

# Creators of the Commons

Heather Morrison  
BC Electronic Library Network  
& The Imaginary Journal of Poetic Economics

Copyright in Libraries: The Digital Conundrum

CLA Information Commons Interest Group

Preconference to Canadian Library Association Conference, June 2006

# Overview

- Focus: Canadian Librarians (mostly)
- The Commons
- Open Access
- Open Source: Content, not Software
- Blogs & Wikis
- Advocacy
- Conclusions

# CLA 2005: Resolution on Open Access

<http://www.cla.ca/resources/resolutions2005.htm>

- Connecting users with information...
  - One of a library's most essential functions
- Access to information...
  - One of librarianship's most cherished values

# The Commons

The phrase Information Commons refers to our shared knowledge-base and the processes that facilitate or hinder its use. The term "commons" refers to the land (or grounds) that villagers shared for grazing purposes in simpler times.

From:

CLA Information Commons Wiki:

[http://www.infocommons.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www.infocommons.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)

# Open Access

Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

*From:*

*Peter Suber, Open Access Overview:*

<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

Open Access makes sense when creators want to give their work away!

- Peer-reviewed scholarly research articles

Two approaches to open access: self-archiving, and open access publishing

# Self-archiving: institutional repositories

- Canadian Association of Research Libraries Institutional Repository program
- 12 repositories, over 22,000 records
- CARL Metadata Harvester search:  
<http://carl-abrc-oai.lib.sfu.ca/>
- Heather's tip: authors: keep your copyright!  
author's addendum:  
SPARC U.S., Science Commons
- Heather's IR

## **E-LIS: <http://eprints.rclis.org/>**

- Open Archive for Library and Information Science 2003 –
- Volunteer Editors from over 50 countries
- Supports 22 languages; interface in 5 languages
- Over 3,800 documents
- Search & deposit is free

# E-LIS Canada

- E-LIS Canada Editorial Team: Oct. 2005 -
  - Heather Morrison, Andrew Waller, Kumiko Vezina, Shelley Brown
- Peer-reviewed papers, conference papers & presentations, working papers are most welcome!
- Authors: know your rights – before you submit for publication!
- Institutional or subject repository? Both!
- BCLA Presentations. Too cool!



# Self-archiving: other repositories

New / in the works:

- COPPUL Animated Tutorials Sharing Project
- BCcampus Shareable Online Resources Group (SOL\*R Repository): *new BCLA - Academic Librarians in Public Service Subcommittee*

# OA LIS Publishing in Canada

- Evidence Based Library and Information Practice 2006 -
- <http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/EBLIP>
- CLA Evidence Based Librarianship Interest Group
- International, peer-reviewed OA Journal
- Open Source **Open Journal Systems**
- Hosted by University of Alberta Learning Systems
- Authors retain copyright

# OA LIS Publishing in Canada

## **The Partnership: Library and Information Practice and Research, Fall 2006 –**

- The Partnership (library associations across Canada)
- Two peer-reviewed articles per issue: Innovations in Practice, Theory & Research
- **Open Journal Systems**, hosted U of Guelph

**Cantilever:** open access journal by LIS students, University of Western Ontario

# Open Source Software for OA Publishing

## Open Journal Systems

- Open source publishing software
- Developed by University of British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University Library is a partner, provides support
- Used by hundreds of journals around the world – African Journals Online
- Open source user communities - Portuguese

# Towards an Open Source Scholarship

## Human Genome Project

- Open sharing of information + collaboration  
= mapping of human genome of record speed

*Why not use this approach to find sustainable, environmentally friendly energy solutions?*

# Open Source Chemistry

**Useful Chemistry** – Jean-Claude Bradley et al, Drexel University

**Blogger Lab Notebook** – every step of the experiment is posted

If there is a better research method – why not find out *before* you do the research?

# Scholarly Blogs

- The Imaginary Journal of Poetic Economics
- <http://poeticeconomics.blogspot.com>
- ::CultureLibre.Ca:: (Olivier Charbonneau)
- <http://www.culturelibre.ca/>
- Open Access News (Peter Suber)
- No expectation of payment for reading!  
Please cite your source. Thank yous appreciated!

# The Imaginary Journal of Poetic Economics: an open letter

<http://poeticeconomics.blogspot.com/2006/03/open-access-transformative-change.html>

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006

## Open Access: Transformative Change

An Open Letter to the President and Members of the American Chemical Society

Dear E. Ann Nally, President, ACS:

In a recent [e-mail to ACS members](#), you inquire whether the NIH Public Access Policy is simply change for its own sake, whether it really adds value beyond what it presently available.

As an open access advocate, let me explain. The NIH Public Access Policy is merely one piece in the move towards open access. The potential of open access is not change for the sake of change; it is transformative change, towards an unprecedented public good.

- Attribution / Nocommercial / Sharealike
- Open letter to the American Chemical Society
- Meant to share!



# OA Librarian

- <http://oalibrarian.blogspot.com>
- Pathfinder / news blog
- Librarians very interested in OA
- Team blog - librarians from Canada, the U.S. and Turkey – signed blogposts
- Anyone can comment!

# Wikis

- CLA Info Commons Interest Group Wiki
- [http://www.infocommons.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www.infocommons.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)
- Commons & related issues
- Please register, and share information – it's easy!
- Anonymous authorship / true collaboration
- Modifications okay!

# Advocacy

- Open Access Resolutions / Policies:
- Canadian Association of Research Libraries - early signatory, Budapest Open Access Initiative
- BCLA, CACUL, CLA
- SSHRC & CIHR open access policy consultations
- Open Access Advocates in Canada - CLA Info Commons wiki:
- [http://www.infocommons.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Open\\_Access\\_Canadians](http://www.infocommons.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Open_Access_Canadians)

# Advocacy continued

- U.S.: Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006
- Supported by: ALA, ARL, ACRL, MLA, SLA, and AALL
- Can Canadian library associations work together on advocacy?

# Conclusion

- Creators want, and need, to share, not just to protect
- The open sharing made possible by the world wide web creates new possibilities for global collaboration the likes of which we have never seen before
- Copyright laws need to protect our rights to share, not just to restrict
- Let's work together to build the commons – to advocate for the copyright laws & other policies we need, to learn, implement & educate



**Questions?**

## Contact:

Heather Morrison

Project Coordinator, BC Electronic Library Network

[heatherm@eln.bc.ca](mailto:heatherm@eln.bc.ca)

604-268-7001

<http://eln.bc.ca>

The Imaginary Journal of Poetic Economics

<http://poeticeconomics.blogspot.com>