CARL Executive Director's Report

Tabled at the CARL Board Meeting, November 18, 2024

The following provides an overview of selected activities undertaken or supported by the CARL Office since the September 10, 2024, report to the Board. All past reports are available on the CARL website's Publications page.

Policy and Public Affairs

Federal Government Activities

In September 2024, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research (SCSR) launched a consultation on the Mission, Mandate, Role, Structure and Financing of the New Capstone Research Funding Organization. The committee has heard from several witnesses including Universities Canada, College and Institutes Canada, the U-15, amongst others. CARL sent a letter to the tri-agencies in July and plans to submit a brief to the SCSR.

Bill C-272 *An Act to Amend the Copyright Act (diagnosis, maintenance or repair)* was adopted by the House of Commons in October 2023. Consultations began in June 2024 and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations responded to the online consultation on behalf of the library community. The Bill remains in consideration by the Committee.

Bill C-63 *An Act to enact the Online Harms Act, to amend the Criminal Code, the Canadian Human Rights Act and An Act respecting the mandatory reporting of Internet child pornography by persons who provide an Internet service and to make consequential and related amendments to other Acts* reached 2nd reading in the House of Commons on November 5th.

AIDA, part of Bill C-27, the Digital Charter Implementation Act, and Canada's first legislation addressing AI, has been under committee consideration in the House of Commons for close to a year. There continues to be significant debate and it does not appear as though the committee will reach consensus.

As previously mentioned, on February 8, 2024, MP Brian Masse launched his third attempt to remove crown copyright with Bill C-374. We now know that the Bill did not pass first reading in the House of Commons.

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.

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of Canada's Copyright Act. In recognition of this important milestone, ALAI Canada, an organization based in creators' rights, hosted *The Centennial Conference* on September 19, 2024. CARL (K. McColgan) attended the conference, which covered topics related to current economic rights, a historical overview of Canadian copyright

law, the different actors of copyright, copyright and other areas of the law, particularly communications and competition laws, Canada vs. post-Brexit British Law, European law, and United States Law.

Other Activities

CARL signed the A2K coalition letter on the Draft Implementation Plan on the Work Program on Limitations and Exceptions that expresses the importance to advance the limitations and exceptions and the concerns for the lack of progress in the work plan owing to the shift in focus by the committee toward the Broadcast Treaty.

Copyright Specialists Community of Practice

On September 25, 2024 CARL hosted the Copyright Community of Practice Call: Contract override in academic libraries. A panel of legal scholars and library practitioners discussed whether users' rights under the Copyright Act can be overridden by contracts and how to avoid unnecessary restrictions in our day to day activities. The panel resulted in a lively discussion of the key issues.

Management, Advancement and Assessment of Research Libraries

CARL Research in Librarianship Grant

The winners of the 2024 cycle were announced on October 3. CARL is very pleased to support the following research:

- Efficiency of ChatGPT to Support Systematic Review Searching Compared to Established Searching Practices — Janice Kung (University of Alberta) and Catherine Boden (University of Saskatchewan).
- Researchers' Perspectives Regarding Emerging Challenges in Sensitive Research Data Management in Québec — Alisa Beth Rod (McGill University), Caroline Baril (Calcul Québec), Teresa Bascik (Université de Montréal), and Stéphanie Pham-Dang (Université de Montréal).
- Comprehensive Study on the Impacts of EDI initiatives on Racialized Librarians at Canadian Academic Libraries — Tina Liu and Jennie Fallis (McGill University)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

Under the leadership of Selinda Berg (Windsor), the EDIWG organized the second in a series of planned webinars on inclusive collections. *Diversity Statements in Collection Policies* was held on October 24 and attracted 46 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.

Academic Libraries Leadership Institute (ALLI)
Susan Haigh, Julie Morin, Susan Cleyle (Memorial, CARL VPO for Leadership Development Initiatives), and Julie Hannaford (Toronto) met with the Gardiner Centre on October 22 to review participant feedback from the 2024 institute. Dates have been tentatively set to host ALLI in St-John's, Newfoundland the week of June 8th, 2026, and ALLI will once again be offered in collaboration with the Gardiner Centre.

Librarians' Research Institute (LRI)
UNB offered to host the 2025 LRI from June 16-19, and a call for peer mentors was circulated in early November.

