

## Arca Actions and Achievements 2021

Annual report for the Arca Collaborative Repository service.



*Photo 1: Taken in 1915, this photograph shows a group of people posing on a work engine. Part of the Princeton Museum Historical Photograph Collection, the photograph shows the Kettle Valley Railway, which ran a main line between Hope and Midway BC for both freight and passenger trains in the early part of this century.*

## Message from the Chair

Arca continues to grow. Looking back to just three years ago, service participation has almost doubled with sixteen new sites, and over 125,000 digital items have been added to collections. The platform has also evolved, with new features added regularly. For example, organizations can now apply notices to objects that have connections to Indigenous communities (learn more about these notices on page 3).

Next up is a migration to Islandora 2.0, the open-source platform on which Arca is built. The Arca Administrative Centre has already started laying the groundwork for this needed upgrade, which will be a major focus for 2022. We look forward to the enhancements Islandora 2.0 will support, and the ongoing growth of this valuable service.



*Photo 2: Todd Mundle, University Librarian, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Arca Advisory Committee Chair*

## Arca Growth Over the Years

	2018	2021
Number of partnering organizations	20	36
Number of collections in Arca	459	1,285
Number of items available	40,970	166,006
Number of visits to Arca Collections	121,221	140,921
Number of Visiting Countries	191	207

## 2021 Achievements

### Improved Member Experience

- Developed tools in Arca that provide labels and notices from Local Contexts:
  - Built a module that displays Institution Notices, including the Open to Collaborate notice, indicating an organization's openness to collaborate with Indigenous communities, and the Attribution Incomplete notice indicating objects where incomplete attribution information may be corrected or updated by input from Indigenous people.
  - Completed and launched the Islandora Traditional Knowledge (TK) Labels module, which uses the Local Contexts API to add dynamic TK Labels and Biocultural Notices on objects with connections to Indigenous communities
- Partnered with Indigitization Program and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC to enable Indigitization Program participants the option of preserving and managing their digitized materials in the Arca collaborative digital repository.

### Developed and Enhanced Arca's Platform

- Added features to improve Arca platform's stability and speed
- Developed specific tools to improve experience, including tools to convert newspaper issue PDFs to directories of TIFFs for ingesting through the back-end
- Resolved an outstanding vulnerability to bot attacks by bringing all members under firewall protection; reevaluated ingest practices and other processes to make the platform more efficient
- Selected a vendor and approved funding for a Migration Assessment Project that will lay the groundwork for an Arca migration to Islandora 2.0

### Supported Knowledge Exchange and Communities of Practice

- Delivered Arca administrator training to Langara College Library Technician program staff to facilitate use of their Arca teaching and learning environment
- Joined the DataCite Canada Coordinating Committee to guide national efforts promoting DOIs and making them accessible to all Canadian institutions
- Joined the National Heritage Digitization Strategy (NHDS) Advisory Committee to facilitate knowledge exchange between BC and other national and provincial initiatives
  - Completed NHDS Strategic planning consultation survey

- Participated in NHDS stakeholder roundtable discussion to contribute to the NHDS strategic planning process

## Supporting Students and Faculty

Offering educators, researchers, and students access to a digital repository service has become imperative for many Canadian post-secondary institutions. And yet, supporting a stand-alone digital repository is beyond the reach of many. Through collaboration, cost-sharing, and coordination of infrastructure and resources, Arca makes it possible for post-secondary institutions to maintain a digital repository at a reasonable cost, in a supported environment. Students and faculty benefit from:

- Storage and preservation of their work
- The ability to make their research openly available
- Reputability of connecting their outputs with their home institution

## Collecting Research in the Douglas College Door Repository

Shared by Dr. Lisa Smith, Douglas College, Sociology: “The Douglas College Menstrual Research Group is out there making waves in all the ways we can as engaged community-based researchers. DOOR (the Douglas College repository) and Arca enables getting our menstrual research off the page and into the real world by generating accessible, yet scholarly informed, knowledge dissemination items.

DOOR has created a site for the Research. Period. collection of Feminist scholar podcasts, presentations and our other research works as a means of building knowledge collaboratively. In DOOR we have a permanent space for the voices and work of emerging and established scholars in the field of critical menstruation studies with an eye for the Canadian context.”

Visit the [Research. Period. Collection in Arca](#).



*Photo 3: Dr. Lisa Smith*

## A Former JIBC Student Shares Their Story

“[As a student at the Justice Institute of British Columbia] I pursued primary research for my undergraduate capstone project where I focused on one cohort of police recruits at the British Columbia Police Academy... My capstone paper was selected to be published in the JIBC’s institutional repository, The Vault, and won a prize for the top

research poster. My results were sufficient to be awarded a full scholarship to pursue a Master of Philosophy in Criminology at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom (2020-21). The JIBC Vault has been useful to refer to prospective employers and educational institutions across the globe.” From: Md Asif Hossain, Former student and current instructor, JIBC.

## Arca Financials

By sharing a platform, storage, infrastructure, and centralized coordination, Arca members collectively avoid \$1.9 million in costs.

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>	<b>2021/22 Projected</b>
Member Service Support (Service Support Fees, Additional Support Fees, Additional Storage Fees)	\$129,838	\$144,620
BC ELN Contribution	\$10,000	\$10,000
Miscellaneous (Unrestricted and targeted carryforward, etc.)	\$19,661	\$21,714
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$159,499</b>	<b>\$176,333</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>	<b>2021/22 Projected</b>
Staffing and Coordination Infrastructure	\$94,047	\$99,334
Islandora Foundation Membership	\$4,000	\$4,000
Security Service (Cloudflare) Implementation	\$6,335	n/a
Migration Assessment Report	n/a	\$20,493
Administration/Communication/Governance	\$848	\$1,668
Vendor Support & Technology Infrastructure	\$33,555	\$26,659
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$138,785</b>	<b>\$152,153</b>

Arca Revenue over Expenditure (Carryforward):

- 2020/21 Actual Carryforward: \$20,714\*
- 2021/22 Projected Carryforward: \$24,180\*

\*Note: Carryforward amounts are earmarked for migration to Islandora version 2.

## A Look Ahead to 2022

Projects on the radar for Arca in 2022 include:

- Moving forward with the Islandora 2 Migration, including the development of a migration roadmap with discoverygarden (maintains BC ELN's Islandora installation), pursuing funding, and vendor selection
- Undergoing action planning, and updating Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to ensure alignment with service host BC ELN and BC ELN's other service areas
- Proposing a shared site for small institutions to provide a low-cost option for BC ELN partner libraries that might not have resources to support their own Arca site

----

If you have comments or feedback about this accessible PDF, please email [leahh@bceln.ca](mailto:leahh@bceln.ca). Your suggestions are welcome.