

## CARL Executive Director's Report

Tabled at the CARL Board Meeting, January 28, 2025

The following provides an overview of selected activities undertaken or supported by the CARL Office since the November 18, 2024, report to the Board. All past reports are available on the CARL website's [Publications page](#). Owing to an unusually late Fall General Meeting and early January Board meeting, coupled with the CARL office closure for the holidays, this report is somewhat abridged.

### Policy and Public Affairs

#### Federal Government Activities

Political instability was the tone of the Federal government's affairs throughout the fall session which resulted in little movement in federal legislation. Although the House was largely nonfunctional, it did manage to launch one consultation and pass two Bills at the beginning of the term:

- On November 7th, 2024 two new pieces of relevant legislation received royal assent. Bill C-244: An Act to Amend the Copyright Act (Diagnosis, Maintenance and Repair) and Bill C-294: An Act to amend the Copyright Act (interoperability) create new exceptions that permit the circumvention of a Technological Protection Measure. Bill C-244 creates a new exception allowing for circumvention of TPMs for the purposes of "repair, maintenance and diagnosis."
- Bill C-294 creates a new exception allowing circumvention to make any computerized device interoperable with any other computerized device or system. Currently there are very limited grounds under which it is lawful to bypass or "circumvent" a TPM in Canada and CARL is encouraged to see the government recognize the need to provide legal assurances that it is appropriate to circumvent a TPM in cases where a user's rights may otherwise be unduly constrained. CARL posted a memo about the passing of Bill C-244 on its website.
- The 2024 Federal Budget announced that the Government of Canada will undertake a restructuring of the federal research granting councils within a new Capstone Organization and in September, the Standing Committee on Science and Research (SRSR) launched a study of the mission, mandate, role and structure of this proposed organization. Following up on an earlier letter to the Tri-Agencies Presidents, CARL [submitted a brief](#) to the SRSR in November 2024.

Government departments and agencies also made several announcements through the fall:

- In November, the Tri-Agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR) announced the transition to a new Narrative-style CV for award competitions. The new CV will prioritize written descriptions of an applicant's research contributions, allowing users to highlight a wide range of research outputs and to describe their career trajectories in more detail.

This format values societal research outcomes, such as influence on policy or mentorship, alongside more traditional research outputs like publications.

- On December 5, the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, officially launched the Canadian Sovereign AI Compute Strategy, an investment of up to \$2 billion to advance AI in Canada by investing up to \$700 million to support private sector investment; \$1 billion to build public supercomputing infrastructure which will include expanding existing public AI compute capacity managed by the AI Institutes, NRC and the Digital Research Alliance of Canada; and, increasing access for Canadian innovators by providing up to \$300 million to help SMEs in key sectors access affordable compute power.
- On December 16th, the Eve of the House rising for the holiday break, the Federal Government tabled the Fall Economic Statement in an unprecedented way. That morning, Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance publicly resigned from the position hours before the tabling of the report; therefore, the report was deposited to the House of Commons without discussion.

### Other Activities

In January, CARL became a signatory to the [A2K coalition letter](#). The messaging remains the same as in previous letters: to set a plan to move forward with the limitations and exceptions work plan for LAMs and to revise the broadcast treaty to ensure that rights assignment is limited to the creator and not expanded to service providers and broadcasting organizations. New in this letter were recommendations to drop discussions on public lending rights and theatre director rights (as it appears there will never be consensus on these two matters) and to expand work on copyright to move it into the digital age, including taking AI into consideration.

On December 16th, CARL submitted comments to Canadian Heritage's survey on the Impacts of Artificial Intelligence in the Cultural Sector. CARL presented the research libraries perspective on their questions: what knowledge and skills creators need to effectively integrate AI into their work; the main challenges or barriers our industry faces in adopting AI technologies, and how obstacles could be overcome; what training or resources would help organizations, artists and creators better understand and utilize AI technologies to enhance creativity, efficiency, or outreach; opportunities that AI can create for the sector, particularly in terms of enhancing creativity, improving operational efficiency, or expanding audience engagement and revenue streams; what specific solutions and tools are necessary to ensure that cultural content is used in a fair and responsible manner when training AI; and reiterating that any regulation of AI does not negatively impact the public's right and ability to access information, knowledge, and culture is essential and must be balanced with ethical and responsible use of AI.

On October 31, CARL endorsed the Coalition for Canadian Heritage (CCDH) Principles for Inclusive and Accessible Digital Heritage. The principles reflect the importance of collaboration, inclusivity, access, impact and stewardship in advancing equitable and barrier-free access to Canadian digital heritage. CARL is a committed champion of open and equitable access and the principles align with CARL's work in this area.

