CARL Executive Director's Report

Tabled at the CARL Board Meeting, May 29, 2023

The following provides an overview of selected activities undertaken or supported by the CARL Office since the January 31, 2023 report to the Board. All past reports are available on the CARL website's Publications page.

Continuing Special CARL Activities to Support Institutions

Friday Zoom Calls for Directors
Attendees continue to update each other every other week on changes and decisions at their institutions and to draw advice from their peers.

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.

Strategic Planning

A slightly changed committee structure including the launch of a fifth committee, Advancing Teaching and Learning, was approved during the CARL Fall General Meeting, enabling better alignment with the 2022-2025 Strategic Focus. The new and renewed committees began to meet as of March.

Policy and Public Affairs

Copyright
As part of 2023 Fair Dealing Week, student leaders, post-secondary institutions, academic staff, librarians and copyright experts from Universities Canada, Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan), the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC) launched a Fair Dealing Works campaign. The coalition is urging the government to maintain educational fair dealing provisions in Canada's Copyright Act, highlighting the current balance that fair dealing helps to maintain between creators and users of educational materials.

To continue the momentum of activities carried out during Fair Dealing Week, the group is now working on a series of op-eds. The first was a collaboration between CARL and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) that highlights the need to provide better access to digital resources, offset term extension by expanding fair dealing, address Crown copyright concerns, and recognize Indigenous control over Indigenous work.

CARL [released an FAQ](#) on Canadian Copyright Term Extension for Authored Works in March 2023 as a measure to help library employees navigate the changes in term of copyright protection in Canada from 50 to 70 years after the year in which the author died and is based on questions received from those working in academic libraries in Canada.

CARL has – along with several other organizations like the Library Copyright Coalition – signed a letter from the Access to Knowledge (A2K) Coalition, used to send to delegates attending the WIPO SCCR meeting in mid-March. The letter expresses continued support for the African Group Draft Work Program on Exceptions and Limitations, and recommends the Committee set specific timelines for the performance of the tasks to move the work forward. The letter also expresses opposition to the proposed Broadcasting Treaty, which continues to raise substantial concerns from our community for an anti-piracy treaty for content that is already protected elsewhere. It also proposes to create a new layer of rights for broadcasting organizations with no term of protection, applying to works that are not owned, licensed or compensated (by the broadcasting organization), or are in the public domain.

Federal Government Activities
CARL continued to meet with government officials into the spring to discuss copyright issues, but also to raise other issues of interest such as open educational resources and how the government can better support Canadian publishers in an open environment.

As part of a two-step process in the government of Canada's 2023 Budget Consultations, the Department of Finance Canada launched its own consultations for spending in 2023 which closed in early February. CARL used the opportunity to reinforce the need for support in development of open educational resources in Canada, pointing to, as a comparator, the December 2022 US announcement of continued OER support from the US government in its Fiscal Year 2023 omnibus appropriations bill for the Open Textbook Pilot Program. CARL is asking the government for $30M over the next three years to support the initiative.

The 2023 Federal Budget was then tabled in the House of Commons on March 28, 2023 that included investments in supporting the right to repair through legislative modifications; targeted investment in post-secondary education for the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples; providing means for minority language education; and, further investment to address the unique needs and ongoing barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

Non-federal E-book-related Advocacy
The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA), the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC), and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) submitted a brief in response to the Ontario Government's Consultation Paper on Modernizing the Consumer Protection Act, 2002. The letter highlights "the difficult contractual relationships regarding digital content between primarily multinational publishers and publicly supported libraries".

Marrakesh Treaty Implementation
The joint ARL/CARL Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Task Force and Working Groups continued its work throughout 2022, leading to proposed changes to accessibility metadata standards. A final report of the pilot project is planned for the end of the summer.

Management, Advancement and Assessment of Research Libraries

CARL Research in Librarianship Grant
The call for the 2023 cycle of the student category was postponed, allowing SCC to consider possible changes to this offering. The call for the practicing librarian category was posted in April.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
In April, Selinda Berg succeeded Lisa O'Hara as Chair of the EDIWG and Aditi Gupta, Engineering & Science Librarian at the University of Victoria Libraries, was selected to succeed Victoria Ho, as CARL VPO-EDI.

