

# REGIONAL REPORT FOR CANADA 2016



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Regional Report - IASSIST - Bergen, Norway

This regional report for the year ending May 31, 2016 has been compiled and submitted by Carol Perry, IASSIST Regional Secretary for Canada.

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# Regional report for Canada 2016

## REGIONAL REPORT - IASSIST - BERGEN, NORWAY

### OVERVIEW

There have been numerous exciting and innovative initiatives underway this year across Canada on the data front.

With a new Liberal government in power, the return of the long form Census made its debut on Census Day, May 10, 2016. This news was welcomed by data advocates and providers alike. This marked shift in priorities on behalf of the government signals a renewed interest in providing relevant social data for research and policy-making initiatives.

In July 2015, the Tri-Agency released a Draft Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management, signaling that Canada will gradually begin to align its data management policies with globally recognized expectations.

<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=83F7624E-1>

The Portage network has matured from a pilot project to a developing national initiative.

### Membership

As of May 1, 2016 there were 49 active IASSIST members from Canada.

## Census

As in pre-2011 census years, in 2016 a 25% sample of Canadian households answered the long-form questionnaire. This year, the Census is available online. Individuals requiring a paper questionnaire must place a request. For the first time, income information will be retrieved directly from Canada Revenue Agency files.

Statistics Canada is anticipating the first release of data to begin in February 2017 with all public data files released by November 2017. Microdata files will be made available to Research Data Centre (RDCs) in April 2018. PUMF files are scheduled to be released to the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) between January and June 2019. This is an ambitious schedule that will delight researchers.

## Tri-Agency Draft Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management

The three major Canadian funding agencies, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC); the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC); and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), have released their long awaited draft statement of principles. This moves Canada closer to fulfilling its obligations under several international initiatives such as the OECD Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding (2004). This new statement outlines the importance of data management and preservation as part of the research process, however, at this time, there is no clear timeline on implementing specific requirements. The agencies are working with stakeholders to determine a phased roll out over the next few years.

## Portage

The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) Portage project has moved from a working group to an established network. Our former IASSIST president, Chuck Humphrey, is the inaugural director of this initiative. A new steering committee has been established, bringing together stakeholders from academic institutions, government agencies, infrastructure providers, data stewards and other collaborators.

To date the Portage Network has focused on two major initiatives:

1. Create a network of expertise on research data management through the development of expert groups: Current groups include:
  - a. Data Management Planning Expert Group (DMPEG)
  - b. Data Preservation Expert Group (PEG)
  - c. Data Discover Expert Group (Discovery)
  - d. RDM Training Expert Group (Training)

As the project matures, more expert groups will be assembled in areas such as data curation and repository certification.

2. National platforms for planning, preserving, and discovering research data. Two partnerships have been established through MOUs to provide a national data management plan web service (DMP Assistant) and to develop a preservation pipeline. The DMP Assistant is a bilingual DMP tool based on the DMP Online. See <https://assistant.portagenetwork.ca/>

The director has been engaged in discussions with the 3 major granting agencies in Canada, to help advance the agencies' plan to roll out data management requirements as part of future funding calls.

## DLI – Data Liberation Initiative

On April 20, 2016 the Data Liberation Initiative celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This program offers postsecondary institutions across Canada access to many of Statistics Canada's data products. Approximately 80 institutions are now participating members. The occasion was marked with a gathering in Ottawa which included speeches from the Chief Statistician, Wayne R. Smith, and the presentation of a certificate of recognition, to the DLI manager, David Price, and to the DLI External Advisory Committee co-chairs, Gaston Quirion of Université Laval and Peter Webster of Saint Mary's University.

## Research Data Centres

The Canadian Research Data Network, comprised of the secure Research Data Centres housed at Canadian universities, held its annual meeting in Ottawa in April. It has been another year of growth as the number of centres and branches rose to thirty. The network also shows continued growth in number of researcher and students activity and output levels with 1650 researchers including 600 graduate students utilized the facilities in 2015. This year will begin the new five-year funding cycle from SSHRC and CIHR as we await the announcement of their continued support for the program. CFI funding is being sought to streamline the data vetting process and to expand the hours of operation through investment in a thin client centralized server system. Negotiations are underway with a number of federal and provincial government departments in order to add administrative data into the data centres. These next few years will be exciting to watch as these initiatives are developed.

## OCUL/Scholars Portal

In May 2016, Scholars Portal and the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) announced a project to make current and historical Canadian census boundary files available online. These files will be available through their GeoPortal (<http://geo.scholarsportal.info>). Currently Census boundary files from 1911 onward are available.

## NADDI

This year's North American Data Documentation Initiative Conference (NADDI) took place in Edmonton, Alberta in April. The host was the Health Research Data Repository (HRDR), supported the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta. The conference included well-subscribed pre-conference workshops on Dataverse, Colectica and Open Data. The group will meet next year at Cornell University.

## Regional Activities

Many universities across Canada have been building their data services in response to changing government priorities related to Data Management and Open Access to research results. Below are a few examples of these activities.

James Doiron, Coordinator, Research Management Services, University of Alberta presented at the University of Alberta Research Data Management Week May 2-6, 2016. Approximately 160 individuals registered for sessions.

Carleton University hosted a Big Data Research Day in May 2016. This event generated interest in the new Institute for Data Research on campus comprised of 65 participating faculty, researchers and associate members.

Queen's University also hosted a Data Day on May 10 with talks ranging from linking data and publications, to digital scholarship as well as results of a recent Data Management Survey undertaken at Queens.

University of British Columbia has been pro-active all year in providing DMP training to researchers on campus.

Wilfrid Laurier University has announced a Summer Institute of Research Methods that will include an RDM component.

### Canadian Members on the IASSIST executive

Marilyn Andrews, University of Regina, is 2015-2017 Chair of the IASSIST Communications Committee

Carol Perry, University of Guelph, is 2016-2018 IASSIST Canadian Secretary

Amber Leahy, Scholars Portal, is 2015-2016 co-chair of the Data Visualization Interest Group

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