Evidence Synthesis Institute Canada (ESI)
In collaboration with UVic, CARL is currently planning for ESI Canada 2025, which will be held April 14-17. The call for participants will open in January 2025. A French-language ESI Canada is also being planned for the fall of 2025.

Communities of Practice

Communications Officers Community of Practice ["CommUNITY"]

Since September, CARL's Communications Officers Community of Practice has been active, holding two steering committee meetings and an engaging community call in October. The October session, Social Media in the Post-Secondary Landscape, led by Maria Carroll and Michaela Doucette from Memorial University, explored social media trends, best practices, and audience engagement in academic settings. In November, the CoP will host a "Communi-tea Time" roundtable event, encouraging members to share recent professional highs and lows as they reflect on successes and challenges in library communications.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Community of Practice

The CARL Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Community of Practice Steering Committee has met twice since September, initiating a Canva-hosted course generously provided by the University of Toronto to support ongoing engagement through monthly modules and resources. The community's first gathering on November 14 will focus on building connections, setting inclusive ground rules, and planning future discussion topics. This foundational session aims to create a supportive environment that will sustain meaningful EDI engagement within CARL.

Finance Officers Community of Practice

CARL has initiated the Finance Officers Community of Practice following sufficient nominations, with Magalie Beaudoin from uMontreal and Brandon Nelson from uCalgary volunteering to join the planning group. The planning group will meet for the first time in November to introduce themselves, discuss goals and objectives, and plan future meetings and events.

CARL Statistics Program
The 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 publications are currently being prepared and are expected to be published by the end of November. The 2023-24 collection cycle opened in September, with a November 29 deadline. There is also work underway to streamline or eliminate some questions from the survey, which will be led by the newly launched CARL Statistics WG.

Support to Research Production, Preservation and Dissemination

Open Access - Shared Repositories Infrastructure

CARL continues to participate in the governance and expert group support to Scholaris, the National Shared Repository Infrastructure Service. Among the first cohort of early adopters, Laurentian's instance recently went live with three other institutions to follow shortly. Development instances are up for second cohort institutions. Scholaris service-level agreement, privacy policy and terms of use are in final stages of development and will be finalized soon.

CARL VPO for Metadata Strategies and Scholaris, Gabriela Mircea, leads the three groups comprising the Network of Experts – the Metadata and Discovery Expert Group (S-MDEG) Electronic Theses and Dissertations Expert Group (S-ETEG), and Digital Preservation Expert Group (S-DPEG). The expert groups completed several reports including Minimum Viable Metadata Recommendations, Cleaning Metadata for Migration Recommendations, Entities Guidance and Advice, Multilingual Repositories Recommendations, and Persistent Identifier Light Recommendation and Considerations. All were submitted to CARL's Shared Repositories Infrastructure Advisory Committee (SRIAC) for comment.

Susan and a group of Scholaris and repositories stakeholders participated in a Tri-Agency meeting on October 31st to discuss approaches to Green OA deposit following policy change.

CARL and Scholars Portal co-organized a webinar for Open Access Week, *Strengthening Institutional Repositories through the Scholaris Network of Experts*. The October 21st webinar was moderated by Gabriela Mircea, and featured presentations by Julia Gilmore (Scholaris) and representatives of the CARL Network of Experts – Sharon Farnel (Alberta), Carolyn Sullivan (Ottawa), Caitlin Bakker (Regina), and Pascal Calarco (Windsor). Presenters shared, for the first time, projects undertaken within the Metadata and Discovery Expert Group (S-MDEG) and the Electronic Theses and Dissertations Expert Group (S-ETEG), delved into issues relating to coordination and collaboration in the national initiative, Scholaris. The webinar was attended by 65 members of the community.

Preservation

Geoff Harder has agreed to chair the Digital Preservation Working Group for another year. A subgroup of the DPWG is organizing @Risk North 3: Safeguarding the Canadian Digital Record. Final preparations are underway for the two-day digital preservation summit to take place November 21-22 at Library and Archives Canada in Gatineau, with the program fully in place and registration complete. The summit will include presentations by invited speakers, open discussions among registrants, and two lightning talk sessions entailing 14 talks. The DPWG has also been working on a digital preservation toolkit.

