

Data management activities of Canada's National Science Library – 2010 update and prospective

Mary Zborowski¹

¹Strategy and Development Branch (NRC-SDB), National Research Council Canada, Ottawa ON Canada K1A 0R6, mary.zborowski@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

NRC-CISTI serves Canadians as its National Science Library (as mandated by Canada's Parliament in 1924) and also provides direct support to researchers of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC). By reason of its mandate, vision and strategic positioning, NRC-CISTI has been rapidly and effectively mobilizing Canadian stakeholders and resources to become a lead player on both the Canadian national and the international scene in matters relating to the organization and management of scientific research data.

In previous communication (CODATA International Conference, 2008), the orientation of NRC-CISTI towards this objective and its short- and medium-term plans and strategies were presented. Since then, significant milestones have been achieved in the following areas:

- Research Data Strategy Working Group (RDSWG) – This collaborative group of Canadian universities, libraries, granting agencies and individual researchers looks at the issues surrounding research data access, preservation and management, and has recently produced the report: “Stewardship of Research Data in Canada: A Gap Analysis” and an engagement strategy document is in progress.
- DataCite – NRC-CISTI is a full member of this international consortium, which promotes research data sharing and increased access to research data sets. As a member of this not-for-profit consortium, NRC-CISTI can register data sets and assign them digital object identifiers. A project has been initiated to establish the data registration infrastructure. NRC-CISTI will soon be running as a full data registration agency.
- Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) – NRC-CISTI's Director General represented NRC-CISTI on CARL's Data Management Subcommittee which issued the toolkit “Research Data: Unseen Opportunities”, providing information about the management of research data in Canada.
- Canadian National Committee for CODATA – NRC-CISTI is the sponsor of this CODATA National Member, which has been active both on the Canadian and international scene, promoting the common interests of CODATA and improving the quality, management and accessibility of scientific data
- Gateway to Scientific Data – NRC-CISTI, in collaboration with CNC/CODATA, now provides access to a variety of Canadian scientific, technical and medical data sets as well as information on data management and curation.

This paper presents NRC-CISTI's most recent activities in these areas, which are progressing well alongside a strategic organizational redesign process that is realigning NRC-CISTI's structure, mission and mandate to better serve its clients. Throughout this transformational phase, activities relating to data management remain vibrant.