

Arca Discovery Layer Task Group Terms of Reference

Arca is a collaborative initiative to support the development and implementation of digital repositories at BC post-secondary institutions. Foundational to the creation of the proposed Provincial Digital Library, Arca is a province-wide network of digital repositories that will:

- provide access to faculty and student research output across multiple post-secondary institutions via a cross-repository search layer;
- support the management of institutional digital assets;
- showcase BC as a hub for knowledge creation across Canada and around the world.

Arca is being built on Islandora, a Canadian-developed open-source platform currently in use at over 100 public and private institutions worldwide. This shared platform will provide post-secondary institutions with open-access repositories for research, theses, and any other digital assets they wish to make available to the wider community.

Phase 2 of the Arca project is development of a discovery layer enabling cross-repository search of BC post-secondary digital repositories, including those using repository platforms other than Islandora.

Mandate

The Arca Discovery Layer Task Group has received a mandate from the Arca Advisory Committee to:

- Identify goals and use cases for the Arca discovery layer;
- Identify options for implementing the discovery layer;
- Evaluate discovery layer options to ensure they utilise industry standards for interoperability, with an eye to potential future use beyond the post-secondary sector;
- Represent and consider the interests and needs of a diversity of BC post-secondary digital repositories;
- Make a recommendation to the Arca Advisory Committee of a solution that best fits the Arca project's currently outlined needs.

Membership

Membership in the Arca Discovery Layer Task Group will consist of representatives from Arca participating institutions, other BC post-secondary digital repositories, and the Arca Advisory Committee, as well as the BC ELN coordinator. The following criteria will guide membership:

- To ensure efficient decision-making there will be a maximum of 10 members, including the Advisory Committee liaison and the BC ELN Coordinator.
- The Chair of the BC Digitization Coalition Task Group will have a seat to ensure the group has an understanding of other sectors' needs.

- Members should be individuals with a high level of technical expertise and a system orientation.
- Members should be available for frequent meetings for the duration of the process, expected to be October – March 2015.

Procedures

Communication among Task Group members will primarily take place via the <eln-irdiscovery> listserv.

Meetings

Arca Discovery Layer Task Group meetings will be held virtually and/or in person as needed.

Deliverables

The Arca Discovery Layer Task Group will deliver a recommendation to the Arca Advisory Committee of the discovery layer solution that best fits the Arca project's currently outlined needs.