

Strengthening Canadian Library Publishing Community Connections



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Today's Canadian Tour

01

Canadian scholarly publishing and libraries - what's going on up here?

03

How are we building a national community of LP Practitioners?



02

How are different groups coming together to support non-commercial scholarly journals?

04

What plans are afoot for the future?

01 Scholarly Publishing *in Canada*



About scholarly publishing in Canada

There are very few commercial journal publishers operating in Canada

Larivière, V., Beth, S., van Bellen, S., Delmas, E. & Paquin, É. (2021). Canadian scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences: A quantitative and qualitative portrait. Consortium Érudit.

https://www.erudit.org/public/documents/Canadian_scholarlyjournals_HSS_2021.pdf

- Identified 825 actively publishing journals in Canada in 2019
- Findings demonstrate a near absence of commercial publishers, counter to global trends.
- Most publishing organizations in Canada are very small, with only a few journals.

Table 4: Canadian journal-publishing organizations in HSS and STM (2019)

Rank	Humanities and social sciences (HSS)			Science, technology and medicine (STM)		
1	University of Toronto Press	29	4.7%	Canadian Science Publishing	22	10.3%
2	University of Alberta	21	3.4%	JMIR Publications	10	4.7%
3	University of Toronto	20	3.3%	Avestia Publishing	8	3.7%
4	Université Laval	14	2.3%	Canadian Medical Association	5	2.3%
5	McGill University	12	2.0%	Canadian Mathematical Society	3	1.4%
6	University of Ottawa	12	2.0%	Agricultural Institute of Canada	2	0.9%
7	Université de Montréal	11	1.8%	British Columbia Medical Association	2	0.9%
8	University of Victoria	10	1.6%	Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute	2	0.9%
9	Dalhousie University	9	1.5%	Canadian Geriatrics Society	2	0.9%
10	Presses de l'Université de Montréal	8	1.3%	Canadian Veterinary Medical Association	2	0.9%

Table 5: Organizations and/or method of dissemination of Canadian journals in HSS and STM (2019)

Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)			Science, Technology and Medicine (STM)		
Open Journal Systems	150	24.5%	Journal website	80	37.4%
Érudit	135	22.1%	Open Journal Systems	35	16.4%
Journal website	103	16.9%	Canadian Science Publishing	25	11.7%
Association website	51	8.3%	Association website	23	10.7%
University of Toronto Press	31	5.1%	No online disseminator	10	4.7%
No online disseminator	26	4.3%	Érudit	10	4.7%
ProQuest	14	2.3%	SAGE	6	2.8%
Taylor and Francis	14	2.3%	Elsevier	3	1.4%
Wiley	8	1.3%	Taylor and Francis	3	1.4%
Cambridge University Press	7	1.1%	Springer	2	0.9%

About scholarly publishing in Canada

The main players are scholarly associations, libraries, non-profit publishers and universities

Lange, J., & Severson, S. (2021). What are the characteristics of Canadian independent, scholarly journals? Results from a website analysis. *The Journal of Electronic Publishing*, 24(1). <https://doi.org/10.3998/jep.153>

- Identified 485 independent scholarly journals in Canada
- Found the primary affiliations of non-commercial/ non-profit scholarly journals were associations, Libraries, non-profit publishers and universities

About scholarly publishing in Canada

Journal publishing in Canada looks a lot like Diamond OA journal publishing elsewhere

Bosman, J., Frantsovåg, J. E., Kramer, B., Langlais, P.-C., & Proudman, V. (2021). OA Diamond Journals Study. Part 1: Findings. Zenodo.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4558704>

- An “archipelago” of small journals serving diverse communities
- An economy that relies on volunteers, universities (in Canada, libraries!) and government

Libraries are supporting a significant percentage of Canada's journals



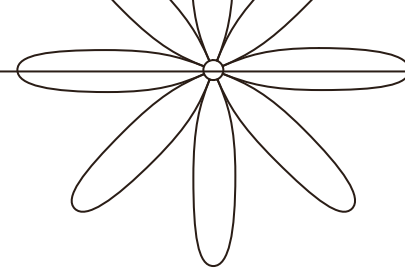
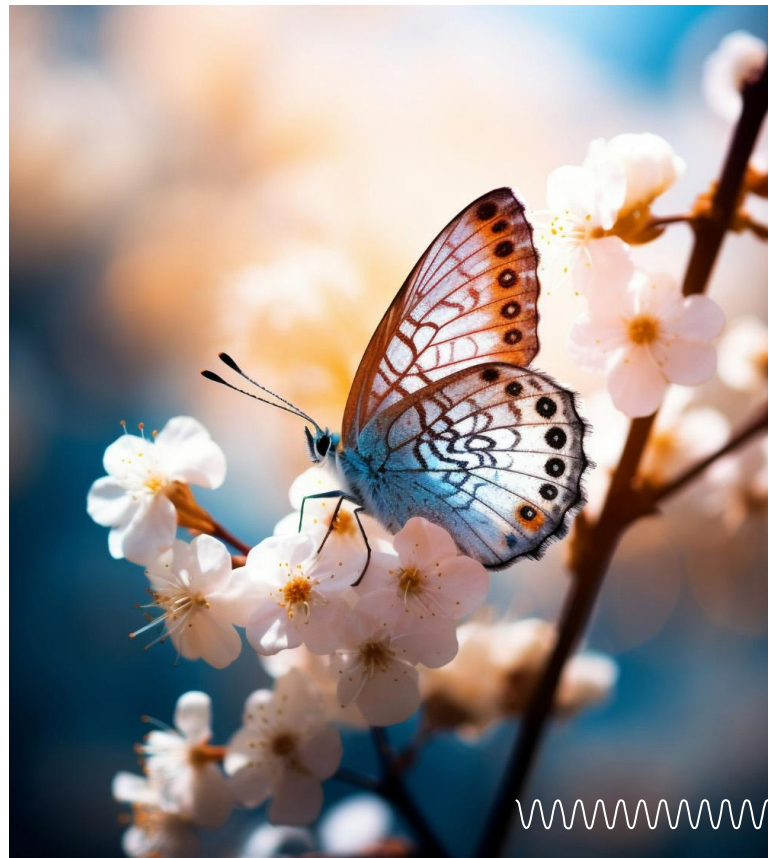
Library publishing and hosting in Canada