The EDI Working Group organized a sixth webinar of the Inclusion Perspectives series, featuring library colleagues with intersectional identities. The webinar is scheduled to take place June 7th.

CARL Professional Development Offerings for Library Directors
Based on feedback received via a survey of directors' interest in professional development opportunities on select themes, Susan Cleyle, CARL VPO for Leadership Development Initiatives, organized a two-part session on employment relations (a virtual one on April 14th and an in-person one at the CARL AGM). The next most popular session requested was for a discussion on budget challenges. Following the same format as the employee relations sessions, a virtual session on budget challenges is currently being planned. Due to the sensitive nature of these topics, these sessions are confidential and in camera.

Librarians' Research Institute (LRI)
The 2023 LRI (jointly hosted by uOttawa and Carleton) is on track to take place June 12-15 and 30 participants have been accepted into the program. CARL is also planning a French-language offering for 2024 in collaboration with two librarians from ULaval.

CARL Statistics Program
Work continued on the database development and user interface through the winter and spring, bringing several modifications that will make it easier for users to switch between years and compare data year over year.

CARL hosted a webinar on best practices for completing the CARL statistics questionnaire on April 26th that featured three panelists from various institutions discussing the methods used to collect the necessary data efficiently through the process. A recording of the webinar is available on the CARL YouTube channel.

Library Impact Framework Working Group
Under the leadership of Chair Mark Robertson, the group is working on next steps to further promote the Library Impact Framework, including a pre-conference workshop at the Canadian Library Assessment Workshop and a panel of use cases to be presented at the CARL FGM.

Canadian Library Assessment Workshop
Western University was selected as the host site for CLAW 2023, which will take place October 23-25, and the programming committee met on May 26 to review program proposals received.

Research Library Opportunities related to University STEM Growth Strategies
As follow-up to the Ithaka Study, which recommended that research libraries increase their strategic alignment with many of their parent institutions' increasing STEM focus, S. Haigh and M. Kennedy (ARL Executive Director) conducted the final two site visits, to University of Toronto and McMaster University on January 25 and 26, 2023 A report, *Observations on Research Libraries Alignment with Institutional STEM Priorities*, has been published.

Support to Research Production, Preservation and Dissemination

Open Repositories
A call for members of an advisory committee for the Shared Repository Infrastructure Project, led by Geoff Harder, was issued in December, and the committee has convened three times. A needs/readiness survey has been conducted, discussions have been held with key organizations, and a Framework paper has been produced. A progress update will be provided at the CARL AGM, and Geoff will also meet in June with the Open Repositories Community of Practice in a webinar organized by its Steering Committee.

Preservation
Using input gathered from CARL directors at the CARL Fall Meeting, the Digital Preservation Working Group began to outline its strategic plan for 2023 in January as well as a draft position description for the Digital Preservation coordinator position.

Canadian Bibliometrics and Research Impact Community of Practice (BRI CoP)
The newly formed BRI CoP Steering Committee, co-chaired by Laura Bredahl, University of Waterloo, and Thane Chambers, University of Alberta, held community calls in March and April, with an upcoming call on June 15th. They have also organized a book club which has been meeting monthly since April 2023.

Canadian Open Access Action Plan – stakeholder group
This informal stakeholder group brings together funders, the library community, and government. CARL has asked Kathleen Shearer to convene and chair, includes representatives from SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, CFI, FRQ, CFHSS, Office of the Chief Science Advisor, Federal Science Libraries Consortium, U of T, CRKN and CARL. It met in person at SSHRC on May 24th for a very productive half-day round table of updates and discussion of areas for possible collaboration.

Support to Teaching and Learning

Advancing Teaching and Learning Committee (ATLC)

In April, the ATLC held its first meeting, which consisted mainly of discussion around the composition and direction of the committee. Amber Lannon stepped forward as Chair, and the second meeting will take place May 30 in Calgary.

