

Arca Digital Repository: Actions & Achievements 2025



Library Project, CapU Historical Images: Capilano College library staff move periodicals section

By the Numbers:

- 30 Arca repositories, including BC ELN partner libraries, regional special collections and archives, public libraries, and post-secondary institutions in Alberta and Manitoba.
- Approximately 294,330 items in 1,840 collections: explore open educational resources, faculty and student publications, historical photographs, contemporary art, and much more!
- \$6,410,000 in costs saved by all Arca participants through a shared platform, storage, infrastructure, and coordination.
- 190 tickets submitted by Arca participants to the Administrative Centre via the new open-source ticketing system, implemented July 2025.*

* This number was incorrectly reported in the BC ELN Innovation & Success 2025 as 394.

2025 Accomplishments

Completed the migration to the Islandora 2 platform, supported by capital funding from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS). Participating sites benefit from significant improvements to stability, metadata support, and administrative control. Local and global visitors enjoy improved discoverability and can search and access collections via the new user-friendly interface. With the new platform in place, Arca participants are already taking advantage of opportunities to expand access to their collections, for example by improving interoperability with their library's discovery services via the common OAI-PMH configuration. With a process in place to query how much storage each participating site is using at any given time, Arca can better anticipate storage needs and focus on long-term service sustainability.

Launched the [Traditional Knowledge \(TK\) Labels](#) module to help properly represent Indigenous rights and interests in digital repository content. Arca participants and the broader Islandora community have access to this new Islandora 2 module thanks to a creative collaboration between Arca Admin Centre staff and Computer Engineering Students at the University of Prince Edward Island.

Supported the [Collaboration Framework Initiative](#), a multi-year pilot to streamline the sharing of curriculum materials across B.C.'s post-secondary sector to better meet teaching and learning needs. Arca provides a trusted repository to house and distribute the Collaboration Framework's shared content, which includes collections from 11 BC ELN partner institutions. The partnership is led by Vancouver Community College with funding from PSFS.

Implemented new technologies to inform and connect staff who maintain their institutional Arca repositories. A new, highly searchable website for Arca administrators provides access to in-depth documentation and training resources. If additional support is needed, admins can submit a ticket via the new open-source ticketing system, osTicket. The system streamlines support and improves the Arca knowledgebase for all organizations. A Mattermost chat room, supported by OpenETC, provided a space for Arca admins to troubleshoot issues in real-time during the migration.

Moving Forward

- Negotiate a new maintenance and support agreement with discoverygarden to keep Arca sustainable and support its growth.
- Wrap-up the migration to Islandora 2.0 and launch the new central discovery site for all Arca repositories.

- Co-host an Islandora Camp with Simon Fraser University (SFU).

2025-26 Financials

The Arca budget is approved by the [Advisory Committee](#).

Revenue

- Start of year balance: \$52,848
- Total Revenue: \$228,598
 - Member Service Support (includes additional storage and support fees): \$195,045
 - Collaboration Framework Grant: \$23,553
 - BC ELN contribution: \$10,000

Expenses

- End of year balance: \$65,098
- Total Expenses: \$216,348
 - Staffing & Coordination: \$128,047
 - Vendor Support: \$57,055
 - Software & Technology Infrastructure: \$26,475
 - Islandora Foundation & DataCite Membership: \$4,148
 - Admin, Communications, & Governance: \$623

About and Contact

Learn: [Arca Digital Repository](#)

Contact: arcaoffice@bceln.ca