

CARL Policy Committee – Terms of Reference

Introduction

Research libraries flourish in an environment that facilitates the generation, sharing, and management of scholarly information. Such an environment is achieved through supportive laws, infrastructure, institutions, community and international engagement, and sound public policy. CARL's Strategic Directions 2019-2022 state that:

CARL is an essential national voice for the interests of the academic community and its libraries in a balanced approach to copyright and intellectual property, and on other information policy issues such as traditional knowledge, privacy, access to and accessibility of information, open government, open scholarship, and research infrastructure.

Mandate and Role

The Policy Committee focuses on advancing CARL's strategic goal '**Influence Policy.**' CARL's Strategic Directions 2019-2022 state, under this goal, that CARL will:

- Represent the interests of Canadian research libraries in the information policy arena, especially at the federal level, to achieve broad access to and effective management of Canada's information assets.
- Strengthen and mobilize national and international relationships and initiatives across and beyond the library and research sectors to advance common policy objectives

The Policy Committee develops CARL's position on relevant national and international public policy issues and ensures appropriate activities to promote its positions among policymakers and stakeholders. It also guides CARL's national and international engagements with library and other like-minded organizations and works closely with the Association of Research Libraries on matters of common interest.

Responsibilities

The Policy Committee will:

- Advance the above Strategic Directions.
- Ensure that policymakers, stakeholders, and the public are informed of important and relevant policy issues.
- Advocate specific public policy positions as needed.
- Promote national and international engagement with library and other like-minded organizations.
- Monitor and respond as necessary to developments in the following areas:
 - Federal research funding
 - National research infrastructure and policy
 - Copyright and other relevant intellectual property

- Capacity in Canada to preserve and make available Canada’s documentary heritage
- Internet, Privacy, and Access to Information policy impacting post-secondary education and research
- Open government
- Other relevant issues as the need arises.
- Advise on CARL’s public affairs communication and engagement initiatives.
- Form Working or Task Groups to undertake a project or initiative, or to advance a goal.
- Adhere to the CARL Committee Guidelines.

The Committee reports regularly to the Board and to the membership at General Meetings.

Membership

The Committee will normally consist of 4-8 CARL library directors. The President and the Executive Director are *ex officio* members of the Committee. Normally at least one member of the Committee will also be a Board member. The Chair of the Committee, as recommended by Committee members, will be approved by the Board and appointed for a term of two years. The term may be renewed at the discretion of the Committee.

As CARL members, our two federal member institutions contribute to Canada’s research enterprise and collaborate in coordinated efforts with the academic library community, but do not engage in any lobbying activities.

Subcommittees and Working Groups

The Committee will strike subcommittees or working groups as needed. The members of these groups need not all be members of the Committee, but the Chair of the subgroup normally will be. Subcommittee and working group mandates, chairs, members, and project budgeting will be approved by the Committee.

This Committee was established in January 2016.

Approved: January 2016

Revised: October 2020