <https://sites.google.com/uncc.edu/openaccess-charlotte>