

## Summary Report: @Risk North (Collections en péril)

November 10, 2017 – Ottawa, Ontario

### Leveraging shared resources & expertise to preserve print research collections

As libraries witness increasing demand for online resources and dwindling circulation of print holdings, while simultaneously confronting budget and space pressures, it can be challenging to remain committed to sustaining academic libraries' print collections. Cooperative approaches to acquiring, storing, preserving, and managing the reduction of print collections are gaining traction, employing a variety of models that seek to distribute the expense and responsibility while creating value for all parties.

The **@Risk North (Collections en péril)** forum, inspired by the Center for Research Libraries' 2016 original [@Risk](#) meeting held in Chicago in April 2016, aimed to allow Canadian academic and national libraries to engage in a strategic discussion around the state of shared print preservation programs in Canada and beyond, from a variety of perspectives, and to begin identifying next steps in national or regional coordination.

A thought-provoking slate of speakers were successful in stimulating fruitful and insightful discussion among those in attendance. What follows is an overview of the presentations and the discussion outcomes.

The organizing committee for this event was comprised of Gwen Bird (Simon Fraser University), Lise Brin and Susan Haigh (CARL), Monica Fuijkschot and Alison Bullock (Library and Archives Canada), Steve Marks and Caitlin Tillman (University of Toronto), and Bernard F. Reilly (Center for Research Libraries).

### Approaching the Long-Term Preservation of Print Documentation: A Current Overview of International Models, Challenges and Opportunities

**Constance Malpas, OCLC**

Over the past ten years, Ms. Malpas and her colleagues at OCLC have collected substantial holdings data about print research collections in the US, Canada and in Europe. By analyzing these data, they have been able to identify some high-risk areas, namely those held outside the "mega-regions" where there is less infrastructure for preservation (40% of Canada's titles), and those held uniquely in a particular country (15% of Canada's titles).

Ms. Malpas's introduction, delivered in fluent and lyrical French, set the stage for an inspired talk that frequently referred to Canada's literary history. Among her many insights, Malpas argued that institutional strategies are becoming increasingly unsustainable, that there is still substantial duplication in the print and digital corpus, and that Canada is well positioned to achieve successful shared

collections by virtue of our existing consortia and collaborative approaches. She argued for having groups commit to registered retention commitments (and having this commitment reflected in individual items' catalogue records), and cautioned us that mid-sized, non-research-intensive libraries can be important collaborators in this work.

Ms. Malpas's main message was clear and powerful: "Effective stewardship of the aggregate resource will require a supra-institutional view of the system wide collection and collective agreements that transcend organizational and even geographic boundaries."

## @Risk and National Coordinated Efforts in Print Preservation in the United States

**Bernard F. Reilly, Center for Research Libraries**

As President of the Center for Research Libraries (CLR) and one of the organizers of the 2016 *@Risk* forum, Bernie Reilly was able to draw on his vast knowledge of shared print programs in the United States and internationally to specifically discuss key issues in the shared preservation of serial collections. Launching a theme that would be picked up throughout the day, he pointed to the inevitability of access and preservation via digital means, and the importance of having a data-driven approach.

Reilly described CLR's five-point shared print agenda for 2017-26 which calls upon the consortium to:

1. Substantially expand the scope and improve the quality of shared collections
2. Merge preservation and electronic access in deep and meaningful ways
3. Create and promote a North American consensus on the scope, norms and standards for print stewardship
4. Forge and formalize new partnerships to achieve greater scale
5. And to articulate a clear and convincing narrative on shared print for scholars and funders.

He astutely noted that "clearing shelves is not an appealing narrative" and proposed viewing shared print preservation through a different lens, one that emphasizes the "new goods" produced by preservation efforts, and promotes sharing of knowledge.

## National Heritage Collections: Perspectives on Mandated Collecting

**Maureen Clapperton (BAnQ) and Monica Fuijkschot (LAC)**

Maureen Clapperton, Director General of the Bibliothèque nationale (BAnQ), launched this session devoted to national libraries' role and approach to preserving research collections. She outlined the means of acquisitions (through legal deposit, voluntary deposit, purchases and donations) and the vital importance placed at BAnQ on the completeness of the historic record. She assured us that BAnQ cares deeply about durability, authenticity, interoperability and re-use. She also noted that BAnQ is keen to participate in a Canadian strategy for effective, non-redundant digitization of last copies.

Monica Fuijschot, Director General, Published Heritage at Library and Archives Canada (LAC), provided an overview of current LAC initiatives that support retention of at-risk print collections; and proposed options for LAC's role in a national context (a topic that was taken up during the table discussions that followed).

