

Arca Collaborative Digital Repository

ACTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS 2018



Shaw Lake Trail, photograph [cropped, lightened] by R.G. Holmberg
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Downloaded from Arca: <https://arcabc.ca/islandora/object/au%3A1729>

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Arca is a wonderful example of the power of shared services. Savings across the province are amplified as more institutions join, Arca administrative centre expertise is shared widely to benefit us all, and every year, as more digital materials are uploaded to Arca, more of BC's knowledge is open to the world.

I'm proud of what we've built to date, and I'm eager to see how Arca will grow in the future.

Debbie Schachter
University Librarian, Capilano University
Arca Advisory Committee Chair
Arca Website: arcabc.ca



VALUE FOR PARTNERS

The Arca Collaborative Digital Repository is a shared service that brings post-secondary and memory organizations (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) together to achieve a common goal: opening access to digital materials.



22 system partners
Nineteen BC organizations, three external partners = a lot of expertise



16,806 staff hours saved across service
through central administration (e.g. scheduling, troubleshooting, coordinating etc)



73% saved on software costs
by joining Arca compared to implementing a stand-alone repository



\$1,026,444 saved across service
by sharing a platform, storage, infrastructure and coordination



DOH Coordinators visit Arrow Lakes Historical Society, November 13, 2018. L-R: Chris Hives (DOH), Rosemary Parent (ALHS), Paige Hohmann (DOH) and Kyle Kusch (ALHS). Photo credit: Ken Williams

A WONDERFUL CHOICE...

“Arca has been a wonderful choice as a home for our Digitized Okanagan History (DOH) project. We occupy a unique position among Arca partners because our collection consists of over 42,000 digitized objects drawn from twenty-two partner memory institutions located throughout and around the Okanagan. Arca's functionality provides access to a variety of historical photographs, maps, documents, publications, audio recordings, and newspapers. Project partners, most of whom would have been unable to provide online access to their holdings independently, appreciate Arca's flexible and powerful search capabilities that accommodate a wide range of search criteria and customized specificity.

- Chris Hives & Paige Hohmann, DOH Coordinators

UNBOXING CAPU'S UNIQUE HISTORY WITH ARCA

Submitted by Tania Alekson, Capilano University Student Experience Librarian, Library Coordinator

Capilano University signed on to Arca just before the big gear-up for our institution's 50th anniversary celebrations. Building an online archive, hosted and shared via Arca, has been an opportunity to explore the platform and support the university's celebratory community-building activities. Our inaugural Arca collection, [CapU's History](#), has found an immediate place as a crucial resource for discussion and promotion of our collective past.

CapU's History was built, in large part, thanks to the dedication of our 50th Anniversary History Team. A group of retired staff, faculty and administrators (including long-time Dean and President, Dr. Greg Lee), the team spent countless summer hours sifting through the tower of off-site storage boxes that house our "archive". Their role as our institution's living memory was crucial to the selection process, as they chose the most meaningful artefacts for digitization and inclusion in our first Arca collection. The process was captured in a beautiful piece of videography, "[Unboxing Our Stories](#)", created by Capilano University's house photographer, Tae Hoon Kim.



This important outlay of time and knowledge was followed with more hard work – by CapU Library staff and Librarians – to select additional items, digitize all the content, create metadata, upload everything to Arca and ensure its accessibility.

Since its launch, CapU's History has been used on innumerable projects celebrating our 50th anniversary. From providing the "then" photos for the Then and Now Gallery hanging in our cafeteria, to supplying local journalists with colourful facts and background as they wrote about our beginnings as the college on the North Shore, to providing engaging images and documents to underpin press releases and web stories for our Marketing & Communications department. Each project drew from Arca's ability to deliver instant access to high-quality, authentic documents, complete with metadata.



As we move forward, our Arca site will grow into a true post-secondary repository, showcasing for the world and ourselves what is currently happening in research and creative work at Capilano University. However, CapU's History will hold a special place in our professional hearts, as the visible manifestation of our collective history, available anytime to our community both on and off campus.



Watch *Unboxing our Stories*: <https://capu50.capilanou.ca/project/unboxing-our-stories/>

2018 ACHIEVEMENTS

Developed and Enhanced Arca's Customised Platform

- Migrated Arca to Simon Fraser University's state-of-the-art cloud hosting environment, boasting faster connections, greater reliability, and increased security
- Developed tools that make usage rights explicit for digital objects in the repository; visitors to the site now have a clear concept of how objects can be used, shared, re-purposed, etc.
- Enabled secure connections to the sites by acquiring certificates that enforce HTTPS browsing; keeps data secure between servers and enhances trust in the site
- Improved and expanded discoverability of digital materials by a) standardizing date formats and genre terms, and b) making it possible for theses in Arca to be harvested by Theses Canada

