



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Federal Science **eLibrary**

A case for a Federal Science eLibrary

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Canada

Proposed Federal Science eLibrary

The Federal Science eLibrary would give all Government of Canada researchers desktop electronic access to current, pertinent scientific, technical and medical publications.

A Model of Collaboration

Proposed by the Strategic Alliance of Federal Science and Technology Libraries (SAFSTL):

- Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Health Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- National Research Council Canada (Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information)

Role of Information in R&D

- Scientists build on one another's work.
- Researchers need access to published research; most read 2-10 articles per week
- Information is as indispensable as laboratories, technology, instruments and expertise
- Seamless, equitable desktop access is now worldwide standard in academia and industry
- Limited and uneven access for Govt. of Canada researchers

Challenges to the R&D Information Supply

- Licensing: No standard licenses with publishers
- New and increasing costs: E-journal costs in addition to print. Journal prices rising 15-20% annually
- Infrastructure: Need robust information and technology infrastructure

Benefits and Savings

- Provide seamless and equitable access
- Strengthen negotiating position of federal libraries
- Increase the number of e-journals available
- Eliminate unproductive search time
- Facilitate recruitment and retention

Benefits and Savings

- Reduce administrative costs
- Enhance the GoL client-centric approach
- Provide a platform for future government initiatives
- Support the Government of Canada's innovation agenda

Investment

The proposed Federal Science eLibrary requires new funding and an average annual investment of \$10M per annum, for a total of \$40M over 4 years, as well as continued sustainable funding.

Existing Models

This initiative is realistic and achievable because it builds on established models and expertise:

- Canadian National Site Licensing Project (CNSLP)
- International examples in United States, United Kingdom and Australia
- Departmental virtual libraries

The Role of the Librarian

Librarians are indispensable partners in research.

For federal government librarians, the Federal Science e-Library is:

- An additional tool
- A new investment
- A way to provide equitable access to e-journals, everywhere

Next Steps

- Champion
- Communications Strategy
- Seeking funding

Questions?

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