

CARL Executive Director's Report

Tabled at the CARL Board Meeting, September 10, 2024

The following provides an overview of selected activities undertaken or supported by the CARL Office since the April 22, 2024, report to the Board. All past reports are available on the CARL website's [Publications page](#).

Policy and Public Affairs

Federal Government Activities

On August 2, 2024, CARL submitted [its brief](#) in response to the Federal Government's *Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2025 Budget*. CARL made four recommendations: to increase funding to the Digital Research Alliance of Canada to enhance Canadian research capacity; to renew 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; to provide new funding through targeted federal agencies to foster increased production and use of Open Educational Resources (OER) in post-secondary education, including targeted funding to support OER in French; and, to increase Library and Archives Canada's base budget to optimize use of digital technologies and accelerate the transition of documentary heritage and federal government record-keeping to the digital environment.

In Budget 2024, the Government of Canada announced actions to modernize Canada's federal research support system, one of which is to create a new capstone research funding organization. Canada's existing 'tri-agencies' (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) would continue under this organization which will be designed to increase the impact of federal funding through better coordination to better meet and address emerging challenges. The tri-agencies were asked by the Government of Canada to consult with stakeholders to help develop the new infrastructure. CARL's recommendations to the tri-agencies are to ensure the new organization actively fosters stronger harmonization across the existing agencies under a broad framework of open science; streamlines the federal granting agencies' web presence and the grants application, management, adjudication, and monitoring/reporting system to better serve all disciplines, including implementing persistent identifiers (PIDs); finds ways to better and more sustainably fund common, necessary research infrastructure; and, strengthen policy, as well as policy monitoring and compliance in support of open science.

Also included in the Budget were several initiatives that CARL has been advocating for:

- A commitment to adopt Right to Repair legislation, which is intended to allow the circumvention of digital locks to diagnose, maintain, or repair a product. Consultations began in June 2024 and CARL is participating through CFLA
- \$10M over three years to the Canadian Book Fund to provide Canadian authors and publishers with additional support. CARL continues to advocate for support for creating born-accessible materials for people with print disabilities through this fund
- A precedent setting \$4.1B investment for the Action Plan for Official Languages, with the majority of the funding for the Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-2028:

Protection-Promotion-Collaboration to be directed to the Provinces for investment in community initiatives and programming, including education

- \$2.4B to artificial intelligence (AI). The overall investment is intended to support responsible development and adoption of AI and ensure the necessary infrastructure and skilled employees are available. \$5.1M has been allocated to enforcing the Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA), legislation that CARL has been actively monitoring.

In light of the \$4.1 billion dollars committed to the [Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-2028](#), CARL met with Official Languages in May 2024 to discuss Federal support for Francophone OER. It was discovered that most of this funding is going directly to provinces and territories. It was also learned that approximately \$8.3 million is earmarked to support the creation and dissemination of scientific information in French (knowledge mobilization). CARL is exploring both options.

The Tri-Agency released its [What We Heard Report: Engagements on the review of the Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications \(2024\)](#) in late July. The report summarizes feedback received from a wide range of stakeholders who engaged in the Tri-Agency's consultation process on their plans to revise the *Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications*. CARL participated in the consultation and the report highlights a number of topics that are relevant to CARL's work. It also provides interesting insights on stakeholder perspectives.

In mid-June, CARL participated in a roundtable consultation with members from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and various stakeholders to discuss a range of topics to develop a national infrastructure to enhance and support digital inclusion for all Canadians. The final report was submitted to ISED in July and highlights ways to reduce barriers by actively engaging with communities to enhance inclusivity and accessibility, address the high costs of internet connectivity in Canada, and increase digital literacy skills through education and resources.

Copyright

The Government continues to be silent on its intentions with respect to a copyright review or any impending legislative reform, citing that other pressing legislative issues, notably the right to repair and AI, have taken precedence.

Further to my April 22nd report, on April 18, 2024, the CARL authored opinion piece—[The Facts about Education and Copyright](#)—was published in The Hill Times. The piece was in response to an editorial that mischaracterized the use of copyright-protected materials by the Canadian education sector and called for copyright reform as a solution to market issues. Using facts and statistics, the CARL piece describes the digital transformation in both the publishing and education sectors and illustrates the impact this has had on the consumption and use of copyright-protected materials.

The publication [Navigating Copyright for Crown-Published Works: A Code of Best Practices for Libraries](#), jointly supported by CARL and CFLA (Canadian Federation of Library Associations), was released in May 2024. This code of best practices provides a legal framework for libraries to effectively steward both print and digital government publications, through their digitization and web harvesting programs, and provides illustrative examples and relevant background information to support that framework.

