

CARL Executive Director's Report

Tabled at the CARL Board Meeting, April 22, 2024

The following provides an overview of selected activities undertaken or supported by the CARL Office since the January 23, 2024, report to the Board. All past reports are available on the CARL website's [Publications page](#).

Policy and Public Affairs

Federal Government Activities

CARL submitted [its brief](#) to the Department of Finance Canada's 2024 pre-budget consultations. The brief advocates for increased funding for the Digital Research Alliance of Canada to enhance the ecosystem for a Canadian digital research infrastructure; increased base budget for Library and Archives Canada's to accelerate transition of documentary heritage and federal government record-keeping to the digital environment; continued funding for the Accessible Digital Books—Support for Organizations program within the Canada Book Fund to assist the Canadian publishing industry to create born-accessible materials for people with print disabilities; new funding and expanded eligibility through targeted federal agencies to foster increased production and use of Open Educational Resources in post-secondary education; sufficient resources for an AI and Data Commissioner to monitor developments, respond to issues in an expedient and effective manner, and support AI literacy and training in Canada; and, expansion of the granting councils' total base budgets to address the effects of inflation and the need for a globally competitive research enterprise in Canada.

CARL [made a submission](#) to the Government of Canada in response to the Consultation on Copyright in the Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence launched in October 2023. The document recommends that: the government not restrict the use of AI (unintentionally or otherwise) until a user community of practice is established and perhaps court decisions (likely drawn on the principle of technological neutrality); AI generated works do not meet the threshold for copyright protection as they do not involve a human exercise of skill and judgment and should not be protected by copyright; a new statutory provision be implemented to confirm that the use of a work or other subject matter for the purposes of TDM does not infringe copyright; there are means in place already that manage infringement and liability and so the Act should not be changed in this regard; and, any new copyright regulation of AI should not negatively impact the public's right and ability to access information, knowledge, and culture.

Copyright

The Government has been silent on its intentions with respect to a copyright review or any impending legislative reform.

CARL submitted a letter to the editor of the *Hill Times*, responding to a recently published opinion piece calling for copyright reform. Our letter should be published on April 17th.

On February 8, 2024, MP Brian Masse launched his third attempt to remove Crown copyright with Bill C-374, pushing for the government to make works paid for with public funding openly available. In Canada, Crown copyright allows the government exclusive copyright to any work that has been created or published under the direction of the government (both federal and provincial). It provides government departments the ability to limit the publication or distribution of public works. Once administered by a single department in 2013 the Publishing and Depository Services relinquished this service, deferring the work to each department to administer permission requests while at the same time, the once existent non-commercial licence disappeared from the Publishing and Depository Services website. This has resulted in complicated and often futile attempts to obtain permission to use works. Several bills have been raised in the House over time seeking to remove Crown copyright, each time met without success. CARL is hopeful this latest Bill will move forward and will continue to advocate for revisions to the Copyright Act to remove crown copyright.

Other Activities

CARL and ARL hosted a side event at WIPO SCCR in Geneva in November to present the findings of the work of the Task Force and its subcommittees for what it takes to be able to implement the cross-border exchange of accessible format books. The session was well attended and did raise some questions with representatives of Canada's government regarding some of the provisions that Canada adopted in its legislation at the time of ratification. We have, and will continue to, discuss these provisions during our advocacy discussions related to copyright. The [final report](#) of the Task Force is available on the CARL website.

Copyright Specialists Community of Practice

In Fall 2023, members of the Copyright Community of Practice agreed to meet every three months to discuss topics of interest. These meetings have been superseded with community events (OLA Copyright Summit, December; Fair Dealing Week CARL Webinar, February; ABC Copyright Conference, June) and so will be considered for September 2024.

Management, Advancement and Assessment of Research Libraries

CARL Research in Librarianship Grant

The call for applications to the 2024 cycle will be announced in May.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

Following a call for new members, a refreshed EDIWG met for the first time on March 6. Under the continued leadership of Chair Selinda Berg (Windsor) and VPO-EDI Aditi Gupta (Victoria), the working group has updated their work plan with new initiatives, including launching a webinar series on working towards inclusive collections.

