The Dog that Caught the Car:

Assessing Open Access Agreements Across Canada

CRKN Virtual Conference, 2024

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Michael Kwan, "Dogs Chasing a Car"

Agenda

- Presentation Abstract
- Introduction & Context
- Padlet Activity
- Breakout Debrief
- Next Steps

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Abstract

- With some of our earliest Read and Publish agreements having recently come up for renewal and new agreements being regularly brought forward, librarians at Western Libraries have built an assessment framework to measure whether these agreements have had the return on investment that we'd originally hoped. Our assessment is rooted in usage and publication stats but also our shared values; are these agreements contributing to equitable models of scholarly publishing?

- As we've shared our assessment framework with colleagues at local institutions, we've agreed that our institutional assessments only go so far. Even if we find a Read and Publish agreement has not had a sufficient return on investment—especially the "Publish" part—we're limited in options when presented with a consortial renewal. We wonder, then, how these agreements would measure up if we were conducting a similar, values-based assessment at scale.

Abstract

- Through a Padlet activity and breakout rooms, we will lead a discussion to envision what assessment of OA agreements can look like at scale. Questions include:

1. What shared values pertaining to OA publishing models can be operationalized through CRKN agreements?

2. What does a successful Read and Publish agreement look like?

3. How do our libraries' values align with our respective institutions?

4. What tools would help you assess OA agreements at your own institution?

Introduction & Context

- Resource Assessment via CRKN
    a) Journal Value Analytics
    b) Journal Usage Project
    c) The 'Big Deal' Toolkit
    d) What's the Big Deal?: Collection Evaluation at the National Level
    e) CRKN UnSub Subscription
    f) Assessment Guidelines for Open Access Publishers

- OA Assessment @ Western
    i. Open Access Standing Committee (OASC)
    ii. Values-Based Framework Template

a) Journal Value Analytics

(https://www.crkn-rcdr.ca/en/journal-value-analytics)

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Journal Value Analytics

OVERVIEW

As part of our commitment to making evidence-based licensing decisions and developing data-driven strategies for our content licensing program, we are evolving CRKN's data gathering and analysis capacity in 2020. CRKN has launched a consortia-wide subscription to Unsub, a new, more robust and interactive journal analytics tool, which replaces the JVA tool.

To learn more about CRKN's enhanced data analysis activities with Unsub, please see our Unsub page.

The Journal Value Analytics (JVA) tool started as a pilot project in 2012. It aimed to provide members with more data to evaluate their institution's participation in CRKN-licensed journal packages and assess the value of the titles.

The JVA was completed on an annual basis and provided a broad perspective of a member's collections at the title level. Typically, CRKN provided an analysis of licenses that were up for renewal after that year.

Each member institution who participated in the relevant licenses received a series of tables and charts for quick review purposes, as well as a spreadsheet with the raw data and formulas allowing each member to further manipulate the data for analysis.

EVOLUTION

From 2012 to 2019, the JVA tool evolved based largely on feedback from CRKN members. As of 2019, the JVA featured new data fields and additional

