

Publishing and scholarly communication

- Publishing - Library roles as publishers or creators of content
- Institutional Repositories - management, funding, responsibility, skills, capacity, best practices, faculty engagement, impact on library services

Librarian skills, education and competencies

- Change management - adaptability
- Management education - for new LIS graduates and practitioners

Intellectual Freedom and copyright

- Copyright - practices around handling copyright issues at Canadian universities

Space

- Library space - what are our users doing in our facilities, what kind of spaces do they really need and want?

CARL LIBRARY EDUCATION WORKING GROUP NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES SURVEY

For more on the results of the National Research Priorities Survey go to the CARL website for a full list of the priority research topics, as identified by directors of CARL member libraries.

See National Research Priorities Survey - parts 1 and 2 http://www.carl-abrc.ca/about/working_groups/library_education_mandate-e.html#Survey

See also research Competencies for CARL Librarians http://www.carl-abrc.ca/resources/reports_and_briefs/pdf/carl_lewg_product_brief-en.pdf

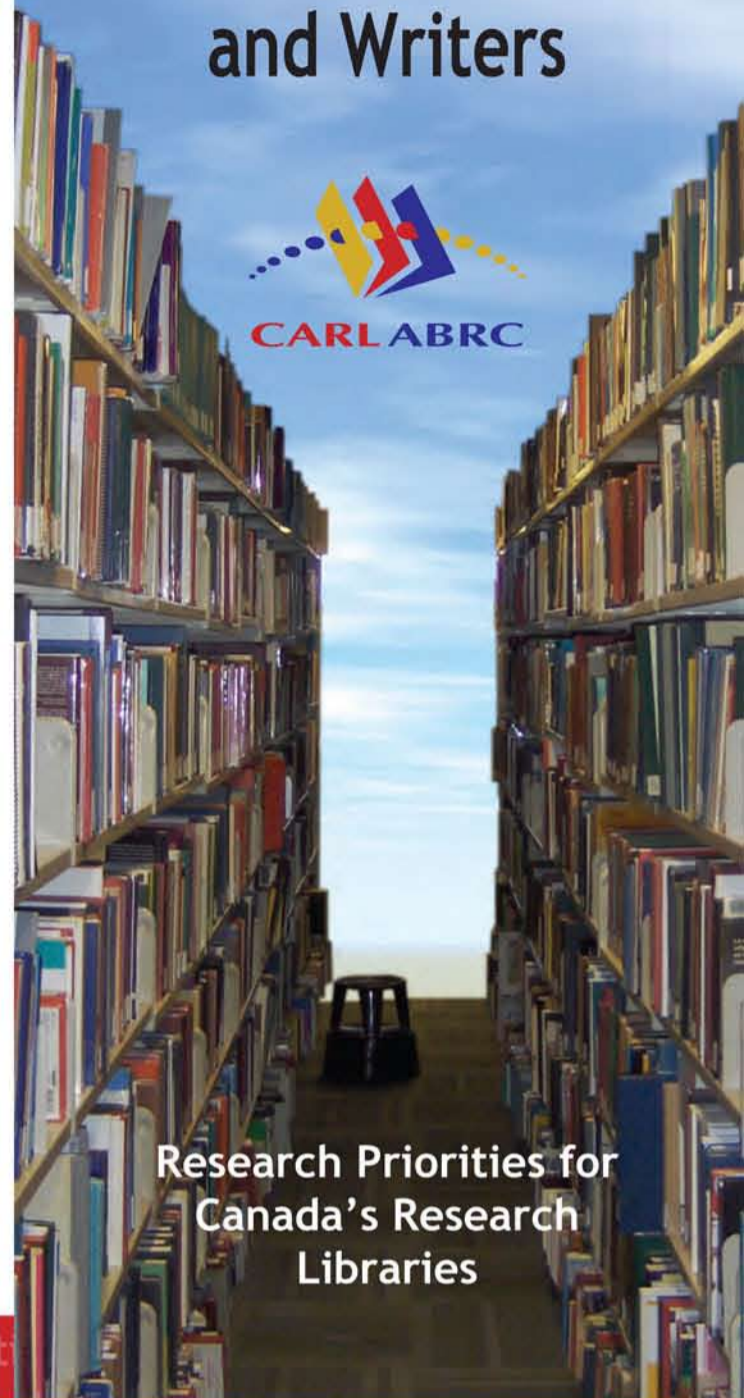
Resources for librarians and LIS students interested in conducting research http://www.carl-abrc.ca/about/working_groups/library_education_mandate-e.html#Resources