In late June, members of the CARL team attended the ABC Copyright Conference in Halifax, N.S. Amanda Wakaruk, VPO Copyright, participated in two presentations: [Navigating](#)

[Copyright for Crow-Published Works: A Code of Best Practices for Libraries](#) and [Not Netflix and Chill: Considering How Copyright Anxiety and Legal Chill Impacts the Higher Education Sector](#), and Rowena Johnson, VPO Digital Access, presented [Decoding the “Code of Best Practices in Fair Dealing for Open Educational Resources \(OER\)”](#).

The CARL supported [Code of Best Practices in Fair Dealing for Open Educational Resources](#) was published in February 2024. Adapted from its U.S. counterpart, it explores the legal and practical application of fair dealing in the context of Open Educational Resource (OER) creation in Canada.

Other Activities

In July, CARL (K. McColgan) and ARL (K. Klosek) co-presented at the IDEAL conference in Toronto, sharing findings and recommendations from our work on the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty. The session participants were invited to think about what their library is doing in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how they could promote their work by contributing to IFLA’s Library Map of the World storytelling.

The [CARL Statement on Automatic Textbook Billing Models](#) was issued in March 2024. The statement identifies a number of critical considerations and concerns related to these models including: restricting student and instructor selection and acquisition of course materials; reducing equitable access to textbooks; limiting library services related to course materials; and, privacy issues associated with student data. The statement encourages institutions to carefully analyze these models prior to adoption and to prioritize affordability, quality, flexibility and genuine inclusivity above the cost savings these models claim to provide. The statement draws on works and resources created by the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC’s) InclusiveAccess.Org project as well as other recent information and articles.

Copyright Specialists Community of Practice

On September 25th, CARL will be hosting a panel discussion of legal scholars and library practitioners discussing whether users’ rights under the Copyright Act can be overridden by contracts and how to avoid unnecessary restrictions in day-to-day activities. The panel will be followed by group discussion about how legislative change in this area is needed.

Management, Advancement and Assessment of Research Libraries

CARL Research in Librarianship Grant

The call for applications to the 2024 cycle closed on August 15 and the review panel will meet in September to adjudicate the proposals received.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

VPO-EDI Aditi Gupta’s term ended in August and a call for a replacement VPO-EDI will close on September 16. Under the leadership of Selinda Berg (Windsor) the EDIWG launched a new webinar series on working towards inclusive collections. The first webinar was held on June 13 and attracted 67 live attendees. The working group also provided feedback on the planning for the CARL EDI visioning exercise scheduled to take place during the CARL Fall General Meeting. A number of working group members and CARL staff also presented at/attended the ARL IDEAL conference, where a reception was organized for attendees who have contributed to CARL EDI initiatives.

Academic Libraries Leadership Institute (ALLI)

A successful ALLI 2024 was held June 10-16 in St. John's, Newfoundland and welcomed 19 participants. Susan Cleyle (Memorial), CARL VPO for Leadership Development Initiatives and Julie Hannaford (Toronto) worked with the Gardiner Centre to rework the 2022 program based on feedback from the previous cohort.

Librarians' Research Institute (LRI)

The first ever French-language LRI was held June 3-6, 2024 at ULaval and welcomed 22 participants. Thanks to the peer mentor team [Michelle Brown, co-chair (Ottawa); Daniela Zavala-Mora, co-chair (Laval); Catherine Lachaine (Ottawa); Michael David Miller (McGill); and Gaston Quirion (Laval)] the institute was a success, with all post-event survey respondents indicating that they would recommend the institute to a colleague.

Evidence Synthesis Institute Canada (ESI)

Following a successful ESI Canada 2024, CARL renewed its partnership with UVic Libraries to deliver two more institutes in 2025 and 2026.

Communities of Practice

CARL has drafted terms of reference for 4 new communities of practice. These are: EDI, which will be open; and three that will be position-based and invitational, for Finance, HR, and Facilities. We are currently recruiting members. The Communications Community of Practice Planning Group has also been reconstituted and will resume its community calls shortly.

CARL Statistics Program

The 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 publications are currently being prepared and are expected to be published within the next two months. The 2023-24 collection cycle will open in September and there is work underway to streamline or eliminate some questions for the following year's data collection.

Support to Research Production, Preservation and Dissemination

Open Access - Share Repositories Infrastructure

CARL continues to support Scholaris, the National Shared Repository Infrastructure Service. On May 30th, the DSpace instance for Ontario Tech, one of two pilot schools, went live. Work is well underway with schools in the first cohort and on-boarding with the second cohort has begun. CARL is now supporting a third expert group, the Scholaris Digital Preservation Expert Group, chaired by Julie Shi (Scholars Portal). All three expert groups are overseen by Gabriela Mircea (Calgary), CARL Visiting Program Officer for Metadata Strategies and Scholaris.

