Canadian National Site Licensing Project / Projet canadien de licences de site nationales

Fact Sheet

Last revised: October 25, 2000

What is the Canadian National Site Licensing Project (CNSLP)?

- CNSLP is a three-year pilot project, aimed at increasing the quantity, breadth and depth of scholarly literature available to academic researchers throughout Canada, and maximizing the use and utility of that content through networked means.
- The project will be accomplished through a coordinated effort of Canada's university libraries, to secure pan-Canadian licenses for electronic journals and databases, primarily in science, health, engineering and environmental disciplines.

Who is involved in the CNSLP?

- There are currently 64 institutions participating in the project. This includes all of the major research universities in Canada.
- Following implementation of licenses, an invitation will be extended to additional institutions to participate in the project.

How is the CNSLP funded?

- The CNSLP received a funding award in June 1999 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) (Cdn $20 million). Matching funds have been committed from participating universities and provincial governments in Canada (Cdn $30 million).
- The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) was instrumental in securing the funding from CFI, by spearheading development of a national proposal to CFI in cooperation with four regional library groups in Canada.
- Following the three-year pilot period, the project is expected to be self-funding.

How is the CNSLP governed and managed?

- The CNSLP is governed by a 13-member Steering Committee, comprising representatives from the academic research community, university libraries, administrators, and associations.
- The University of Ottawa, Canada's largest bilingual (French and English) university, serves as the administrative home for the project. University of Ottawa acts on the direction of the CNSLP Steering Committee, administering funds and executing decisions and project contracts. An Inter-University Agreement, signed by all project participants, establishes University of Ottawa's roles and responsibilities.
- Project committees include a Management Sub-Committee (responsible for overseeing implementation of project policies and decisions), a Negotiations Resource Team (responsible for developing and guiding the license procurement and negotiations process), and a Performance Measures and Impact task group (responsible for development of project evaluation mechanisms).

How is the CNSLP governed and managed? (continued)

- An external Advisory Board is in the process of being constituted. The Advisory Board will assist with long-range planning and strategic directions, project evaluation and sustainability.
- CNSLP staff currently includes a full-time Executive Director and a part-time Executive Assistant. Additional staff to be hired includes a Technical Manager and Communications Coordinator.
- Over the project implementation phase, the project will take on a more formal legal structure through incorporation as a non-share corporation.

What progress has been made on the project to date?

- June – December 1999: project governance and operational structures were established.
- January 2000: Executive Director hired.
- February – April 2000: Committee mandates and membership finalized, and principles for licensing electronic resources established.
- May – June 2000: First call extended to vendors to participate in the project, through a Pre-Qualification Bid process.
- June – July 2000: Requests for Proposal (RFP) process developed.
- August 2000: RFPs released to vendors who met the pre-qualification criteria.
- September – October 2000: evaluation of RFP responses.
- November 2000: negotiations with vendors commence.
- January 2001: first licenses implemented.

Why is the CNSLP such an important development?

- CNSLP signals a significant shift in public policy for Canada: Equitable access to scholarly information has been recognized by funders and government as an integral component of research infrastructure.
- CNSLP involves unprecedented collaboration among universities in Canada, across provincial jurisdictions.
- The "proof of concept" and value of shared licenses to electronic resources has been demonstrated at local and regional levels in Canada. CNSLP provides a focal point for testing the elements necessary to scale, sustain, and expand these efforts at the national and potentially international level.
- In the short term, the CNSLP will help speed the transition from print-based to electronic resources and to provide better value for universities' purchasing dollars. Over the longer term, the project is intended to help universities exercise more influence in the information marketplace, and to foster research and development of new publishing and business models.

Where can I find out more about the CNSLP?

- Please visit the CNSLP website: www.uottawa.ca/library/cnslp
- Comments and questions are welcome; please direct these to:
  Ms. Deb deBruijn, Executive Director, debruijn@uottawa.ca

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