



June 9, 2014

ASDT Steering Committee
Co-Chairs: Joe Thompson and Oliver Gruter-Andre

Dear Mr Thompson and Mr. Gruter-Andre,

On behalf of the Council of Post-Secondary Library Directors of BC, I am pleased to write in support of the “BC Institutional Repository Network” (BC IR Network), an initiative of the BC Electronic Library Network (BC ELN) on behalf of its post-secondary partner libraries.

At the December 2013 BC ELN All Partner Meeting, post-secondary library directors across the province endorsed the continued investigation and planning for a network of provincial post-secondary institutional repositories (IRs).

The goals of the initiative include:

- Creating cost-avoidance for partner libraries and the BC post-secondary system.
- Ensuring compliance with grant-funding bodies’ open-access mandates.
- Promoting information sharing and coordination for IR best practices, workflow, procedures, and policy development.
- Providing coordinated technical expertise and support for the development, implementation, and operationalizing of IRs.

Philosophically, this initiative will assist interested post-secondary partners to reach their strategic goals and will provide superior, equitable access to resources to all of BC’s students, educators, and researchers in a highly cost-effective manner.

An ASDT \$100,000 one-time grant to fund the coordination, licensing, training, policy development, and communication costs would be a vital “kick-start” to this exciting service. Previous seed funding from Ministry has proven that minimal grant funding encourages strategic planning, optimal participation, and long term cost avoidance, while enabling the post-secondary system to do more with less.

The BC IRN will bring substantial financial and educational value to the post-secondary sector, and will serve as a model for other provinces. ASDT support is vital to making this initiative a reality.

Sincere regards,

President, Council of Post-Secondary Library Directors (BC)

Council of Post-Secondary Library Directors (BC) 2014 Members:

Tim Atkinson, Vancouver Community College
Jonathan Bengtson, University of Victoria
Melody Burton, University of British Columbia
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