

# CARL Executive Director's Report

Tabled at the CARL Board Meeting, November 15, 2021

The following provides an overview of selected activities undertaken or supported by the CARL Office since the September 7, 2021, report to the Board, which was also shared with the Membership.

## Initiatives Arising from the Pandemic

### Ad Hoc Committee on Digital Access to Learning Materials

The report of the Ad-Hoc committee "Digital Access to Collections and Learning Resources: CARL Principles and Opportunities for Action" was approved in principle by the CARL Board on September 7<sup>th</sup> and as such, the Ad-Hoc committee has completed its mandate. We would like to thank Susan Parker (Chair), Brett Waytuck, Carol Shepstone, Donna Bourne-Tyson, Joy Kirchner, Lesley Balcom, and Loubna Ghaouti for their work on this committee. CARL engaged a part-time Visiting Program Officer for Digital Access, Rowena Johnston, who began working on September 13<sup>th</sup> to help CARL further develop the action items from the report, and CDL and E-Pubs Licensing will be the two-part theme of an FGM session.

### Friday Zoom Calls for Directors

Since the start of the pandemic, CARL has been hosting Friday afternoon informal Zoom sessions where CARL directors come together to update each other on changes and decisions at their establishments, but also to lend an ear to their colleagues in this difficult time. In 2021, we started hosting the session every other week.

### Webinar & Community Call Series

CARL continued to host [regular webinars and community calls](#), sometimes in partnership with other groups, on topics of interest to the various library communities of practice that they support, which are free and open to all – both CARL members and non-members. Open Education Cross-Canada Coffee Chats were held in September and October. A follow-up community call with Communications Officers was held in September and a webinar on increasing the international visibility of Canadian research through the CARL-OpenAIRE collaboration was held in October. The Library Freedom Project Canada Privacy group also met in September.

## Policy and Public Affairs

### Post-Election Government Matters

The Government of Canada has been operating in caretaker mode since the elections took place in September. As a result, the government has not been actively engaged in consultations, nor would MPs, staff, or government officials meet to discuss matters in any meaningful way. The new Cabinet was named on October 26; Minister Champagne

remains at ISED, Minister Rodriguez returns to Heritage, Minister Fortier remains at Treasury Board, and Minister Lametti continues at Justice. Parliament resumes November 22, and committees are likely only to begin in January. This has resulted in much less activity in advocacy over this period.

CARL submitted a [brief](#) in response to the Government's proposed approach to address harmful content online. The brief highlights the role libraries can play in combating misinformation and the need for increased funding to libraries to further support this work, curtailing the monopolistic behaviours of social media platforms, and expresses concerns regarding penalties for non-compliance, the potential for over-removal of content, expected effects on marginalized communities, and the potential impact of creating new regulators.

CARL submitted a [brief](#) to the Ontario Government in response to their consultation on Modernizing Privacy in Ontario. This was the third, and the last, in a series of consultations related to privacy legislation in Ontario. As mentioned previously, while this is a provincial consultation, it provides further support for CARL's interests as they relate to federal privacy legislation.

The final consultation launched in 2021 related to Canada's copyright regime, Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things, came to a close on September 3. This [brief](#) was a joint submission from the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) and CARL, and provided recommendations on text and data mining, AI authorship, and the right to repair.

A small working group of the CFLA Copyright Committee, in which S. Haigh and K. McColgan participate, has expanded its work beyond Federal government crown copyright to engage with provincial governments. The group met with officials from the Ontario Government on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the possibilities and barriers related to opening Crown copyright at a provincial level. Provincial governments from across Canada meet from time to time to discuss provincial matters with other governments. The working group has been invited to attend a future meeting of this group to discuss Crown Copyright more broadly.

### **Marrakesh Treaty Implementation**

The Task Force and Working Groups continue to meet regularly to discuss needs related to metadata, systems requirements, delivery models, and beneficiary communities' needs. This work has demonstrated the complexities related to the implementation of the Treaty. Work has begun on socializing the work of Task Force through presentations at the CNIB conference Connecting the Dots, Access2021, and a joint proposal with the FRAME project has been submitted to CNI for its fall symposium. In association with Open Access Week, VPO Pascal Calarco published a [blog post](#), 'If it's open, is it accessible?'

## **Management, Advancement and Assessment of Research Libraries**

### **CARL Research in Librarianship Grant**

The call for applications to the 2022 student category of the grant will be published shortly. CARL announced the winners of the 2021 practicing librarian category of the grant on September 20<sup>th</sup> and is very pleased to support the following three projects:

- Mindy Thuna, Caitlin Tillman, and Naz Torabi (University of Toronto) — Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Collection Development Practices in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine: How does it look like?
- Chloe Lei & Megan Fitzgibbons (Concordia University) — Uncovering Academic Librarians' Transformative Learning Experiences Related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Using Appreciative Inquiry
- Melissa A. Rothfus (Dalhousie University) — Researcher Perspectives on Obstacles and Facilitators of Open Scholarship at a Canadian University

## **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

Under the leadership of L. O'Hara, Chair, and M. Kumaran, CARL VPO for EDI, the EDI Working Group is in the process of planning the third webinar of the Inclusion Perspectives series, which will feature indigenous library colleagues.