Bibliometrics and Research Impact Community of Practice (BRI CoP)

The Bibliometrics and Research Impact Steering Committee, chaired by Thane Chambers (Alberta) and Laura Bredahl (Waterloo), has hosted two community calls since September: one on the use of journal metrics in library publishing, led by Tomasz Mrozewski (York) and Katie Cuyler (Alberta), and another on enhancing citation integrity, led by Dr. Barbara Lancho Barrantes, a Scientometrician from University of Brighton in the United Kingdom. The steering committee is also organizing a lightning talk event for December and has opened a

call for proposals. Additionally, four book club sessions were scheduled for the fall, covering topics such as research quality, ChatGPT, open access fees, and multi-authorship. The CoP has also issued a call for new steering committee members, with two current members completing their terms and two others willing to step down. New members will begin their roles in January to support ongoing CoP activities and leadership.

Canadian Repositories Community of Practice

Since September, the Canadian Repositories Community of Practice (CoP) has held an engaging Ask-Me-Anything session with Mike Nason, covering repositories, persistent identifiers, and open scholarly infrastructure. The CoP has played a key role in advancing the Paper Pledge Project, an international COAR-led initiative, and have flagged several climate-related articles for deposit in Canadian repositories and actively encouraged participation. They are also updating the Canadian Repository Platforms Inventory and are planning a mentorship program to launch in 2025. Their upcoming November event will spotlight open-source contributions, featuring Pierre Lasou (Laval), Erica M. Johns (Cornell), Colin B. Lukens (Harvard), Mark Jordan (SFU), and Kimberly Chapman (Arizona).

Library Publishing Community Engagement Team

The Library Publishing Community Engagement Team, co-chaired by Sonya Betz (Alberta) and Mark Swartz (Queen's), has drafted a short overview of library publishing activity, *Library Publishing in Canada: A Primer*. The group organized a successful community call on journal statistics and reporting, held on September 12th. The call featured a panel discussion with presenters from PKP, Laval, Western, Alberta, and York and attracted 48 attendees. The LPCET is planning another community call for mid-December.

Open Science/Open Access Policy and Infrastructure Support

On October 11th, Susan convened a meeting in Ottawa, organized in collaboration with Kathleen Shearer. Representatives of SSHRC, NSERC, FRQ, ISED, CFI, and CRKN attended to discuss sustainable and coordinated approaches to diamond open access infrastructure for journal publishing. This same group will meet again to continue the discussion and plan next steps.

A new sub-group of the Advancing Research Committee has been formed for Open Monograph Publishing. The group met for the first time in October and is addressing how the libraries can further support and increase the number of monographs published open access by university presses.

In October, the Advancing Research Committee welcomed guest presenter Nick Shockey from SPARC who spoke to the committee about privacy concerns with commercial entities. The committee is planning a directors call on APC spending.

Research Data and the Digital Alliance of Canada

Susan continues to engage with the Alliance with respect to its 2025-30 funding strategy and to participate in its Program Activity Advisory Table. She also recently met with representatives of the National Training Expert Group to discuss possible partnership on a national virtual 'data bootcamp' proposal.

