

Arca Actions & Achievements 2023

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Key Numbers from 2023

- The number of digital items in Arca continue to grow. As of 2023, there were 240,312 items – including research papers, historical photos, newspapers, and more.
- 29 member sites belong to Arca. Sites benefit from shared infrastructure, administrative support, and an active community of practice.
- 75,000 searches were conducted in Arca in 2023.
- Visitors from 207 countries viewed 255,000 pages in Arca in 2023.
- Arca participating sites collectively avoided \$2,692,173 in costs in 2023 thanks to sharing a platform, storage, and coordination.
- In 2023, central administration collectively saved members 39,000 hours. Staff are able to devote time saved to other organizational priorities.
- By joining Arca, members avoid 77% in costs compared with setting up an individual Islandora installation.

2023 Accomplishments

Secured \$500,000 from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to migrate Arca's technical infrastructure – which is reaching end-of-life — to Islandora 2. This critical funding ensures that Arca's digital collections are preserved and openly accessible. The new infrastructure will improve the Arca experience for both member sites and visitors.

Made significant progress in preparing for the migration to Islandora 2, including standardizing metadata fields across all repositories and implementing shared vocabularies. BC ELN also successfully negotiated a contract to work with discoverygarden, the vendor for Arca's technical support and maintenance, on the migration.

Expanded to encompass five additional BC ELN institutions within Arca. Arca now comprises 29 member organizations, of which 22 are partner libraries affiliated with BC ELN. Arca membership has steadily increased since 2017, with an average number of 5 new sites joining each year. This continual expansion serves to enhance the Arca community of practice, introducing fresh voices and diverse perspectives into the collaborative network.

A Look Ahead to 2024...

An Arca Migration Specialist starts work in January, helping coordinate metadata standardization efforts across member sites during the migration.

Arca staff will meet weekly with a discoverygarden project manager to finalize the planning phase that will guide the migration work going forward.

A new, scalable and sustainable deal has been worked out with SFU's Cloud Services team, to provide Arca with the infrastructure it needs for the long term.

Arca Sites as of 2023:

Athabasca University
BC History Digitization Program*
BC Regional Digitized History*
Brandon University
Camosun College
CAPER-BC
Capilano University
Coast Mountain College
College of New Caledonia ~ via Loupe*
College of the Rockies
Douglas College
Emily Carr University of Art + Design
Justice Institute of British Columbia
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Langara College
Mount Royal University
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
North Shore Digital Libraries*
Red Deer Polytechnic
Selkirk College
Thompson Rivers University
Trinity Western University
UBC iSchool
University Canada West
University of Northern British Columbia
University of the Fraser Valley
Vancouver Community College
Vancouver Public Library
Yukon University

* = "hub" site, where member site contains multiple community site collections.

2023-24 Financials (Projected)