Preservation

Geoff Harder (Alberta) continues to lead the Digital Preservation Working Group while Dale Askey is on research leave. A sub-group has been organizing @Risk North 3: Safeguarding the Canadian Digital Record, a digital preservation summit to take place November 21-22 at Library and Archives Canada. Registration is now underway.

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

The Bibliometrics and Research Impact group, chaired by Thane Chambers (Alberta) and Laura Bredahl (Waterloo), has been active in recent months. On May 23, Christine Brodeur (NRC) and Thane Chambers (Alberta) presented at the CRKN virtual conference on building a Canadian community of practice around research impact, generating significant interest and bringing new members to the BRI Listserv. The community met on June 13 for a Lightning Talk event featuring five speakers on various topics, with 59 participants attending from across Canada. Book club meetings were held on May 15 and June 11, facilitated by Phillippe Boisvert (Laval). The Steering Committee is now planning a Fall event on September 26 focused on metrics and impacts for library publishing programs, with additional events, including a Lightning Talk session on December 5. As the current terms of the Steering Committee members come to an end, a call for new members will go out in November/December, with new members beginning in the new year.

Canadian Repositories Community of Practice

The May community call featured talks by Kathleen Shearer, Gabriela Mircea, Paul Walk, and Kyle Demes, and was attended by 46 participants. Over the summer, three Article Club sessions were held on June 12, July 10, and August 14, led by Steering Committee members and attended by 15-20 participants each, focusing on articles related to the repositories field. Two new members, Carolyn Sullivan (Ottawa) and Sophie St-Cyr (uSherbrooke), joined the Steering Committee in late June, bringing valuable experience and bilingualism to the group. The SC also formed a subcommittee to develop a Repository Mentorship program, holding its first meeting on August 12 to brainstorm initial ideas. In July, a call was sent out to update the Inventory of Canadian Repository Platforms, with questions about its scope to be discussed at the next SC meeting. A fall event is planned for September 24, featuring Mike Nason (UNB) on topics requested by the community.

Library Publishing Community Engagement Team

The newly-formed Library Publishing Community Engagement Team is co-chaired by Sonya Betz (Alberta) and Mark Swartz (Queen's). The LPCET co-organized a community consultation session with SSHRC, held on May 27, about the Aid to Scholarly Journals Program. Three CARL staff and 44 scholarly communications librarians participated, sharing insight with the SSHRC team to help inform program changes to comply with tri-agency publishing policy reforms. The LPCET has also been organizing a community call series; the first call, scheduled for September 12th, is on the topic of journal statistics and reporting. The LPCET meets monthly, and the three sub-groups, Community Calls; Primer/Brief; and Documentation also meet regularly.

Open Science/Open Access Policy and Infrastructure Support

Susan and Kathleen Shearer were invited to meet with representatives of the Tri-Agencies to discuss the state of the repository network in Canada and possible compliance as part of the 2025 publication policy revision. They were subsequently invited to a second meeting to discuss rights retention.

Research Data and the Digital Alliance of Canada

Susan continues to engage with the Alliance with respect to its 2025-30 funding strategy (and reports on meetings held to all members). She continues to participate in its Program Activity Advisory Table, and will attend its AGM on September 17th.

Support to Teaching and Learning

Advancing Teaching and Learning Committee (ATLC)