Support to Teaching and Learning
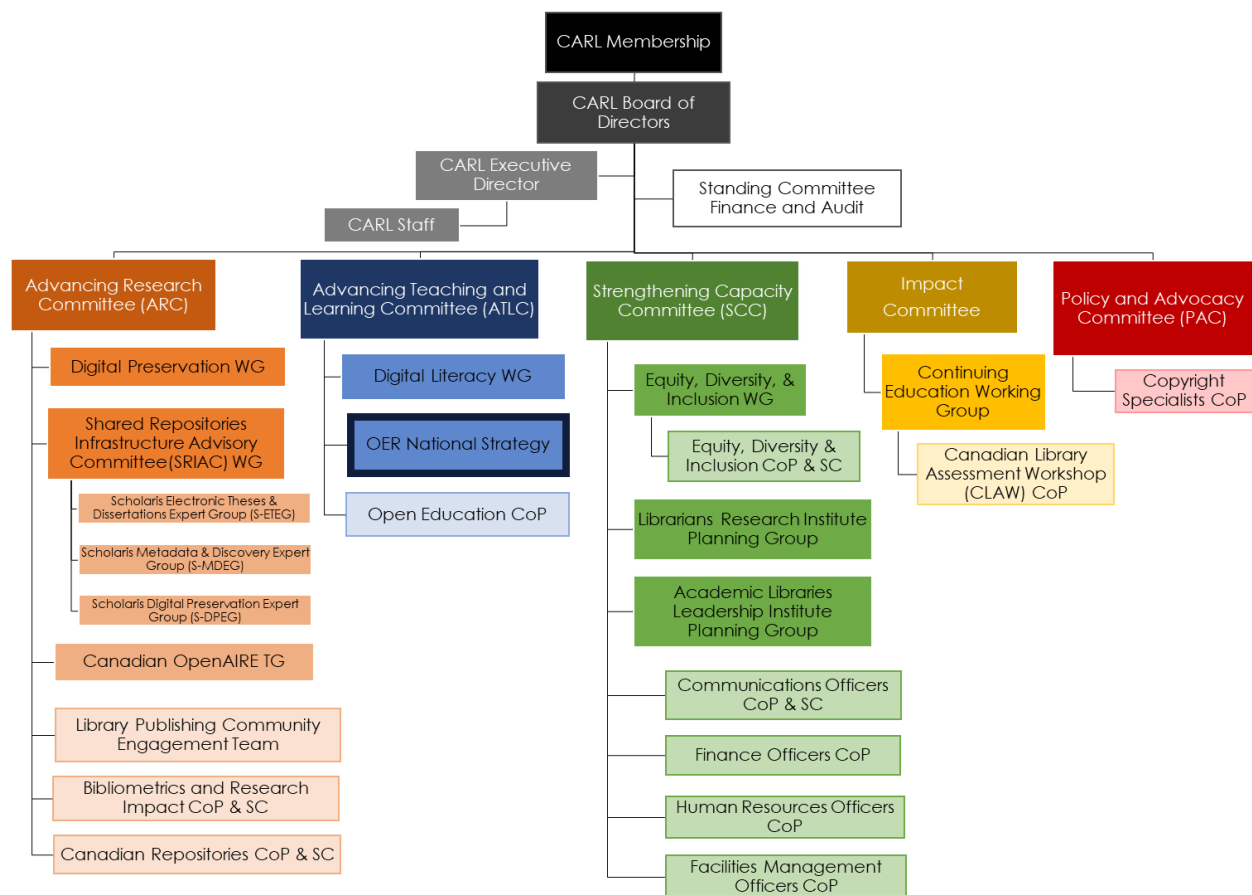
Advancing Teaching and Learning Committee (ATLC)
The AI Task Group revised their resource, Incorporating Generative AI in the Library: Talking Points for CARL Directors, to address sustainability and environmental impact. A webinar for teaching and learning librarians is being planned to share AI training modules for faculty created by Concordia and McGill librarians.

Open Education
The terms of reference for a new Open Education Community of Practice have been drafted and will be issued in conjunction with a call for steering committee members when the newly appointed VPO for Open Education assumes their role.

Administration & Outreach

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

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's Library Assessment Conference (Portland, Oregon), Congrès des professionnel·le·s de l'information (Laval, Quebec), CRKN Member Summit (Ottawa), and the 2024 Charleston Conference (Charleston, SC) . Susan attended an NSERC reception on the Hill, an Alliance invitational reception at the Westin, and was a guest lecturer at U of T iSchool (online) and U Ottawa's ÉSIS (in-person).

CARL Member Transitions

Gohar Ashoughian has been appointed Dean of Libraries and University Librarian at SFU as of November 15.

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;
- *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)
- Janice Kung – VPO, AI and Library Services (November 2024 – November 2025)
- Mark Swartz – VPO, Open Science (November 2024 – November 2025)
- *Rowena Johnson* – VPO, Copyright and Other Public Policy Matters (September 2024 – September 2025)
- *Catherine Lachaîne – VPO, Open Education (January 2025 – January 2026)*
- *Gabriela Mircea* – VPO, Metadata and CARL Collaboration with OpenAIRE (August 2023 - August 2025)

- *Stephanie Savage – VPO, Copyright and Other Public Policy Matters (October 2024 – September 2025)*
- *Victoria Owen* has agreed to continue her voluntary engagement with CARL as *Special Policy Advisor, Accessibility*

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,
November 18, 2024