b) Journal Usage Project
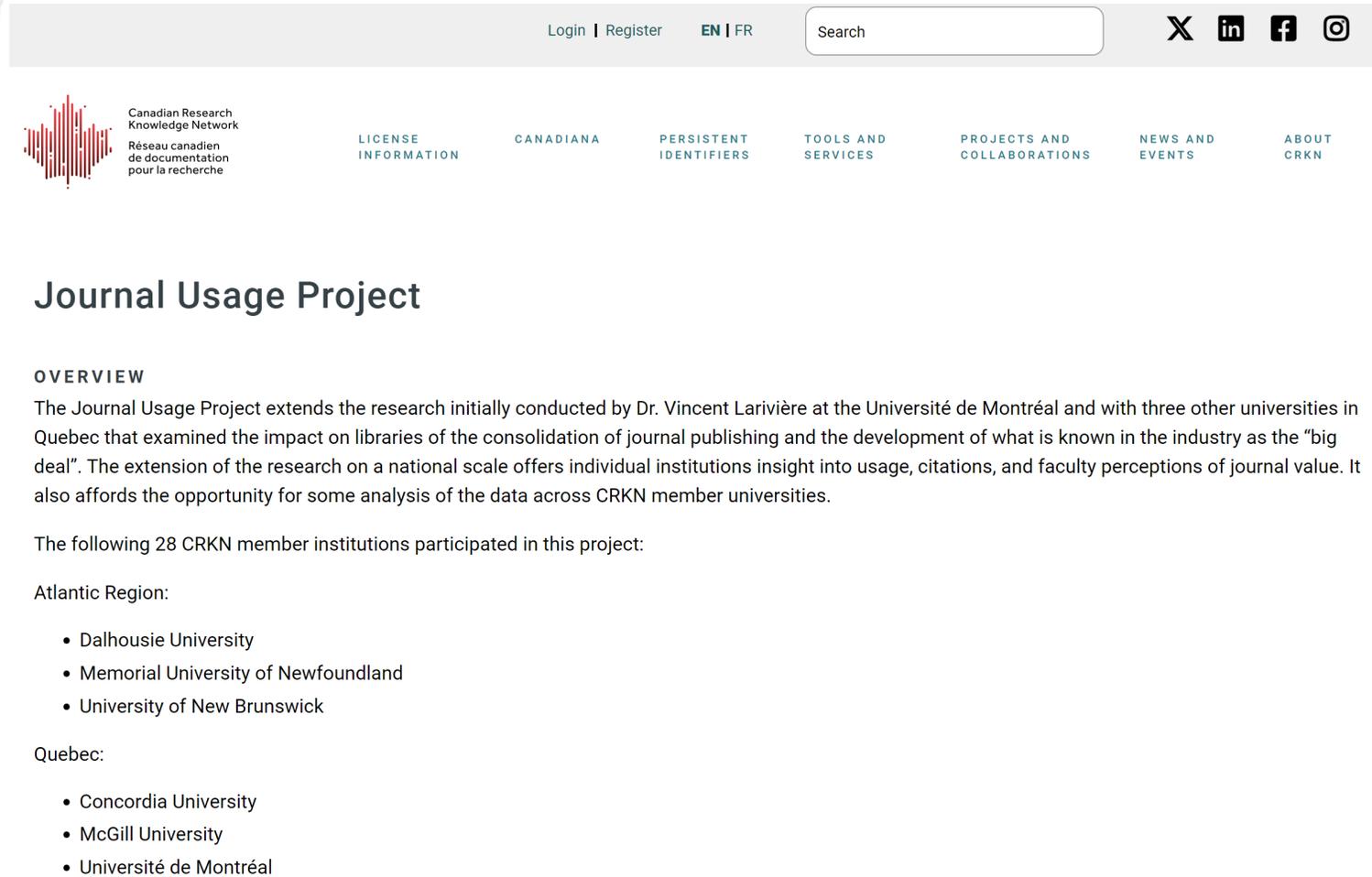
[(https://www.crkn-rcdr.ca/en/journal-usage-project)](https://www.crkn-rcdr.ca/en/journal-usage-project)

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Journal Usage Project

OVERVIEW

The Journal Usage Project extends the research initially conducted by Dr. Vincent Larivière at the Université de Montréal and with three other universities in Quebec that examined the impact on libraries of the consolidation of journal publishing and the development of what is known in the industry as the "big deal". The extension of the research on a national scale offers individual institutions insight into usage, citations, and faculty perceptions of journal value. It also affords the opportunity for some analysis of the data across CRKN member universities.

The following 28 CRKN member institutions participated in this project:

Atlantic Region:

- Dalhousie University
- Memorial University of Newfoundland
- University of New Brunswick

Quebec:

- Concordia University
- McGill University
- Université de Montréal

c) The 'Big Deal' Toolkit
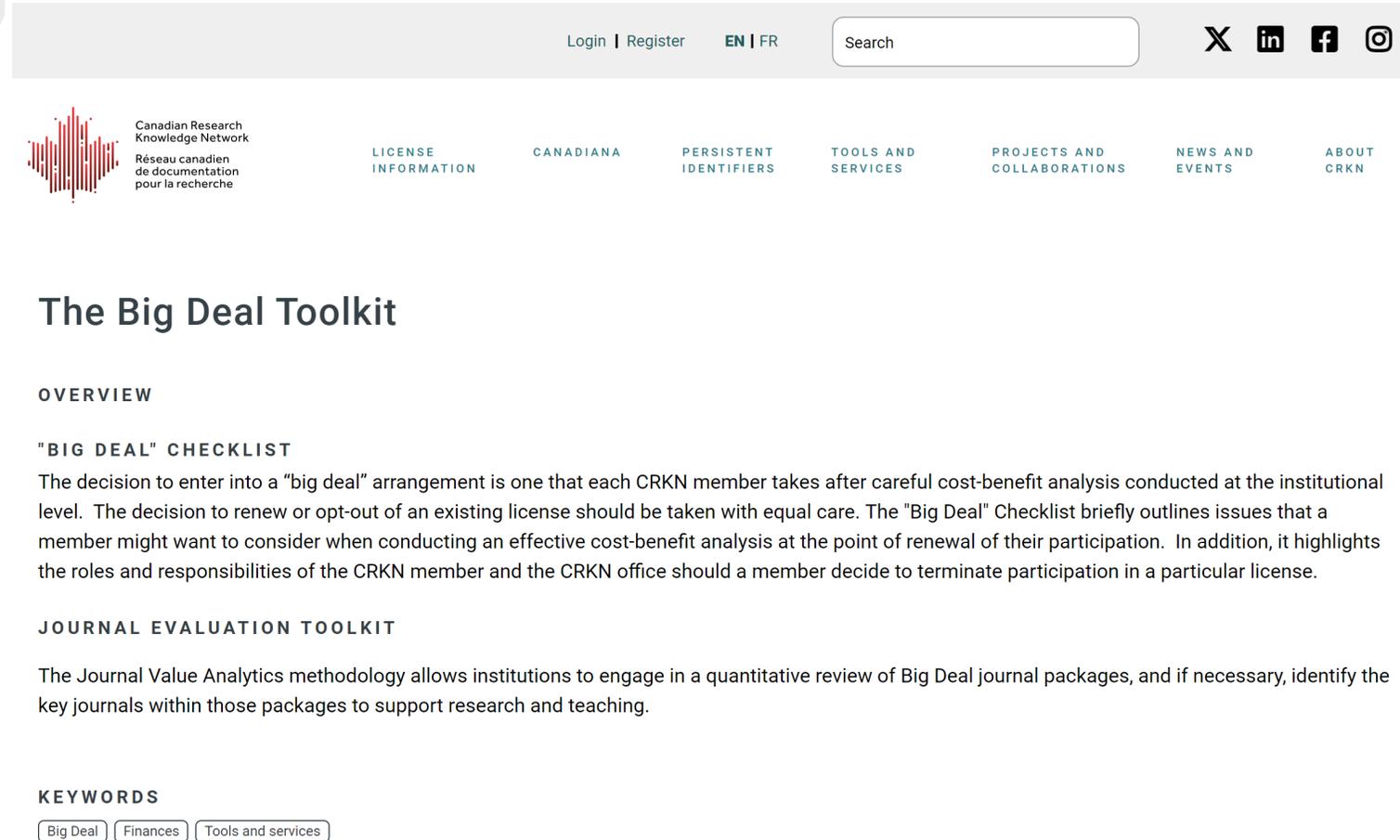
(https://www.crkn-rcdr.ca/en/big-deal-toolkit)

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The Big Deal Toolkit

OVERVIEW

"BIG DEAL" CHECKLIST

The decision to enter into a "big deal" arrangement is one that each CRKN member takes after careful cost-benefit analysis conducted at the institutional level. The decision to renew or opt-out of an existing license should be taken with equal care. The "Big Deal" Checklist briefly outlines issues that a member might want to consider when conducting an effective cost-benefit analysis at the point of renewal of their participation. In addition, it highlights the roles and responsibilities of the CRKN member and the CRKN office should a member decide to terminate participation in a particular license.

JOURNAL EVALUATION TOOLKIT

The Journal Value Analytics methodology allows institutions to engage in a quantitative review of Big Deal journal packages, and if necessary, identify the key journals within those packages to support research and teaching.

KEYWORDS

Big Deal   Finances   Tools and services

d) What's the Big Deal?: Collection Evaluation at the National Level
(https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/server/api/core/bitstreams/4c0e01a3-0bec-47c3-b157-e5bab74aae8b/content)

What's the Big Deal? Collection Evaluation at the National Level

Eva Jurczyk, Pamela Jacobs

→ For additional information about this article

e) CRKN UnSub Subscription (https://www.crkn-rcdr.ca/en/unsub)

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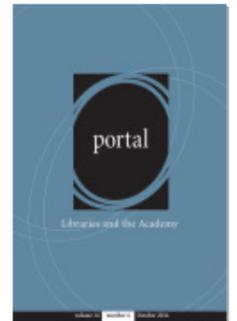
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Unsub

As part of our commitment to making evidence-based licensing decisions and developing data-driven strategies for our content licensing program, CRKN subscribes to Unsub on behalf of our university members.

Unsub, developed by non-profit organization Our Research, combines journal-level open access data with citation patterns and COUNTER usage statistics into a comprehensive forecasting tool. Through individual institutional dashboards, CRKN members can use Unsub to analyze collection usage and entitlements, inform decision-making and collections strategies, and enhance resource development. The CRKN licensing team is using the tool at the national level to inform negotiation strategies.

