NORTH AMERICAN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: A VIEW FROM DOWNUNDER

September 2010  Janine Schmidt
Cultural cliches
Overview

- Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
- Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)
- Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN)
- La Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ) – Sous-comité des bibliothèques
- A little about McGill
- Some reflections
New from ARL

ARL Library Investment Index 2008-09 Published in Chronicle of Higher Ed (Chronicle subscription required for login) (Sept. 7, '10)

Open Access Week T-Shirts Now Available from SPARC (Sept. 3, '10)


Call for Nominations and Applications: Leadership and Career Development Program (LCDP) 2011-12 (Sept. 3, '10)

125 members, U.S.A. and Canada – 16 Canadian members, including CISTI, LAC (2 francophone)

Membership criteria
- Qualitative and quantitative factors
- Sustained institutional commitment
- Distinctive research oriented collections with resources of national significance
- Services to the scholarly community, including the availability of electronic resources;
- Participation in national and/or international library-related programs
- Creation of bibliographic records and their availability on one of the major bibliographic utilities
- Leadership and external contributions
- Engagement of library in institutional planning
- Effective and innovative use of technology
Mission statement and guiding principles

**Mission Statement**

- ARL influences the changing environment of scholarly communication and the public policies that affect research libraries and the diverse communities they serve. ARL pursues this mission by advancing the goals of its member research libraries, providing leadership in public and information policy to the scholarly and higher education communities, fostering the exchange of ideas and expertise, facilitating the emergence of new roles for research libraries, and shaping a future environment that leverages its interests with those of allied organizations.

- **Distinctive Mission**
  - We complement and build on the strengths of other organizations.
  - We rethink historic assumptions.
  - Our policy positions guide our strategies.

Influencing Public Policies
ARL will influence information and other public policies, both nationally and internationally, that govern the way information is managed and made available.

Reshaping Scholarly Communication
ARL will be a leader in the development of effective, extensible, sustainable, and economically viable models of scholarly communication that provide barrier-free access to quality information in support of the mission of research institutions.

Transforming Research Libraries
ARL will articulate, promote, and facilitate new and expanding roles for ARL libraries that support, enable, and enrich the transformations affecting research and research-intensive education.
ARL Issues and Themes

- Copyright and intellectual property, Diversity, E-science, Leadership development, Legislation and appropriations, New models of publishing, Preservation, Special collections, Statistics & assessment
- Open access, scholarly communication - SPARC
- New initiatives – CNI (adapting to mobile devices)
- Sharing knowledge and generating new ideas at meetings (webinars), Taskforces linked to strategic plan
- Achieving Strategic Change in Research Libraries
- Leadership and leadership training – Fellows programme
- Links to other organizations e.g. OCLC, ACRL
- Publications and SPEC kits, advertisement of job opportunities
- Transforming the Library - Scenario planning for the future (Susan Stickley, Stratus Inc)
Scenario planning

- Who would have guessed?
  - That Julia Gillard would be Prime Minister
  - That commercial planes would be used as weapons
  - That there would be a major global recession
- De-funding of North American research libraries is the new “normal” (Charles Lowry)
  - Funding mix – public institutions 90% institutional allocations – private – 83% institutional (Tuition, endowment)
  - State budget and endowment reductions
  - Retrenchments, elimination of low impact activities, adapt to best practice, outsourcing of technical services, elimination of branch libraries, national strategy for low use, new service models, digitization of legacy collections, multi-institutional collaboration
- Next ARL meeting – Imperatives for change – scenario planning
CARL—the Canadian Association of Research Libraries—is the leadership organization for the Canadian research library community. The Association’s members consists of 29 major academic research libraries across Canada together with Library and Archives Canada, the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) and the Library of Parliament. CARL strives to enhance the capacity of member libraries to partner in research and higher education, and to seek effective and sustainable scholarly communication and public policy encouraging of research and broad access to scholarly information.

- 100 universities in Canada – CACUL (Canadian Association of College and University Libraries)
- Tertiary education is responsibility of provincial governments
- Research funding from federal government ie SSHRC, NSERC, CFI, CIHR

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Mission
CARL strives 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.

1. Transform Scholarly Communication
Research libraries ensure for researchers convenient and permanent access to scholarly resources through the management of already-available information and the promotion of effective and sustainable communication of new information. To achieve this, CARL will play a leading role in the transformation of scholarly communication in Canada through a number of projects.

- Data Management
- Open Access Publication
- Digitization
- Research Collections

http://www.carl-abrc.ca/about/strategic_plan_2010-2012-e.html

2. Influence Public Policy
Research libraries can best support researchers in a public policy environment that facilitates the generation, sharing, and management of scholarly information through supportive laws, infrastructure, and institutions. To achieve this, CARL will work to influence federal-level public policy in Canada on various themes.

