



To the Open Government Team:

On behalf of the Canadian Federal Libraries Strategic Network (CFLSN) - a community of practice with membership from dozens of federal departments - thank you for the open consultation and request for feedback on the draft OG plan.

Our feedback is largely focused on commitments #4, #6, and # 14, where we see libraries are most implicated.

We would like to state broadly that the OG team and plan would benefit by recognizing and leveraging the significant expertise, competencies, resources, and relationships that federal libraries can contribute to the realization of a truly “open” GC.

Some specific comments for your consideration:

- In our role as key GC enablers of evidence-based research and policy, we engage with diverse stakeholders in government, industry, science, and civil society – nationally and

internationally - to create new connections, capabilities and capacity. Federal libraries work collaboratively across boundaries, in and outside government, nationally and internationally, and can bring important relationships to bear in support of the open agenda.

- Libraries operate in a rich environment of international standards for the management of data and information and can share our deep and broad expertise related to library, information and knowledge management towards realising “open” information, data, and access.
- Federal libraries already provide quality information and data services and platforms, including the stewardship of both institutional and published knowledge, that can be leveraged to support the open agenda.
- We are integral in our departments for the effective management of information, data, and knowledge, and in many cases are already responsible for the implementation of policy directives related to data and information management.
- It is essential to fund OG plan implementation in departments; previous directives and plans have in some examples compromised the delivery of core library functions, drawing as they have on library resources in the absence of specific OG funding. We are often funding new IM and OG functions within existing operating and wage budgets.
- A national strategy that looks across all sectors is needed; we must have investment across the entire system if we want to achieve the commitments laid out in the plan. This would include infrastructure, harmonised data management approaches and training, consortial licensing, adoptive repositories, copyright posture, etc. from a national perspective, as in many international jurisdictions. This means both academic and government research need OG funding, and solutions and infrastructure must interoperate.
- Federal Science Library is a commitment under the current Action Plan to develop a single online discovery and access platform for federal science library services and collections, creating **one** science collection and service entry point, first for the partner departments and by 2017 for Canadians. It is clear from this project that we all go further, sustainably, by pooling resources and developing partnership models. Many of the libraries are responsible for institutional repositories of different types. One of the great features of the new platform is that we have repository data and licensed content in the shared knowledgebase and shared catalogue and this will be seen in search results in departments and ultimately by Canadians in their search results. From our perspective we need to make government research and information available using multiple channels. The platform also incorporates social networking tools and will demonstrate where Canadian ideas or knowledge are being recognised and reused. Federal Science Library is a model that can be extended.

As more data and information is delivered in an open model, federal libraries continue to make the seamless integration and connection of licensed and open content. Because we *are* the connectors in our departments to the wider world of knowledge, and the stewards of internal knowledge, *without libraries* there is no “open”. We are eager to meet the challenge.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O’Connell (NRC) and Ross Gordon (ECCC) CFLSN co-chairs