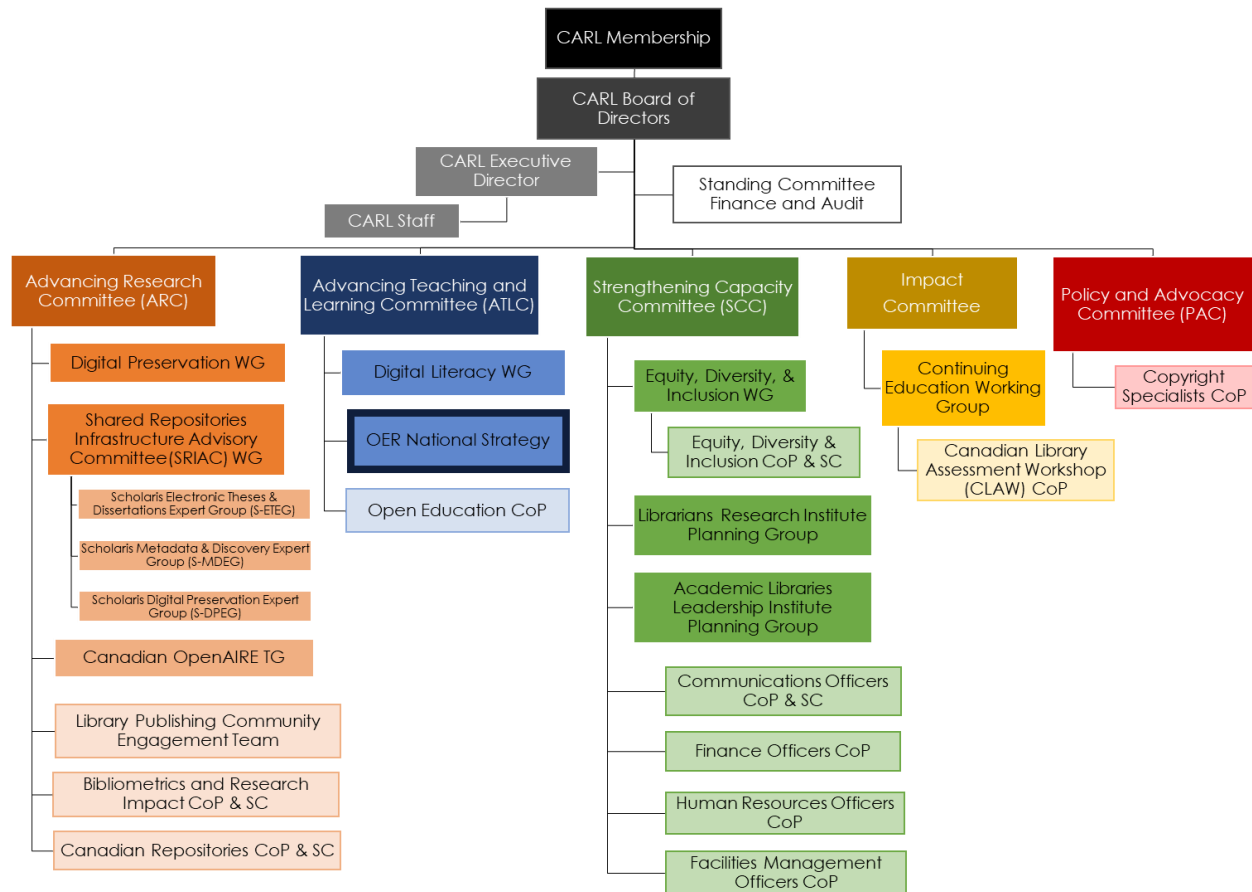
The AI Task group, a working group of the ATLC, completed its mandate at the end of June. The group created a resource, *Incorporating Generative AI in the Library: Talking Points for CARL Directors*, and made some recommendations for how CARL might engage with AI moving forward. The CARL Digital Literacy Framework, created by the Digital Literacy task group was published. In June, a call was organized for all CARL directors with Mira Sucharov, Professor of Political Science at Carleton University with expertise in Israeli-Palestinian relations, to address campus encampments.

Open Education

The Open Education Working Group held a community call on OER Sustainability on May 22 as part of its popular Open Education Cross-Canada Coffee Chat series. The Surveys and Data Collection sub-group completed a draft of the Data Collection Toolkit, now undergoing peer review. At the end of June, the OEWG completed its third mandate, and after five years of activity, will now disband. Moving forward, the focus will be on the development of a national strategy, as well as francophone and Indigenous initiatives. Several exploratory meetings were held with external partners to discuss a national infrastructure for OERs. Discussions are underway with respect to the formation of a new Open Education Community of Practice.

Administration & Outreach

Current Committee, Working Group, and Community of Practice Structure (as of September 2024)



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. After a break over the summer, it is planned that the calls will resume this fall.

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: ARL in Boston (Susan presented on a panel with other IARLA EDs), ARL IDEAL Conference (Toronto), CRKN Virtual Conference, Open Repositories 2024 and, COAR General Meeting in Gothenburg,, INKE Gathering in Montreal, ABC Copyright in Halifax, IFLA NARD Mid-term meeting and ALA in San Diego. When Susan was in Europe in June (partly

on vacation) , as well as attending COAR and OR 2024, she did IFLA work in Zagreb and presented about CARL to the Croatian Library Association and Croatian National Library staff; visited LIBER offices in The Hague to meet with their ED and staff; and met with SCOSS/SPARC Europe representatives in Amsterdam.

CARL Member Transitions

Geoffrey Little started as Vice Provost and Chief Librarian at Western on July 22 and Joseph Hafner began as Dean of York University Libraries on August 15. We welcome them both.

Staff

On June 11, CARL welcomed Houda Tarib as the new Administrative Officer and Event Coordinator.

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;
- *Houda Tarib – 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 Impact Committee; E-lert co-editor;
- *Elizabeth Kalbfleisch – Senior Program Officer:* Support to Advancing Research Committee and Advancing 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 2025)
- *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 – October 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,

September 10, 2024