

# **GREATER REACH FOR YOUR RESEARCH**

The background features a large, abstract graphic composed of curved shapes. A black shape curves from the top left towards the center. A bright blue shape curves from the bottom left, under the black shape, and extends across the bottom and right side of the page. A vertical white line separates the blue area on the left from the blue area on the right.

**EXPANDING READERSHIP  
THROUGH  
DIGITAL REPOSITORIES**

# RESEARCH IS MORE VALUABLE WHEN IT'S SHARED.

Sharing enables new research to build on earlier findings. It not only fuels the further advancement of knowledge, it brings scientists and scholars the recognition that advances their careers.

In the digital world, the ways we share and use scholarly material are expanding — rapidly, fundamentally, irreversibly.

There is great potential in this change. Faster and wider sharing of research material gives you broader and deeper access to the resources you need and exponentially increases the exposure for your work.

“With this type of system a researcher could access, from any corner of the globe, the full texts of relevant journal articles; a comprehensive set of monographs and theses; research data sets that underlie published outcomes; research reports and non-peer-reviewed research materials from both academia and government; and the electronic tools necessary to manage this volume of material.”

**Arthur Carty**

Canada's Former National Science Advisor

Online archives of universities, colleges, funding agencies, and other institutions — known as “repositories” — are key components of the emerging digital research infrastructure and can help ensure the widest possible sharing of your works.

These repositories collect, preserve, and provide free, unrestricted online access to all types of institutional research outputs — seamlessly linking data, knowledge, and scholars.

# DIGITAL REPOSITORIES OFFER MANY PRACTICAL BENEFITS

## MORE EXPOSURE

Repositories make your work available to everyone who may be interested. A growing body of evidence shows that, as a result of being openly accessible, publications are cited more frequently.<sup>1</sup>

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS

While an article published in a journal may be available to only a few hundred subscribers, the same article when also posted in a repository is available to all, greatly enhancing the public value of research.

## EASIER INFORMATION DISCOVERY

By opening their content to service providers such as Google, Google Scholar, and OCLC, repositories allow Web users to search every item they hold.

## NEW COMPUTATIONAL RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

Digital repositories open the door to new computational research techniques and pathways, such as text mining, creation of text-data linkages, and identifying and visualizing relationships that are not otherwise observed.

## PERSISTENT ACCESS

By depositing your works in a repository, they will have persistent URLs (a reference URL) that will never change — no more dead links. Unlike items on ever-changing personal Web sites, works in repositories are available to whoever needs them, whenever needed.

## LONG-TERM PRESERVATION

Digital repositories are managed by your library, which is committed to long-term access to and preservation of the collection. The library will ensure ongoing maintenance and back-ups.

## WIDE RANGE OF CONTENT

Digital repositories collect more than just journal publications; they also collect other types of materials, such as conference proceedings, images, and sometimes research data — enabling you to integrate and provide access to a wide range of materials.

<sup>1</sup> See “The effect of open access and downloads (‘hits’) on citation impact: a bibliography of studies,” [<http://opcit.eprints.org/oacitation-biblio.html>] for a list of studies

## Students benefit, too

Since no library can afford to subscribe to *all* the resources students need, putting your works in a digital repository ensures students everywhere can read and learn from them, creating an important new layer of information that is readily accessible.

Students, who are early adopters of open approaches, are also benefiting from digital repositories by depositing their theses and dissertations — broadening the reach of these important works.

## A New Information Landscape

Institution-based repositories complement other types of repositories, such as the U.S. National Institutes of Health’s PubMed Central, Theses Canada, and data repositories. In the future, the contents of these repositories will be linked and interoperable — enabling unprecedented usability and analysis. Content that is openly accessible offers tremendous opportunities for advanced searching and new discoveries.



Open Access is the principle that research should be accessible online, for free, immediately after publication. Digital repositories deliver Open Access to the materials they contain.

A growing number of research funders are requiring that funded research be made openly available.

(See *Research Funders Require Public Access* on page 5).

## HOW THEY WORK

Digital repositories are typically administered by libraries, which make use of the existing library infrastructure and technology to host the repository and provide support for the academic community. Because they are institution-based, digital repositories function in a sustainable funding environment.

Most Canadian academic research libraries maintain a digital repository. A list is available from the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) at [www.carl-abrc.ca](http://www.carl-abrc.ca). There are also a number of subject- and agency-based repositories around the world to consider. See repository directories at [www.opendoar.org](http://www.opendoar.org) or [www.roar.eprints.org](http://www.roar.eprints.org).

