

## **Central Vision Goal**

Post-Secondary Leader in Library, Learning & Community Networking

## **Mission**

The mission of the British Columbia Electronic Library Network (BC ELN) is to provide superior and equitable information access for all learners, educators and researchers by extending the expertise and resources of the BC post-secondary libraries.

BC ELN is a partnership between the Province of BC and its post-secondary libraries.

BC ELN operates with core funding from the Province of BC and resources contributed by partner libraries.

## **Core Values and Principles**

- Collaboration** Together we are stronger. We work as a collegial community in a spirit of teamwork, participation, and inclusion. We look for opportunities to form new partnerships.
- Trust** The foundation of our success is respect, integrity, and accountability. We foster long-term, trust-based relationships through open and honest communication and ethical practices.
- Innovation** We are creative and flexible, adapting and responding to opportunities and change.
- Leadership** Our success is based on competence, expertise, and a commitment to excellence, learning, and professionalism.
- Sustainability** We ensure our on-going viability through continuous improvement, cost-effectiveness, and accountability for results.

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## **Strategic Plan Bold Steps**

Bold Steps provide direction for the next five years, while specific strategies and priorities evolve every year and are reviewed regularly.

### **Bold Step 1 Increasing the Format and Content Range of Online Resources**

#### **Strategy 1.1 Grow Learner Resources (Collaborative Collection of High Quality Resources)**

Maintain and expand collaborative collection of learner resources to include more content and a wider variety of formats, including streaming video and ebooks.

**Rationale**

*Group licensing expands resources available to learners, at best possible terms and conditions, while saving costs and staff time for partner libraries. Licensed resources are increasingly supplemented by vetted collections of high quality freely available resources. Resource selection decisions based on suggestions and ranking by local librarian experts ensures procurement of highest quality resources that are most appropriate and relevant for local programs.*

**Benefits**

- Increases availability of high quality learner resources
- Rationalizes costs across the system
- Ensures equitable access
- Creates superior licensing arrangements through shared expertise
- Leverages clout of larger group for greater impact with vendors
- Streamlines technical work for greater results
- Coordinates information gathering for enhanced efficiency
- Streamlines invoicing for licensed products

**Strategy 1.2 Foster BC Library Collections Gateway**

Support and expand the provincial resource sharing network.

**Rationale**

*Libraries extend their collections beyond their walls to encompass much more of the province's resources through resource sharing. BC ELN coordinates resource sharing technologies, including the reSearcher software suite and OutLook OnLine, and facilitates resource sharing policy and service development.*

**Benefits**

- Provides BC learners with quick and direct access to the greatest number of resources
- Maximizes resource availability at least possible cost
- Ensures equity of access
- Leverages provincial resources
- Provides leading edge technology at affordable prices
- Saves staff time
- Achieves cost savings through coordination of technologies and ILL invoicing

**Bold Step 2 Facilitating Learning Commons Services****Strategy 2.1 Support AskAway Collaborative Virtual Reference Service**

Maintain and coordinate the provincial post-secondary collaborative virtual reference service AskAway.

**Rationale**

*By sharing software and staff time, partner libraries can provide more hours of high-quality reference service to BC learners at point of need. Licensing, technical and communication support from BC ELN helps this community-led sharing project to thrive.*

**Benefits**

- Expands service hours for many participating libraries
- Transforms a small investment of staff hours into a greater number of service hours
- Supports learner preferences for online and mobile learning

- Increases visibility for other library services
- Realizes cost savings and efficiencies through centralized licensing, training, marketing and coordination
- Provides service continuity: if any participating library is unable to deliver service due to emergency or system failure, AskAway provides important redundancy/risk avoidance

**Strategy 2.2 Explore opportunities to facilitate additional learning commons services**

Actively seek opportunities to participate in the development and support of learning commons services, such as the WriteAway Collaborative Virtual Writing Service, Virtual Study Rooms, or Resumé Writing / Career Services.

**Bold Step 3 Supporting Province-Wide Digitization and Scholarly Communication Initiatives**

**Strategy 3.1 Connect Learners, Educators & Researchers with Digital Collections**

Contribute leadership and coordination to provincial and national digitization projects in cooperation with other groups such as the BC Digitization Coalition and Canadiana.org.

**Rationale**

*Many libraries, in BC & elsewhere, are in the process of creating digital collections, often of important historical resources. Coordination is desirable to achieve the most cost-effective technological solutions for creating, sharing and making interoperable digital collections, ensuring best quality metadata, and coordinating technical training. Coordinating communications will enhance use of these collections, optimize discovery for learners & minimize potential duplication.*

**Benefits**

- Makes it easy for users to find digitized content through one search
- Preserves community resources and makes them accessible to all
- Ensures effective use of staff time
- Utilizes the most cost-effective technological solutions for creating, sharing, and making interoperable digital collections
- Provides best quality metadata

**Strategy 3.2 Articulate & Implement Open Access Archives Strategies**

Articulate and implement appropriate role for BC ELN in managing open access archives (e.g. Institutional Repositories, Learning Object Repositories) and supporting adoption by BC ELN partners.

**Rationale**

*Researchers, educators and learners around the world are making their work openly accessible through open access archives. Examples of collections that might be included in one or more open access archive: peer-reviewed literature, research data, conference proceedings, working papers, tutorials, learning objects, theses, other student work.*

**Benefits**

Maximizes visibility and impact of BC research

- Provides access to more resources, especially resources of local significance for British Columbians
- Minimizes duplication

#### **Bold Step 4 Ensuring a Relevant, Responsive and Sustainable BC ELN**

##### **Strategy 4.1 Strengthen our Infrastructure**

Ensure that the BC ELN Office has the human and financial resources needed to meet its Strategic Vision Goal effectively and efficiently.

##### **Rationale**

*A BC ELN Office able to meet the expanding needs of BC post-secondary libraries while continuing as a model of operational efficiency.*

##### **Benefits**

- Ensures that BC ELN bold steps and strategies are met effectively and efficiently
- Aligns BC ELN initiatives with Core Values and Principles
- Facilitates BC ELN ongoing operational nimbleness and ability to seize new opportunities made possible through collaborations and new technologies.

##### **Strategy 4.2 Communicate Effectively**

Develop and refine BC ELN communications through targeting messages and marketing for diverse audiences.

##### **Rationale**

*BC ELN products and services are substantial and growing, as are BC ELN's communications. Targeting communications ensures that BC ELN's key messages reach the appropriate audience.*

##### **Benefits**

- Informs key stakeholders
- Ensures efficient use of BC ELN resources
- Saves time for BC ELN key stakeholders