Betz, S., Nason, M. & Uhl, E. (2023). Library publishing and hosting in Canada - Institutional responses to a 2022 questionnaire. Dataset.

<https://doi.org/10.5683/SP3/SDFZUO>

Questions:

- Which institutions are participating in library publishing in Canada?
- What is the scope of their publishing programs?
 - Size and complexity of program
 - Number and type of journals published
 - Description of services provided
 - Staffing and resources allocated
 - Infrastructure used and description
 - Partner organizations



Library publishers in Canada

- There are at least **42 institutions** doing this work across the country (35 responded to our questionnaire)
- The most mature have been in operation since 2000
- Currently publish at nearly 800 journals (mostly diamond OA)

Types of journals (n=792)

Other

3.8%

Inactive or ceased

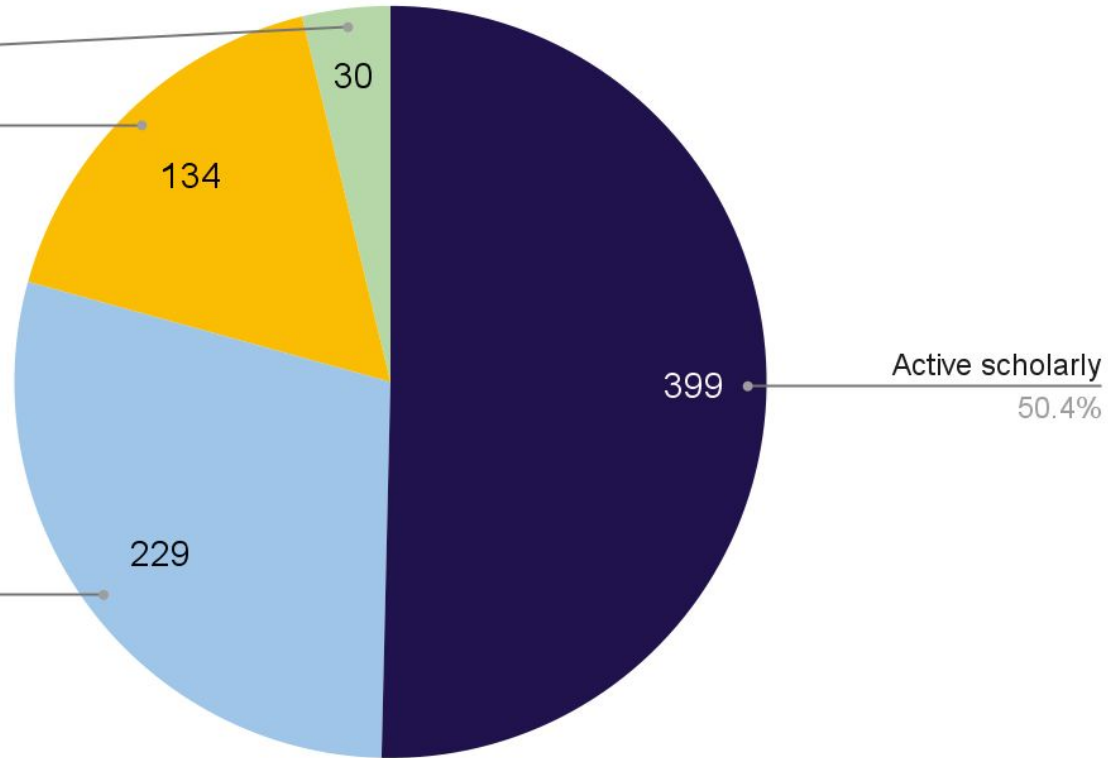
16.9%

Active student journals

28.9%

Active scholarly

50.4%



Access model for active scholarly journals (n=399)

