



Advisory Board
2007-2008 Report to the Annual General Meeting

September 2008

Submitted by
Ronald Bond, Provost Emeritus, University of Calgary
Chair, Advisory Board

Mandate

Although the Advisory Board has no role to play in the governance structure of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, it is mandated to stay current with developments in the external environment in order 1) to alert the Board of Directors to trends, challenges, and opportunities that may have an impact on CRKN and 2) to provide counsel to the Board of Directors on questions and initiatives referred to it for advice.

Membership

The membership of the Advisory Board reflects its broad mandate and includes experts drawn from research, academic, digital library, industry and political sectors. During 2007-2008, the members of the Advisory Board were:

Ronald Bond (chair), University of Calgary
Karen Adams, University of Alberta
Shirley Baker, Washington University in St. Louis
Pam Bjornson, Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI)
Leslie Chan, University of Toronto at Scarborough
James Franklin, Franklin Geosciences Ltd.
Ken Frazier, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Brigitte Lévy, University of Ottawa
Vincent Mosco, Queen's University
Katherine Schultz, University of Prince Edward Island
Marie Tobin, formerly Innovation Policy Branch, Industry Canada

Gregory Kealey, University of New Brunswick, also served on the Advisory Board until September 2007, when he was elected to the Board of Directors and continued working for CRKN in that capacity.

The Advisory Board has met twice since the last Annual General Meeting – in Halifax on November 6-7, 2007 and in Ottawa on April 1, 2008.

Meeting of November 6-7, 2007

This meeting was 1.5 days, slightly longer than is usual for the Advisory Board, to allow for more extended deliberations on key objectives within CRKN's strategic plan.

In this context, the Advisory Board was joined by Eileen Fenton, Executive Director of Portico, who provided an overview of the initiative and progress to date. This discussion proved to be a useful follow-up to Ms. Fenton's presentation CRKN's 2007 Annual General Meeting, and provided an opportunity for the Advisory Board to discuss challenges of digital preservation and possible roles for CRKN.

In addition, the Advisory Board had an animated discussion of issues related to alternative publishing models, providing perspectives for how CRKN might make open access journals more visible or discoverable for its stakeholders.

On the communications front, CRKN Communications Officer Louisa Hood presented a draft Outreach Plan, and the Advisory Board provided what it regarded as valuable feedback to help prioritize plan objectives, achieve clarity of communication, identify target audiences, and underscore the impact CRKN has had within the research community.

Finally, the Advisory Board was pleased to have an opportunity for dialogue with Atlantic library directors at this meeting. Representatives from Mount Saint Vincent University and Mount Allison University joined the Advisory Board for frank discussion on CRKN's impact within their communities, areas where CRKN could strengthen its services, and ways in which CRKN might better address regional concerns.

Meeting of April 1, 2008

Advisory Board members were pleased to have an opportunity to participate in CRKN's official "office warming" on March 31, 2008 and to have the distinction of being the first committee to use the boardroom in CRKN's new administrative offices.

Meeting highlights included a presentation by Jim Cranston and Mike Ridley on initiatives of the Canadian University Council of Chief Information Officers (CUCCIO), followed by discussion of several areas for collaboration. The Advisory Board was unanimous in its support for strengthening the relationship between CRKN and CUCCIO, and out of this emerged a recommendation, later endorsed by the Board of Directors, that CRKN lend its formal support to CUCCIO's **Edupass.ca** initiative currently under development. Edupass.ca is the Canadian Access Management Federation (AMF); an AMF coordinates the relationship between identity providers and service providers, resulting in agreements between providers and the AMF rather than bilateral agreements between each and every provider. In helping to advance Edupass.ca, CRKN will be instrumental in engaging content publishers as a key group of service providers. In turn, users of CRKN licensed content will have more effective and flexible ways of connecting to these resources.



Discussions also centred on the development of cyberinfrastructure in Canada, and the need for coordinated and collaborative work across sectors. The program on cyberinfrastructure at this year's Annual General Meeting grew out of the deliberations at the Advisory Board, and is a practical step in fostering dialogue and building strategic relationships to address these important issues.

The Advisory Board also welcomed to this meeting Leslie Weir, President, and Tim Mark, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) who presented to the Advisory Board information about current initiatives CARL was taking. The Advisory Board was joined as well by several library directors and collections managers from CRKN member institutions in Ontario, for discussion of collaborative opportunities as well as feedback on CRKN initiatives, primarily the DCI project.

Finally, the Advisory Board thanked outgoing members Shirley Baker, Pam Bjornson, and James Franklin for their service to the Advisory Board and CRKN, and heard from them valedictory comments on their work with CRKN and gratitude for the opportunity to be part of a stimulating and animated group.

With these members having completed their terms in April 2008, CRKN has recruited the following new members to the Advisory Board:

Marielle Gascon-Barré, Fond de recherche en santé du Québec
Yves Gingras, Université du Québec à Montréal
Paul Whitney, Vancouver Public Library
Jan Wilkinson, University of Manchester

We look forward to welcoming these individuals to the Advisory Board when we meet next in October 2008.

