

Canadian Research Knowledge Network

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Humanities and Social Sciences Digital Research Infrastructure in Canada: A Landscape Analysis and Future Directions

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CRKN Virtual Conference 2025



crkn-rcdr.ca



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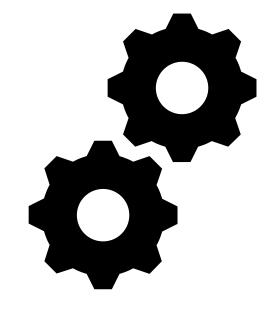
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Goal: survey main organizations & initiatives that make up humanities and social sciences digital research infrastructure (HSS DRI) in Canada today

What is "Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI)"?

The tools, technology, hardware, software and people who facilitate digital research



Raison d'être

- Infrastructure Panel and discussion at CRKN Member Summit 2023
- Report out at CRKN Member
 Summit 2024
- Longstanding discussions re: collaboration in this space
- Calls from funding agencies:
 come together and speak with a united voice!



Photo by Hannah Busing

11 Key DRI Organizations Considered

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ)

Canadian Association of Research Libraries / Association des bibliothèques de recherche du Canada (CARL / ABCR)

Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN)

Canadian Research Knowledge Network / Réseau canadien de documentation pour la recherche (CRKN / RCDR)

Digital Research Alliance of Canada / Alliance de recherche numérique du Canada (The Alliance / L'Alliance)

Érudit

Internet Archive Canada

Library and Archives Canada / Bibliothèque et archives du Canada (LAC / BAC)

Public Knowledge Project (PKP)

Regional Library Associations

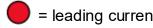
Scholars Portal

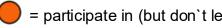
23 Key DRI Initiatives Reviewed

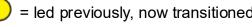
Borealis	Linked Infrastructure for Networked Cultural Scholarship (LINCS)						
Canadian Persistent Identifiers Advisory Committee (CPIDAC)	Lunaris						
Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory / Le Collaboratoire scientifique des écrits du Canada (CWRC /CSÉC); Collaboratory for Writing and Research on Culture	National Indigenous Knowledge & Language Alliance / Alliance nationale des connaissances et des langues autochtones (NIKLA/ANCLA)						
Canadiana collections (Canadiana and Héritage)	Open Journal Systems (OJS)						
Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage (CCDH)	Open Monograph Press (OMP)						
Coalition Publica	Open Preprint Systems (OPS)						
Cyberinfrastructure ouverte pour les sciences humaines et sociales (CO.SHS)	ORCID Canada Consortium (ORCID-CA)						
Data Management Plan (DMP) Assistant	Partnership for Open Access						
DataCite Canada Consortium	Pressbooks						
Federated Research Data Repository / Le Dépôt fédéré de données de recherche (FRDR/DFDR)	Scholaris						
Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE) Partnership	Voyant Tools						
Linked Editing Academic Framework (LEAF)							

Key Organizations & Their Initiatives

	Borealis	CPIDAC	Canadiana	CCDH	Coalition Publica	CO.SHS	DMP Assistant	DataCite CAN	FRDR	Lunaris	ojs	OMP	OPS	ORCID- CA	POA	Scholaris
Alliance	•						•	•	•	•				•		
BAnQ			•	•		•										
CARL	•	•					•	•	•					•		•
CRDCN																
CRKN		•	•	•				•						•	•	
Érudit					•	•								•	•	
IAC				•												
LAC		•	•	•		•										
PKP		•			•	•					•	•	•			
Reg. Lib.	•	•									•					•
SP	•	•						•			•	•				•



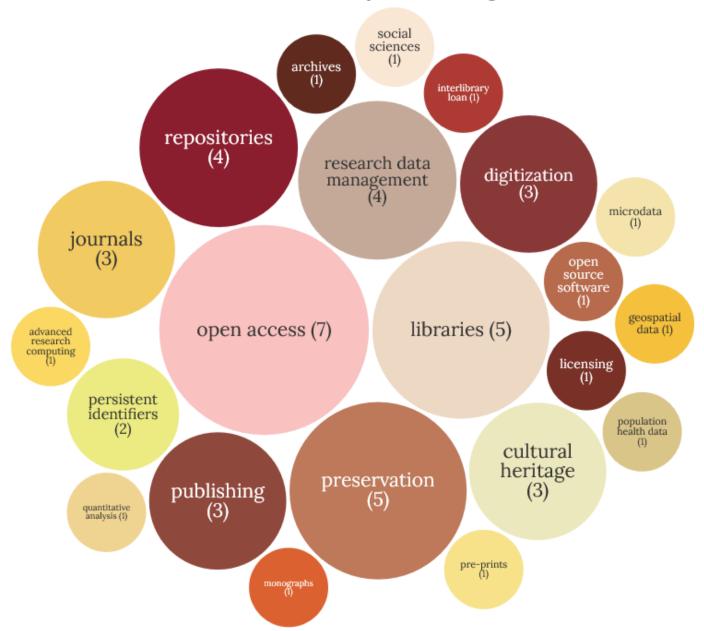






= leading currently = participate in (but don't lead) = led previously, now transitioned = led previously, now transitioned but still participate