Delayed OA

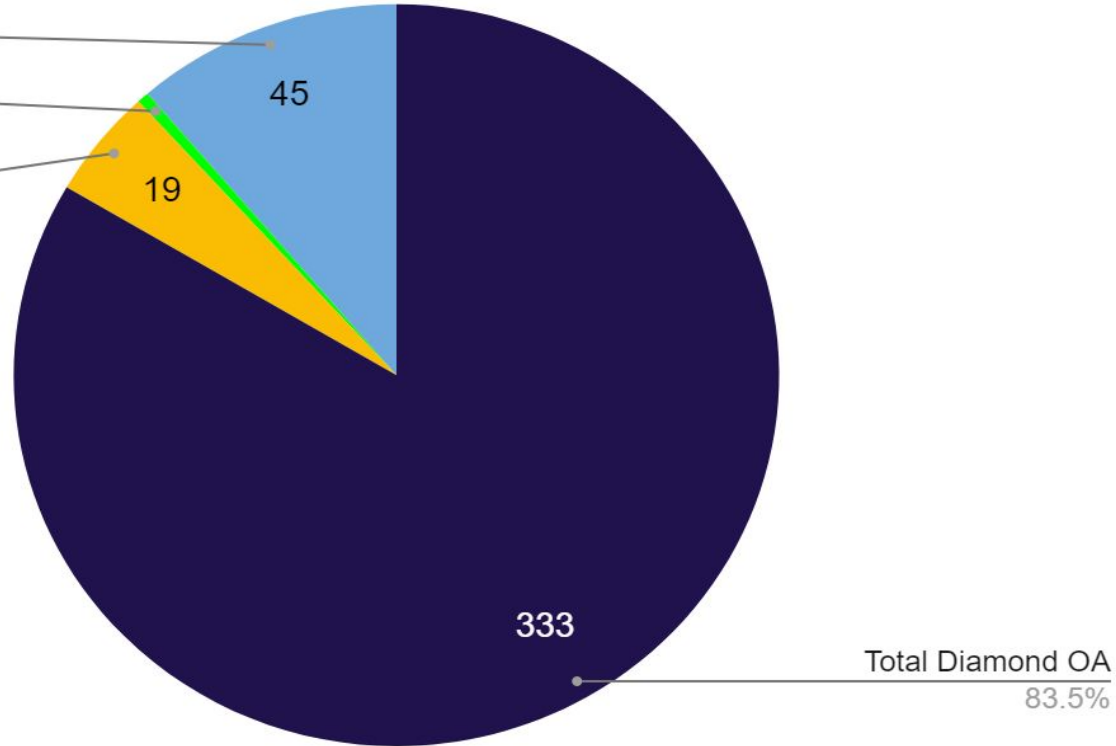
11.3%

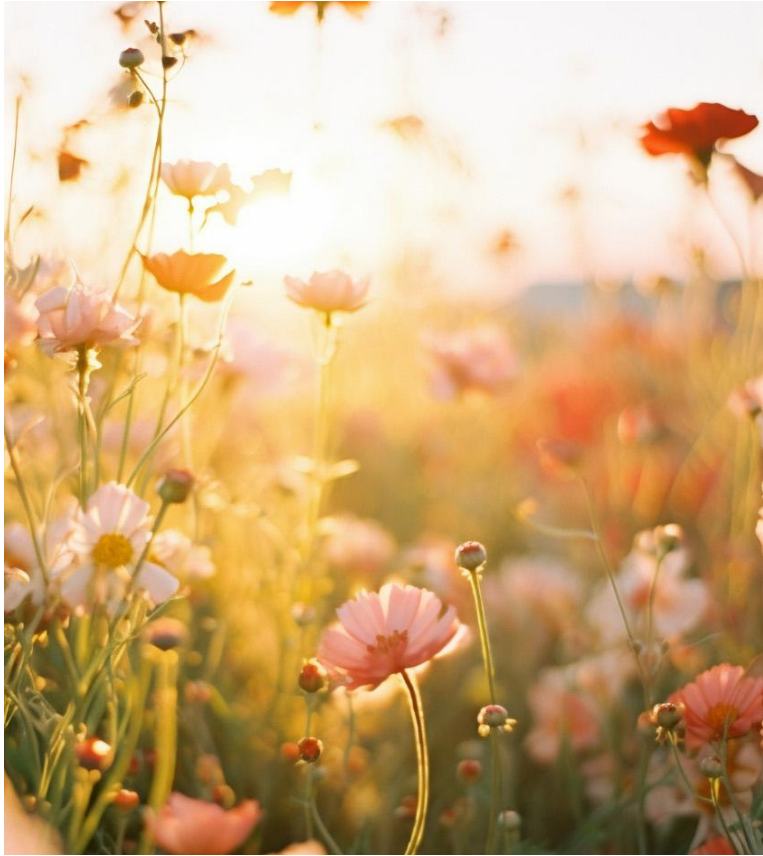
Total Hybrid

0.5%

Total Subscription

4.8%