As M. Kumaran's term with CARL ends in December 2021, CARL issued a call for a new VPO for EDI on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Following the completion of the EDIWG's original 18-month mandate, CARL also issue a call seeking to re-confirm current members' commitment to the working group and to invite new interested candidates to join. The deadline for both calls is November 12, 2021.

The CARL Diversity and Inclusion Study closed on October 27<sup>th</sup>. 21 CARL member libraries participated. Participation rates varied between 20% and 60% with an average of 34%. Over the coming months CARL will continue to meet regularly with the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion as they analyze the data and produce a national insights report, which is due to be completed in January 2022. Results will be presented to members afterwards and there will be an opportunity to discuss the data collection process and areas for improvement for subsequent diversity and inclusion studies.

## **Competencies**

CARL is planning to issue a call for a Competencies Promotion Working Group, which will advise on the production of video profiles for each of the competencies and other promotional activities. Members of the original Competencies Working Group will be invited to join, and the work is expected to begin in January 2022.

## **Academic Librarians' Leadership Institute (ALLI)**

On September 1, 2021, Susan Cleyle was appointed as CARL Visiting Program Officer for Leadership Development Initiatives. In this role, she will lead the planning for ALLI as CARL works with the Gardiner Centre to reschedule the institute.

## **Librarians' Research Institute (LRI)**

The LRI was postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CARL and UNB will reschedule once it is feasible to do so.

## **CARL Statistics Program**

The survey was launched on September 28<sup>th</sup> with a deadline of November 5<sup>th</sup> for completion. K. McColgan has been working closely with the developer to address a few additional bugs discovered within the forms and they are now engaged in the next stage of the project to develop the reporting functionality.

## **Library Impact Working Group**

The Library Impact Framework Working Group reviewed the draft framework produced by the Library Impact Framework Project Team and created two example logic models. Additional logic models were produced by project team co-chairs Justine Wheeler and Tania Gottshalk. The completed framework will be presented at the CARL Fall General Meeting for member feedback.

## **Canadian Library Assessment Workshop**

To avoid conflicting with the ARL Library Assessment Conference (held biennially) or overlapping with the Librarians Research Institute, CLAW will be postponed to the fall of 2023. In the meantime, the Continuing Education Working Group is planning a series of webinars in lieu of CLAW 2021.

## **Support to Research Production, Preservation and Dissemination**

### **Open Access Week**

Open Access Week was held October 25-31, 2021. CARL presented one OA-themed event during this week: a webinar overview of the CARL-OpenAIRE partnership (more info below). Additional efforts were primarily directed through Twitter -- Lise and Dancya produced a short series of bilingual tweets highlighting CARL efforts to advance open access and open science. As in recent years, Lise retweeted CARL member institutions' (and partner organizations') tweets re: OA Week to help promote their events and initiatives.

### **Research Data Management**

In November, CARL embarked on a data gathering exercise related to institutional and consortial expenditures on related to RDM. This is to understand what kind of match is made from other levels than the Alliance (national level) in the RDM ecosystem.

The NDRIO Advisory Committee on Strategy and Business Model completed its mandate in October; as, in November, did the NDRIO RDM Working Group. Susan participated in both, and it will be interesting to see what kind of advisory structures the Alliance will propose for RDM moving forward. As CARL is an affiliate member of the Alliance, Susan attended the AGM and member meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>. 'Portage' as a brand and name for the team has been sunsetted; the group that transferred to CARL is still intact and delivering on its workplan, and is now known as the Alliance RDM team. Susan attended a couple of their webinar series, 'Putting the Tri-Agency Policy into Practice.'

### **Open Scholarship Infrastructure**

On August 30, Lise submitted 59 new or edited entries for Canadian journal titles to Sherpa-RoMEO. On October 13, we received confirmation that these entries had been revised, and that they had been passed on to the Technical Team to be added into the main Sherpa-RoMEO database. As of October 25, these changes are not visible via the public interface.

Three new infrastructures have been endorsed and announced by SCOSS (ArXiv, Redalyc/Amelica, and DSpace). CRKN is currently in discussion with the three infrastructures to negotiate the use of CRKN tiers before they distribute the opt-in call to Canadian academic libraries.

Susan, Lise and Lesley Balcom (CARL representative on Coalition Publica Advisory Committee) met with Tanja, James, Jessica and Laurence from Coalition Publica (CP) on October 14. CP presented very useful updates and clarifications re: funding, activities, and future plans

### **Open Repositories**

This working group's current 2-year mandate was meant to end in December 2021, but given the projects underway and additional work to be done to consider a transition to a community-supported community of practice, the co-chairs are recommending that the current term be extended by 1 year, ending instead in December 2022.