## Management, Advancement and Assessment of Research Libraries

### CARL Research in Librarianship Grant

The call for the 2025 cycle of the grant will open in April.

### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

Led by Selinda Berg (Windsor, Chair of the EDI Working Group), Mark Asberg (Queen's, Chair of SCC), and Julie Morin, member directors participated in an EDI visioning exercise during the CARL Fall General Meeting. The session included table discussions on priorities for action in our sector, CARL's role in each of these priorities, and what related CARL structures and processes should be created/sustained/strengthened. Feedback from this session will inform the work of the EDIWG moving forward.

### Librarians' Research Institute (LRI)

The Call for Peer Mentors for the 2025 LRI (to be hosted at UNB in June 2025) closed on December 15. Expressions of Interest are currently under review and the Peer Mentor team will be announced shortly.

### 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 opened on December 11.

In collaboration with uLaval, a French-language ESI Canada is also being planned for the fall of 2025, and the call for instructors closed on January 13.

### Communications Officers Community of Practice ["CommUNITY"]

In November, the Communications CoP hosted their first "Communi-tea Time" roundtable event, encouraging members to share recent professional highs and lows as they reflect on successes and challenges in library communications. On January 23, a successful community call led by Ann Liang, Steering Committee member and business librarian at the University of Saskatchewan, explored the potential of AI in library marketing, from content creation to audience engagement, while addressing the ethical challenges of transparency, misinformation, copyright, and bias, with 53 attendees. The Steering Committee will also be recruiting new members, owing to the departure of Chloe Riley (SFU), who accepted a new position within her institution.

### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Community of Practice

The CARL Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Community of Practice held its first gathering on November 14 which focused on building connections, setting inclusive ground rules, and planning future discussion topics, with the aim of creating a supportive environment that will sustain meaningful EDI engagement within CARL. The Steering Committee welcomed four new individuals at its January meeting, who volunteered their time to provide guidance to the CoP: Andrea Miller-Nesbitt (McGill), Laura Banfield (McMaster), Naz Torabi (UofT), Virginia

Pow (University of Alberta). The group has already planned their upcoming gatherings, which will be held on February 5, April 23, and June 25.

#### **Finance Officers Community of Practice**

The Finance Officers Community of Practice Planning Group, which includes Magalie Beaudoin from uMontreal and Brandon Nelson from uCalgary, met for the first time in November to introduce themselves, discuss goals and objectives, and plan future meetings and events. A listserv was set up for the CoP, which will begin its activities in 2025.

#### **CARL Continuing Education Working Group**

CARL's reconstituted Continuing Education Working Group, Chaired by Shahira Khair (UVic) began meeting regularly in September. They have issued a call for CLAW Program Committee members which closed on December 12, and are in the process of launching a Canadian Assessment Community of Practice.

#### **CARL Statistics Program**

The newly launched CARL Statistics Working Group had its first meeting on January 14. They have been tasked with reviewing the existing questionnaire to make the completion process more efficient and timely and further refining survey definitions to provide clarity and consistency for the data being collected.

The 2019-20 publication was posted on January 15. However, due to an issue with many of the salary data submissions, the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 has been delayed. The 2023-24 collection cycle closed on November 29, and these latest submissions will be reviewed shortly.

## **Support to Research Production, Preservation and Dissemination**

#### **Open Access - Shared Repositories Infrastructure**

CARL continues to provide support to Scholaris, the National Shared Repository Infrastructure Service, namely through the Network of Experts groups. These groups, comprised of the Metadata and Discovery Expert Group (S-MDEG), Electronic Theses and Dissertations Expert Group (S-ETEG), and Digital Preservation Expert Group (S-DPEG) are led by Gabriela Mircea, CARL VPO for Metadata Strategies and Scholaris. S-MDEG and S-ETEG delivered first versions of recommendations to the broader repository community for feedback with a deadline of Dec 19, 2024. Both groups are now reviewing feedback on the draft recommendations. S-ETEG received 40 responses to its ETD Needs Assessment Survey. Feedback will inform the completion of outstanding deliverables. S-DPEG is finalizing the risk management matrix for the service and preparing recommendations for preservation support scenarios within the service model. The group will distribute a Digital Preservation Needs Assessment survey in early spring to understand preservation needs and current practices within Canadian institutional repositories.