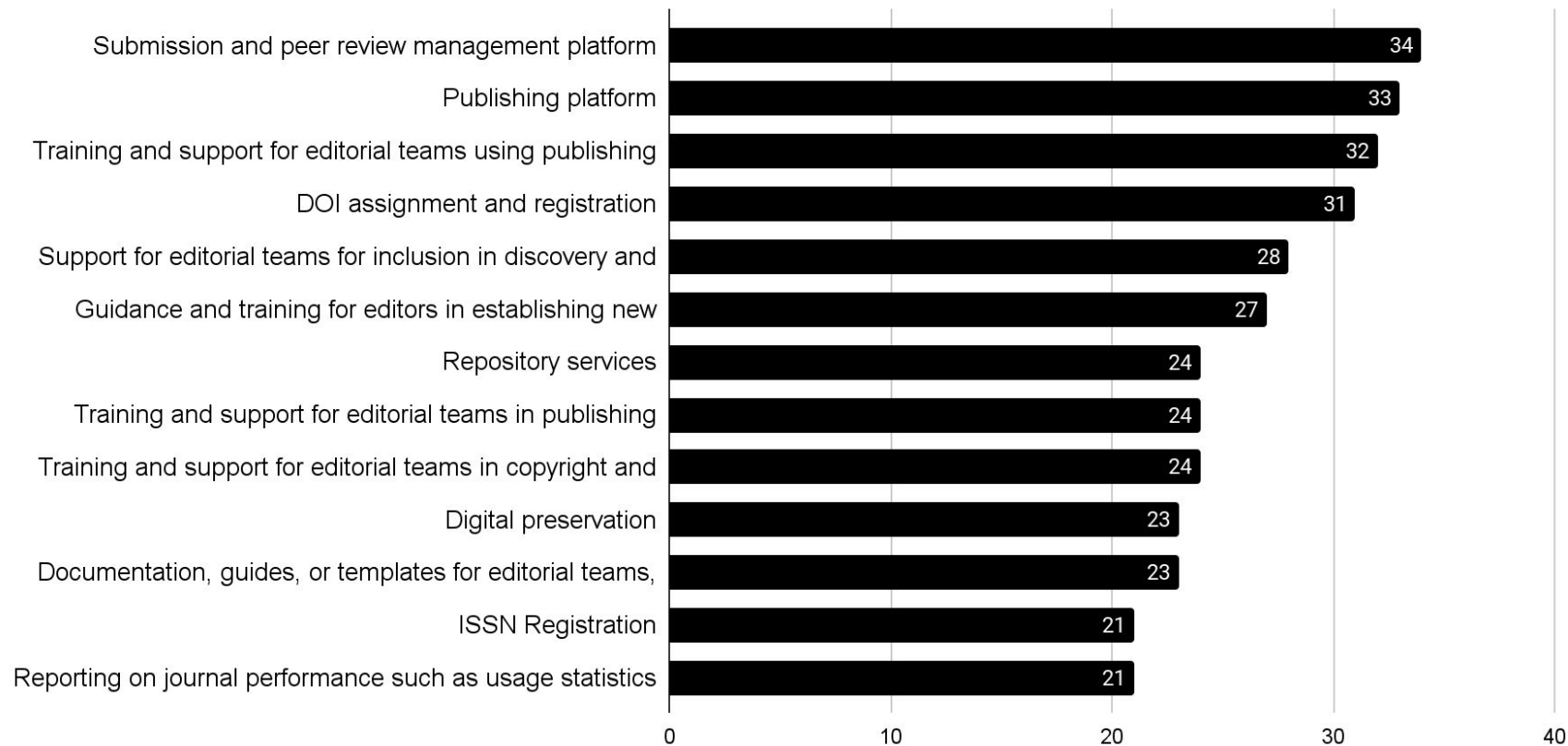


Library publishers in Canada

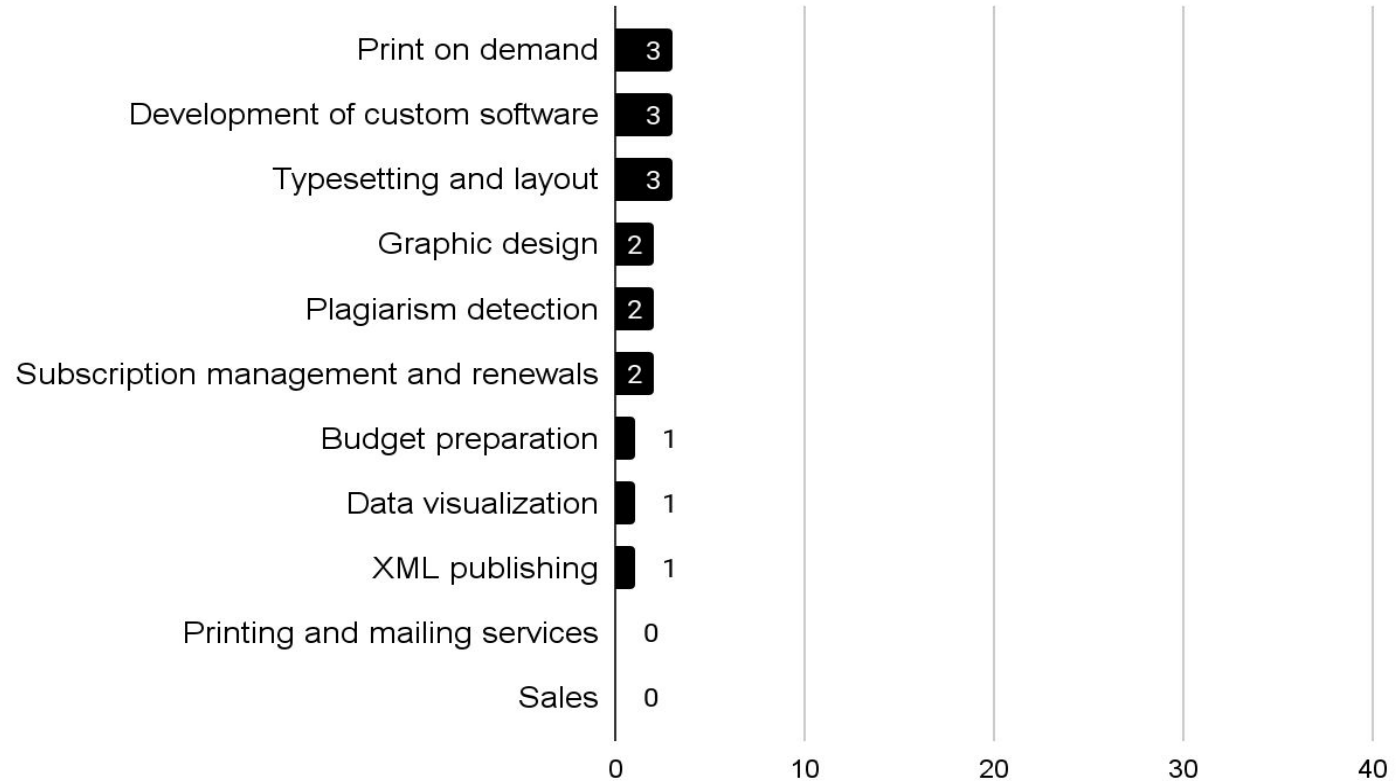
Libraries offer a wide array of publishing services