### IT'S EASY

To enjoy the many benefits of your library's digital repository, simply deposit a copy of your published manuscripts (and supporting materials, if you like) in your digital repository. If your work has been published with a publisher, check with your publisher to be sure you have the right to post it. Your library can help. (See *What You Should Know About Copyright* on page 6).

Authors use simple online forms to upload materials. If you have any questions, just ask your librarian.

Governments all over the world, including Canada, are recognizing that the public has the fundamental right to access the results of publicly funded research.

## RESEARCH FUNDERS REQUIRE PUBLIC ACCESS

A growing number of funding agencies are adopting policies that require their researchers to make their publications openly available to the public and other researchers either by depositing their articles in an open-access repository or by publishing in an open-access journal.

Governments all over the world, including Canada, are recognizing that the public has the fundamental right to access the results of publicly funded research. And, consensus is building that enhanced access to research results helps to ensure that taxpayers get a full return on their investment.

In Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) *Policy on Access to Research Outputs* came into effect on January 1, 2008. The preamble for the policy offers some insight into the underlying motivation:

**Advancements in science and health care are made possible through widespread and barrier-free access to cutting-edge research and knowledge enabling scientists, clinicians, policymakers and the public to use and build on this knowledge.**

To that end, the policy states:

**Grant recipients are now required to make every effort to ensure that their peer-reviewed publications are freely accessible within six months of publication.<sup>2</sup>**

Similar policies are being considered by the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), as well as other federal and provincial research funding agencies.

The CIHR policy is in step with research funding councils elsewhere. The U.S., U.K., E.U., Australia, South Africa, and many other nations are moving quickly to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by technologies to improve the visibility and impact of research.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/34846.html>



## Won't it be easier to plagiarize if the material is freely accessible?

No. Actually, plagiarism is far easier to detect if the original, date-stamped material is openly accessible to all, and can more easily be compared with a potential infraction.

## Are materials in digital repositories peer-reviewed?

The repository does not perform peer-review, but collects peer-reviewed publications such as journal articles and conference proceedings. Most publishers allow this. Work with your librarian or publisher to determine which version of your work may be deposited. Of course, repositories also offer access to other types of materials, including data and other content that are not traditionally peer-reviewed.

## Will I be giving up ownership of my work if I deposit in a digital repository?

No. Authors retain the rights to their work when depositing in a digital repository. In depositing in a repository, you are simply allowing the repository to provide access to your work, but you are not required to give up any of the copyrights to your work.

## Is there a permanent way to cite work in the repository in my CV?

Yes. Once deposited, there will be a permanent Web address assigned to your work, which you can link to from your CV.

## What can be posted? Who decides?

Digital repositories collect scholarly works of all types that have enduring value. Contact your library for guidelines specific to your institution. Departments can also work with the library to set their own content guidelines if they wish.

## Why is depositing in a digital repository better than posting on my department or personal Web site?

There are many reasons, for instance:

- It's much easier to interact with the digital repository than with the campus Web servers.
- Digital repositories ensure long-term accessibility. Items deposited in the repository are given a "reference URL" that will never change.
- Digital repositories are indexed by all the major search engines.

## How else will people find my works in the digital repository?

Links to the digital repository will be available on your library's Web site and may be added on department and personal Web pages. The institution-based repositories in Canada are also indexed by a specialized "harvester" <<http://carl-abrc-oai.lib.sfu.ca/>> maintained by Simon Fraser University that brings together all the content from Canadian repositories and makes it available through a single collection.

## Why do we need a digital repository when we have journals?

Repositories are designed to supplement rather than replace journals. Many institutions and researchers can't afford the cost of journal subscriptions and don't have access to the research they need. Repositories enable all researchers, regardless of what institution they are affiliated with, to access your work. And, repositories accommodate a wider range of materials than just published articles — for example, images, working papers, and presentations.

# OTHER CANADIAN INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO RESEARCH

**The Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN)** is an organization that negotiates with publishers on behalf of a consortium of Canadian universities to provide access to as much electronic published content as possible, mainly journal articles, for the lowest price.

**Synergies** is a project that will bring Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities research to the Internet, by assisting Canadian publishers in the Humanities and Social Sciences to publish in digital form through the use of an infrastructure developed at the University of Montreal called Érudit.

**Canadiana.org** is a project to digitize Canada's analogue content (such as books, films, newspapers, etc.) and will organize and facilitate access to and use of that content for everyone over the Internet.

**“Putting our work in an institutional repository has the advantage of getting us priority on search engines. It makes our work more accessible and therefore it potentially has more impact.”**

**Dr. Linda Hutcheon**  
Professor of English, University of Toronto

More information, tools, and resources on digital repositories are available from:



**The Canadian Association of Research Libraries**

[www.carl-abrc.ca](http://www.carl-abrc.ca)

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**Your Library**



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