



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES  
ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES DE RECHERCHE  
DU CANADA

**CARLABRC**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OTTAWA (August 23, 2005) –RESEARCH LIBRARY SPENDING ON ELECTRONIC SERIALS SURPASSES PRINT SERIALS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

Spending on electronic serials by Canada's research libraries in 2003 – 2004 rose to just under \$78.5 million dollars, a 38.4% increase over 2002-2003, compared to a decrease of 20% on print serials expenditures to \$71.7 million dollars. For the first time, electronic serials expenditures have exceeded print serials expenditures.

“This shift in expenditures clearly represents the changes in users’ expectations.” says Ellen Hoffmann, former University Librarian, York University and the author of the *CARL Statistics 2003-2004 Trends and Observations*. “The availability of online access is ever growing, changing the landscape of the research library to a more flexible source to access knowledge.”

This shift is a continuing trend of how researchers expect to find their information online, which has been enabled in part by the collaboration in digital initiatives and effective use of information technology by Canada's research libraries.

The *Statistics* detail Expenditures, Establishment and Collection Size as well as salary information.. Emerging Services address the issues of technological advancements and support to patrons in using this technology. Tables on Use, Facilities and Services are also included.

The 29 reporting CARL member libraries spent \$ 236,094,317 on materials in 2003-2004. They hold over 80 million monographs and subscribe to over 570,000 journals.

“The *CARL Statistics* is a comprehensive and reliable source for Canadian research libraries data.” stated Ms. Sylvie Belzile, Directrice, Service des bibliothèques, Université de Sherbrooke, and Chair of the CARL Committee on Effectiveness Measures and Statistics. “This annual

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compilation of CARL member libraries data is not available through any other source. It provides a valued resource to our members and the public of the investment by Canadian research libraries into the knowledge economy”

CARL is the leadership organization for the Canadian research library community. The Association’s members are the 27 major academic research libraries across Canada plus Library and Archives Canada, the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) and the Library of Parliament.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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