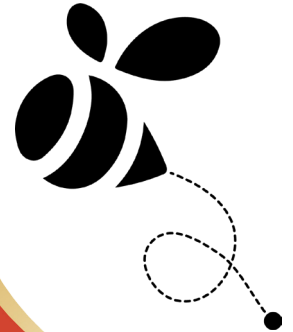


research snapshot

summarize mobilize

Knowledge Mobilization



WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?

Knowledge mobilisation (KMb) came about in response to the challenges researchers had with getting their research to people who can use it. Community's have many roles in KMb, being researchers, knowledge creators, and knowledge users. I explored how community's use KMb and the services they can access through knowledge brokers.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Understanding the process of KMb, the sharing of knowledge is easier for everyone; researchers, communities, and individuals. Different people take active roles in different parts of the KMb process. Some people or groups might take on different active roles in various phases of the KMb process. People who support KMb projects must have knowledge and skill to address the needs of people actively engaging in any stage of KMb.

WHAT DID THE RESEARCHER DO?

Completed a review of KMb skills, tools, models and services. This review outlines the knowledge that KMb brokers have access to. Investigation of two case reviews of community-led KMb projects led to finding some of the supports needed by community organisations and grassroots movements. Combining details from these reviews will help to find gaps in the KMb skills, tools, models and services.

WHAT DID THE RESEARCHER FIND?

The co-produced pathway to impact model outlines five phases in the KMb process. These phases are research (knowledge creation), dissemination (preparing and sharing knowledge), uptake (audiences engaging and adaption of knowledge), implementation (putting knowledge to use), and impact (the outcomes from using knowledge). People who participate in the creation of knowledge, such as researchers, tend to focus on the first two phases (research and dissemination). Those that use knowledge, like communities, tended to focus more on the third and fourth phases (uptake and implementation).

The KMb skills, tools, models and services of knowledge brokers focus on dissemination. This is not the fault of knowledge brokers. KMb tools and training commonly focus on dissemination. KMb skills, tools, models and services might consider uptake, but the aim is to create the best plan for dissemination. Thus, knowledge brokers have limited skills, tools, models and services needed to support people working through the uptake and implementation phase.

A possible reason for the focus on dissemination is the history of knowledge translation within academia.

Within academic institutions, researchers are often rewarded when they produce new research (phase 1, knowledge creation). As well, researchers are often given better rewards for sharing knowledge in academic spaces, like peer-reviewed journals (phase 2, dissemination). This reward structure encourages researchers to be moving onto a new research project instead of actively engaging in the other three phases of KMb.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCHER PROPOSING?

KMb would benefit from skill development and building a stronger framework for the later three stages of the co-produced pathway to impact. This will improve the KMb skills, tools, models and services of knowledge brokers, allowing them to provide better services to those seeking KMb help. We might explore implementation science or the work of community organisations who put research evidence into programs.

Knowledge brokers may want to consider how we can change research culture. What I mean is that we find ways to challenge academic spaces to reward researchers moving through more of the KMb process. Research, as a part of KMb, must be acknowledged as a long-term project that extends past the competition of research itself.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS RESEARCH?

Not every KMb plan needs the same type of support. To find out how to provide the best service KMb models, like the co-produced pathway to impact, can help you know when a service user will actively engage with knowledge. Identifying the phase of active use of knowledge will help knowledge brokers to use the appropriate skills, tools, models and services.

This research also notes that it is essential to know what KMb skills, tools, models and services you need more knowledge in. Having this knowledge will let you find training to strengthen your own understanding of KMb and improves the services you can provide.

ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Hilda Smith has a PhD in Critical Disability Studies, with a focus on the use of knowledge mobilisation within community spaces. Hilda is passionate about accessibility and inclusion, which are always an integral part of her work.

KEYWORDS

Knowledge mobilization, Community research, Knowledge brokers, Anti-Opression

CITATION

Smith, H. (2020). Understanding the community's role in knowledge mobilisation. [Doctoral dissertation, York University]. York Space Institutional Repository. <https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/handle/10315/37738>

KMb AT YORK UNIVERSITY

Innovation York's Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) Unit is a national and international leader in knowledge mobilization. The KMb unit has a suite of activities that create connections between researchers and community and government organizations in order to support the development of research partnerships and dissemination of research results, as well as a suite of training tools to teach you how to develop and implement knowledge mobilization strategies. Contact us at kmbunit@yorku.ca