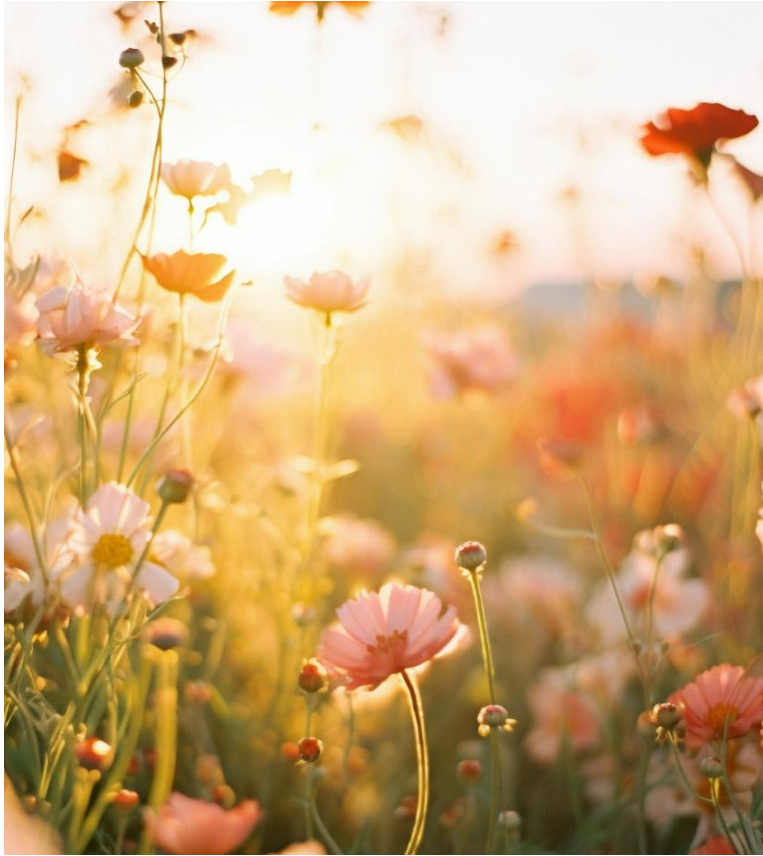
- Most common are those related to infrastructure, training and support, and indexing and discovery.
- Least common are those related to editorial and administrative services, and marketing, sales and distribution.

Most frequently offered services



Least frequently offered services





Library publishers in Canada

- Almost exclusively use Open Journal Systems (OJS)
- 25 institutions are publishing in languages other than English
- **Are staffed on average by less than one FTE (with most programs having 0.5 or fewer FTEs)**

Library publishers in Canada

Takeaway: Libraries are doing a lot of work in this space (although this is not always recognized by institutions, journals, or organizations)

For example....

Library Publishers: “Making sure that OJS works”

Despite our belief about the library’s potential role in upending the scholarly publishing ecosystem, the reality in the interviews was that editors spoke about the library minimally, and participants described their relationship with library partners as one of technical support/hosting services that made “sure that OJS works”.

Lange, J., & Severson, S. (2024). Organizational Structures and Relationships in Canadian, Noncommercial Journals: Supporting Scholar-Led Publishing. *College & Research Libraries*, 85(1), 78. doi:<https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.85.1.78>

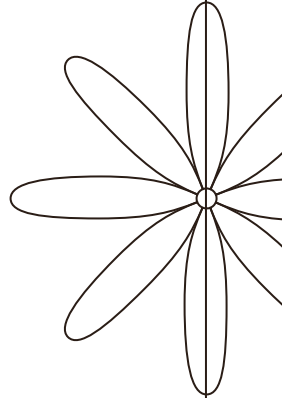
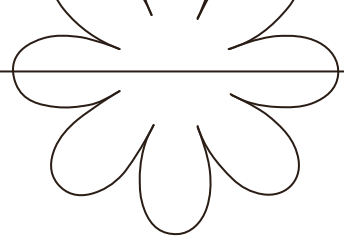
02

How are different groups coming
together to support *non-commercial
scholarly journals*?



A history of grant funding

- **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council**
 - Aid to Scholarly Journals (up to 30,000\$/yr x 3 years)
 - Open Access Policy with 12 month rolling wall introduced 2018
 - Currently under review with an aim to immediate OA
- **Fonds de Recherche du Québec, Société et Culture**
 - Scientific Journal Support Program (20,000\$/yr x 4 yrs)
 - Open Access Policy with 12 month rolling wall introduced 2019
 - FRQ joined cOAlition S (Plan S) in 2021
- **Synergies**
 - Grant funded project from 2007-2012 with 5 institutions & multiple collaborators
 - Primarily to support the transformation of scholarly publishing from a print to digital environment in SSH



National organizations

- **Érudit**
 - Since 1998, established to transition French-language journals in QC to digital
 - Funding links with the FRQ-SC to support this transition
 - Digital production and distribution within library networks
- **Public Knowledge Project**
 - Established in 1998 as Open Conference Systems to support scholarly sharing
 - Open Journal Systems as flagship open source software supporting over 44,000 journals globally
 - Development partnerships with libraries & consortia

