Sherpa/RoMEO Canadian Journals Working Group
Terms of Reference (Approved in November 2017)

Background

This project will resume the work initiated in 2014 by the SHERPA/RoMEO Project Subcommittee, a subset of the Open Access Working Group. Since the project was put on hold, responsibility for the SHERPA/RoMEO database has been transferred from the University of Nottingham to the UK organization Jisc – some additional tests (of data transfers) may therefore be required.

When the initial project began in 2014, only 50 (of at least 100) Canadian publishers were listed in SHERPA/RoMEO. The same search in May 2017 yielded 75 publishers, with a total of 359 indexed journals. Although this indicates an improvement in the representation of Canadian journals indexed in SHERPA/RoMEO, there is still work to be done. Similarly, existing entries should be checked for accuracy.

Purpose

As in its earlier iteration, this project aims to collaborate with SHERPA/RoMEO and Canadian publishers (university presses, scholarly societies/associations, university/college departments, professional or research organizations, libraries hosting journal publishing services, commercial publishers and independent publishers) to ensure that all peer-reviewed scholarly journals and associated policies are represented in the RoMEO database. Popular magazines (e.g. Canadian Geographic) and student journals were deemed out of scope for this project.

Phase I will involve a subset of Canadian journals (likely those represented by the Canadian Association of Learned Journals – CALJ) for inclusion. Based on the success of this phase, a second phase would broaden the scope to all remaining peer-reviewed scholarly journals in Canada.

Activities – Phase I
1. Working with CALJ, finalize list of journals to be included in Phase I.
2. Working with CALJ, communicate with CALJ members regarding scope, intent, and benefits of the project.
3. Test data transfer from local database (currently held at U. of Victoria) to SHERPA/RoMEO.
4. Collect publicly available self-archiving data from all journals; format to SHERPA/RoMEO specifications.
5. Work with individual journals/publishers where necessary to clarify any information that is unclear, or does not fit into SHERPA/RoMEO specifications.
6. Submit all collected data to SHERPA/RoMEO.
7. Follow-up communication with CALJ journals once these records appear in SHERPA/RoMEO, recommending that they send updates to SHERPA/RoMEO whenever there is a change to their policies.

Outcomes
- Reliable initial entries in the SHERPA/RoMEO for Canadian journals (communication with journals and publishers will recommend that they update records if policies change);
- Increased visibility for Canadian journals;
- Reliability of the SHERPA/RoMEO tool for both researchers and repository managers.

Working Relationship
The Chair of the WG will report on its activities to CARL's Advancing Research Committee. Minutes and reports of the WG are not confidential unless determined so by the group.

Membership
Lise Brin, CARL (Chair)
Inba Kehoe, University of Victoria
Pierre Lasou, Université Laval
Sandra Wong, Simon Fraser University
Elizabeth Yates, Brock University

Timeline
Activities 1-3 of Phase I are to be undertaken beginning in Fall 2017. Activity 5 of Phase I will begin upon completion of Activities 1-4 (either in Winter or Spring 2018). A timeline for Phase II will be determined based on lessons learned in Phase I.