

A Leading-Edge Position Statement on Open Access + Ongoing Interest in OA at CLA

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With CLA's adoption of a leading-edge Position Statement on Open Access for Canadian Libraries, the work of the CLA Task Force on Open Access has ended and the work of initiating a CLA Open Access Interest Group is beginning.

On May 28, 2008, the CLA Executive Council accepted a Position Statement on Open Access. The CLA OA Position Statement encourages libraries of all types to support open access, by making open access resources available to patrons and providing the necessary financial and philosophical support to OA initiatives. The full statement is posted on the CLA website, at http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Position_Statements&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=5306. This completes the mandate of the Open Access Task Force (http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Open_Access_Task_Force&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=2564).

The next question is the future of the Task Force. With the official duties completed, it has been decided that the group should disband. However, the Open Access environment in Canada continues to evolve, with new OA policies emerging from funding organizations such as the National Research Council (http://cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/media/press/nparc_e.html) and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (http://www.oicr.on.ca/portalnews/vol2_issue3/access.htm), and OA support programs continuing to be developed at Canadian universities, such as the Open Access Authors Fund at the University of Calgary (<http://devel.library.ucalgary.ca/services/for-faculty/open-access-authors-fund-0>). Also, publishers are increasingly investigating Open Access and the amount of content available through institutional and subject repositories continues to increase.

Interest group proposed

With all of this activity in mind, the members of the Task Force have come to the conclusion that there is still a need for a group to exist under the CLA umbrella that can discuss, investigate, and respond to Open Access issues. After studying the options, we decided to form an Open Access Interest Group. As of writing (August 2008), a proposal to create an OA IG is under construction. This will be presented to CLA Executive Council for their approval in September.

For more information on the work of the OA Task Force, see volume 54, issue 2, p.50 of *Feliciter* from earlier this year, where the CLA Task Force on

Open Access (OA) reported on the group's activities up to Spring 2008. These activities included creating a policy statement and related recommendations for CLA on Open Access, which was accepted by CLA Executive Council in May 2007

(http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Open_Access_Task_Force&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=2563), and presenting a session at the 2008 CLA conference in Vancouver entitled "Open Access and Canadian Libraries: Taking a Position"

(http://www.cla.ca/conference/2008/presentation/OpenAccess_andCanadian%20Libraries-Final.pdf). The Task Force also contributed to the CLA responses to OA consultations by bodies such as Libraries and Archives Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, often in conjunction with other CLA groups, such as the Copyright Committee.

The Open Access Task Force is very appreciative of the support, comments, questions, suggestions, and ideas received by CLA members and others over the past two years. We hope that our work has been of value to the Canadian Library Association and its members.

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

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