

## *COMMUNIQUÉ*

### **Internet Archive founder Brewster Kahle Receives Special Recognition by CARL**

**OTTAWA-GATINEAU, November 12, 2009** – At a dinner gathering of library directors and guests, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) bestowed upon Internet Archive founder Brewster Kahle special recognition for his significant contributions to the preservation and sharing of knowledge through the Internet Archive, in general, and to the open access digitization of Canadian print collections, more specifically. In his remarks, Mr. Kahle emphasized the great things research libraries can achieve when they bring together their collective energy and resources.

Brewster Kahle, Digital Librarian, Director and Co-Founder, Internet Archive, graduated from MIT in 1982 with a BS degree in Computer Science & Engineering, focusing on artificial intelligence. With an interest in the possibilities of the Internet, he was inventor of the WAIS search system and developed Alexa for learning from Internet traffic patterns. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and a major supporter of the Open Content Alliance. He was also elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Internet Archive, founded by Kahle in 1996, is a “non-profit [entity] that was founded to build an Internet library. Its purposes include offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format.”<sup>1</sup> The Archive’s vast collection includes snapshots of the World Wide Web, texts, audio, moving images, and software. Some of the main facets of Internet Archive are the Wayback Machine, Open Library, Archive-It, nasaimages.org, and several media collections. Carole Moore, University Librarian, University of Toronto, has said, “Brewster is a visionary who looks at things differently. He is able to imagine doing things that everyone else thinks are impossible. But then he does them.”<sup>2</sup>

The Internet Archive, which Kahle initiated, although based in the United States, has been one of the largest single supporters of the digitization of Canadian content and has been a catalyst for drawing new players into Canadian cooperative digitization efforts. Canadian research libraries, especially those of the University of Toronto and the University of Alberta, have worked with the Internet Archive in the development and application of cost effective, high quality scanning technologies for public domain collections. Ernie Ingles, CARL President, and Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, University of Alberta, remarked that “Brewster Kahle and the Internet Archive have made an enormous contribution to the ability of Canadian research libraries to build an exciting future for digital collections with equitable access to knowledge as an important principle.”

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) counts as its members the 28 largest Canadian university libraries and the three major federal national libraries (Library and Archives Canada, the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information [CISTI], and the Library of Parliament). CARL strives to enhance the capacity of Canada's research libraries to partner in research and higher education, seeking effective and sustainable scholarly communication and public policy encouraging of research and broad access to scholarly information.

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<sup>1</sup>Internet Archive, <http://www.archive.org/about/about.php> (as accessed November 9, 2009)

<sup>2</sup>*The Economist*, "The internet's librarian" (March 5, 2009)

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