Working with designated administrators at each member institution, CRKN implemented Unsub in July 2020. We have renewed our subscription on behalf of our members for 2021 and 2022. Below are resources for members to support their use of the tool. Members should log in to see additional resources in the Members-only section.

For more information about this subscription or your institution's dashboard, please contact Allison Loveridge, Licensing and Member Services Officer (analytics@crkn.ca).

Additional resources provided by Unsub:

- How to use your account
    - Guided Tour: https://vimeo.com/420183913

f) Assessment Guidelines for Open Access Publishers

(https://www.crkn-rcdr.ca/en/assessment-guidelines-open-access-publishers)

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Assessment Guidelines for Open Access Publishers

The Content Strategy Committee (CSC) arrived at the Assessment Guidelines for Open Access Publishers through a consultation with the CRKN membership, the results of which were presented to and supported by members at the 2021 Conference. These are meant to be guiding principles that the CSC may use in assessing whether proposals from vendors and publishers meet with the CRKN membership's stated goals and objectives with respect to supporting open access. We have purposefully not assigned any weighting to the criteria as the CSC is better positioned to have as much latitude as possible in assessing the offers it receives from providers. Therefore, there is not an expectation that each provider will meet every criterion.

Financial Sustainability

When evaluating open access resources or models from vendors or publishers, CRKN will consider the financial sustainability of the entity offering the resource. CRKN may consider the vendor's ability to provide transparency through financial statements or other information that speaks to its financial health. Prospective vendors must also demonstrate commitment to and sustainability of their open access models and offer transparency in terms of the sources of funding that support that sustainability. Additionally, the origin and nature of funding sources and the vendor's status as a for-profit or not-for-profit entity might be
considered.

- Provider is transparent with financial statements
- Provider does not charge, or provides a discount on Article Processing Charges (APCs)
- Provider is non-profit
- Provider is established (i.e., has a proven publication record and reputation)

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Academic Quality

When evaluating offers, CRKN will consider the academic quality of the resource. Academic quality can be measured in traditional ways but should also not exclude resources that fall outside of traditional conceptions of academic work. Indications of a commitment to ethical editorial practices, cogent mission statements, and a demonstrated focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) issues are critical. Academic quality could be measured through other lenses, such as EDIA, Indigenous ways of knowing, or other facets required to support equity and inclusion. Preference may be given to researcher/academy-led organizations and providers.

- Provider demonstrates commitment to ethical editorial practices and research integrity, e.g. through membership in OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association) and/or COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics), indexing in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), clear editorial policies posted on website, etc.
- Provider demonstrates commitment to being mission-driven and/or researcher-focused
- Provider demonstrates commitment to EDIA issues
- Provider is a scholarly society or researcher/academy-led

Operations

When evaluating offers, CRKN will also take into account evidence of good operational practice on the part of the provider. This could take many forms, including, but not limited to, the use of open licenses (e.g., Creative Commons) the establishment of a platform that is interoperable, contains high quality metadata, provides robust data (e.g., usage, publishing) and is usable, and that has established a comprehensive preservation strategy.

- Provider's platform is interoperable, discoverable, and usable
- Provider uses open licenses (e.g., Creative Commons)
- Provider offers APC discount
- Provider is based in Canada
- Provider has a preservation strategy (e.g., is a participant of Portico or LOCKSS)
- Provider's content is indexed in OA abstracting and indexing (A&I) services

OA Assessment @Western

i. Open Access Standing Committee (OASC)

ii. Values Based Assessment Framework

Assessment Framework

- Clear message of support for shifting OA landscape
- Transparent and viable business model
- Subjects covered by Western scholars
- Best practices for scholarly publishing
- Memberships that require APCs should provide good value for $$
- Memberships that provide APC discounts for hybrid journals will not be considered

Values Based Criteria

Accessibility

Privacy

EDI-D

Padlet Activity

- Link to Padlet
  - Data will be summarized and shared with CRKN
- Breakout Rooms
  - Led by a facilitator
  - 4 Questions – 10 minutes each

1. What shared values pertaining to OA publishing models can be operationalized through CRKN agreements?

2. What does a successful Read and Publish agreement look like?

3. How do our libraries' values align with our respective institutions?

4. What tools would help you assess OA agreements at your own institution?

Breakout Debrief

- Share Reflections
- Where do we see alignment and common experiences across institutions?
- Where do we see differences between institutions?

Next Steps

- Synthesize findings

- Post report with conference material

- Share report with CRKN

- Other actions?

Thank You!

- Contact Us: wloasc@uwo.ca