A key element of Ms. Fuijschot's presentation were the Six Principles that underlie LAC's last copy print preservation commitment on behalf of Canadians:

1. LAC communicates its willingness to hold last copies of Canadiana;
2. LAC holdings are described in the National Union Catalog;
3. LAC's preservation copies and rare books are held in appropriate preservation environments;
4. Continued availability of print material onsite; LAC will lend material if it is the only institution in Canada that holds it;
5. LAC will hold its Canadiana collection in perpetuity;
6. LAC has historically sought to transfer deselected material to other institutions, and will continue to do so.

Ms. Fuijschot noted that big challenges and questions remain, for example: How do we register last copies? How do we communicate who holds what? How many copies should be preserved? How do we create intelligent workflows that would work in multiple environments?

## Current Canadian Initiatives in Collective Print Preservation

**Scott Gillies, TUG Libraries, Doug Brigham, COPPUL Shared Print Archive Network (SPAN); Caitlin Tillman and Steve Marks, Keep@Downsview, Alan Darnell, OCUL/Scholars Portal**

This session brought together representatives from the regional efforts around shared print preservation and access currently in place within Canada's university network. The presenters, some of whom had never had the opportunity to meet and share lessons learned, gave frank portrayals of their successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

**Scott Gillies** of Wilfrid Laurier University represented the [TriUniversity Group \(TUG\) Annex](#), the oldest of these initiatives, which is shared between Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Guelph, and the University of Waterloo. **Doug Brigham** of the University of British Columbia serves as Coordinator of [COPPUL's Shared Print Archive Network \(SPAN\)](#), which includes twenty participating institutions. **Caitlin Tillman** and **Steve Marks**, both from the University of Toronto, spoke on behalf of the [Keep@Downsview](#) project, a venture shared by the University of Toronto, the University of Ottawa, Western University, McMaster University, and Queen's University. **Alan Darnell** ended the session from his perspective overseeing Scholars Portal's eBook preservation work.

The presenters gave those in attendance important questions and concerns to ponder, namely encouraging institutions to develop integrated print and digital preservation programs, to invest substantially in communications, to aim at finding a balance between redundancy and efficiency, and to create metadata across all collections with a view to someday sharing it.

## Key Takeaways from the Day's Discussions<sup>1</sup>

### National action or coordination

- There is support for a decentralized model with centralized access/coordination, and robust communication.
- There is significant support for LAC's Six Principles (see above). Some suggested that institutions, consortia, or existing shared collections adopt these (or similar) principles.
- When moving into national coordination, it may be useful to shift our thinking from inventory management to planning the knowledge repository for the future research agenda.
- Along with determining priorities, the fundamental objectives, scope and scale will need to be established; there needs to be common language regarding responsibility, commitment, obligation to standard knowledge, outputs, and collections.
- It was suggested that a national effort in terms of Canadiana should be linked to the Canadian National Heritage Digitization Strategy.

### National priorities

- Not surprisingly, the most-often mentioned priority areas were: Canadiana, local (community-generated) content, government publications (all levels), unique and last copies.

### Role for LAC

- Several felt that initially, LAC should prioritize the creation of a union catalogue;
- A number of participants wished to see LAC devote their energy to digitization and access to government documents, including "fugitive" documents;
- There was a fair amount of support for LAC undertaking an overlap study of Canadian research collections (which was suggested during Ms. Fuijschot's presentation);
- Several felt that there is a leadership or governance role for LAC, with some suggesting that there also be a steering committee with representation from major stakeholder groups;
- Several wished to see LAC communicate the importance of collectively managed research collections to the government, with a view to securing funds to coordinate a national strategy and to aid the work being done regionally.

### Role for other organizations including CARL

- The general consensus was that there is a role for other organizations in terms of governance, to help frame LAC's and other organizations' roles, in research and grant funding.
- Organizations or types of organizations named as possible allies: CARL, CRKN, large public libraries, IFLA, academic library consortia, Booknet Canada, galleries, archives and museums, OCLC, publishers, presses, Indigenous language groups and Indigenous publishers.

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<sup>1</sup> These takeaways are based on comments extracted from table discussion notes and from comments expressed during plenary discussion and Q&A periods.

## Next Steps Proposed:

- **Survey the holders of research collections:** launch an overlap study/inventory (LAC's union catalogue will be key element), perhaps including national heat maps; determine capacity (physical and digital storage) across Canada;
- **Continue the dialogue:** set up meeting and/or form a national working group of key stakeholders (e.g. LAC, CRKN, regional consortia, existing initiatives) in order to develop work plan for a national scale initiative and to develop a unified narrative around collective sharing;
- **Build on existing expertise and models:** involve key players already working in this arena in national discussions; build on existing infrastructure; review other successful national initiatives (while remaining cognizant of Canada's unique challenges);
- **Adopt common metadata standards** with a view to future sharing;
- **Look for sources of funding** for national and regional initiatives; identify allies.