Trends and Priorities in Canadian Research Libraries: Results of a CARL-OCLC Survey

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(based on work ably led by Merrilee Proffitt, OCLC Research @Merrileelam)
of Canada’s largest university libraries and

Federal libraries
A Strong Global Perspective
Our 4 Strategic Directions

- Advance research
- Strengthen capacity
- Measure impact
- Influence public policy

Douglas Library, Queens University
Our 2018 Strategic Planning Toolkit

- Environmental scan
- Online survey
- Member interviews
- Workshop
- Review of preliminary data from the CARL-OCLC Trends and Priorities Survey
26 library directors took the survey in Canada. 80% have been in the profession for 20+ years; 65% in their current position for 5 years or less.

Length of Time Worked in a Library (n=26)
- 5 years or less: 80%
- 6 to 10 years: 61%
- 11 to 15 years: 12%
- 16 to 20 years: 19%

Length of Time Worked in Current Position (n=26)
- Less than 1 year: 15%
- 1 to 5 years: 50%
- 6 to 10 years: 23%
- Over 10 years: 12%
Majority (60%) expect use of physical library to increase over next 5 years; 92% expect online use to increase.
Accessing online resources, receiving research support and borrowing materials:

Main reasons **faculty/staff** use the library today, according to nearly two-thirds or more respondents

**Main Reason Faculty/Staff Use the Library Today (n=25)**
Respondents could select no more than 5 options

- Access online databases/journals/articles: 80%
- Receive research support services: 72%
- Access/borrow books/materials: 64%
- Conduct research: 48%
- Request ILL: 44%
- Individual work or study space: 32%
- Collaborative work or study space: 24%
- Prepare assignments: 24%
- Get reference support from librarian: 20%
- Technology center: 16%
- Social or meeting space: 12%
- Access/borrow physical journals/articles: 8%
- Use short loan collection: 4%

**How Faculty/Staff Use Is Expected to Change in 5 Years (n=25)**

- Change significantly: 20%
- Change modestly: 68%
- Remain about the same: 12%
Respondents expect growth in receiving research support services and using the library as a technology center among faculty.

**Main Reason Faculty/Staff Use the Library Today vs. 2023**

Respondents were instructed to select no more than 5 options.

- **Receive research support services**: Current 73%, 2023 95%
- **Access online databases/journals/articles**: Current 82%, 2023 82%
- **Access/borrow books/materials**: Current 68%, 2023 41%
- **Technology center**: Current 14%, 2023 41%
- **Conduct research**: Current 36%, 2023 45%
- **Collaborative work or study space**: Current 32%, 2023 27%
- **Social or meeting space**: Current 32%, 2023 14%
- **Request ILL**: Current 27%, 2023 41%
- **Prepare assignments**: Current 23%, 2023 27%
- **Individual work or study space**: Current 23%, 2023 9%
- **Get reference support from librarian**: Current 14%, 2023 9%
- **Access/borrow physical journals/articles**: Current 0%, 2023 9%
- **Use short loan collection**: Current 4%, 2023 0%
Using the library for individual or group work/study space and accessing online resources: Main reasons students use the library today, say 80%+ respondents

### Main Reason Students Use the Library Today (n=25)
Respondents were instructed to choose no more than 5 options

- Individual work or study space: 100%
- Collaborative work or study space: 96%
- Access online databases/journals/articles: 80%
- Social or meeting space: 50%
- Prepare assignments: 38%
- Access/borrow books/materials: 35%
- Get reference support from librarian: 23%
- Use short loan collection: 19%
- Technology center: 15%
- Conduct research: 12%
- Receive research support services: 8%
- Access/borrow physical journals/articles: 4%

### How Student Use Is Expected to Change in 5 Years (n=25)

- Change significantly: 72%
- Change modestly: 24%
- Remain about the same: 4%
While only 16% believe using the library as a technology center is a main reason students use the library today, more than half (58%) of respondents believe this will be true in 5 years.

