

CARL Policy Committee – Terms of Reference

As of January, 2016

Introduction

Research libraries flourish in an environment that facilitates the generation, sharing, and management of scholarly information. Such an environment is achieved through supportive laws, infrastructure, institutions, community and international engagement, and sound public policy. CARL's Strategic Directions 2016-2019 state that:

CARL is a major national voice for the interests of the academic community and its libraries in a balanced and fair approach to copyright, and on other information policy issues including access to information, privacy, intellectual freedom, and open government. In this role it collaborates with other organizations across the culture and research sectors, as well as with the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and other international associations.

Mandate and Role

The Policy Committee focuses on advancing CARL's strategic goal '**Influencing Policy.**' CARL's Strategic Directions 2016-2019 state, under this goal, that CARL will:

- Represent the interests of Canadian research libraries in the information policy arena, especially at the federal level, with particular focus in the areas of copyright, privacy, and research infrastructure that leads to broad access and sound management of Canada's information assets.
- Strengthen and mobilize national initiatives across the library and research sectors to advance common policy objectives.
- Engage with multiple organizations to foster national and international collaborations.

The Policy Committee develops CARL's position on relevant national and international public policy issues, and ensures appropriate activities to promote its positions among policy-makers and stakeholders. It also guides CARL's national and international engagements with library and other like-minded organizations.

Responsibilities

The Policy Committee will:

- Advance the above Strategic Directions.
- Ensure that policy-makers, stakeholders and the public are informed of important and relevant policy issues.
- Advocate specific public policy positions as needed.
- Promote national and international engagement with library and other like-minded organizations

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- Monitor and respond as necessary to developments in the following areas:
 - Federal research funding
 - National research infrastructure and policy
 - Copyright
 - Capacity in Canada to preserve and make available Canada's documentary heritage
 - Internet, Privacy, and Access to Information policy impacting post-secondary education and research
 - Open government
 - Other relevant issues as the need arises.
- Advise on CARL's public affairs communication and engagement initiatives.
- Form Working or Task Groups to undertake a project or initiative, or to advance a goal.
- Adhere to the CARL Committee Guidelines.

The Committee reports regularly to the Board and to the membership at General Meetings.

Membership

The Committee will normally consist of 4-8 CARL library directors. The President and the Executive Director are *ex officio* members of the Committee. Normally at least one member of the Committee will also be a Board member. The Chair of the Committee, as recommended by Committee members, will be approved by the Board and appointed for a term of two years. The term may be renewed at the discretion of the Committee.

Subcommittees and Working Groups

The Committee will strike subcommittees or working groups as needed. The members of these groups need not all be members of the Committee, but the Chair of the subgroup normally will be. Subcommittee and working group mandates, chairs, members, and project budgeting will be approved by the Committee.

This Committee was established in January 2016.

Terms of Reference approved in April 2016.