National organizations

- **Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)**
 - Member-based organization for research intensive libraries
- **Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN)**
 - Library member-based organization for licensing and negotiations for scholarly content
- **Canadian Association of Learned Journals (CALJ)**
 - Member-based organization for scholarly journals

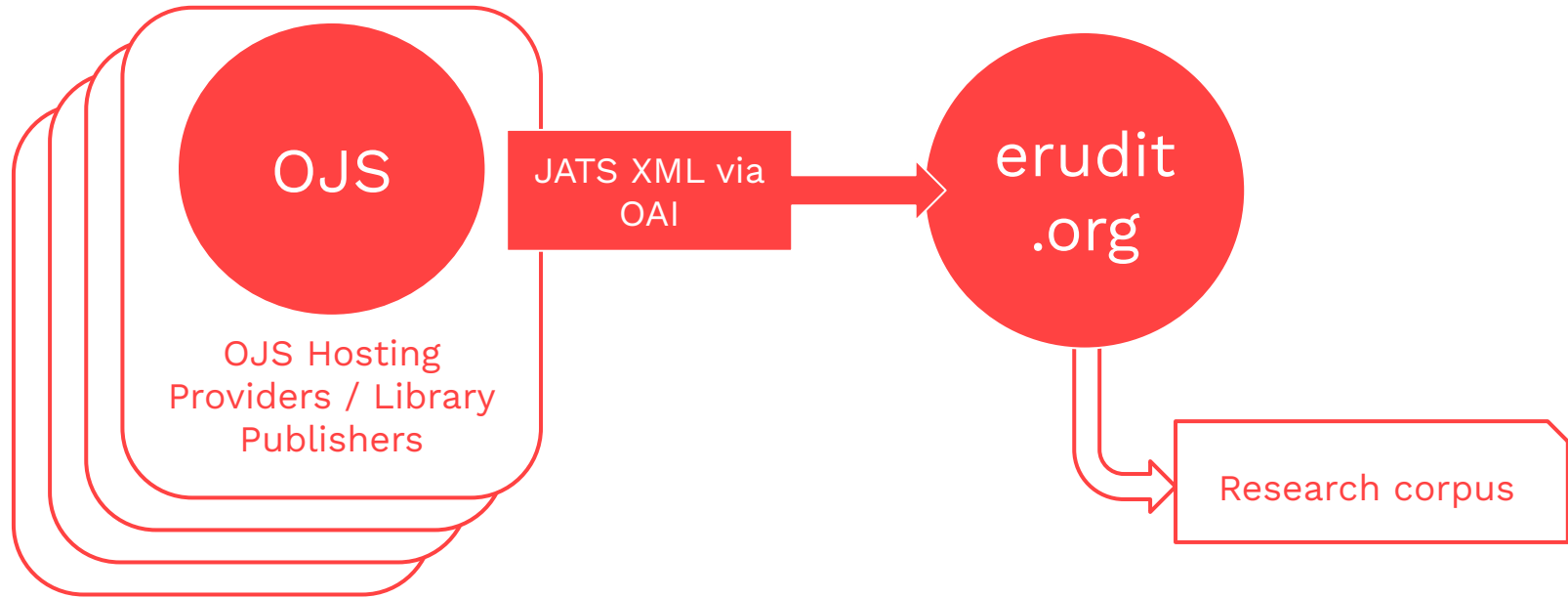
Coalition Publica

- Coalition Publica is a partnership between Érudit and the Public Knowledge Project that seeks to advance research dissemination and digital scholarly publishing in Canada.
- We are developing a non-commercial, open source national infrastructure for digital scholarly publishing, dissemination, and research - combining Open Journal Systems and the erudit.org platform.
- We are supporting the social sciences and humanities journal community in the transition towards sustainable open access.

Improving discoverability & research capacity

**Distributed Hosting
Environment**

**Centralized Dissemination
Platform**



With libraries

Support for Journals

Infrastructure & Services

Financial
Support

OJS

Online publishing,
submission
management

Érudit

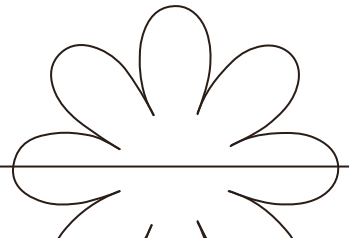
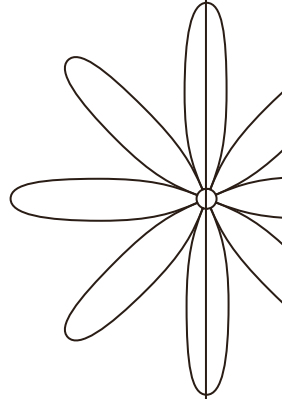
Metadata curation,
dissemination,
preservation

POA

Ongoing financial
support

With libraries

- The **Partnership for Open Access (POA)** is a collective model for providing ongoing direct financial support to the Canadian scholarly journals disseminated on the Érudit platform.
- As part of the movement to transform scholarly publishing, it is a bridge between libraries and journals, moving away from negotiation style relationships to collaboration & partnership.
- 94 member libraries internationally support over 220 journals producing over 230,000 articles



