



Canadian Association of
Research Libraries

Association des bibliothèques
de recherche du Canada

September 29, 2008

[*Leader's name*]

Leader

[*Name of Federal Party*]

Ottawa, Ontario

Dear [*Leader's name*]:

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) represents the major research libraries of Canada, 27 of which are located at our universities. Research libraries provide library materials and services that support research in all disciplines.

As a service for our members, we have prepared this short questionnaire touching on a number of specific concerns of importance for research libraries and we are inviting responses from all five of the major federal political parties. We would appreciate your time and consideration in answering our survey questions.

Thank you for your time and acknowledgement that these issues matter to voters. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at (613) 562-5800, ext. 3652.

Sincerely,

Ms. Leslie Weir
President

Questions for Canada's Federal Political Parties

1. University libraries are an important part of the research infrastructure at Canada's universities as they give crucial support to the research that takes place there. At many institutions, the federal Indirect Costs Program assists libraries to purchase journals, books, and other materials for research use and to provide various library services for researchers.

How would your Party support university research infrastructure and what would it believe to be an appropriate level of support for the Indirect Costs Program specifically?

2. Canadian researchers rank highly in the G-7 in the number of publications produced on a per-capita basis. Many of these publications are neither read nor used widely, because they are available only to those who can afford expensive subscription fees. Canada's research libraries believe that the results of publicly-funded research should be openly available to all Canadians, including policy makers, practitioners, and the public, who would benefit greatly from having access to them. A growing number of countries, including the United States, are implementing laws and policies that require researchers to make the results of their research (e.g., article manuscripts and datasets) freely available through online repositories. Wider sharing of knowledge fuels the advancement of science and brings health, economic, and social benefits back to the public.

How would your Party facilitate open access to the results of publicly funded research in Canada and encourage improvements to the dissemination of taxpayer funded research?

3. Currently, libraries receive a GST rebate on the purchase of paper books and journals for their collections; a rebate that does not apply to the same materials when purchased or licensed in digital formats. This is an important issue for Canada's research libraries because they are now spending just as much or more money on digital library materials as on paper materials.

Would your Party be prepared to remove the GST on scholarly materials in electronic form purchased by libraries to support research as is currently the case with print materials?

4. CARL believes that the concept of fair dealing, which allows for making copies for such activities as research, private study, criticism, review, and news reporting, is important in a fair and balanced copyright regime and that new copyright legislation that addresses the use of digital materials must not narrow fair dealing rights now enjoyed under the law by Canadians.

How would your Party ensure a balanced interpretation of fair dealing in any new copyright legislation?

5. The provision for statutory damages in the Copyright Act has a chilling effect on Canadians' exercise of their fair dealing rights. When someone reasonably believes that they are using copyright material within the bounds of fair dealing, they should not face the possibility of statutory damages.

What is your Party's view regarding this matter?