Creating a Canadian Library Publishing Community to Support Diamond Open Access

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Background

Diamond Open Access is a viable form of scholarly publishing in Canada, with a high proportion of journals already publishing in immediate open access without APCs. This is made possible with various forms of support, including from Canada's many library publishers.

As Institutional Publishing Service Providers (IPSPs), library publishers play a vital role in the Canadian non-profit publishing landscape. However, practitioners in this space have historically had no formal organization to engage with their issues or to represent them to the wider Canadian scholarly communications community. Initiated by Canadian Library Publishing Coalition (LPC) members, the Canadian Community Development Working Group (CCDWG) was struck in October 2022.

Composed of Canadian LPC members, non members and representatives from LPC, PKP, Érudit and Coalition Publica, the working group was tasked to engage Canadian scholarly communications stakeholders to explore strategies for developing a stronger Canadian library publisher community.

Identifying Community Needs

The CCDWG consulted with library publishing practitioners and stakeholders through a survey, community calls, and small group meetings. Two main themes emerged, including a desire for more opportunities for community connection and sharing, and a need for a coordinated national approach to library publishing activities.

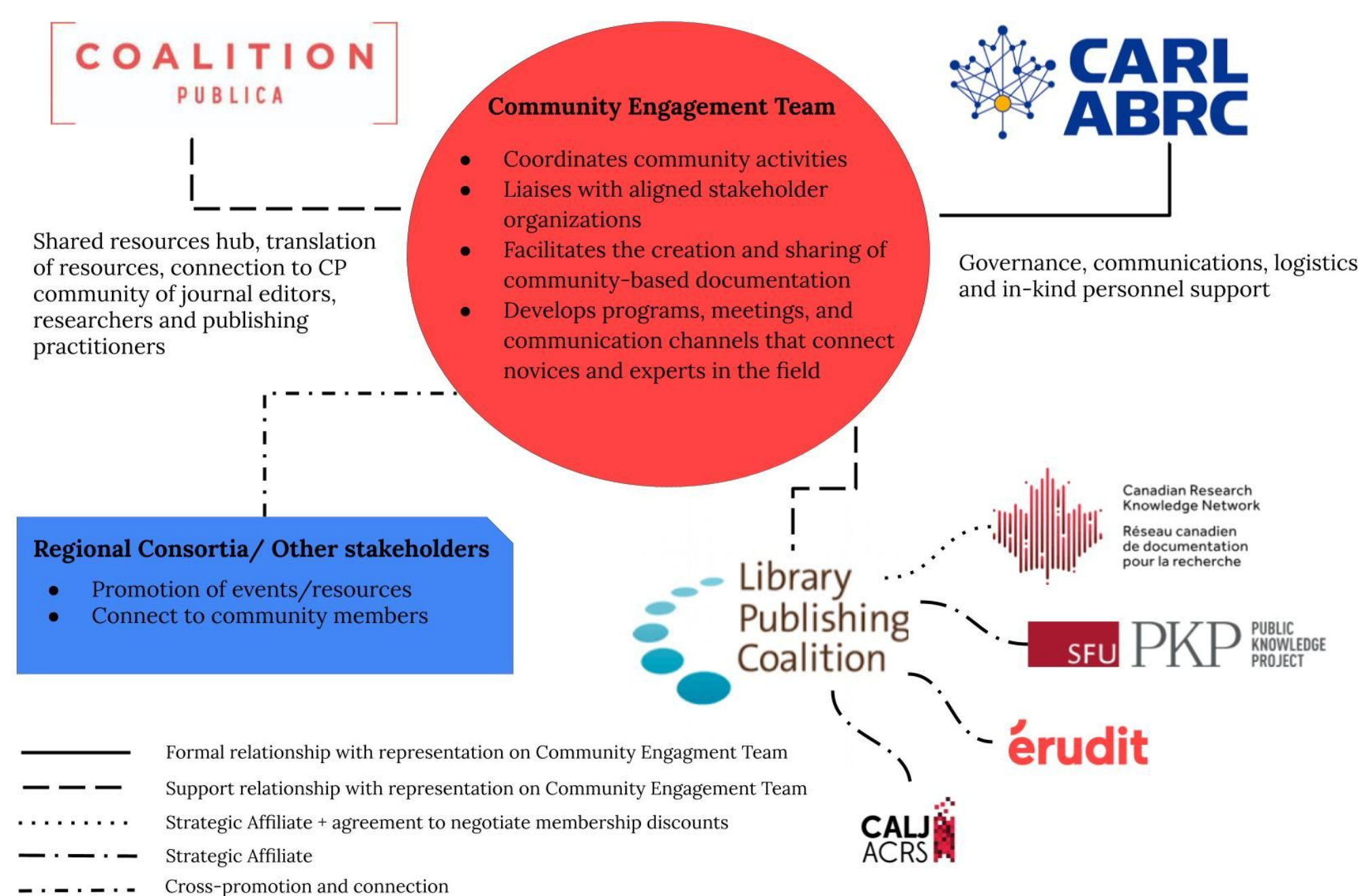Needs related to community sharing and connection include:
- Shared resources and documentation
- Mentoring and peer support
- Events
- Connection and networking with journals