**Main Reason Students Use the Library Today vs. 2023**

Respondents were instructed to select no more than 5 options.

- Individual work or study space: 95% (Current), 100% (2023)
- Collaborative work or study space: 95% (Current), 100% (2023)
- Access online databases/journals/articles: 68% (Current), 79% (2023)
- Social or meeting space: 47% (Current), 47% (2023)
- Prepare assignments: 32% (Current), 32% (2023)
- Get reference support from librarian: 21% (Current), 32% (2023)
- Access/borrow books/materials: 32% (Current), 32% (2023)
- Technology center: 16% (Current), 58% (2023)
- Receive research support services: 11% (Current), 26% (2023)
- Conduct research: 11% (Current), 11% (2023)
What were the top priorities for CARL Directors in 2018?
## Top priorities for 2018

### Top 5 Priorities – 2018
Ranked in Top 5 (n=24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data curation/ research data management</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities issues</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrating library value to funders</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for digital scholarship/ digital...</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research information management (incl CRIS)</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **RDM**
- **Facilities**
- **Demonstrating Value to Funders**
What issues were envisioned as the most challenging and ripe for innovation?
Most Challenging / Ripe for Innovation

Top 5 Priorities –
Most Challenging/Ripe for Innovation
Ranked in Top 5 (n=24)

- Support for digital scholarship/ digital humanities: 63%
- Support or management of open access publishing: 42%
- Research information management (incl CRIS): 42%
- Data curation/ RDM: 42%
- Institutional repository (IR) discovery and aggregation: 29%
Digital scholarship/humanities and research data management:
Most-mentioned significant initiatives for next two years

What is the most significant initiative or service your library will focus on in the next two years? (n=19)

- **Support for digital scholarship / digital humanities, 5**
- **Shared systems, 4**
- **Research data management, 4**
- **Restructuring of staff/ librarian skill development, 3**
- **Facilities/renovations, 2**
COMPARISONS WITH AUSTRALIA AND UK
ANZ Top priorities Demonstrating value, facilities, e-resources

Demonstrating value, digital scholarship: Most challenging/ripe for innovation

ANZ Top 5 Priorities - 2018
Ranked in Top 5 by at least 20% of respondents (n=24)

- Demonstrating library value to your funders: 63%
- Facilities issues: 50%
- Licensed electronic collections/e-books: 50%
- Data curation/research data management: 42%
- Visibility of the library's collection: 42%

ANZ Top 5 Priorities - Most Challenging/Ripe for Innovation
Ranked in Top 5 by at least 20% of respondents (n=24)

- Demonstrating library value to your funders: 54%
- Support for digital scholarship/digital humanities: 42%
- Librarian skills development: 33%
- Visibility of the library's collection: 33%
- Licensed electronic collections/e-books: 29%
- Education/support for open access: 29%
- Data curation / research data management: 29%

ANZ Top priorities Demonstrating value, facilities, e-resources

Demonstrating value, digital scholarship: Most challenging/ripe for innovation
UK Top priorities, e-resources, open access publishing, RIM

RDM, digital scholarship, most challenging/ripe for innovation

**UK Top 3 Priorities - 2018**
- Licensed electronic collections/e-books: 50%
- Open access publishing: 27%
- Research Information Management (including CRIS...): 27%
- Demonstrating library value to your funders: 23%
- Data curation / research data management: 23%
- Facilities issues: 23%

**UK Top 3 Priorities - Most Challenging/Ripe for Innovation**
- Data curation / research data management: 46%
- Support for digital scholarship/...: 38%
- Open access publishing: 35%
- Librarian skills development: 31%
- Demonstrating library value to your funders: 23%
Shared Priorities, 2018 (CARL, CAUL & UK)

Data Curation / Research Data Management

Demonstrating Value to Funders
Shared: Challenging / Ripe for Innovation
(CARL, CAUL & UK)

Support for Digital Humanities / Digital Scholarship

Data Curation / Research Data Management
Putting the pieces together
Thanks

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