

# Canadian Library Journal Publishing: A Primer

Academic libraries are the largest journal publishing group in Canada, collectively supporting approximately 800 journals from 35 institutions, representing a range of research disciplines and creative endeavours. This primer is intended to provide a brief introduction to Canadian library publishing and to articulate the role of library publishers in disseminating Canadian scholarship and furthering Open Access.

## Why Does Canadian Library Publishing Matter?

### A Commitment to Non-Commercial Publishing

Library publishers provide journals with a stable platform, independent from commercial publishers. They provide a viable alternative to the Big 5 publishers who are absorbing independent and society journals in pursuit of enormous profit margins.

### No Paywalls

While many commercial journals continue to lock publicly-funded research behind prohibitive subscription fees, library published journals generally use a no-fee or Diamond Open Access model. 85% of library published journals are freely available online, promoting equitable access and aligning with the [Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#).

### No Cost to Authors

Where commercial publishers do provide Open Access, they tend to require that authors pay article processing charges (APCs) for publication - some as high as \$12,290 USD per article - which demand an increasing share of research funds. Library publishers rarely if ever charge APCs for Open Access publication.

## More Canadian Content

Library publishing often focuses on Canadian subjects that are overlooked by major commercial publishers. This model promotes biblio-, epistemic, and linguistic diversity and can give Canadian scholars more appropriate publication venues for their work.

## Diversity of Content

Library-published journals cover all disciplines. Most are in the Humanities and Social Sciences, with coverage as well in Science, Engineering, and Health Sciences. Most publish traditional academic articles, and an increasing number are exploring other forms of knowledge mobilization including video, podcasts, and popular works.

## Supporting Scholars at all Levels

Half of the journals published by Canadian libraries are faculty-led and peer reviewed. Almost 1/3 of library-published journals are student journals, which serve as incubators for the next generation of scholars, researchers, and creators: they provide valuable opportunities for developing expertise in writing, editing, and publication.

## Discovery, Access, and Preservation

Library publishers connect their journals to the larger ecosystem of scholarly communication. They help journals by facilitating indexing by search engines and scholarly databases, and many provide DOI and ORCID iD functionality. They connect journals with preservation services to ensure perpetual access to their content even after they cease publication.

# What Supports Do Library Publishers Offer Journals?

While the specifics may vary, core offerings from library publishing programs include:

Hosting and maintaining journal publishing platforms like Open Journal Systems ([OJS](#))

Providing documentation and training for editors and journal managers

Advising on copyright and licensing issues

Maintaining services that enable and enhance dissemination and discovery of journal contents

Supporting the use of persistent identifiers such as DOIs and ORCID ID

Helping journals with inclusion in indexing and abstracting services

Connecting journals with long-term preservation services

# Who Are Library Publishers' Collaborators?

Library publishers are part of an ecosystem of experts from within and beyond the academic library world. Below are some collaborators and stakeholders:

Érudit and the Public Knowledge Project (PKP), and their joint national infrastructure project, Coalition Publica

National associations such as Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) & Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), and regional library consortia

Professional organizations including the Library Publishing Coalition, Canadian Association of Learned Journals (CALJ), and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

Funding agencies, especially the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Fonds de Recherche du Québec - Société et culture (FRQSC)

Registries of persistent identifiers such as ORCID-CA, Crossref, and DataCite

Indexing and dissemination services such as the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