Elements needed in a national strategy include:
- National vision
- Advocacy
- Regionality
- Shared infrastructure
- French language support and Francophone community engagement
- Indigenous language support

The CCDWG established a series of recommendations for how stakeholders can come together to support this community effectively, represented through the Model for Supporting the Library Publishing Community.
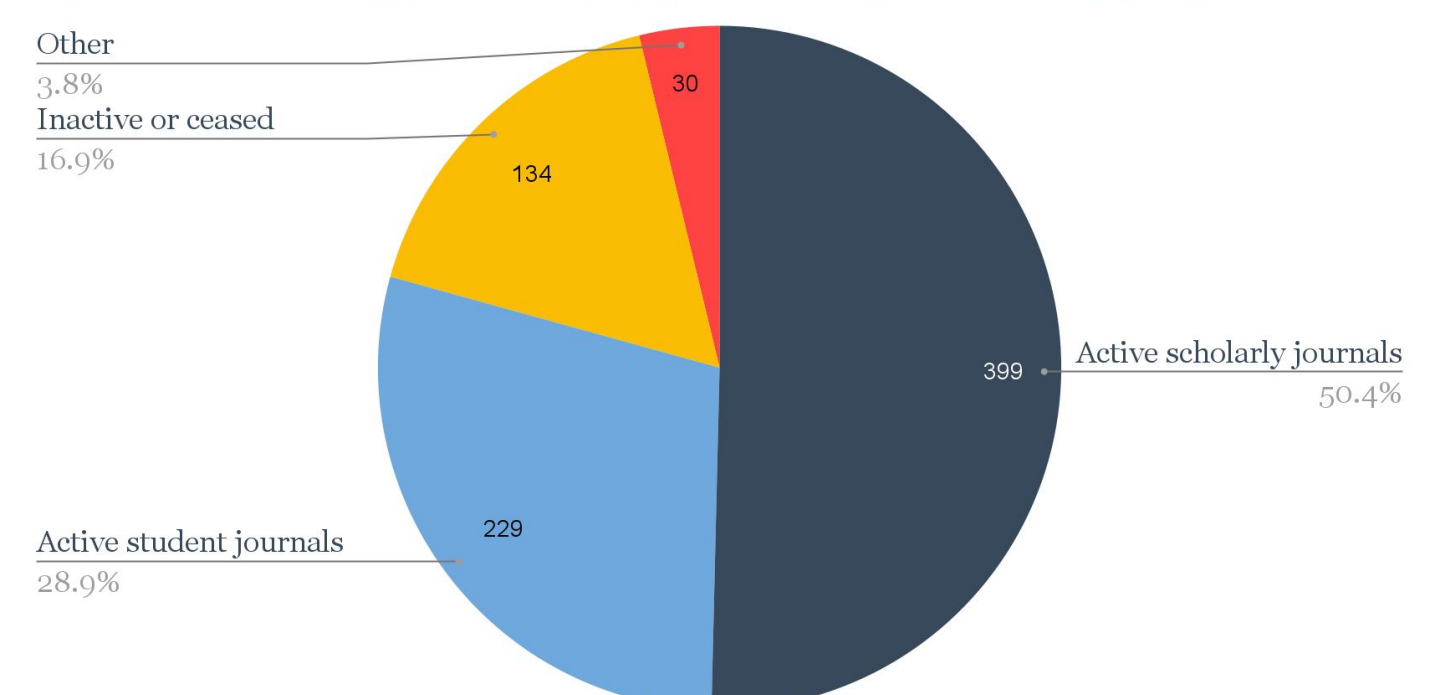
A Model for Supporting the Library Publishing Community