- Copyright
- Research funding
- The Internet
- National Libraries

http://www.carl-abrc.ca/about/strategic_plan_2010-2012-e.html

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3. Advance the Research Library

Research libraries, in order to support effectively research and education as these evolve, must build an appropriately-skilled and well-informed professional staff and demonstrate clearly their value and potential contributions to researchers and administrators. CARL will work to advance the ability of its member libraries to fulfill their individual missions in several ways.

3.1 University Research and Education

CARL will develop resources and programming to help member libraries increase local awareness of their role in university research and education. It will study national-level concerns in university education and identify potential contributions of research libraries.

3.2 Return on Investment

CARL will consider ways by which Canadian research libraries can demonstrate return on investment by their parent institutions and improve library service to researchers and students.

3.3 Human Resources

CARL will work with other organizations in Canada to develop the human resources that will be needed by libraries in the years to come, with a focus in CARL on leadership development for academic libraries. It will work to develop research skills in research libraries and to promote evidence-based librarianship.

3.4 The Learning Library

CARL will provide various means by which Canada’s research libraries can share their best practices with each other and learn of the issues and developments in other settings that may have importance for member libraries or the Association.
Issues of Interest to CARL

- Create Change
- Commercialization of University Research
- Canadian Research Knowledge Network
- Canadiana.org
- Preservation
- E-Learning
- Electronic Theses
- Government Information Policy
- Information Literacy
- Information for print disabled Canadians
- Innovation Strategy
- Knowledge Dissemination Study | Final Report
- SSHRC Transformation
- State of Canadian Research Libraries

Metadata tools
- Data Management
- Open Access
- Statistical compilations
- Visits overseas
- Evaluation
- Alouette/Canadiana.org
- Copyright
- Research agenda

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CRKN (Canadian Research Knowledge Network)

- Licenses digital content on behalf of Canadian university libraries
- Revenue exceeds $100 million
- 75 members
- Funded initially through CFI – CNSLP – 40/40/20
- Began with science, also humanities – ongoing but also backets
- Subsidized by larger institutions

http://library.concordia.ca/about/partnerships/cnslp.html
Membership – U de Q at various sites, BNAQ, Laval, Montreal, Sherbrooke – 2 anglophone (McGill and Concordia)

- Colombo interlibrary loan system
- Delivery system
- Licensed purchases of e-resources
- Provision of health information (4 universities only – Sherbrooke, McGill, Montreal, Laval)
- OCLC and cataloguing initiatives
- Statistical compilations
- Search interface for Canadian statistics

McGill

- **Information, Innovation, Service**
- 13 branches, 235 staff, $33 million ($15 million on collections), 3.5 million visits p.a.
- Over 6 million items, 70,000 e-journals, (10,000 from vol.1), 2 million e-books, online course reserves, stunning Rare Books collection – mostly uncatalogued
- Fundraising and friendraising - Students “give” money to the Library and meet to discuss how it is spent – alumni, parents
- Dynamic floor plans linked to catalogue, online exhibitions, download to mobile devices
- Extended hours of opening – 24 hours
- DOD and POD (Espresso book machine, Kirtas robotic scanner)
- Outreach, publicity posters, information skills for postgraduates
- Profiles with YBP and purchase of cataloguing data, Worldcat local
- Library refurbishment. Open compact shelving for print, demand for quiet study, Graduate study space
- Professional help available in person and online, Facebook, Twitter, online chat
Cyberthèque, graduate study and new teaching and learning spaces
Schulich Library of Science and Engineering
Outreach

- Participation in induction sessions for all new staff
- Presence at student orientation activities, Homecoming, Open House etc.. Breakfast for parents
- “House calls” – connect with most departments/disciplines (40)
- Website
- Large screens in branch libraries
- Flyers and brochures
- Meetings with students
- “Circulating” the library to assist in fundraising and fundraising
A few general observations

- Directors move frequently (5 years)
- Tenure and faculty status
- Merit payments/ATB
- Collection focus rather than client focus, process-oriented rather than outcome
- Slow to innovate
- Similar issues in relation to change — distance between senior staff and others
Cultural cliches

- In America, only the successful writer is important, in France all writers are important, in England no writer is important and in Australia you have to explain what a writer is.

- Canadians are generally indistinguishable from Americans, and the surest way of telling the two apart is to make the observation to a Canadian.

- A Canadian is someone who knows how to make love in a canoe.

- Many continentals think life is a game; the English think cricket is a game.

- The English contribution to world cuisine – the chip...or is it a French fry...
Thank you for listening!

http://www.elite.net/~runner/jennifers/thankyou.htm

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