Academic Libraries Leadership Institute (ALLI)

Susan Cleyle (Memorial), CARL VPO for Leadership Development Initiatives, Julie Hannaford (Toronto), and CARL staff continue to meet with the Gardiner Centre to plan for the next ALLI, which will take place June 10-16, 2024. The call for applicants closed on March 27 and 19 participants were accepted into the program.

Librarians' Research Institute (LRI)

The 2024 French-language LRI will be held June 3-6 at ULaval. 5 peer mentors were selected [Michelle Brown, co-chair (Ottawa); Daniela Zavala-Mora, co-chair (Laval); Catherine Lachaine (Ottawa); Michael David Miller (McGill); Gaston Quirion (Laval)] and the call for participants closed on April 11.

Evidence Synthesis Institute Canada (ESI)

CARL partnered with UVic Libraries for a second year to deliver another successful ESI Canada, which took place March 18-21 and welcomed 54 participants.

Communications Community of Practice

Following a hiatus of the community calls, Taleen Aktorosian has begun supporting this work. New Terms of Reference have been drafted for a reconstituted steering group and the list of CoP members is currently being updated.

CARL Statistics Program

The 2019-20 and 2020-21 publications are currently being prepared and are expected to be published imminently. The 2021-22 and 2022-23 publications will be finalized and posted over the summer. There is also work underway to streamline or eliminate some questions for next year's data collection.

Support to Research Production, Preservation and Dissemination

Open Access - Share Repositories Infrastructure

In January, CARL convened representatives from the regional consortia and from Scholar's Portal to discuss the governance and financial model for Scholaris, the National Shared Repository Infrastructure Service. A call for early adopters to the service was issued mid-March, and received applicants for both the first (Spring 2024) and second (Fall 2024) cohorts. Two expert groups, the Scholaris Electronic Theses and Dissertations Expert Group, led by co-chairs Nicole White (Simon Fraser) and Leah Vanderjagt (Alberta), and the Scholaris Metadata and Discovery Expert Group, led by Mike Nason (New Brunswick) and Jordan Pedersen (Guelph) are meeting monthly, overseen by CARL Visiting Program Officer for Metadata Strategies and Scholaris, Gabriela Mircea (Calgary).

Preservation

Geoff Harder (Alberta) continues to lead the Digital Preservation Working Group while Dale Askey is on research leave. A sub-group is actively planning "@Risk3 2024", a digital preservation summit to take place in Ottawa in November 2024. New Terms of Reference are being developed for the Canadian Web Archiving Coalition Community of Practice.

Canadian Bibliometrics and Research Impact Community of Practice (BRI CoP)

With co-chairs Thane Chambers (Alberta) and Laura Bredahl (Waterloo), the steering committee organized two Community of Practice events, held in February and April. Planning is underway for a series of lightning talks in May. The book club began a new season in February, with monthly events scheduled through June. The steering committee's proposed presentation, "Building a Canadian Community of Practice Around Research Impact", has

been accepted for the upcoming 2024 CRKN Virtual Conference: Building Lasting Connections.

Canadian Repositories Community of Practice

The Canadian Repositories Community of Practice steering committee, with co-chairs Pascal Calarco (Windsor) and Emily Hopkins (Saskatchewan) organized a very well-attended community call in February, “Metadata Misery.” Registration is underway for a community call on May 1st. A new initiative, “Summer Article Club” is set to launch in June.

Knowledge Synthesis

The CARL Knowledge Synthesis Working Group, led by Zahra Premji (Victoria) completed the final report, *Canadian Academic Library Workers Supporting Knowledge Synthesis: CARL Needs Assessment Survey Final Report*, based on their 2023 Needs Assessment survey.

Library Publishing Community Engagement Team

The new Library Publishing Community Engagement Team, helmed by co-chairs Sonya Betz (Alberta) and Mark Swartz (Queen’s), is meeting monthly. They have established three sub-groups: Community Calls; Primer/Brief; and Documentation. The Community Call group has been working with SSHRC to organize a virtual community consultation session on reform to the Aid to Scholarly Journals program to take place in May. Sonya Betz and collaborators will present: “Creating a Canadian Library Publishing Community to Support Scholar-led Publishing” at the OPERAS conference in Croatia on April 24th.

