

# Budget 2013 Recommendations

Input submitted to the Department of Finance's  
2013 pre-budgetary consultations

*February 11<sup>th</sup> 2013*



**Canadian Association  
of Research Libraries**

**Association des bibliothèques  
de recherche du Canada**

## ***Who we are***

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) represents the country's twenty-nine largest university libraries. Enhancing research and higher education are at the heart of our mission. CARL promotes effective and sustainable scholarly communication, and public policy that enables broad access to scholarly information.

## ***CARL's input to Finance Canada***

**1. The global economic recovery is slowing. While Canada is still doing better than most, we are still vulnerable to shocks from beyond our borders. Are there measures we can take to strengthen our economy in the face of global economic threats?**

Canada faces many challenges in 2013: our economic recovery is fragile and growth is difficult in the current international situation. Accordingly, it is essential to maintain government financing of research as an engine for innovation, as well as the infrastructure that makes collecting and sharing information possible.

Digital development is another cornerstone of innovation and it is essential that Canada adopt a national digital strategy. Such a strategy, guaranteeing affordable and private access to broadband Internet services and content for all Canadians, is essential to cultivate a leading-edge economy.

Research fuels innovation, a crucial ingredient in today's economy. With finite resources, we need to share information to maximize research's impact. This can be done through Open Access, which is free online access, to publicly funded research. In addition to favouring research, this would enable Canadians to consult the results of research they finance.

**2. The Government of Canada is on track to return to balanced budgets over the medium term. However, we will be flexible and pragmatic in our efforts in order to secure strong economic growth and job creation. Are there any cost-neutral or low-cost measures the Government can introduce in order to further solidify our economic recovery and position Canada to compete and prosper over the long-term?**

Funding research helps fuel innovation in Canada, which in turn drives economic growth and then generates revenue for the federal government. As such, funding for research represents an investment more than a cost for the federal government. This can be achieved by maintaining or increasing the budgets of a number of existing programs, such as the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the three federal granting councils.

Generating research results is only one part of the equation. Wide sharing of those results maximizes research's impact by pooling knowledge. This is achieved through programs such as the CANARIE network. It can also be achieved through an Open Access policy towards publicly-funded research. Such investments and policies would allow a greater dissemination of research results and capitalize their effects.

**3. How can the Government further encourage private sector growth and leadership in the economy?**

The government can continue encouraging applied research in all fields, including in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, the discoveries of which can result in better policies and more effective programs. Partnerships with universities and the private sector stimulate research and should be encouraged, with the government ensuring that its commitments to such partnerships are met by funds from the private sector.

**4. If you have any other comments – please enter them below.**

Canada's national libraries and archives services, especially Library and Archives Canada, have a vital role in preserving our heritage. They acquire, preserve, document, and make government and cultural information available to researchers. In so doing they inform researchers as well as policy makers and foster a sense of national pride and unity as Canadians access our documentary heritage through these institutions. The federal government should ensure that these institutions have the resources needed to effectively carry out their mandates.

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