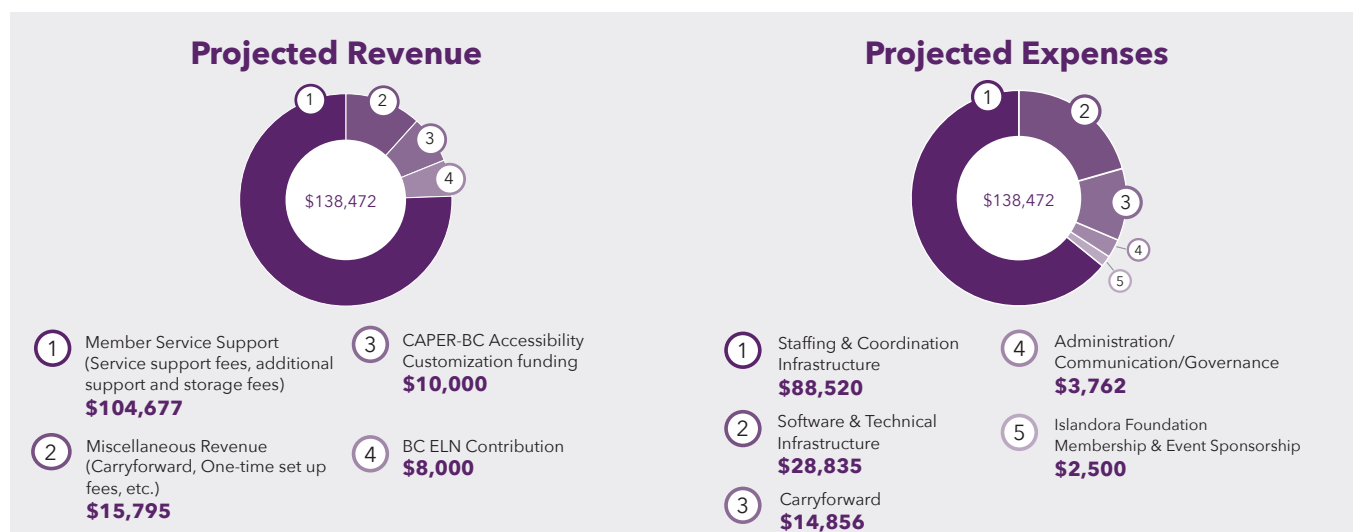
Expanded Membership Within and Beyond BC

- Engaged in extensive outreach and promotion to recipients of the BC History Digitization Program (BCHDP) grant recipients, who are currently eligible - through a partnership between BC ELN and the Irving K Barber Learning Centre - to host their content in Arca at no cost
- Assisted new partners in adding their materials to Arca: Athabasca University, Barkerville Historic Town, Brandon University, Centre for Accessible Post-secondary Education Resources (CAPER-BC), Northern Pacific Cannery, the Peace Region Paleontological Centre, and Red Deer College
- Met groups interested in potentially joining Arca both virtually and in-person to provide information and answer questions

Supported Knowledge Exchange and Fostered Communities of Practice

- Held a facilitated Action Planning session for Arca Advisory Committee to refine Arca's purpose, vision, and priorities in the coming year
- Hosted the 2018 Arca Camp, an in-person "unconference" for Arca administrators to share tips and tricks, receive training on new or complex features, and work together to solve problems
- Participated actively in the Islandora community; supported the 7.x-1.11 release as a tester and component manager, and acted as co-Release Manager for the Islandora 7.x-1.12 release

ARCA 2018-19 FINANCIALS



VALUE FOR USERS

Visitors to Arca can search and discover treasures from post-secondary and memory institutions in British Columbia and beyond.



41,000 digital items to search
across 459 collections from 23 organizations



A broad range of items to discover
including faculty publications, student research, historical photos, newspapers, and more



191 countries visited Arca in 2018
just about every country in the world!



2,238 downloads in 2018
that's a 13% percentage increase in downloads over 2017



NIMBLE AND RESPONSIVE

“ Working collaboratively with open-source software (Islandora) enables Arca to be extremely nimble and responsive to members' needs. Any kind of functionality they need - from supporting new types of content to new ways of working with objects or new tools for sharing/discovery - can be developed, and we can tap into a strong community of developers building new functionality all the time.

- Brandon Weigel
Arca Coordinator



CANADIAN TREASURE...

“ Kudos to BC ELN for creating a digital repository, Arca, that both preserves our heritage and allows Canadians access to the database. Over the course of conducting research for a forthcoming Encyclopedia of Canadian Basketball, I was delighted to discover that I could electronically retrieve several publications that allowed me to fill a few of the remaining gaps. I look forward to future additions. Moreover, the staff were invariably civil and helpful. BC ELN is a glittering compass that others should follow. A Canadian treasure!

- Wayne Kondro
Author and Researcher

A LOOK AHEAD TO 2019...

- Launching a new customization that allows members to display and stream content in Arca, including videos in Kaltura, McIntyre, or YouTube, while storing the content remotely
- Developing a tool to automate the preservation of Islandora objects in the [WestVault digital preservation network](#) with the simple click of a checkbox; ensures the long-term integrity and accessibility of selected digital content
- Working with new Arca member, Centre for Accessible Post-secondary Education Resources (CAPER-BC), to identify and fund accessibility improvements for all Arca sites and Islandora as a whole
- Upgrading to a robust multi-server architecture, giving Arca the capacity to scale to millions of objects and separate search traffic from ingest traffic, speeding up performance and response times