Regional supports

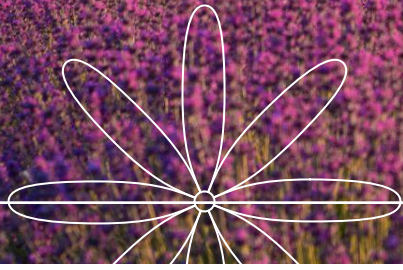
- **OCUL / Scholars Portal**
 - Development partner of PKP
 - Provides infrastructure hosting services for 12 institutions in Ontario
- **University of Alberta Libraries**
 - Development partner of PKP
 - Provides infrastructure hosting services for 3 Alberta institutions and one western Canadian consortium & Canadian journals without infrastructure support at their institutions

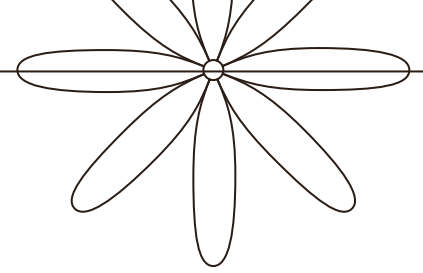
Collaborative support

- **COPPUL ScholComms Skillshare** , Ontario / **OCUL ScholComms Skillshare**
 - Beginning in 2018, regional meetings between scholarly communication practitioners to discuss key topics and share practical advice
- **ScholComm in Canada**
 - Formed in 2016, online forum for exchange between professionals supporting scholarly communications efforts (IRs, Journals, OA policy & funding)
- **Student Journal Forum**
 - In its 8th year, annual conference for student journals and those that support them

03

How are we building a national community of *Library Publishing Practitioners*



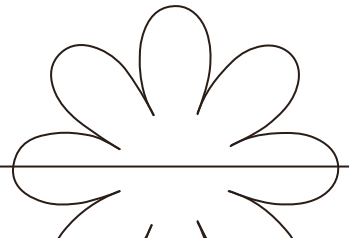
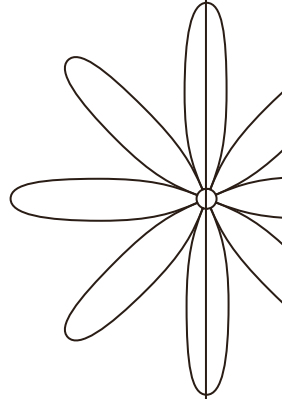


Library Publishing Coalition

*Canadian Community
Development Working
Group*

Background & Context

- Initiated by Canadian LPC members, this working group engaged Canadian scholarly communications stakeholders to explore strategies for developing a stronger Canadian library publisher community.
- The LPC provided support for the working group to build upon existing Canadian community engagement efforts and to consult broadly with practitioners and organizations across Canada.
- The group developed recommendations for supporting and strengthening the community of Canadian library publishers, both from within and outside the LPC.



Consultation Process

- Survey
- Canada-wide virtual group consultation
- Stakeholder meetings
- COPPUL (Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries) Scholarly Communication Skillshare meeting



Two themes



Community
and sharing
practices

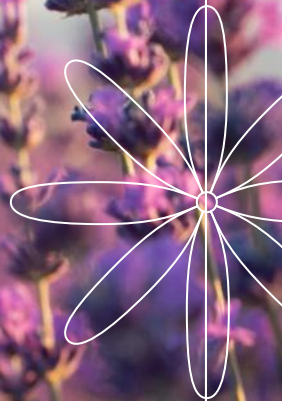


National
strategy

Community/sharing practices

- Shared resources and documentation
- Mentoring and peer support
- Events
- Connection and networking with journals

“Do more events together with less effort to keep momentum in the community to share resources and knowledge, etc”



The background of the slide features a soft-focus photograph of a field of flowers, likely lilies, during a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of warm orange, yellow, and light blue tones. The flowers in the foreground are dark and out of focus, while the sky and distant horizon are clearer.

Francophone community members expressed a stronger desire for opportunities for connection, networking, and peer mentorship with other librarian-publishers than their Anglophone counterparts.

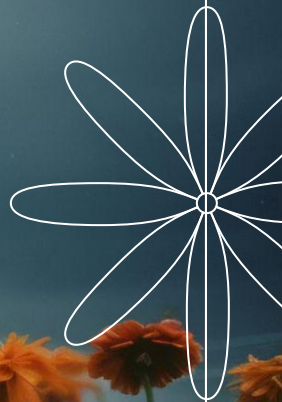
National strategy

- National vision
- Advocacy
- Regionality
- Shared infrastructure
- Publication and the French language community
- Indigenous language support



“National-level discussions about **strategic priorities and directions** that can be used for making decisions and justifying a direction.”

“**Shared advocacy** on issues we care about!”



A field of pink cosmos flowers in bloom, with a warm sunset sky in shades of orange, pink, and purple in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a soft glow. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, enclosed in a white rectangular box with a thin black border. The quote is in a serif font, with the words "smaller," and "non-CARL institutions" in a dark red color, while the rest is in black. There are decorative white line-art flowers in the bottom left and right corners of the image frame.

“Practitioners from smaller,
non-CARL institutions need
to be plugged into this
community.”

Meeting with Stakeholders

Conversations structured around three main topics/questions:

A summary of LPC and the work of our working group.

- Question 1: “Thinking about the feedback we've received, are there any areas that are of particular interest to your organization, or things you are already working on (or might be priorities for you in the future)?”
- Question 2: “Which areas are outside of the scope or interest of your organization?”

