



Canadian Association of Research Libraries: An Overview

Background

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) was established in 1976 and consists of 29 major Canadian academic libraries, as well as Library and Archives Canada, the National Research Council of Canada's National Science Library, and the Library of Parliament. Membership is institutional and is open primarily to libraries of Canadian universities which have PhD programs across the arts, social sciences and sciences and for which 15% or more of their institutional revenue comes from sponsored research.

CARL advances the research enterprise, strengthens libraries' collective resource capacity, ensures that the contributions of libraries are both evident and continually evolving, and articulates and advocates for a policy environment that fosters and preserves access to scholarship and knowledge. In pursuing its goals, CARL engages in collaborations within Canada and on an international basis.

CARL is incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization under the Canada Not-for-Profit Act.

Mission

CARL provides leadership on behalf of Canada's research libraries and enhances capacity to advance research and higher education. It promotes effective and sustainable knowledge creation, dissemination, and preservation; and advocates for public policy that enables broad access to scholarly information.

Governance

Board of Directors

CARL is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is comprised of six members holding the following positions: President, Vice-President/President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and one Director representing each of the following Areas: 1) the Atlantic Provinces (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick); 2) Québec; 3) Ontario; 4) the Western Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia). Federal institutions are excluded from board membership.

Members of the Board of Directors are elected by majority vote of all members of the association. Elections take place in early spring of each year and newly appointed Directors assume their positions on the Board at the Annual General Meeting the same year.

Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

The Standing Committee on Finance is comprised of the Treasurer (committee Chair) and two members of the Board, as nominated by the Board of Directors. In addition, the Board appoints



one external member, ideally a senior administrator with a CA designation at a member institution. This Standing Committee oversees the financial responsibilities of the Association and provides guidance and recommendations to the Board of Directors on all financial matters pertaining to the association.

Ad Hoc Committees of the Board

The CARL Board appoints, as necessary, committees and working groups to work on projects and special issues important to the association. They are usually supported by a member of the CARL staff. There are currently no active ad hoc committees.

Strategic Committees

There are currently five standing strategic committees, each mandated to advance the goals of CARL's strategic directions.

- Policy and Advocacy Committee
- Advancing Research Committee
- Strengthening Capacity Committee
- Impact Committee
- Advancing Teaching and Learning Committee

Working Groups

Working groups are typically struck by a strategic committee to address a specific issue or task. Working groups may include participants who are not members of the parent committee but are usually led by a committee member. Please contact us for more information as to currently active working groups.

Communities of Practice

CARL coordinates and supports various communities of practice (CoPs) that bring together professionals from academic libraries across Canada to collaborate, share knowledge, and advance common goals. They provide a platform for members to engage in meaningful discussions, develop best practices, and drive innovation within the library community. CoPs are normally led by a Steering Committee of 4-6 individuals who plan events, workshops, and other forms of community engagement. Please contact us for more information as to currently active communities of practice.