

GID18

POST-DEPOSITORY

INVESTIGATING THE PERSISTENCE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
PUBLICATIONS IN FORMER DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

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bit.ly/GID18-post-depository

OVERVIEW

- Project overview
- Relevance to the community
- Dissemination
- Next steps

Project overview

- Builds on book chapter project that examined the status of depository programs across the country
- Seeks to explore the ways in which libraries are adapting their print holdings post-federal depository - lack of published info
- Evaluates the persistence of federal government materials in former full depository CARL libraries (23) to understand the landscape of access to historical federal government information

Supported by the CARL 2018 Practicing Librarian - Research in Librarianship Grant

Key questions

- Have former full depository CARL libraries maintained their print, federal government holdings or are those collections being re-evaluated and weeded?
- Is it possible to locate materials distributed through the former program via public access catalogues?
- What do the results of this study reveal about access to federal government information in Canada more broadly?

Method

- Use the public catalogues of CARL libraries to search for a sample of items selected from issues of the federal Weekly Checklist
 - Use inclusion and exclusion criteria to inform the creation of a sample list of publications
 - Perform searches in public catalogues, using a standardized method, to collect relevant record and holdings details for each publication from each library in the study
- There are many limitations!

Some of those limitations...

- Institution-specific approaches to cataloguing, description, and discovery
- Different search interfaces may affect retrieval success
- Publications types we exclude may have been treated differently than those we include (e.g. the Hansard, CD-ROMs)
- What's in the catalogue might not reflect what's on the shelf

among others...

Relevance to the community

- Contextual information for practitioners
- Guide government information seeking strategies
- Support collection management decisions
- Promotion of resource sharing and collaborative preservation

Relevance to the community

CARL 2018 Practicing Librarian - Research in Librarianship Grant

Supports research in the field of academic librarianship by and/or about Canadians. Intended to support projects involving structured, evidence-based research in libraries that propose answers to real-world issues.

Grant money will be used to hire and train a research assistant, to carry out the data gathering component of the project.

Relevance to the community

CARL strategic priorities :

- Facilitate collaborations to create, acquire, share, and preserve Canada's research resources
- Engage with multiple organizations to foster national and international collaborations

Relevance to the community

Following up on CARL - Hubbertz reports (2005-2007) regarding government information in Canada

- Reports assessed the scope of acquisition and preservation of Canadian provincial and territorial government information published on the web
- Since the reports were published, DSP distribution ended
- Large scale, pan-Canadian assessment of the landscape is overdue

Dissemination

We plan to:

- Keep the community posted with progress
- Reach out to the community to seek feedback or input
- Disseminate findings through formal publication and conference presentations
- Publish our research data
- Ensure that outputs are available in open access formats

Keep the conversation going

Questions for the community:

- How will this project be useful for your practice?
- How would you like us to keep the community posted on our progress?
- Have you, are you currently, or are you planning related projects? How can we build on each other's work?

Get in touch!

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Relevant resources

Canadian Association of Research Libraries (n.d.). Strategic directions May 2016 to May 2019 . Ottawa: CARL-ABRC. Retrieved from <http://www.carl-abrc.ca/about-carl/strategic-directions/>

Hubbertz, A. (2005). Collection and preservation of web-based provincial/territorial government publications: Report on a Survey of CARL and APLIC libraries. Ottawa: CARL-ABRC.

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