Towards a Collaborative National Research Data Management Network

Martha Whitehead, CARL President
Kathleen Shearer, CARL Research Associate
Chuck Humphrey, Portage Director

IDCC 2016/02/23
Outline

• The Canadian context for research data management
• Libraries and research data management
• From Pilot Project to Portage Network
• Network Models
• Portage Governance
## The Canadian context for research data management

### Context:
1. Canada is a federal system with multiple jurisdictions.
2. Jurisdictional powers are divided between the federal and provincial governments.
3. Federal research funding agencies fall under the Minister of Industry, although other federal departments fund some academic research.
4. Canada does not have a national data institution or management policy but has introduced open science, which cuts across ministries.
5. Canada is a bilingual country

### Challenges:
1. Causes confusion over mandates & increases the number of stakeholders for research data.
2. No top-down powers to implement changes and run into possible jurisdiction disparities leading to an unlevel playing field.
3. For every federal dollar invested in research infrastructure, 40 cents is federal, while 60 cents must come from all other sources.
4. No central voice or policy setting for research data management and no focal contact for international collaborations in research data.
5. Have to bring two communities along the same research data pathway.
Since the January 28-29, 2014 Digital Infrastructure Summit, research data management has become more widely recognised as part of digital research infrastructure, although, depictions of research data management are often lumped together with storage in these discussions.
This list includes:

Researchers
Funders
Standards organisation
University administrators
Research administrators
Infrastructure providers
Government agencies
Interest groups
Four Regional Library Consortia

OCUL Ontario Council of University Libraries

COPPUL Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries

CAUL/CBUA Council of Atlantic University Libraries

BCI Bureau de Coopération Interuniversitaire
The Canadian Association of Research Libraries

Engagement in research data management

• 2009: workshop introducing research data management to librarians
• 2010-2011: Research Data Management Infrastructure funding application
• 2013: workshop on planning research data management services
• 2013: ARC pilot
• 2014: Portage network
• 2015: Framework and transition plan from pilot to operating network
Two interlinked mandates:

- A library-based network of expertise on research data management, and
- National platforms for planning, preserving, and discovering research data
Network of Expertise

Capitalize on expertise and services within Canadian academic libraries in specific areas of research data management:

- data management planning
- data discovery
- skills and training
- data preservation
- privacy, security, and confidentiality
- data curation
- data dissemination and access

EXPERT GROUPS

- Now operational
- Forthcoming
National Platforms

• DMP Assistant
  - Bilingual implementation of DMP Online
National Platforms

- Preservation pipeline
  - Scalable Archivematica workflow with DIPs going to Globus Publication and AIPs going to replicated, archival storage
Network Models
Canadian Library Collaborative Experiences

Types of collaboration:

1. Nationally brokered arrangements

2. Four regional academic library consortia

Advantages:

1. Staff with shared focus; credibility with external agencies; federal funding

2. Proximity for face-to-face meetings; workable-sized communities of 19 to 23 institutions
Is there a best level to collaborate?

Portage aims to provide services and infrastructure at the levels of the research project, the institution, and the network.

By network, we mean collaborating in regional and national partnerships.
Choosing a network governance model

In working across three levels and a variety of stakeholder communities, Portage must plan appropriately for multi-organisational governance.

Three forms of network governance (Provan and Kenis, 2007):

1. Participant-governed networks
2. Lead organisation-governed networks
3. Network administrative organisation
Portage: a lead organisation-governed network

• The number of organisations involved with Portage makes the participant-governed network model impractical and would make goal consensus difficult to achieve.

• The network administrative organisation model would require creating a new membership organisation at a time when there is little appetite for yet another organisation.

• The lead organisation-governed network model is lightweight and CARL can provide the secretariat role of lead organisation for now.
Networks of expertise

Kirchner et al, 2015, examined the use of the centre of excellence model to provide digital information services to multiple institutions. They proposed a variation which they call “networks of expertise.”

This approach applies a community-building strategy and brings together experts with complementary skills for a limited time to address a particular issue. Furthermore, it keeps experts at local institutions by relying on an active network to address issues across a spectrum of institutions.
Portage Governance
The Portage Steering Committee

A Steering Committee will bridge Portage from its start up to a national network managed through a sustainable governance model.

The Steering Committee will advise on directions and priorities over the next two years while operational services are established for a network of expertise and collaborative platforms are developed. It will also help identify the governance and business models for ongoing operations.
Thank you for your attention!
The Canadian context for research data management

1. Canada is a federal system with multiple jurisdictions.

2. Jurisdictional powers are divided between the federal and provincial governments.

3. Federal funding agencies for research fall under Industry Canada, although other federal departments do fund some academic research.

4. Canada does not have a national data institution or management policy but has introduced open science, which cuts across ministries.

5. Canada is a bilingual country

1. 10 provinces + 3 territories. For some things, Canada is grouped into four or five regions.

2. Education is a provincial responsibility. There is no federal ministry for education.

3. For every federal dollar invested in research infrastructure, 40 cents is federal, while 60 cents must come from all other sources.


5. French (24%) and English (76%)