Open Science/Open Access Policy and Infrastructure Support

Susan participated in two of the three consultations that the tri-agencies conducted related to their publication policy revision. CARL and CRKN executive directors, and Kathleen Shearer, are having discussions with representatives of the federal and Quebec funding agencies as we seek ways to accelerate the transition to non-embargoed OA for Canadian publications and to support the impending revised tri-agency publications policy.

Research Data and the Digital Alliance of Canada

CARL continues to engage with the Alliance on the development of its 2025-30 strategy, aiming to ensure continued and growing strategic investment in Research Data Management infrastructure and training, as well as investment in research information management (e.g. PIDS). Susan participates in their Program Activity Advisory Table, and she had a fruitful in-person meeting with the CEO and two senior advisors, at their invitation, when they were in Ottawa for their cross-Canada tour.

Support to Teaching and Learning

Advancing Teaching and Learning Committee (ATLC)

ATLC continues to concentrate on digital fluency and generative AI. The Digital Fluency Task Group has completed its Digital Fluency Framework after extensive discussions and revisions with the ATLC as well as the AI Task Group. The AI Task Group has drafted its Terms of Reference and is developing a Statement on the Library’s Role in AI in Higher Education for CARL Directors.

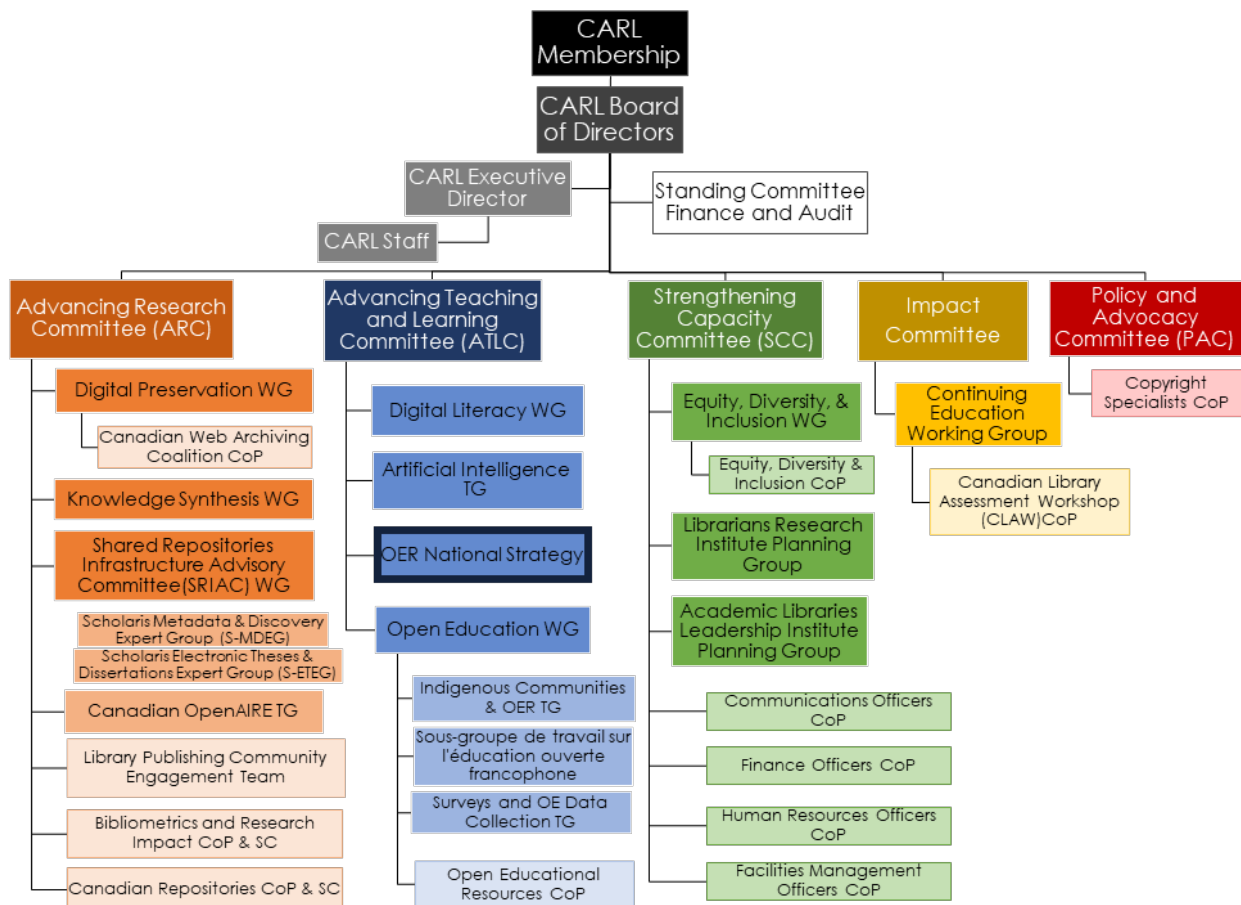
Open Education

The OER National Strategy Indigenous OER mini-summit took place at UBC on February 22nd, preceded by a three-part Indigenous Knowledges and Open Education Webinar Series was held in advance of the in-person event.. On February 23, a day-long meeting on the National OER Strategy was held at UBC. The Open Education Working Group held Open Education Cross-Canada Coffee Chat sessions in February, March, and April; the March session featured a presentation on CARL's Code of Best Practices in Fair Dealing for Open Educational Resources, led by CARL Visiting Program Officer for Digital Access Policy, Rowena Johnson (Calgary)

The CARL Statement on Automatic Textbook Billing Models was published in March, as well as a supplementary document of talking points for use by CARL directors.

Administration & Outreach

Current Committee, Working Group, and Community of Practice Structure



Friday Zoom Calls for Directors

Directors have the opportunity every other week to update each other informally 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.

Conferences, Events, International Meetings