Community Engagement Team
- Coordinates community activities
- Liaises with aligned stakeholder organizations
- Facilitates the creation and sharing of community-based documentation
- Develops programs, meetings, and communication channels that connect novices and experts in the field

Shared resources hub, translation of resources, connection to CP community of journal editors, researchers and publishing practitioners

Governance, communications, logistics and in-kind personnel support

Regional Consortia/ Other stakeholders
- Promotion of events/resources
- Connect to community members

- Formal relationship with representation on Community Engagment Team
- Support relationship with representation on Community Engagement Team
- Strategic Affiliate + agreement to negotiate membership discounts
- Strategic Affiliate
- Cross-promotion and connection

Non-commercial Journal Publishing in Canada: A Website Analysis

A study produced in 2021 found that Canada is home to over 480 active scholarly journals published by non-commercial entities (e.g., libraries, universities, associations etc.). These journals are primarily (76%) in the humanities and social sciences, operate with small editorial teams of 1-6 people, and for those publishing immediate open access, 97% (n=283) operate on a diamond OA model.

Access models: Active non-commercial, Canadian journals

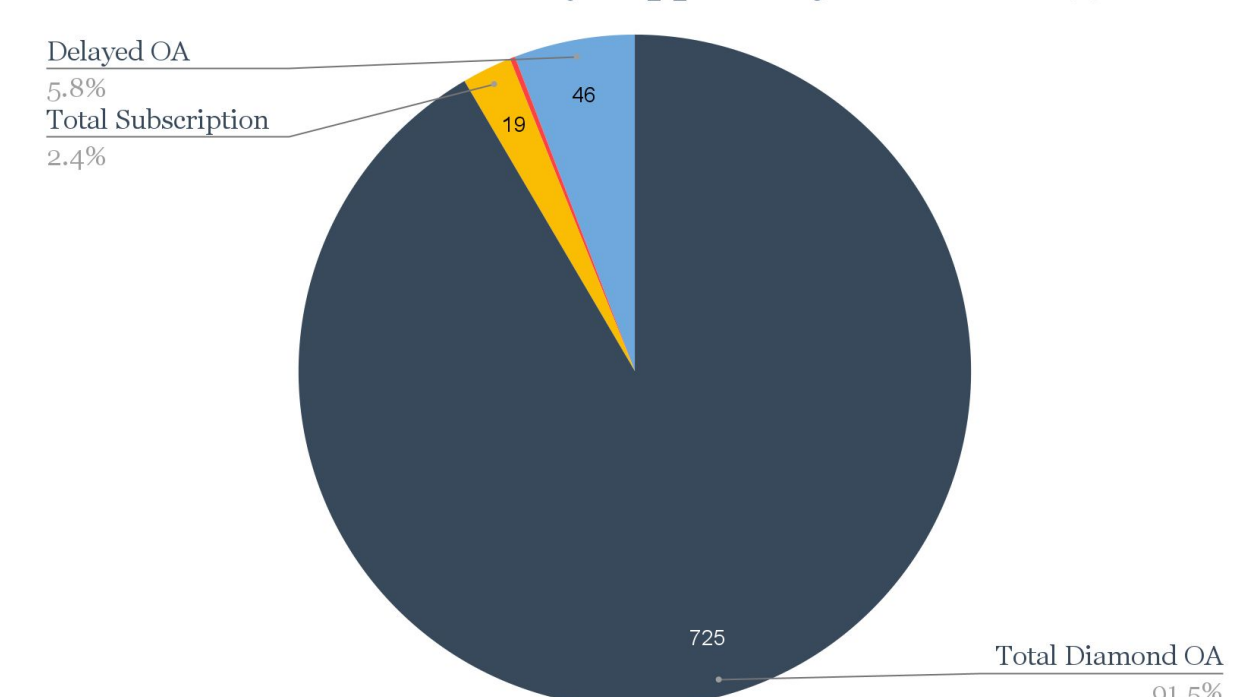Subject area: Active Canadian non-commercial journals