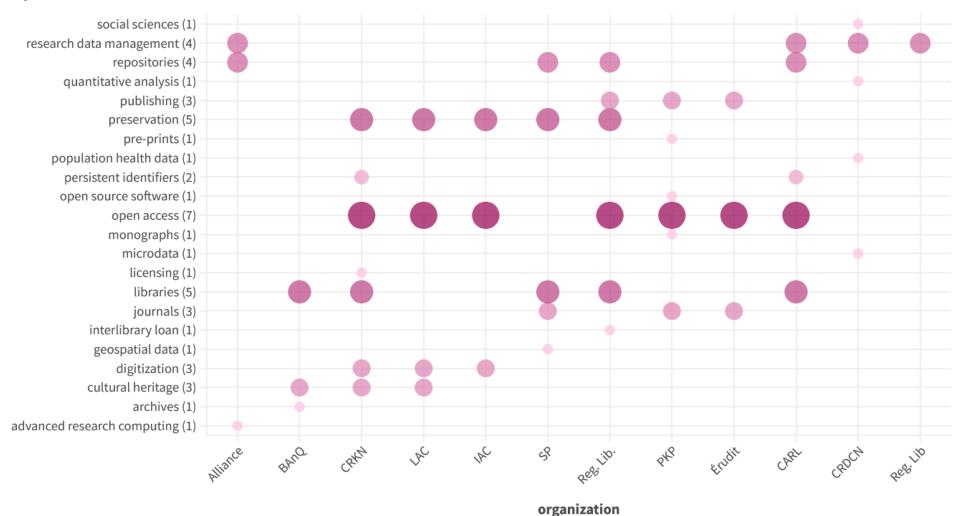
Main Areas of Activity: Organizations



Organization Sort: Keywords

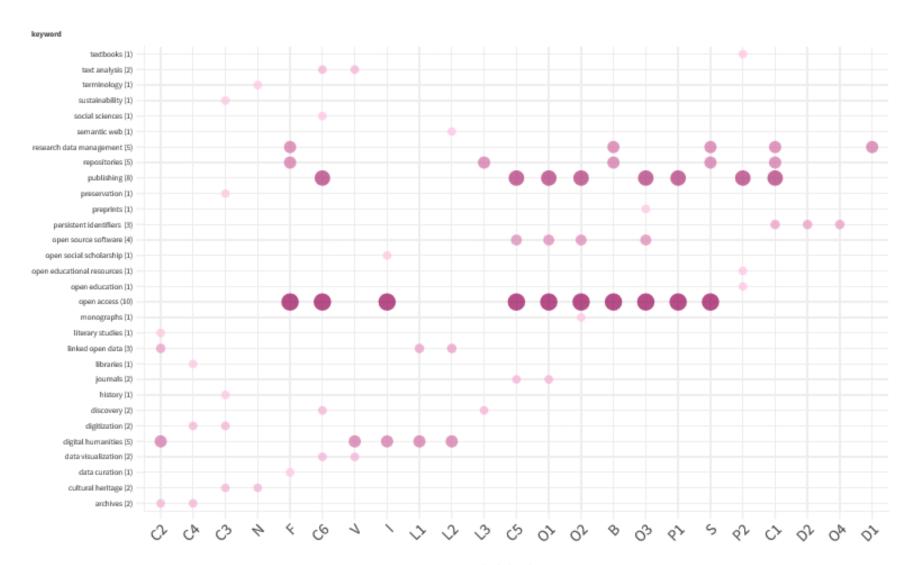
frequency 1 7

keyword



Initiative Sort: Keywords





Analysis Outcomes

Significant coverage of HSS DRI landscape

 Clusters around specific areas, e.g. open access, libraries, publishing, repositories, research data management, and preservation

Certain areas have emerged as a shared priority across multiple

organizations

- OA
- PIDs



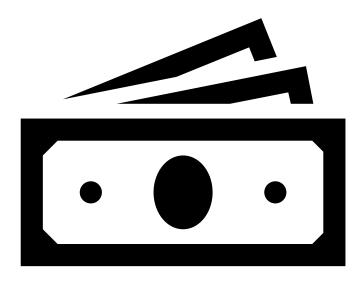
Photo by Mitchell Bryson on Unsplash

- 1. Underinvestment, funding, & sustainability
- 2. Highly qualified personnel
- 3. Collaborative leadership gap
- 4. Standardization initiatives
- 5. Nuanced access
- 6. Disconnect with researchers



1. Underinvestment, funding, & sustainability

- not obvious fit with current research funding schemes (especially regarding sustainability)
- funding competitions vs. collective support
- consequences of underinvestment

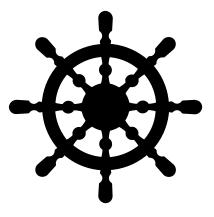


2. Highly qualified personnel

- appropriate resourcing for hiring and keeping HQP
- flagged in responses to the Alliance's 2021 researcher needs assessment

3. Collaborative leadership gap

- clear leadership in delineated areas / on particular initiatives
- need clear and collaborative leadership across HSS DRI landscape



4. Standardization initiatives

- Standardization and its implementation being sole responsibility of one group or another
- Needs to be accepted across academic ecosystem to work



5. Nuanced access

- nuanced access to sensitive cultural or personal data
- no fully implemented, standardized protocol that has been taken up across the country and across all disciplines (yet)



6. Disconnect with researchers

- lack of researcher knowledge on how to engage with HSS DRI
- pathways are not obvious



Where Next?

 Community pre-print for consultation and discussion available: https://bit.ly/HSS-DRI

Digital Research Infrastructure
for the Humanities and Social Sciences
in Canada:
A Landscape Analysis

Pre-print draft for community circulation and discussion
9 December 2024

Looking forward...



Photo by Rafael Leão on Unsplash



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Thank you!

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