

CARL Assessment Committee – Terms of Reference

As of May 2016

Introduction

Approaches to library assessment are changing. Measures and rankings based upon collection holdings or the number of service transactions have become antiquated in the current digital context, and there is an increasing drive to consider instead how libraries might measure their contribution toward the broader outcomes sought by the university.

CARL's Strategic Directions 2016-2019 state that:

CARL supports assessment within and across Canadian research libraries that demonstrates their valuable contributions toward higher education and the research enterprise and facilitates the continuing evolution of services to adapt to the changing context of post-secondary education and research.

Mandate and Role

The Assessment Committee focuses on advancing CARL's strategic goal **'Measuring Impact,'** for which CARL's Strategic Directions 2016-2019 state that CARL will:

- In collaboration with other bodies engaged in assessment campus-wide, develop new indicators and approaches to demonstrate library value and impact on research, teaching, and learning.
- Support and facilitate an ongoing program of library assessment on a pan-Canadian basis, and encourage the use of such evidence to strengthen the profile and services of libraries.

The Assessment Committee directs the ongoing development and delivery of CARL's Statistics Program, and develops new evaluation methodologies and measures to ensure that CARL members gather and deploy solid evidence to support decision-making.

Responsibilities

The Assessment Committee will:

- Advance the above Strategic Directions.
- Monitor developments in Research Library assessment theory and programs internationally.
- Explore the type and nature of relationships campus-wide that are important for efficient, valid library assessment, and share findings.
- Develop new outcome-based indicators and measures, and share best practices for demonstrating library value.
- Identify means to facilitate the assessment of library services and their impact on students, faculty and researchers.

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- Oversee the annual conduct of the CARL Statistics program and ensure this program evolves as necessary to meet the needs of CARL members.
- Collaborate with CARL Committees and/or 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 can be renewed as many times as the committee sees fit.

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.