



SSHRC-CFHSS Consultation on Open Access to Publicly Funded Research

ABOUT US: Creative Commons Canada is affiliated with the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC) at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law. CIPPIC's mandate is to fill voids in public policy debates on technology law issues, ensure balance in policy and law-making processes, and provide legal assistance to under-represented organizations and individuals on matters involving the intersection of law and technology. The development of Canadian Creative Commons licences is aimed at facilitating the availability of online resources to enable creators to better understand and manage their digital rights in Canada.

CREATIVE COMMONS CANADA COMMENDS efforts to make scientific and scholarly research more widely available by adopting policies that encourage scholars to retain some publication rights and to exercise those rights to post their research in open digital repositories.

WE OFFER a range of public licenses that facilitate the free exchange of information over the internet while leaving some control in the hands of authors and their publishers.

WE BELIEVE that scholarship should be available to the widest possible audience, regardless of wealth.

WE BELIEVE that the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) should be committed to ensuring free and neutral access to scholarship.

WE BELIEVE that scholarly journals should subscribe to Open Access principles, as articulated in the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing, the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge, and the Budapest Open Access Initiative.

THEREFORE, WE ADVOCATE that SSHRC adopt the following three requirements for recipients of SSHRC-issued grants.

1. Publish only in scholarly journals which require from the scholar no more than a reasonable, limited-term exclusive licence for commercial publication. The journal must not interfere at any time with the scholar's freedom to make his or her work available under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial Licence or a licence not more restrictive.

2. Upon publication of the scholarship, the scholar must make an electronic version of the scholarship freely-available to the public — in its commonly used format — whether by posting it to a website maintained by themselves or contributing it to an Open Access Repository.

3. In each publication, the scholar must always acknowledge that the scholarship is made available through support from SSHRC Open Access, with directions to the SSHRC Open Access policy.

WE AGREE with U of T's Project OSIOA submission on Institutional Repositories with respect to building management and service platforms.

WE AGREE with U of T's Project OSIOA submission on Open Access Journals: Revising the SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Journals Program.

WE INVITE SSHRC TO LEARN MORE about our freely-available copyright licences and new open access initiative, Science Commons, by contacting us to arrange for a consultation.

Creative Commons Canada pledges its support to this important and timely initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'MB' followed by a stylized, wavy line that resembles a pulse or a signature flourish.

Marcus Bornfreund
Project Lead, Creative Commons Canada

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