Since the last report, CARL staff have attended events, workshops, webinars and international meetings including: Ontario Libraries Association Super Conference 2024 (Toronto), OCUL AI Summit (virtual), CCR Breakfast with Funders (Ottawa), 2024 CSAE Tête-à-tête (Ottawa), Indigenous OER Summit (Vancouver), Knowledge Rights 21 Normalizing Open Norms webinar, CARL webinar on Codes of Best Practices, Authors' Alliance Canada Law and Policy Issues, Canadian PID Advisory Committee (CPIDAC) one-day meeting (Ottawa), RDM Network of Experts Meeting (virtual), IBM-UOttawa Cyber Range Workshop and Simulation and Law School presentation on AI Ethics (Ottawa).

Susan will participate on a panel with other IARLA associations' executive directors at the May 2024 ARL member meeting in Boston. The theme is 'stronger together.'

Susan, Geoff Harder, and Kathleen Shearer are preparing their presentation on Canadian initiatives to be delivered at Open Repositories 2024 in Gothenburg, Sweden in early June..

CARL Member Transitions

Nicole Nolan has been appointed University Librarian at Brock, effective May 1, 2024.

Geoffrey Robert Little has accepted a five-year term as Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Western University, effective July 22, 2024, replacing Catherine Steeves who will be stepping down.

Staff

On March 4, CARL welcomed Taleen Aktorosian as the new Communications and Project Officer.

Kasia Kozyra-Kocikowska will be leaving CARL effective April 26 to take a new position as Coordinator, Administration and Academic at the Bruyère Memory Program. Her position has been posted and we hope to hire her replacement 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. (July 2019-April 2024)
- *Julie Morin – Senior Program Officer*: Support to Strengthening Capacity Committee and Impact Committee; E-lert co-editor;

- *Elizabeth Kalbfleisch - Project Officer.* Support to Advancing Research Committee and Teaching and Learning Committee; E-lert co-editor.
- *Taleen Aktorosian - Communications and Project Officer.* Support CARL's communication channels and selected initiatives, including a variety of pan-Canadian communities of practice; E-lert co-editor.

Visiting Program Officers (part-time)

- *Susan Cleyle - VPO, Leadership Development Initiatives (September 2021 - September 2024)*
- *Aditi Gupta - VPO, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (April 2023 - August 2024)*
- *Rowena Johnson - VPO, Digital Access Policy (September 2021 - September 2024)*
- *Ann Ludbrook - VPO, Open Education (October 2021 - August 2024)*
- *Gabriela Mircea - VPO, Metadata and CARL Collaboration with OpenAIRE (August 2023-August 2024)*
- *Amanda Wakaruk - VPO, Copyright (July 2022 - July 2024)*

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 (Sheri Farahani, Lauren Brecher) - Human resources*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Haigh,
April 22, 2024