

Association of Research Libraries Principles of Membership

The Association of Research Libraries, the collective of research libraries in Canada and the US, advances research, learning, and scholarly communication. The Association fosters the open exchange of ideas and expertise, promotes equity and diversity, and pursues advocacy and public policy efforts that reflect the values of the library, scholarly, and higher education communities. ARL forges partnerships and catalyzes the collective efforts of research libraries to enable knowledge creation and to achieve enduring and barrier-free access to information.

The Association is a not-for-profit membership organization comprising the libraries of research institutions that operates as a forum for the exchange of ideas and as an agent for collective action.

Membership in ARL is by invitation and based on single institutions, not systems. Once achieved, for members in good standing, membership is presumed to be continuing.

The following principles are used in considering extending invitations for ARL membership.

1. Alignment with the mission and goals of the research institution of which the library is a part and effectiveness in addressing institutional priorities.
2. Equitable access to substantive and diverse information resources that address the full scope of research and learning at the library's institution, and contribute to the wealth of knowledge shared among research libraries.
3. Engagement and partnership with campus and other research organizations to collectively support the full research lifecycle and its impact.
4. Commitment to evolving staff competencies to support research, teaching, learning, and service.
5. Engagement with current and emerging methodologies and digital tools in support of teaching and discipline-based and multidisciplinary research.
6. Effective policies, programs, and capacity for advancing scholarly communication and aggregating, preserving, and openly sharing scholarly information.
7. Develop, preserve, and ensure broad access to rare and unique holdings broadly reflective of cultural and scientific change and the record of human experience.
8. Technologically advanced facilities and infrastructure, emphasizing innovative uses of space and enabling new approaches to collaboration and knowledge creation.

9. Collaborative endeavors with research libraries and other cultural and scientific organizations and with educational, civic, and governmental partners.
10. Advancement of equity, diversity, and inclusiveness in staffing, programs, services, and resources.
11. Contributions to realize crucial societal roles through the core values of research libraries and their collective strengths, unique competencies, and professional commitment to the well-being of our communities and the broader society.

Principles approved by the ARL membership on April 24, 2018.

Mission statement approved by the ARL Board on March 13, 2018.