About Us

Background

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) was established in 1976 and consists of 29 major Canadian academic libraries plus Library and Archives Canada and the National Research Council of Canada's National Science Library. Membership is institutional and is open primarily to libraries of Canadian universities which have PhD programs in the arts, social sciences and sciences.

CARL advances the research enterprise, strengthens libraries' collective resource capacity, ensures that the contributions of libraries are both evident and continually evolving, and articulates and advocates for a policy environment that fosters and preserves access to scholarship and knowledge. In pursuing its goals, CARL engages in collaborations within Canada and on an international basis.

CARL is incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization under the Canada Not-for-Profit Act.

Mission Statement

CARL provides leadership on behalf of Canada's research libraries and enhances capacity to advance research and higher education. It promotes effective and sustainable knowledge creation, dissemination, and preservation, and public policy that enables broad access to scholarly information.

Governance

Board of Directors

CARL is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is comprised of six members holding the following positions: President, Vice-President/President-Elect, and one Director representing each of the following Areas: 1) the Atlantic Provinces (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick); 2) Québec; 3) Ontario; 4) the Western Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia).

Members of the Board of Directors are elected by majority vote of all members of the association. Elections take place in early spring of each year and newly appointed Directors assume their positions on the Board at the Annual General Meeting the same year.

The 2017-2018 CARL Board of Directors is as follows:

President	Donna Bourne-Tyson	Dalhousie University	2017 – 2019
Vice-President	Jonathan Bengtson	University of Victoria	2017 – 2019
Treasurer (Atlantic Region)	Lesley Balcom	University of New Brunswick	2017 – 2019
Secretary (Québec Region)	Guylaine Beaudry	Concordia University	2017 – 2019
Director (Ontario Region)	Vivian Lewis	McMaster University	2016 – 2018
Director (Western Region)	Gwen Bird	Simon Fraser University	2016 – 2018

Committees and Working Groups

The CARL Board appoints, as necessary, committees and working groups to work on projects and special issues important to the association. They are usually supported by a member of the CARL staff.

Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

The Standing Committee on Finance is comprised of the Treasurer (committee Chair) and two members of the Board, as nominated by the Board of Directors. In addition, the Board appoints one external member, ideally a senior administrator with a CA designation at a member institution. This Standing Committee oversees the financial responsibilities of the Association and provides guidance and recommendations to the Board of Directors on all financial matters pertaining to the association.

Strategic Committees

There are currently four strategic committees, each mandated to advance the goals of one of CARL's four strategic directions.

Policy Committee   (Chair) Martha Whitehead, Queens University
Advancing Research Committee   (Chair) Joy Kirchner, York University
Building Capacity Committee   (Chair) Vivian Lewis, McMaster University
Assessment Committee   (Chair) Colleen Cook, McGill University

Working Groups

Working groups are typically struck by a strategic committee to address a specific issue or task. Working groups may include participants who are not members of the parent committee, but are usually led by a committee member. Please contact us for more information as to currently active working groups.

Portage Network

The Portage Network was launched by CARL in 2015. Portage is led by a Director and works within the library community to coordinate expertise, services, and technology in research data management, seeking to collaborate with other research data management stakeholders. Portage has its own governance structure that includes a steering committee of CARL directors and an external advisory committee.

Governance Reporting Structure