As mentioned above, a webinar describing the joint CARL-OpenAIRE work, *Looking for a needle in a haystack: Increasing the international visibility of Canadian research through the CARL-OpenAIRE collaboration*, was held October 26, with over 100 people in attendance. Speakers were Natalia Manola, CEO of OpenAIRE, Matthew Lucas, Executive Director, SSHRC, CARL President Vivian Lewis, and Pierre Lasou (Laval), who is chair of the CARL Open Repositories Working Group's OpenAIRE Task Group. The session was moderated by Kathleen Shearer. The recorded presentation has been viewed 50 times to date. This work will also be included in the upcoming FGM's "Key Initiatives" session.

### **Open Education**

Ann Ludbrook (Ryerson) has joined CARL as VPO for Open Education for one year, as of October 18. In addition to supporting OEWG activities, Ann will also help support CARL's OE advocacy work (including multi-stakeholder national OER strategy efforts).

The Open Education Working Group (ORWG)'s Community of Practice Task Group continued its Open Education Cross-Canada Coffee Chats series – the September chat was on the topic of open pedagogy. The October chat was organized by the subgroup devoted to francophone OER, and was an opportunity to discuss events being considered for Open Education Week in March 2022. Alexandre Enkerli also provided some information on OE Global's francophone contingent, and information he has gleaned from being part of that group. presented about their work in developing this community of practice offering during the Creative Commons Summit in September and the Open Education Conference in October.

With the help of the new VPO, CARL plans to convene another meeting of the groups discussing a national strategy for OER in Canada later in November. A survey has been distributed to these organization to help identify top priorities for collective action.

## Preservation

The Digital Preservation Working Group (DPWG), chaired by Dale Askey (Alberta) is continuing its efforts. The DPWG's Infrastructure Group, led by Steve Marks (U of T), has drafted an executive brief for CARL directors entitled "Key Issues Impacting Digital Preservation in Canada – 2021." It will be circulated ahead of the CARL Fall General Meeting; Dale Askey and Steve Marks will present on it during the "Key Initiatives" session as part of the FGM. The Canadian Web Archiving Coalition (CWAC) has begun planning a virtual CWAC Symposium, which will take place in early 2022, and aims to reinvigorate the membership and encourage new members to take on a leadership role within the group.

## CARL Administration & Outreach

In recognition of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, CARL posted a statement acknowledging the importance of commemorating First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities' histories and legacies in libraries, and reiterating our commitment continued education and dismantling colonialist and racist structures and practices within librarianship and education.

## Conferences, Events, International Meetings

Not surprisingly, there have been fewer conferences to attend, as all travel has been halted due to COVID-19. Nevertheless, since the last report, S. Haigh or other CARL staff attended many virtual events, workshops, webinars and international meetings including: the 2021 CRKN Virtual Conference, the COAR meetings and conference, the Congrès des professionnel·le·s de l'information, the ARL Fall Forum to Explore Talent Management in Academic Libraries through Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, CNIB Connecting the Dots, the Creative Commons Summit, the Open Education Conference, UBC's Indigenous Knowledges and Open Education Symposium, Canadian Open Data Summit, CIRA Annual Conference, and Artificial Intelligence and Copyright: Machine Learning Conference.

## CARL Member Transitions

On October 25, 2021, Guy Bilodeau commenced as interim Director of the library at Laval University. He will serve in this position until June 2022, when Loubna Ghaouti returns to the library.

## Staff

The current general division of responsibilities is:

- *Susan Haigh – Executive Director:* Overall executive direction and management; lead for CARL advocacy and public policy; outreach and strategic national and international relations;
- *Katherine McColgan – Manager, Administration and Programs:* Board Secretariat; financial and office administration and oversight; support to Policy Committee and advocacy activities; annual statistics program management; CARL privacy officer;
- *Lise Brin – Program Officer:* Support to Advancing Research Committee; open access and open education initiatives; E-lert editor;

- *Julie Morin – Program Officer:* Support to Strengthening Capacity Committee and Assessment Committee; E-lert co-editor;
- *Katarzyna (Kasia) Kozyra-Kocikowska– Administrative Officer & Event Coordinator:* Book-keeping and financial administration; meeting and hospitality arrangements; office management and administrative support; support to Standing Committee on Finance and Audit.
- *Dancya Kapampa – Communications Officer:* Website, E-Lert production support, and communications.

*Visiting Program Officers (part-time)*

- *Mark Swartz – VPO, Copyright and Privacy*
- *Maha Kumaran – VPO, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*
- *Corey Davis – VPO, Digital Preservation*
- *Victoria Owen – VPO, Marrakesh Treaty Implementation*
- *Pascal Calarco – VPO, Marrakesh Treaty Implementation*
- *Susan Cleyle – VPO, Leadership Development Initiatives*
- *Rowena Johnson – VPO, Digital Access Policy*
- *Ann Ludbrook – VPO, Open Education*

*Consultants/On retainer*

- *Kathleen Shearer – Research Associate – RDM, scholarly publishing and open science initiatives.*
- *Temple Scott Associates (Don Moors, Josh Matthewman) – Government relations*
- *Rideout & Maybee, LLP (Howard Knopf) – Copyright*
- *Clark Wilson LLP (Michal Jaworski, Jeff Holloway) – Contracts*
- *Emond Harnden LLP (Colleen Dunlop) – Human resources*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Haigh,  
November 15, 2021