



Canadian Association
of Research Libraries
Association des bibliothèques
de recherche du Canada

COMMUNIQUÉ

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OTTAWA/GHENT, BELGIUM- Today, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) became a founding member of the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR). COAR is an international association of organizations and individuals that have a common strategic interest in open access to scholarly communication. COAR was formed out of a need to work together at the international level to promote greater visibility and application of research outputs through global networks of open access digital repositories.

CARL has played a leadership role in the development of open access repositories in Canada. Through the CARL Institutional Repositories Program, the Association has assisted its members in setting up repositories on their campuses; and worked with other research organizations in Canada and internationally in support of open access. Participation in COAR is a natural extension of these activities. "We are delighted to announce our membership in COAR," said Tom Hickerson, chair of the CARL Institutional Repositories Working Group and Vice-President/President-Elect of CARL. "COAR membership offers CARL and Canadian research libraries the opportunity to have a greater influence on the direction and expansion of open access world-wide".

COAR evolved out of a European project called the Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research (DRIVER) in consultation with the international repository community. The Confederation aims to support the expansion of open access through developing international, interoperable standards; advocating for open access policies with research funders and institutions; and working to improve deposit rates at repositories. Other founding members of COAR are from Europe, Asia, and the United States. "The collections contained in open access repositories gain tremendous value when they are part of a larger, interconnected network," said Norbert Lossau, Scientific Coordinator of the DRIVER Project. "CARL's membership creates an important strategic link between Canada and the international community."

COAR was officially launched in Ghent, Belgium during Open Access Week.

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. www.carl-abrc.ca

DRIVER is a multi-phase effort whose vision and primary objective is to establish a cohesive, pan-European infrastructure of Digital Repositories, offering sophisticated functionality services to both researchers and the general public. Based on the establishment of a co-ordinated network of Digital Repositories, containing (textual) research and other scholarly publications, and on the development of an advanced-quality test-bed infrastructure, DRIVER will enable enhanced interoperability of data and service-providers while providing the required functionalities to the end users. Through its awareness and advocacy programme, it will foster the development of Digital Repositories in all European countries. With a number of studies on the current state of the Digital Repository landscape, it will also identify the most pressing issues for future developments. www.driver-repository.eu

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