Open Education
In May, the *National Advocacy Framework for Open Educational Resources in Canada* was released. Written and reviewed by a diverse group of open educational resource practitioners and experts from Canada's post-secondary education system and co-authored by Michael

McNally and CARL VPO Ann Ludbrook, this document outlines a series of arguments and considerations for involvement of the federal government in the area of OER.

The Open Education Cross Canada Coffee Chats continue. January's call focused on institutional open education policies, while May's call featured brief presentations from several individuals who contributed to the newly released *National Advocacy Framework for Open Educational Resources in Canada*.

CARL VPOs Karen Nicholson and Ann Ludbrook assisted in the organization of the Francophone OER Summit held jointly by CARL and the University of Ottawa in April. This successful in-person event brought together practitioners, experts and students from Francophone communities across Canada to develop strategies around requesting funding from the federal government and other bodies.

CARL Administration & Outreach

Conferences, Events, International Meetings
Since the last report, CARL staff have attended many events, workshops, webinars and international meetings including: OLA Super Conference in Toronto, IFLA MLAS meeting in Paris, ARL meeting in Denver, and a Users' Rights Symposium in Washington, DC.

CARL Member Transitions
Sylvie Fournier retired in April and was succeeded by Chantal St-Louis. Joy Kirchner announced her retirement as dean of York University Libraries and will remain in her role until June 30. Mark Robertson was appointed chief librarian of Toronto Metropolitan University effective July 1. Nicole Nolan was named Interim University Librarian at Brock University effective May 1, 2023

Staff
Karen Nicholson's one-year secondment from the University of Guelph ended in March, at which point she transitioned from the role of Senior Program Officer to VPO for Teaching and Learning.

CARL hired two new full-time Project Officers, Graham Lavender and Elizabeth Kalbfleisch, who joined the CARL team in April. Graham supports the new CARL Advancing Teaching and Learning Committee and Elizabeth now supports the ARC committee, following Karen's departure.

Aditi Gupta, Engineering & Science Librarian at the University of Victoria Libraries, was selected to succeed V. Ho as CARL VPO-EDI and began her 1-year term in April 2023. **CARL is hoping to announce a VPO for Metadata & CARL Collaboration with OpenAIRE shortly.**

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;
- *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.
- *Julie Morin – Senior Program Officer*: Support to Strengthening Capacity Committee and Assessment Committee; E-lert co-editor;
- *Elizabeth Kalbfleisch – Project Officer*: Support to Advancing Research Committee; E-lert co-editor;
- *Graham Lavender – Project Officer*: Support to Advancing Teaching and Learning Committee; E-lert co-editor;
- *Geoff Harder – Project Director – National Shared Repository Infrastructure (*on secondment from the University of Alberta)

Visiting Program Officers (part-time)
- *Pascal Calarco* – VPO, Marrakesh Treaty Implementation (July 2021 - June 2023)
- *Susan Cleyle* – VPO, Leadership Development Initiatives (September 2021 - September 2023)
- *Ravit David* – VPO, Copyright (September 2022 – September 2023)
- *Corey Davis* – VPO, Digital Preservation (April 2020 – March 2023)
- *Aditi Gupta* – VPO, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (April 2023 -April 2024)
- *Rowena Johnson* – VPO, Digital Access Policy (September 2021 – September 2023)
- *Ann Ludbrook* – VPO, Open Education (October 2021 - October 2023)
- *Karen Nicholson* – VPO, Teaching and Learning (April 2023 - October 2023)
- *Victoria Owen* – VPO, Marrakesh Treaty Implementation (July 2020 - June 2023)
- *Amanda Wakaruk* – VPO, Copyright (July 2022 – July 2023)

Consultants/On retainer
- *Kathleen Shearer – Research Associate* - RDM, scholarly publishing and open science initiatives.
- *Temple Scott Associates (Don Moors, Josh Matthewman, Ujwal Ganguly)* – Government relations
- *Clark Wilson LLP (Michal Jaworski, Jeff Holloway)* – Contracts
- *Emond Harnden LLP (Colleen Dunlop)* – Human resources

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Haigh,
May 29, 2023