

REGIONAL REPORT FOR CANADA 2017



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Regional Report - IASSIST – Lawrence, Kansas

This regional report for the year ending May 22, 2017 has been compiled and submitted by Carol Perry, IASSIST Regional Secretary for Canada.

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Regional report for Canada 2017

REGIONAL REPORT - IASSIST – LAWRENCE, KANSAS

OVERVIEW

There have been numerous exciting and innovative initiatives underway again this year across Canada.

For the first time, stakeholders from a variety of government agencies, organizations and universities have collaborated in a meaningful way to establish infrastructure in support of research data.

The CARL-based Portage network has matured from a pilot project into national initiative developing support mechanisms for RDM.

Research Data Canada has evolved into a forum where multiple stakeholders can work together to develop policies and build infrastructure around research data stewardship.

Membership

As of May 1, 2017 there were 48 active IASSIST members from Canada, consistent with last year's membership.

Census

Materials from the 2016 Census Program are being released throughout 2017. Following the short, non-compulsory census of 2011, researchers are welcoming the opportunity to delve into the rich data once again collected through the census program.

As in pre-2011 census years, in 2016 a 25% sample of Canadian households answered the long-form questionnaire. For the first time, income information was retrieved directly from Canada Revenue Agency files.

Statistics Canada announced the first release of data in February 2017 with all public data files to be released by November 2017. Microdata files will be made available to Research Data Centre (RDCs) in April 2018. Public Use Microdata Files (PUMF) files are scheduled to be released to the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) between January and June 2019.

Portage

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) Portage Network is completing its first two-year mandate. A new governance structure is in place. Past IASSIST president, Chuck Humphrey, is completing his term as the inaugural Director of Portage. During this time, the network has been concentrating on three major goals:

- Foster a community of practice for RDM
- Facilitate and provide leadership in the development of RDM infrastructure
- Engage and advocate for RDM with stakeholder communities

These goals are being met through several major initiatives:

- Portage Preservation Pipeline
- Network of Expertise Groups
- DMP Assistant

The DMP Assistant is now in full operation as a bilingual online tool. This development is in support of the Tri-Agency preparations to mandate a DMP requirement for researchers seeking research funding in 2018.

The Federated Research Data Repository project is in its beta testing phase. Once released in early 2018, this joint project of CARL/Portage and Compute Canada will provide Canadian researchers with a preservation platform and Canadian data repository portal for preserving and providing access to research data from across the country.

The Network of Expertise Groups are working hard to develop sustainable support mechanisms for RDM across Canada.

Network members have engaged with the federal funding agencies through the development and presentation of a series of workshops for a number of stakeholder groups.

DLI – Data Liberation Initiative

Our activities to support the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) program's objectives have continually evolved in order to facilitate access to Canadian public data in support of teaching and academic research. The priorities addressed in 2016-2017 have included enhancing our data service delivery by developing an accessible search platform available on the DLI website, ensuring the smooth transition of the DLI Listserv through the Email Transformation Initiative (ETI), and restructuring of the program's repository on the Electronic File Transfer (EFT) service.

The DLI has also focused on providing relevant training for DLI contacts through the Regional Training Workshops. Sessions were held last spring in Atlantic and the Quebec regions, and last fall in the Western and Ontario regions. In total, 123 participants from various academic institutions participated in hands-on sessions on topics such as Postal Code^{OM} data products, Research Data Management (RDM), and data visualization. To compliment in person training, the DLI launched a webinar bootcamp series this past summer that build awareness on the program's product and resources among those delivering data services to their institutions. The webinar sessions were also a valuable tool to help gather feedback on the program's strategic initiatives.

The DLI also continues to provide on-going support through a variety of tools, including a listserv forum where the community can share emerging news and where all questions related to metadata, data and licensing are answered promptly. With an increasing emphasis on the need for effective supports for both teaching and research, we are pleased to be able to add the collaborative efforts of the DLI to those of the Canadian academic community. Our focus in the coming year will continue to be improving our technical infrastructure, consulting with our community on program developments, and enhancing data service delivery.

Submitted by Chantal Ripp, Statistics Canada

Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN)

The CRDCN, in partnership with Statistics Canada, consists of secure data centres located on university campuses across Canada. These centres (15 centres, 15 branches) provide approved researchers with access to analyze a vast array of Canadian social, economic and health data.

This year, the network was successful in receiving renewed 5-year funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), in the form of a directed grant totaling \$14.5 million.

In January 2017, the network also received a Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) award of \$5.9 million over 5 years from its Major Science Initiatives Fund.

This funding will allow for the expansion of the network to new campuses as well as improving infrastructure and introducing administrative data to the collections available to researchers.

OCUL/Scholars Portal

Scholars Portal (SP) provides digital data infrastructure in support of research data services at university libraries across Ontario. Over the past year, SP has worked to develop its shared Dataverse repository for research data collected and deposited with university libraries across the province (<http://dataverse.scholarsportal.info>).

The repository now includes over 800 datasets, including over 15,000 data files, representing significant growth over the past year. SP Dataverse has undergone some changes, including a new French interface, Institutional Dataverse containers for institutional data deposits, and enhanced data visualization and metadata support.

SP and the Ontario Council of University Libraries (<http://ocul.on.ca>) are working closely with national providers such as the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) Portage Network (<https://portagenetwork.ca/>), through the Dataverse North collaboration (<https://portagenetwork.ca/dataverse-north-working-group/>) and other community initiatives.

Highlights from the Dataverse collection:

- Guelph University Library Research Data Archive
- Queen's University Library Research Data Archive
- Laurier University Library Research Data Archive
- University of Toronto Library Research Data Archive

Scholars Portal's long-standing <odesi> service (<http://odesi.ca>), which provides discovery and access to social science survey data for use in research and teaching, also underwent some changes this past year. <odesi> users can now search for data across all existing Canadian Dataverse instances to find and access data from across Canada. SP also added the ability to search the Statistics Canada Research Data Centre (RDC) Restricted Microdata Collection, to assist with the identification and discovery of restricted access microdata in Canada.

For GIS and geospatial data, the Scholars GeoPortal is a tool for accessing licensed and open geospatial data for use in research and teaching. Significant additions to the collection this year included over 1000 historical topographic maps from the national topographic map series, new provincially collected satellite imagery (orthophotography), and historical Census Boundary Files for use in historical Census mapping and analysis projects.

Submitted by Amber Leahy, Scholars Portal

Canadian Members

Marilyn Andrews, University of Regina, is IASSIST Member at Large (Canada) 2013-2017 as well as 2015-2017 Chair of the IASSIST Communications Committee

Amber Leahy, Scholars Portal, is IASSIST Regional Treasurer (Canada) and co-chair of the IASSIST Data Visualization Interest Group

Carol Perry, University of Guelph, is IASSIST Regional Secretary for Canada 2015-2017

Berenica Vejvoda, McGill University, is IASSIST Member at Large (Canada) 2015-2019

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