In December and January, Scholaris instances for University of Toronto, Cape Breton University, St. Francis Xavier University, and Mount Allison University went live for a total of six "live" institutions and a total of 19 institutions participating in the Early Adopter Program. The Scholaris service level agreement (SLA) was approved by UofT central administration and regional consortia directors.

## **Preservation**

The digital preservation summit, @Risk North 3, took place at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in Gatineau, Québec on November 21 – 22. The Digital Preservation Working Group (DPWG), chaired by Geoff Harder, organized the summit, which included a day and a half of programming before culminating in a tour of LAC's Gatineau Preservation Centre (GPC). 120 registrants took part in the summit with panel presentations, discussion sessions, lightning talks, and a keynote delivered by William Killbride of the Digital Preservation Coalition.

## **Bibliometrics and Research Impact Community of Practice (BRI CoP)**

The Bibliometrics and Research Impact Community of Practice (BRI CoP) organized a second series of Lightning Talks in December, featuring presentations from Debbie Chaves (Wilfrid Laurier University), Marisa Ruccolo (Clarivate), and Roger Reka & Miyang Roh (University of Windsor). This quick paced event attracted 62 attendees and was a chance to hear from and chat with colleagues about a broad range of topics related to Bibliometrics and Research Impact. The BRI CoP Steering Committee welcomed four new members to replace outgoing members. These were Jack Young (McMaster), Heather Ganshorn (Calgary), Julie Morris (UNB), and Robert Chen (UHC). The newly appointed members participated in their first steering committee meeting in January, contributing fresh perspectives and ideas.

## **Canadian Repositories Community of Practice**

In November, the Canadian Repositories Community of Practice hosted a call on *Going to the Source: Contributing to a Healthy Open Infrastructure via Free and Open-Source Software Projects*. Presenters included Pierre Lasou (Université Laval), Erica M. Johns (Cornell) and Colin B. Lukens (Harvard), Mark Jordan (SFU), and Kimberly Chapman (University of Arizona). 45 CoP members were in attendance. The CoP also launched a Repository Knowledge Mentorship Program with the goal of connecting experienced individuals working in repositories to newcomers in the field. The Steering Committee will also be undergoing recruitment for new members (to replace outgoing members) in the coming months.

## **Library Publishing Community Engagement Team**

The co-chairs of the Library Publishing Community Engagement Team (LPCET), Sonya Betz (Alberta) and Mark Swartz (Queen's), gave a short presentation to ARC on the group's activities and advocacy over its first year of existence. They shared with the committee the recently released *Library Publishing in Canada: A Primer*, a document designed to provide quick and current information about library publishing activities. The LPCET community call, Flipping to Diamond OA, took place on December 17th, and featured presentations by Patricia A. Zrelak (Managing Editor, International Journal of Critical Care), Sherry Fox, (Executive Director, Canadian Sociological Association / Société canadienne de sociologie), Sharla Lair (Senior Strategist, Open Access & Scholarly Communication Initiatives, Lyrasis) and Jeanette Hatherill (Senior Coordinator for Coalition Publica), and attracted over 50 attendees.

## **Open Science/Open Access Policy and Infrastructure Support**

Susan was invited to join an informal group of experts from the Canadian research and scholarly publishing communities to provide feedback on the final stages of the revised Tri-agency Open Access Policy on Publications (OA Policy).

CARL struck an ad hoc working group to develop and cost a repository deposit scenario (green OA) as an input to the tri-agency policy deliberations. Two meetings were held with the tri-agency teams; a detailed report on this was sent to members by email on December 20th. Currently a few institutions' repository managers are helping to clarify workflows and processing times for adding articles to repositories, to help refine resource estimates..

On January 15th, Susan and Elizabeth participated in a meeting hosted by CRKN on open access journal publishing, attended by key stakeholders in this space including CALJ, CSP, Érudit, UTP, and the CARL LPCET to discuss opportunities and challenges in the research ecosystem.

### **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)**

A webinar organized for teaching and learning staff, 'There is No (A)I in Team': Creating and Sharing Teaching & Learning Resources for AI Skills Development, was held on December 10th. The webinar introduced a set of open license modules about AI for faculty that were created by Diane Cmor and Megan Fitzgibbons (Concordia Libraries) in collaboration with Katherine Hanz and Sandy Hervieux (McGill Libraries). Nearly 200 people registered for this webinar.