The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) is the leadership organization for Canada's research library community. Our members are the 28 largest Canadian university libraries as well as Canada's three major national libraries (Library and Archives Canada, the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information [CISTI], and the Library of Parliament).

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Librarians as Researchers and Writers



Research Priorities for Canada's Research Libraries

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP? IF SO, READ ON!

- Are you an LIS student, a new or established librarian working in a research library?
- Do you have a research topic you would like to explore? Are you looking to contribute to the body of Library and Information Science knowledge?
- Are you exploring ways to improve service delivery at your library and share insights with peers?

WHY CONDUCT RESEARCH?

Practitioners and students of librarianship have many reasons to conduct research. Some motivating factors to write for the profession are:

- reporting a work project
- meeting an employer's requirement for tenure and promotion
- developing a portfolio
- gaining recognition among peers
- sharing best practices
- improving decision-making in practice to strengthen library services
- making a contribution to the profession

Researching and reporting on professional practice helps you gain a better understanding of the profession and your place in it. Your peers also gain access to insights and new knowledge regarding emerging practices and innovation in other libraries. (Bradley, 2008)

See Fiona Bradley, Writing for the profession: The experience of new professionals, author version of copy accepted in Library Management, Vol. 29, No. 8/9, 2008 http://eprints.rclis.org/15027/1/writing_bradley_LM.pdf

CARL RESEARCH GRANT

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) awards an annual research grant. See <http://www.carl-abrc.ca/about/grant/grants-e.html> for more information.

A GROWING TREND TOWARDS RESEARCH IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP

Librarians in academic libraries are increasingly required to conduct research in order to meet institutional service needs and to further their own careers. Several factors within the field of academic librarianship have contributed to this development, including the evidence-based librarianship movement as well as the emphasis on service assessment and meaningful measures of library impact.

HOW DID THE CARL RESEARCH PRIORITIES TAKE SHAPE?

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) met with the Canadian Council of Information Studies (CCIS) to discuss issues of mutual interest to library and information service practitioners and educators. CARL research priorities were the result of this discussion to help identify projects of national or regional interest, which could prove useful in developing research partnerships between practitioners, educators and students.

DEVELOPING RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The CARL Library Education Working Group was another outcome of the dialog with CCIS. The Working Group surveyed the CARL membership twice to help identify issues and topics that could help shape research priorities for the library profession in Canada.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS IN NEED OF RESEARCH?

Directors of Canada's major research libraries identify the following (within ten categories) as some of the key issues in academic librarianship in need of research.

Technology & access

- Library 2.0 / Web 2.0 - impact on access and organization of library resources, support and promotion
- Digitization of materials - sustainability, preservation, dissemination, funding, management, participation

User expectations & customer service

- Social networking / social software tools - methods, impact on information seeking, improvements to services

Content & collections

- E-books - user demand for electronic vs. print books
- E-materials / E-journals - licensing models, sustainability, long-term access, preservation

Economics and budgeting

- Open Access - criteria for investment of library acquisitions funds in open access projects, libraries' support role, long-term impact, collaboration with scholarly societies
- Impact of consortial purchasing - access infrastructures and collections development

Assessment, impact and value

- Scholarly communication - the academic library's role in knowledge dissemination
- Performance indicators - monitoring and measuring strategic success

Library roles, partnerships, operations, leadership and management

- Evolving roles of academic librarians and libraries - current and future requirements to support teaching, learning, and research in the digital environment
- Data collection and curation - role for libraries; e-science strategy