

How Librarians Can Help

Support OA Within Librarianship

- **Stay informed.** There are a number of great forums on the Internet that discuss current issues and developments in OA in Canada and around the world. These include *The OA Librarian* blog and Peter Suber's *Open Access News* blog.

- **Publish in OA Journals that support library and information science.** Examples include *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Science Practice and Research*, *MLA Forum* and *First Monday*.

- **At academic libraries, make a case for your library to create and help maintain an institutional repository (IR).** This is a place where a university's scholarly output can be archived and gain greater recognition.

- **Help establish a mandatory OA policy at your institution.** This raises awareness and helps ensure scholarly output finds its way into OA venues (e.g., IRs).

- **Consider cancelling proprietary journals that cannot justify their high costs.**

- **Negotiate with vendors for full access to journals and databases for walk-in users.** This supports librarians' overall commitment to information sharing and inclusivity.



Promote OA to Researchers and Students

- **Celebrate Open Access Week (Oct. 18-24, 2010).** Set up information booths, host guest speakers and provide info about OA on your library's Web site.

- **Help to set up and host OA Journals.** To facilitate this, consider using Open Journal Systems, an open source journal management and publishing system developed here in Canada.

- **Discuss OA resources in instruction sessions and at the reference desk.**

- **Foster Student Engagement.** Tell students about OA initiatives that encourage their support, including *The Right to Research Coalition*, *Free Culture* and *Open Students*.

- **Create OA Research Guides.** Explain what OA is, why it's important and where to find it. Also include OA resources in subject guides.

- **Create OA FAQs for Authors.** Include information about things like copyright (see SHERPA/RoMEO) and different methods of publishing OA content (e.g., self-archiving and OA journals).

- **Help users deposit their research into IRs.**

- **Include relevant OA resources in library catalogues.** To find thousands of OA journals for inclusion, search the *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)*.

Open Access Week and Beyond



"An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good."

- Budapest Open Access Initiative



Information and Resources
for Librarians

What is Open Access (OA)?

“Open Access is free, unrestricted access to high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarship over the Internet.”

- SPARC (Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition)

Advantages of OA

Open Access offers a number of advantages:

- toll-free access to scientific and scholarly information
- increased visibility and higher citation rates for publications
- good findability via search engines and reference services
- participation in all the benefits of digital publications (e.g. no space limitations, incorporation of other materials)
- internationalization of science and scholarship
- greater research efficiency through early discussion of research results
- availability of research results to application-oriented target groups and the general public

(from Open-Access.net Flyer on OA)

OA Support in Canada

- 21 consortium libraries in Canada have been working to create Synergies, a digital publishing service providing online access to research in the social sciences and humanities.

- In November of 2009 the University of Calgary's Student Union passed a resolution to support OA.

- A 2009 survey of 29 Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) member libraries reported 23 had functioning institutional repositories, while three more planned on implementing one in the near future.

- On May 28, 2008, the Canadian Library Association (CLA) Executive Council officially accepted a position statement asking that all libraries in Canada support OA.

- In September of 2007 the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) introduced a policy requesting that researchers make every effort to publish their funded research in OA venues. Funding agencies SSHRC and NSERC have been exploring similar initiatives.

- Some of the leading advocates of OA have Canadian roots, including John Willinsky, Stevan Harnad and Heather Morrison.

Links and References

Budapest Open Access Initiative
<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/index.shtml>
CARL Summary of Survey Results: May 2009
http://www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/institutional_repositories/pdf/survey_results_2009-e.pdf
CIHR Policy on Access to Research Outputs
<http://www.cihr.ca/e/34846.html>
CLA Position Statements
http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Position_Statements
Directory of Open Access Journals
<http://www.doaj.org>
First Monday
<http://firstmonday.org>
Free Culture
www.freeculture.org
Open-Access.net
http://open-access.net/de_en
MLA Forum
<http://www.mlaforum.org>
OA Librarian Blog
<http://oalibrarian.blogspot.com/>
Open Access News Blog
<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html>
Open Access Week
www.openaccessweek.org
Open Journal Systems
<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs>
Open Students
www.openstudents.org
Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Science Practice and Research
<http://www.criticalimprov.com/index.php/perj>
SHERPA/RoMEO Listing:
<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php>
Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition:
<http://www.arl.org/sparc>
Synergies Canada
<http://www.synergiescanada.org/>



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<http://robynhall.ca/openaccess>

