

# Advancing Open Science: CARL Pillars for Action and Engagement (2026 – 2027)

## Position Statement

Collaborating to expand open science in Canada and advancing national shared infrastructure and services, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) affirms its commitment to building a national open science environment where Canada's research outputs are widely accessible, responsibly managed, and securely preserved for the long term. By advancing open practices and tracking progress, CARL contributes to a resilient research ecosystem—one that supports ethical access to information, accelerates discovery, and reflects diverse perspectives, including those of Indigenous peoples.

CARL drives openness by supporting coherent policy development and, through strong collections stewardship and professional expertise, ensures consistent, sustainable implementation aligned with international standards. Working with member institutions, policy makers, and partners across Canada and abroad, CARL develops robust, interoperable infrastructure and informed practices, and in so doing strengthens the professional capacity needed for Canada to demonstrate global leadership in open science.

Through collaborative efforts—and by championing investments and approaches that broaden access and amplify the impact of Canadian research—CARL empowers research institutions and the funders to shape a research future where openness is pursued with expertise, rigour, and a commitment to the public good.

## Pillars of Ongoing Engagement

*The 2023 joint action plan with the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), [Towards Open Scholarship: A Canadian Research and Academic Library Action Plan to 2025](#), laid out a shared vision for the research library community. With that three year term now complete, and a new collaborative plan not yet in place, CARL articulates its own continued engagement with open science in the following ways.*

## Pillar 1: Policy Coordination & National Alignment

- Champion the expansion of Diamond Open Access by engaging policy makers towards Diamond Open Access models and their ongoing financial sustainability;
- Coordinate stakeholders and engage policy makers to ensure the interests of Canadian research institutions, researchers and the public are reflected in open science policy; focusing initially on: (1) Organizing a national steering committee to oversee library compliance with the Tri-Agency OA Policy; and (2) Convening a working group to design repository compliance models and workflows for the Tri-Agency OA Policy;
- Ensure research libraries are supported and represented within Canada's national RDM Strategy, through coordination with the Data Research Alliance of Canada (Alliance) and representation on expert groups and the Program Activity Advisory Table (PAAT).

## Pillar 2: Support Researcher Activity & Open Access Publishing

- Facilitate researcher adoption of the forthcoming Tri-Agency Open Access Policy for Publications;
- Actively participate in the governance of Scholaris to support a national repository network and support Scholaris expert groups to develop community-driven resources and training;
- Promote Diamond Open Access publishing options for researchers by supporting non-commercial publishing coalitions (such as Coalition Publica) and library-led platforms and services, and by strengthening library publishing programs through collaboration with the CARL Library Publishing Community Engagement Team and the provision of in-kind support to facilitate, administer and amplify their work;
- Accelerate the growth of scholarly books published in open access through advocacy with Canadian university presses and through initiatives that expand funding, capacity, and participation, including direct library support.

## Pillar 3: Community Partnerships & Capacity Building

- Encourage repository managers to share best practices and develop a strong community by providing in-kind support to the Canadian Repositories Community of Practice to facilitate, administer and amplify their work;
- Advance responsible research assessment and alignment with DORA and CoARA by providing in-kind support to the Bibliometrics and Research Impact Community of Practice to facilitate, administer and amplify their work;

- Strengthen open educational resources through the Open Education Community of Practice, coordination with regional organizations (e.g. BC Campus, eCourses Manitoba, eCampus Ontario, Atlantic OER, La Fabrique REL) and international collaboration with SPARC.