



Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
OTTAWA, CANADA  
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[INDU@parl.gc.ca](mailto:INDU@parl.gc.ca)

April 13, 2008

Dear Mr. James Rajotte and Members, Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology

Re: **Study on Canadian Science and Technology  
Federally funded research performed in government and higher education**

The British Columbia Library Association is a non-profit, independent, voluntary association established in 1911. Our nearly 850 members include librarians, library personnel, library trustees and other interested individuals; corporate, government, school and academic libraries; publishers and library supply companies.

BCLA's comment on the Study on Canadian Science and Technology focuses on the issue of *federally funded research performed in government and higher education*.

BCLA believes that federally funded research should be openly accessible to everyone, everywhere. Taxpayers, whether they are individual or businesses, should have access to the results of research that they have funded.

The entrepreneur in the smaller or more remote center looking for ideas and opportunities to set up the kind of new businesses Canada needs, businesses that are prepared to thrive and grow in a knowledge economy, businesses that work *with* instead of *against* our environment, has just as much right to the results of research funded by the Canadian government, as does the large, wealthy corporation.

Rural doctors and other health professionals have a right to the results of the very latest research funded by Canadian tax dollars. Their patients have a right to benefit from this access for their health professionals, and they also have a right to read the research literature for themselves, if they choose.

All Canadians benefit from public access to the results of federally funded research. If a civil servant, politician, teacher, parent, or school trustee is able to make a better, more informed decision because they have access to the best and latest knowledge; this is for the good of all.

BCLA strongly supports the principle and practice of Open Access. The association adopted a Resolution on Open Access in 2004, and is recognized on the Open Access Timeline as one of the first library associations in the world to do so.

A definition of open access initiative, from the Budapest Open Access Initiative:

<http://www.soros.org/openaccess>

*By "open access" to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.*

Research funders and universities around the world have either recently implemented, or are in the process of developing, open access policies.

In June 2006, the Research Councils UK (RCUK) issued a revised Position on issue of improved access to research outputs, downloadable from

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/outputs/access/default.htm>

First among the Principles outlined by the RCUK: Ideas and knowledge derived from publicly funded research must be made available and accessible for public use, interrogation and scrutiny, as widely, rapidly and effectively as practicable.

Five of the seven councils have already implemented policies requiring open access to the results of research that they fund.

Universities also are implementing open access mandates. Notable recent developments include:

**The European Universities Association**, representing more than 700 universities in more than 40 countries, recently unanimously endorsed a set of strong recommendations encouraging open access, as reported the EUA's Newsletter.

<[http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=48&no\\_cache=1&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=518&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=1](http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=48&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=518&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=1)>

**Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences**

"In a move to disseminate faculty research and scholarship more broadly, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) voted Tuesday (Feb. 12) to give the University a worldwide license to make each faculty member's scholarly articles available and to exercise the copyright in the articles, provided that the articles are not sold for a profit."

<<http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2008/02.14/99-fasvote.html>>

In Canada, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council adopted open access in principle in 2004, and currently has a pilot Aid to Open Access Journals program. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research has a Policy on Access to Research Outputs, requiring open access to funded research within 6 months of publication. Genome Canada and the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance have policies requiring open access to the research that they fund.

There are more than 3,300 fully open access, peer reviewed journals in the world, as listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals <<http://www.doaj.org>>. Many more journals facilitate open access by making back issues freely available, and/or liberal copyright policies that permit authors to self-archive a copy of their own works for open access.

Open access is growing dramatically, around the globe, and is an area of significant Canadian leadership. The Budapest Open Access Initiative, for example, is widely regarded as the first major defining moment for the open access movement. Of the 16 people at this meeting in Budapest, three were Canadian.

Canada's Public Knowledge Project developed the free, open source Open Journal Systems, has been instrumental in the development of open access journals, and is now in use by more than 1,000 journals around the world.

We encourage you to support open, public access to federally funded research which we believe is essential to an informed citizenry in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah A. Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Deborah A. Thomas, President  
British Columbia Library Association