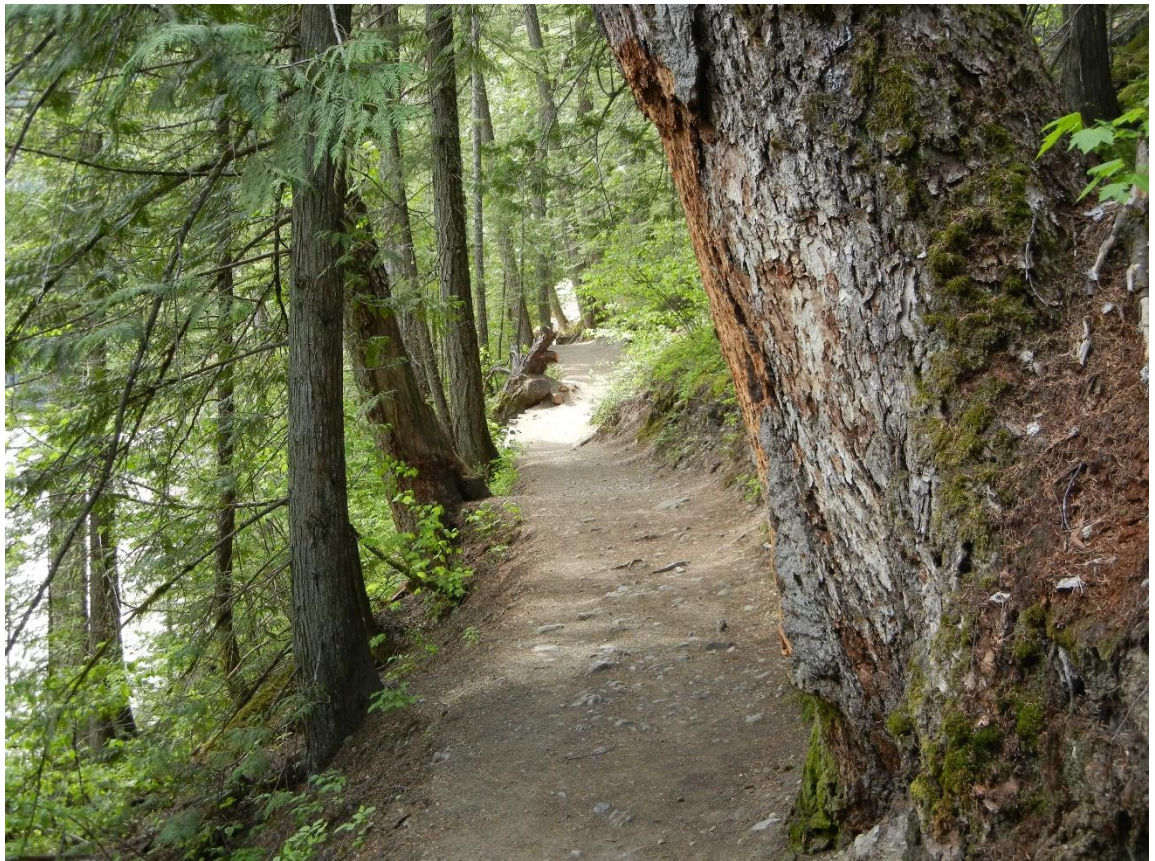


REGIONAL REPORT FOR CANADA 2019



5/15/2019

Regional Report - IASSIST – Sydney Australia

This regional report for the year ending May 1, 2019 has been compiled and submitted by Carol Perry, IASSIST Regional Secretary for Canada.

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Regional report for Canada 2019

REGIONAL REPORT - IASSIST – SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

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

Stakeholders from a variety of government agencies, organizations and universities continue to collaborate in a meaningful way to establish infrastructure in support of research data. Federal government funding for research and research infrastructure is facilitating this rapid change.

A recent federal government initiative outlines a new national co-ordinated digital infrastructure strategy for Canadian research <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/136.nsf/eng/home>. This federally funded strategy will draw together major stakeholders with plans to be implemented over the next few years.

The CARL-based Portage network continues to mature as a national initiative developing support mechanisms for RDM.

Research Data Canada is a stakeholder-driven organization dedicated to improving the management of research data in Canada. It has evolved into a forum where multiple stakeholders work together to develop policies and build infrastructure around research data stewardship.

MEMBERSHIP

As of May 1, 2019 there were 73 active IASSIST members from Canada, staying steady with last year's total.

PORTAGE (CARL)

<https://portagenetwork.ca/>

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) Portage Network is completing its fourth year of existence. The mission of Portage is to contribute actively to RDM in Canada through a sustainable network of library-based services and collaborative infrastructure. Jeff Moon, the Portage Director, has been very active this year, promoting network initiatives to relevant stakeholders across the country. Several major initiatives include:

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

Work continues in the migration of the DMP Assistant platform to the new integrated Roadmap version. The plan is to launch DMP Assistant 2.0 in late 2019.

The Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR) project continues to operate in limited production mode. This joint project of CARL/Portage and Compute Canada provides Canadian researchers with a preservation platform for big data and acts as a Canadian data repository portal for providing access to research data from across the country. A growing number (48) of collections from Canadian repositories have been indexed within the portal.

The Network of Expertise Groups continue to develop sustainable support mechanisms for RDM across Canada. Groups include:

- Curation Expert Group
- Data Discovery Expert Group
- Data Management Planning Expert Group
- Data Repository Expert Group
- Preservation Expert Group
- Research Intelligence Expert Group
- Training Expert Group

Working groups are formed drawing in membership from across the country to tackle specific projects within a limited time frame for the Expert Groups. The Data Management Planning Expert Group, for example, currently has four working groups: Policy Working Group; Exemplars Working Group; Repositories Working Group; and, Training Working Group.

Portage, in partnership with McMaster University, received a SSHRC Connection Grant to support the creation of a national Curation Workshop scheduled for the fall 2019.

DATA LIBERATION INITIATIVE (DLI)

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/dli/dli>

The Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) partnership between post-secondary institutions and Statistics Canada continues to strengthen and grow in its goal to provide improved access to Canadian data resources.

The DLI community membership has increased by two new members, with new inquiries coming in regularly.

Over the course of the year, there were nearly 1800 posts to the listserv, and over 600 requests were responded to.

National Training Day took place in May, along with the Western Regional Training in November and the Ontario Regional Training in December.

The DDI Gap Coding Project had a target this year of both 75 PUMFs and 75 Masterfiles coded and published to Nesstar. Despite quite a number of technical difficulties, we surpassed these numbers with 98 PUMFs and 81 Masterfiles coded and published respectively.

The PUMF collection continued to grow with 11 releases, including the 2016 Census Long Form. These PUMFs accounted for 24 datasets overall.

DLI clients downloaded over 32,000 files, including over 10,000 for the PCCF. Our secondary DLI data distributors had amazing success over the course of the year as well. Abacus saw nearly 11,000 downloads, ODESI saw just over 25,000, and CHASS had nearly 1.5 million downloads!

The priorities for the coming year include automating the GAP coding project, producing regular DLI newsletters and sharing internal newsletters, implementing a PUMF discoverability search tool, website updates, development of a banding system for membership costs, linkages with regional services, and communication material development for DLI membership benefits.

Information provided by [Jennifer Scharf, Statistics Canada](#)

CANADIAN RESEARCH DATA CENTRE NETWORK (CRDCN)

<https://crdcn.org/>

The CRDCN, in partnership with Statistics Canada, provides university, government and other approved researchers access to a vast array of social, economic and health confidential microdata through more than 30 secure data centres located on university campuses across Canada. The network is now recognized and funded as one of Canada's major science initiatives.

A new facility opened this year in Moncton, NB with several other centres scheduled to come on-stream later this year and early 2020.

Work is well underway to transform the network infrastructure to a virtual thin-client environment. This project has been made possible through significant federal and provincial funding. CRDCN, Statistics Canada and Compute Canada are coordinating efforts to roll out the new system by 2021.

Growth in utilization of the facilities and data over the past 10 years shows significant and steady growth. During the past year, 68 new data cycles were added to the data collection available to researchers.

OCUL/SCHOLARS PORTAL

[HTTPS://DATAVERSE.SCHOLARSPORTAL.INFO/](https://dataverse.scholarsportal.info/)

Scholars Portal (SP) continues to provide digital data infrastructure in support of research data services at university libraries across Ontario. Over the past year, SP has entered into discussions with regional library consortia as well as individual universities to deliver a shared Dataverse repository platform for research data collected and deposited with university libraries across the country (<http://dataverse.scholarsportal.info>). Currently 27 institutions are utilizing SP Dataverse with another 17 preparing to come online later this year.

The repository now includes over 1,600 datasets, including over 25,000 data files, representing significant growth over the past year. Download statistics depict a sharp increase in number from an average of 1,300 downloads a month to over 8,000 per month. SP Dataverse recently upgraded to version 4.10.1.5.

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.

CANADIAN MEMBERS - HIGHLIGHTS

Jeff Moon, Queen's University is the Director of Portage

Marilyn Andrews, University of Regina, is Chair IASSIST Communications Committee 2017-2019

Amber Leahy, Scholars Portal, is IASSIST Regional Treasurer (Canada) and IASSIST Member at Large (Canada) 2017-2021

Carol Perry, University of Guelph, is IASSIST Regional Secretary for Canada 2017-2019

Many individual Canadian members are deeply involved in Portage network initiatives.

PHOTO CREDIT

Cover photo by Carol Perry 2012. Used with permission.