érudit

SFU PKP PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE
PROJECT

COALITION
PUBLICA

Shared resources hub, translation
of resources, connection to CP
community of journal editors,
researchers and publishing
practitioners

Community Engagement Team

- Coordinates community activities
- Liaises with aligned stakeholder organizations
- Facilitates the creation and sharing of community-based documentation
- Develops programs, meetings, and communication channels that connect novices and experts in the field



Governance, communications, logistics
and in-kind personnel support

- Formal relationship with representation on
Community Engagement Team
- Support relationship with representation on
Community Engagement Team
- Cross-promotion and connection

Regional Consortia/ Other stakeholders



Canadian Research
Knowledge Network

Réseau canadien
de documentation
pour la recherche

OCUL Ontario Council of
University Libraries



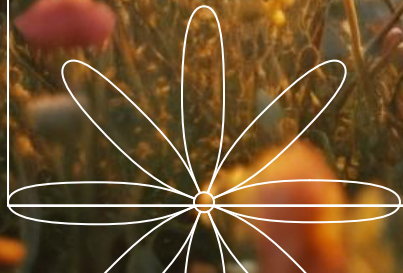
Partenariat
bibliothèques
universitaires
du Québec

CAAL
CBPA

Council of Atlantic
Academic Libraries
Conseil des bibliothèques
postsecondaires de l'Atlantique

04

What plans *are afoot* for the future?





Library Publishing Community Engagement Team: *Workplan*

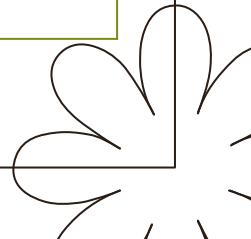


Year 1 – 2024

- Community Calls (4)
- Draft a primer on library publishing in Canada (for directors, associations, funding agencies)
- Begin work on a shared Documentation Hub



Year 2 – 2025

- Community Calls (4)
 - Facilitate professional networking opportunities
 - Documentation Hub continued
 - In-person Scholarly Communication in Canada event
- 

Where next?

Current model of scholarly publishing is unsustainable and inequitable... we know this.



Timothy Elfenbein

@timelfen@assemblag.es

In reviewing options for a learned society to publish its conference proceedings, I've discovered that the ACM has changed its OA model: instead of allowing conference organizers to pay for the open release of their entire proceedings (diamond OA), ACM now only allows open w/ author-paid APCs.

ACM is touting its moves into full OA. But the new model just shifts the unequal access to authors instead of readers. And so, ACM is eliminated as an option for this society.

[#OpenAccess](#) [#Publishing](#)

May 03, 2024, 07:57 · 📍 · 🗨️ 22 · ⭐ 17

<https://assemblag.es/@timelfen/112377506999997016>

Elsevier, Sage, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley have collectively generated an estimated

\$1.06 Billion (with a “B”)

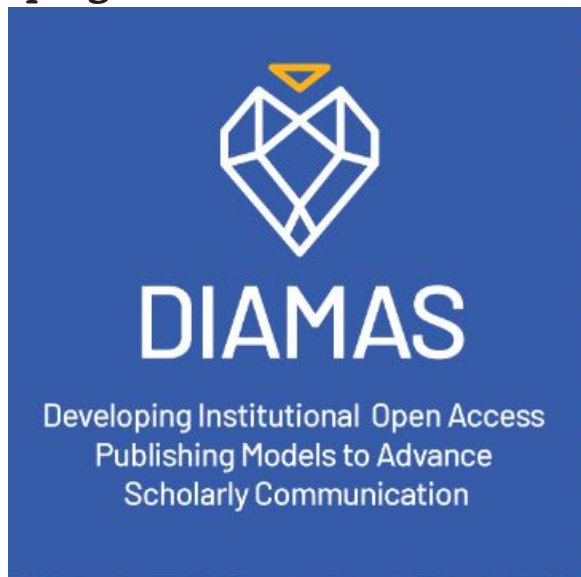
in revenues from gold and hybrid APCs from 2015–2018.

Butler, L., Matthias, L., Simard, M., Mongeon, P. & Haustein S. (2023) The oligopoly's shift to open access: How the big five academic publishers profit from article processing charges. *Quantitative Science Studies*, 4 (4): 778–799.

https://doi.org/10.1162/qss_a_00272

Where next?

We are starting to see a real and significant shift in attention to other models of publishing, especially “diamond” open access and institution-based publishing programs.



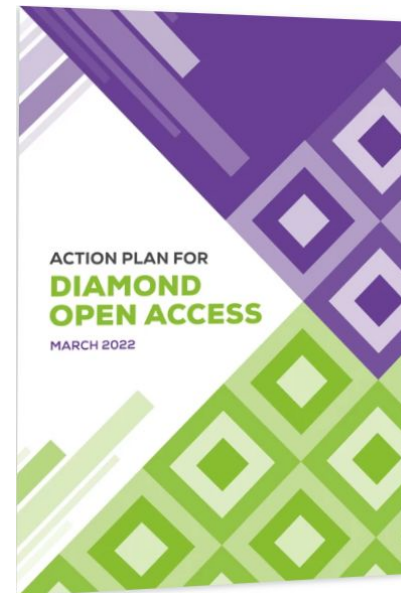
Towards a federated global community of Diamond Open Access

| A discussion paper¹

Pierre Mounier (OpenEdition, OPERAS) & Johan Rooryck (cOAlition S)

1. Introduction

This paper proposes to establish a global research infrastructure for Diamond Open Access (OA). This infrastructure will aim at providing resources and services to diamond open access communities worldwide to strengthen their role in scholarly communication. It will be a global infrastructure serving communities worldwide, while operating as a distributed system that aligns diverse communities to achieve shared goals.



Thank You!

Questions?

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