Press Release

For immediate release

Agreement between BCI and the University of Toronto to extend OCUL's research data repository service to Quebec researchers

Montreal and Toronto, April 23, 2019 – BCI and the University of Toronto are proud to announce the signing of an agreement allowing researchers from Quebec universities to deposit the datasets generated by their research to OCUL's Scholars Portal Dataverse platform.

Scholars Portal is a group of services and technological infrastructure provided by the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) and hosted at the University of Toronto Libraries. Dataverse is an open source software developed by the Institute of Quantitative Social Studies (IQSS) at Harvard University that allows researchers to deposit and share small and medium datasets. Since 2012, Scholars Portal has hosted an instance of Dataverse and recently completed a project, with the support of the Université de Montréal, to provide a bilingual interface.

Over the next months, each university library in Quebec will work to set up an institutional Dataverse on the Scholars Portal instance, making the service accessible to its community of researchers.

With this new agreement, the libraries offer university researchers in Quebec a high-quality infrastructure for describing, depositing, and even sharing when desired, the datasets generated by the research they have completed, highlighting these valuable resources and promoting their reuse.

"This is an important step in renewing the services offered to researchers by Quebec university libraries," said the Chair of the Library Sub-committee of BCI and University Librarian at Concordia University, Guylaine Beaudry, "and we're particularly happy to collaborate with our Ontario colleagues."

"We're very pleased to be able to expand access to Scholars Portal Dataverse," says John Barnett, Executive Director of OCUL. "This service was developed in collaboration with our 21 Ontario university libraries, and adding Quebec libraries as collaborators enhances our ability to provide innovative technological services to our researchers."

"I am delighted about this partnership with our Quebec colleagues," says Larry Alford, Chief Librarian at the University of Toronto Libraries. "This partnership will enable Ontario and Quebec institutions to leverage our collective knowledge, expertise, and infrastructure in research data preservation to support Canadian research and scholarship."

For more information about the Dataverse tool and its possibilities, visit the guide on the Scholars Portal website.

About BCI

The Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire (BCI) is an organization representing Québec universities. Its mandate is centered on cooperation between the universities in Québec and on the provision of common services. BCI plays an essential role in optimizing the resources that Quebec invests in teaching and research at the university level.

About the University of Toronto Libraries

The University of Toronto Libraries (UTL) system is the largest academic library in Canada and is consistently ranked among the top-10 research libraries in North America. The system consists of 42 libraries located on three university campuses. The Libraries' data centre houses more than 200 servers with a storage capacity of 1.5 petabytes.

About OCUL

OCUL is a consortium of the 21 university libraries in Ontario. OCUL works collaboratively to enhance information services in Ontario and beyond through collective purchasing and shared digital information infrastructure, collaborative planning, advocacy, assessment, research, partnerships, communications, and professional development.

About Scholars Portal

Scholars Portal is a service of OCUL, hosted through the University of Toronto Libraries. The Scholars Portal technological infrastructure preserves and provides access to information resources collected and shared by Ontario's 21 university libraries.

Sources :

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