Library Publishing in Canada: An Institutional Survey

42 post-secondary libraries in Canada offer journal publishing or hosting services, with the most established programs operating since 2001. These programs collectively support hundreds of journals, most operating with a diamond OA model. Canadian institutions offer a wide range of publishing service to journals. In 2022, researchers compiled data from 35 institutional responses to a questionnaire about their library publishing programs.
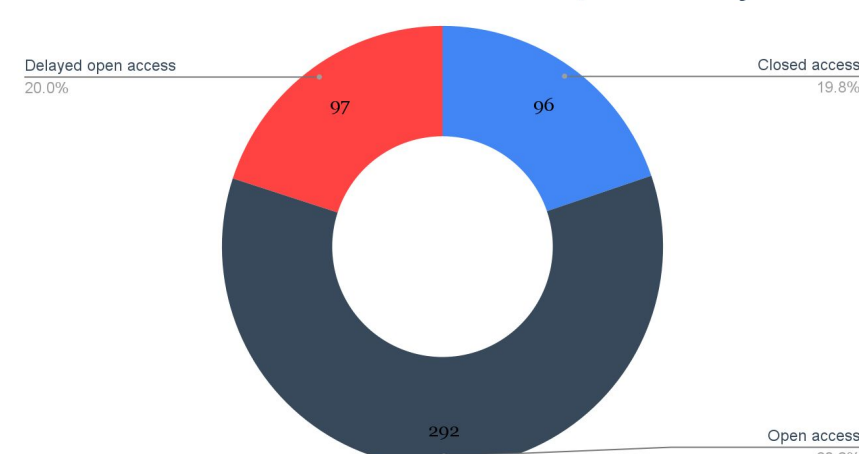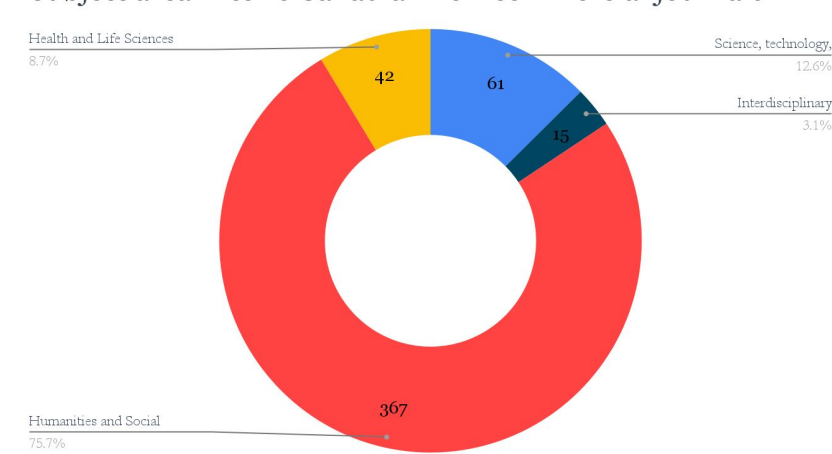

792 journals supported by 35 Library publishing programs
- Other 3.8%
- Inactive or ceased 16.9% — 134
- Active scholarly journals 50.4% — 399
- Active student journals 28.9% — 229
- 30

Access model for all library supported journals (n=792)
- Delayed OA 5.8% — 46
- Total Subscription 2.4% — 19
- Total Diamond OA 91.5% — 725

Most Common Services Offered to Journals by Library Publishing Programs

- Submission and peer review management platform
- Publishing platform
- Training and support for editorial teams using publishing software or platforms
- DOI assignment and registration
- Support for editorial teams for inclusion in discovery and indexing services such as the DOAJ, Scopus, or Web of Science
- Guidance and training for editors in establishing new journals
- Repository services
- Training and support for editorial teams in publishing practices and workflows
- Training and support for editorial teams in copyright and licensing issues
- Digital preservation
- Documentation, guides, or templates for editorial teams, reviewers, or authors
- ISSN Registration
- Reporting on journal performance such as usage statistics or bibliometrics

Lange, J & Severson, S. (2021, 10 12). What Are the Characteristics of Canadian Independent, Scholarly Journals? Results from a Website Analysis. *The Journal of Electronic Publishing* 24(1) doi: 10.3998/jep.153

Betz, S., Nason, M. & Uhl, E. (2023). Library publishing and hosting in Canada - Institutional responses to a 2022 questionnaire. https://doi.org/10.5683/SP3/SDFZUO, Borealis, V2.