

CARL Position Statement on Open Access

CARL favours and promotes Open Access (OA) because of a number of benefits that it brings to the research enterprise and to society. OA allows more readers to consult and use the results of research, whereas reader-pay access means that fewer readers may ever see those results. OA allows tax payers and research funders to maximize the return on their investment in research, advancing discovery and innovation, sound public policy, enhanced health and welfare, and other benefits important for society. OA accelerates the exposure of scholarship and its application in new research and in teaching and learning—as well as the recognition due to researcher for the use of their research results.

Consistent with its mission¹ and Strategic Directions², therefore, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) asserts the value of OA and promotes its establishment in practice in Canada and internationally.

CARL is a signatory of the:

- [Budapest Open Access Initiative \(BOAI\) Declaration](#)
- [Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities](#)

As such, CARL subscribes to the principles of OA set out therein and works at the national and international levels on behalf of Canadian research libraries for policy and practices favourable to or consistent with OA. CARL works to support and facilitate the engagement of its member libraries with their campus communities such that OA is ever more fully established in the Canadian research enterprise.

Consonant with the *BOAI Declaration*, CARL promotes OA to the published scholarly literature, especially as this appears in the form of journal articles:

By "open access" to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.

In the spirit of the *Berlin Declaration*, CARL's vision is that OA become "a comprehensive source of human knowledge and cultural heritage that has been approved by the scientific community," encompassing not only journal articles, but all "original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, source materials, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials and scholarly multimedia material." CARL applies this vision to the outputs of scholarly work in all disciplines that is publicly funded.

CARL emphasizes that³:

- OA is consistent with copyright law everywhere in the world, and gives both authors and readers more rights than they have under conventional publishing agreements.
- OA is consistent with the highest standards of quality and with the best practices of peer review.
- OA is inherently inimical neither to the well-being of traditionally published scholarly journals nor to the economic sustainability of scholarly communication; it can, in fact, positively impact both of these.

CARL celebrates the progress of OA in Canada and around the world in the period since the BOAI Declaration in 2002. It commends the researchers, funders, institutions, societies, libraries, consortia and publishers who have taken steps to enable and encourage OA. Recognizing that much work remains to be done, however, CARL endorses, in general, the 2012 recommendations of the BOAI set out in [Ten years on from the Budapest Open Access Initiative: setting the default to open](#) and undertakes or supports specific initiatives to realize them, whether directly or by way of transitional stages.

¹ CARL Mission: CARL provides leadership on behalf of Canada's research libraries and enhances their capacity to advance research and higher education. It promotes effective and sustainable scholarly communication, and public policy that enables broad access to scholarly information.

² CARL Strategic Directions 2013-2016: 4.2 Promote open access and new forms of scholarly communication - *CARL plays a leading role in promoting the ongoing transformation of modes of scholarly communication and the values of equity of access, broad dissemination and long term preservation of research that underpin the open access movement.*

³ These points reflect in part Recommendation 4.6 of *Ten years on from the Budapest Open Access Initiative: setting the default to open.*