

From the CLA Task Force on Open Access

Andrew Waller & Heather Morrison

This is a brief update on the work of the CLA Task Force on Open Access (OA) and the activity of the Canadian Library Association regarding Open Access.

The Task Force was formed in November 2006 and was given the mandate to develop a policy statement on OA in the CLA, including recommendations on policies and practices to implement the policy if adopted. Additionally, the Task Force was asked to draft a position statement on OA in Canadian libraries.

The first action was completed in early 2007 and presented to CLA Executive Council. In May, Council accepted the recommendations, which included these recommendations:

- Full and immediate open access for all CLA publications, with the exception of *Feliciter*, which will be embargoed for one issue. Monographs will be considered for Open Access on an individual basis.
- CLA will actively encourage its members to self-archive in institutional and/or subject repositories and will investigate a partnership with E-LIS, the Open Archive for Library and Information Science.
- CLA will provide for authors' retention of copyright through the adoption of publisher-author agreements that promote Open Access, such as Creative Commons licensing.
- CLA will adopt an open communications policy for all or almost all CLA communications.

The draft position statement is currently in the consultation process.

CLA has a history of action on Open Access issues. For example, at the 2005 AGM, CLA members endorsed a resolution on OA. CLA has also signed the Budapest Open Access Initiative (<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>). More recently, CLA has presented strong positions on OA consultations by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and Libraries and Archives Canada (the Canadian Digital Information Strategy).

At the CLA 2008 conference in Vancouver, Libraries & Publishing 3.0, the co-conveners the Task Force will present an update on the activities of the group and on OA in general, particularly the Canadian situation. This session, entitled

“Open Access and Canadian Libraries: Taking a Position”, will take place on Friday, May 23, 8:30-10:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The members of the CLA Task Force on Open Access are:

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The Task Force welcomes comments, questions, suggestions, and ideas relating to OA and CLA and Canadian libraries. These would be much appreciated.

More information about the work of the Task Force can be found on the CLA website at www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Open_Access_Task_Force. Follow the link at the bottom of the page to see the mandate document for the group and the recommendations report.

Heather Morrison and Andrew Waller are the co-conveners of the CLA Task Force on Open Access. Heather is Project Coordinator at the British Columbia Electronic Library and Andrew is Serials Librarian at the University of Calgary.