The Canadian Roadmap for Advancing Scholarly Communications

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This presentation will describe the context and rationale for the Canadian Association of Research Libraries’ Scholarly Communications Roadmap, and then provide updates on key components of the Roadmap, including the Portage Network, which is addressing research data management capacity, and the Canadian Scholarly Publishing Working Group, which is focused on Canadian publishing infrastructure and includes publishers, libraries, funders, and other stakeholders.

In 2016, CARL issued a white paper, Canadian Universities and Sustainable Publishing (CUSP), with the aim of initiating conversations with key stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities in the current scholarly publishing landscape. The interest expressed by senior university administrators was encouraging and suggested that a roadmap with clear markers for stimulating positive change in scholarly communications would be helpful. The roadmap, developed under CARL’s Advancing Research strategic direction, outlines a multi-pronged strategy to address some of the major barriers to change.

Canadian research libraries envision an open, sustainable, effective and innovative scholarly communication system that is governed and managed by the scholarly community, and that reflects a substantial role for libraries. Implicit to the activities outlined in the roadmap is the premise that by acting nationally and collaborating internationally, Canada and CARL can be a force for change through:

• Collaborating with other stakeholders in Canada;
• Identifying, supporting and promoting ideas with other regions;
• Working to change cultures and local practices;
• Launching pilot projects that will be designed to expand beyond our borders.

The aim is to identify and position activities in the context of a cohesive rationale and strategy for change, guiding the planning of specific activities for CARL and its members. In many cases, these activities will intersect with other local, regional and international efforts and CARL is committed to working with other organizations and stakeholders to achieve our objectives.