



**Canadian Association
of Research Libraries**

**Association des bibliothèques
de recherche du Canada**

Response to Open Access policy for the Awards to Scholarly Publications Program - Draft Policy Position

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) commends the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences for taking this important step in supporting an open access mandate for its Awards to Scholarly Publications Program (ASPP), and facilitating access to Canadian funded research and scholarship. CARL supports this policy because of the number of benefits it brings to the research enterprise and to society. It is important that the Federation has considered the implications of its awards program policy in the context of the current Canadian scholarly publishing market to facilitate the sustainability of Canadian presses while providing greater access to ASPP-funded books.

In general, CARL supports the policy for the following reasons:

- The policy clearly outlines the rationale for developing an open access policy for the ASPP thereby ensuring that the published outputs of our funded research are made freely available.
- The policy follows a growing worldwide trend to implement open access for monographs publications supported by public funding.
- The policy includes a 12 month embargo that echoes the language of the Tri-Council Open Access draft policy.
- The policy includes a financial incentive for early adopters. This is to be commended as open access monograph publishing is a new endeavour.
- The policy includes a financial incentive that is extended to make backlist titles available open access retroactively. This will provide improved access to historical or older collections.
- The policy encourages publishers to provide flexible publishing models. Retaining exclusive rights to develop and market secondary products, such as print-on-demand hard copies, etc. will help publishers reduce costs for providing open access versions of books.

We recommend strengthening the policy in the following ways:

- Require that Creative Commons licensing be a part of the policy. Using CC licensing will help ensure clarity and reliability regarding authors' rights and content reuse.
- Make metrics widely available to all researchers. The metrics should include views, downloads and sales statistics. This data will be valuable in the evaluation of researchers during the tenure and promotion cycles.
- Require that the policy take effect as soon as the manuscript has been approved for publication. Although the 12-month embargo is a move in the right direction for monograph

publications, this change will prompt quicker turnaround times towards final publication of the work.

- Require that the author(s) be responsible for depositing prospective publications (full-text monograph or book chapter file(s)) in an institutional or discipline-specific repository as soon as the manuscript has been accepted.
- Extend the open access policy to other outputs, (e.g. textbooks). This approach will be aligned with several provincial government initiatives (e.g. British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan) towards the creation of open textbooks.
- Implement the policy over a trial period, thereby giving the Federation time to assess the policy for improvement, to monitor the continuing evolution in scholarly publishing models (e.g. Open Library of the Humanities) and to allow Canada's scholarly presses to continue focusing on ways to become more efficient and innovative.

CARL looks forward to working with the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, member researchers in Canada to make their research freely available to the public at large.

About CARL:

The **Canadian Association of Research Libraries** (CARL) is the leadership organization for Canada's research library community. The Association's members include 29 major university libraries from across the country. Our mission is to enhance the capacity of Canada's research libraries to partner in research and higher education, seeking effective and sustainable scholarly communication and public policy encouraging of research and broad access to scholarly information.

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