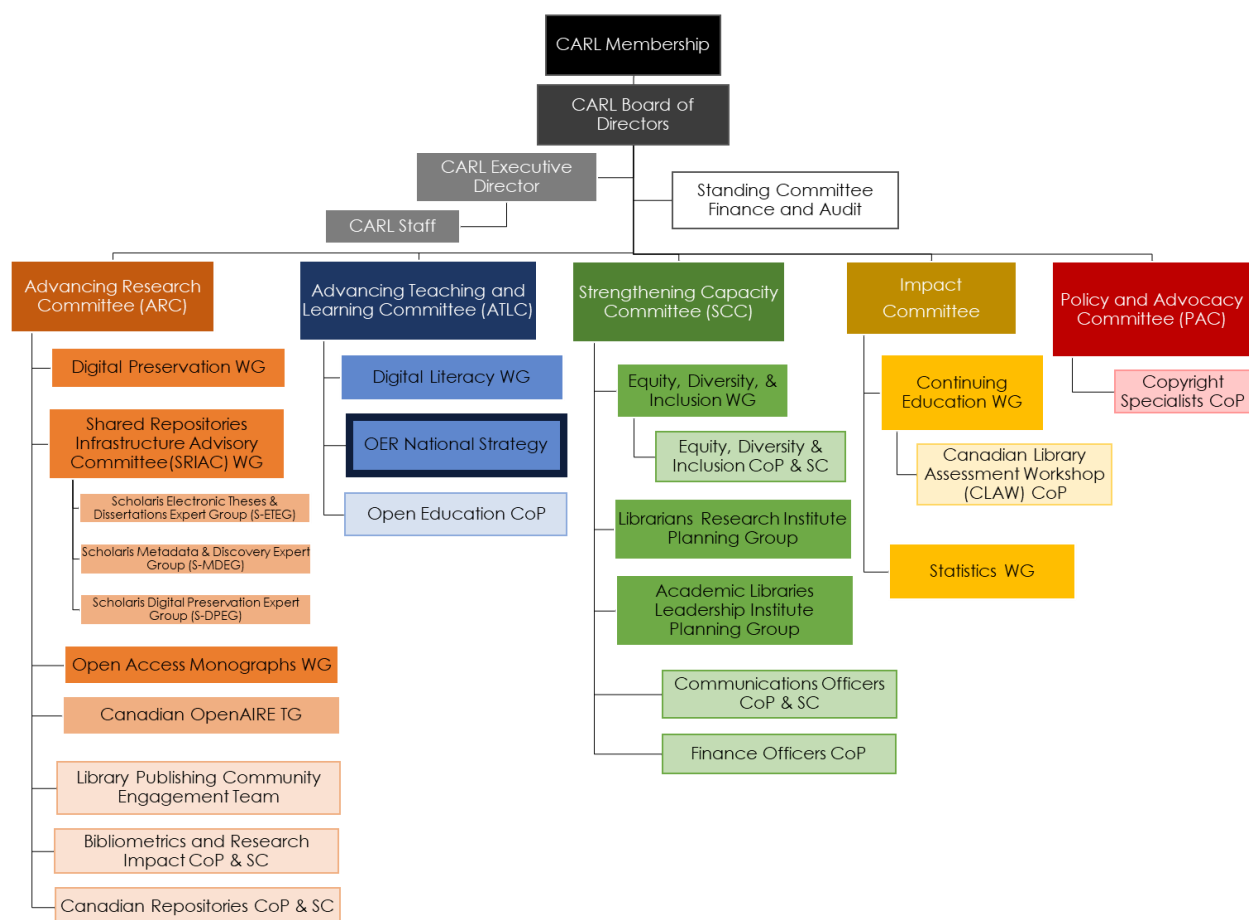
ATLC welcomed three new members in January 2025: Gohar Ashoughian (Simon Fraser) and Lionel Villalonga (Université du Québec à Montréal), and Megan Fitzgibbons (Concordia) who will assume the place of Diane Cmor while Diane is on leave.

### **Open Education**

Upon beginning her term as VPO for Open Education, Catherine Lachaine joined planning for a new Open Education Community of Practice, as well as the revisiting of the Open Educational Resources (OER) National Strategy group.

## **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: LAC Stakeholders Forum, SPARC Member meeting, CNI Fall Membership Meeting, IARLA, CRKN's meeting on Open Access for Canadian Journals, IFLA January Townhall.

## CARL Member Transitions

There were no transitions during the reporting period.

## Staff

The CARL team held an in-person staff retreat December 12 & 13 at the CARL office, where they discussed the website redesign, social media presence for CARL, assessing CoPs, strategic focus, and committee structure, among other things.

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 Lachaine – 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 – 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,  
January 28, 2025