

**BURNABY, B.C., November 7, 2017** – The British Columbia Electronic Library Network (BC ELN) and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (IKBLC) at the University of British Columbia Library have partnered to allow successful past and future British Columbia History Digitization Program (BCHDP) grant recipients the option of hosting their digitized material on Arca, BC's collaborative digital repository.

The partnership between BC ELN and IKBLC leverages the respective capacities of each, so that both can achieve a common goal of supporting access to British Columbia's remarkable wealth of digital assets. Arca, administered by BC ELN, is a robust, standards-based, provincially shared platform that will make BCHDP materials openly available and discoverable. IKBLC's investment in the platform will enhance Arca's sustainability, increase the value of the tool for BC learners and researchers, and advance the community of practice that nurtures the service.

With this agreement, successful BCHDP applicants may have their digital content hosted on Arca for three years. Thanks to a \$50,000 investment from IKBLC, Arca will provide hosting, promotion and outreach to potential participants, migration of content from existing platforms to a shared Arca site, and frontline support and training. At the end of the three-year term, recipients will have the option of transitioning to a self-funded model.

"UBC Library's IKBLC has a history of working with community partners to provide access to information that furthers research and innovation. This agreement fittingly supports BCHDP's goal of promoting and enhancing access to unique British Columbia historical materials," said Bronwen Sprout, Head, Digital Programs and Services, UBC Library.

"We are delighted to partner with IKBLC to support access to digitized materials funded by the BCHDP. This cross-sector partnership marks a new phase for Arca, furthering its development as a foundational piece of the BC Digital Library, envisioned to provide access to the intellectual, historical, and cultural record of the province," said BC ELN Executive Director Anita Cocchia.

### **About BC ELN and the Arca Collaborative Digital Repository**

BC ELN is a partnership between the Province of British Columbia and its post-secondary libraries. BC ELN's purpose is to develop, promote, and maintain system-wide solutions and services to BC's learners, educators, and researchers at the best cost. Arca, made possible by a partnership between BC ELN and its partner libraries and initiated with seed funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, is a collaborative initiative to support the development and implementation of digital repositories at BC post-secondary institutions.

**About Irving K. Barber Learning Centre and the BC History Digitization Program**

The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre is an interdisciplinary environment dedicated to integrating people, knowledge, and innovation to develop solutions for the challenges of life in the new millennium and beyond. The British Columbia History Digitization Program is a Learning Centre program designed to promote increased access to British Columbia's historical resources by providing matching funds to undertake digitization projects that will result in free online access to unique historical material from around the province.

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