

“Capitalizing on Big Data: Toward a Policy Framework for Advancing Digital Scholarship in Canada” OCULA and OLITA Response to Consultation Document

11 December 2013

This response is submitted on behalf of the Ontario College and University Library Association (OCULA) and the Ontario Library and Information Technology Association (OLITA), divisions within the Ontario Library Association (OLA).

OCULA and OLITA support the directions and priorities outlined in the consultation document. We would like to highlight areas where our members’ experience and expertise is particularly relevant, and we encourage TC3+ to continue to work with these experts in these areas.

Establishing a Culture of Stewardship

We support the requirement for data stewardship/management plans to be included in funding applications, the development of guidelines to support this, and the development of consolidated open access policies for disseminating research findings as well as sharing research data.

Many of our members work in research libraries, institutions that are members of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), and have a long history of a culture of stewardship, preservation, and curation of information resources, including data. Our members include data librarians and others who are actively working to support and educate researchers with respect to data management and the development of institutional repositories.

In June 2012, OLITA hosted our annual Digital Odyssey with the theme “Big Data, Small World.” This symposium provided an opportunity for our members to learn from each other and from researchers, journalists and policy makers about the possibilities of working with big data and the important ethical, legal, and social considerations when doing so.

Developing Capacity and Future Funding Parameters

We support TC3+ in their desire to support enhanced networks and infrastructure, and to provide skills development and training for researchers. Our members include those who work with and benefit from initiatives of the Ontario Consortium of University Libraries (OCUL), in particular OCUL’s successful recognition as a Trusted Digital Repository. Our members have also been involved in the development of open source systems to manage data.

In general, OCULA and OLITA are very much encouraged by the consultation document and thank TC3+ for this opportunity to provide feedback. Our members look forward to continued collaboration and partnering with TC3+ and other organizations in order to develop a robust data management infrastructure for Canada.