

14 December 2020

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Re: NDRIO: Call for White Papers on Canada's Future DRI Ecosystem

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL), I am writing to communicate OCUL's support of the white paper, "Regional Academic Library Consortia as key partners in building sustainable, responsive Digital Research Infrastructure." This white paper was submitted on 14 December 2020 by Vivian Stieda, Executive Director of the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL), on behalf of Canada's regional academic library consortia.

In recent weeks, OCUL has been engaged in our annual budget review and decision-making process. As a result, although given sufficient opportunity to review the white paper by Ms. Stieda, I was unable to bring forward in a timely manner the white paper to the OCUL Executive Committee for due consideration.

Nevertheless, today members of the OCUL Executive Committee were able to review the white paper. Therefore, the OCUL Executive Committee is pleased to affirm its support of the white paper.

Over the years, the members of OCUL, which includes the libraries of Ontario's 21 academic institutions, have committed significant financial resources and intellectual capital to help develop Ontario's digital research infrastructure. OCUL members have done so by supporting the operations and innovation carried out by its Scholars Portal service. For example, prior to its offering as a Canada-wide service via the University of Toronto, OCUL members provided the initial developmental support to the Scholars Portal instance of Dataverse. Through Scholars Portal, OCUL members have provided support for other DRI initiatives, including ODESI, a web-based data exploration, extraction, and analysis tool, and GeoPortal, a geospatial data discovery tool that allows researchers to access and retrieve curated collections of maps and geospatial datasets.

Therefore, the OCUL Executive Committee is pleased to partner with its consortial colleagues in BCI, CAUL, and COPPUL to help build a sustainable and responsive digital research infrastructure across Canada. The OCUL Executive Committee supports the recommendations identified in the white paper and anticipates collaboration with

Canada's regional academic library consortia in order to implement and operationalize these recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to affirm our support of the white paper and for your patience in our review and discussion of the white paper. We are pleased to provide our support now and hope that it will be given due consideration as you review the white paper submitted to NDRIO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Barnett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Barnett
Executive Director
Ontario Council of University Libraries

Cc: Vivian Stieda, Executive Director, COPPUL; Beth Namachchivaya, Chair, OCUL;
Carol Shepstone, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, OCUL