

A New Partnership Benefits Smaller Libraries and Canadian Scholarly Presses

10 December, 2014

The Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL), eBOUND Canada, and the members of the Association of Canadian University Presses/Association Des Presses Universitaires Canadiennes (ACUP/APUC) are very pleased to announce that a partnership agreement has been struck that will bring Canadian scholarly content to six more Ontario university libraries: Trent University, Algoma University, Royal Military College of Canada, OCAD University, Laurentian University, and Lakehead University.

Following on the heels of the innovative and successful agreement reached with ten OCUL library members in February 2013, this further venture ensures that libraries with less than 10,000 student FTEs will be able to provide their students, faculty and staff with digital access to a significant number of books on Canadian topics in the social sciences and humanities. The agreement, covering a range of French and English works published between 2006 and 2016, emulates the previous deal by offering perpetual ownership and local hosting rights on the Scholars Portal Books platform.

Laurentian's Chief Librarian, Brent Roe observes **"This deal is important for a smaller Canadian university such as Laurentian. It makes considerable "Canadian content" available to our students and faculty, a greater proportion of whom work from a specifically Canadian perspective in their disciplines than in a larger university. Without a deal that takes our smaller budget into consideration, we just wouldn't have online access to much of this excellent scholarship."**

Nearly two years after the original deal was struck, usage statistics reveal how valuable the collection has been to the participating university libraries and their communities. From January to September this year 24% of the most-used titles on the Scholars Portal Books platform were from the ACUP collection. This is impressive given the ACUP collection comprises only around 2% of the entire list of commercial titles available on the platform.

OCUL Chair, Vice Provost and University Librarian at Queen's University, Martha Whitehead comments **"We are very happy to see the success of this partnership with ACUP/APUC and eBOUND Canada. This collection is clearly important to our communities. OCUL is delighted to be expanding access even further with this latest agreement, connecting more of Ontario's students and researchers with Canadian scholarship through Scholars Portal."**

Since 2013, this collection has grown to around 6,000 titles. The collection is now available to an additional **44,000 students and staff** at the seven participating libraries through Scholars Portal Books, which will continue to be the exclusive point of access.

ACUP/APUC President John Yates comments, **"We are very pleased we have reached an agreement, through OCUL, with university libraries that may not otherwise have the resources to purchase this breadth of material and now are able to provide their patrons with easy access to an exciting range of Canadian university press e-books. Our members produce excellent works, the fruit of intense editorial collaboration with this country's foremost established and emerging scholars. To add another 44,000 students and staff to the 290,000 users currently able to access the collection is an encouraging step in building a comprehensive cross-country partnership between all university libraries and all Canadian scholarly presses."**

eBOUND Canada is similarly delighted with the partnership. **"Ensuring that Canadian-produced ebooks are widely available and easily accessed by readers is central to eBOUND's mission,"** says eBOUND Chief Executive Officer, Krys Ross. **"We are delighted to partner with ACUP and OCUL in bringing these works**

to the Scholars Portal platform and to aid them in meeting their commitment to their communities. Our common goals have allowed us to expose this comprehensive collection to the maximum number of readers in an almost perfect marriage of technology and content.”

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About the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL)

www.ocul.on.ca

OCUL is a consortium of Ontario’s 21 university libraries. Its strength lies in its commitment to work together to maximize collective expertise and resources. OCUL enhances information services in Ontario and beyond through collective purchasing and shared digital information infrastructure, collaborative planning, advocacy, assessment, research, partnerships, communications, and professional development.

For further information contact **Kathy Scardellato**, OCUL Executive Director
E: kathy.scardellato@ocul.on.ca P: 416-946-0578

About OCUL’s Scholars Portal

www.scholarsportal.info

Scholars Portal is a service of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL). The Scholars Portal technological infrastructure, including the Scholars Portal Books platform, preserves and provides access to information resources collected and shared by Ontario’s 21 university libraries. Through the Scholars Portal online services, Ontario’s university students, faculty and researchers have access to an extensive and varied collection of e-journals, e-books, social science data sets, geo reference data and geospatial sets. Scholars Portal also supports the online inter-library loan platform for Ontario’s universities and provides support for a virtual chat reference service and other tools designed to aid and enhance academic research in Ontario. Scholars Portal continues to respond to the research needs of Ontario universities through the creation of innovative information services and by working to ensure access to and preservation of this wealth of information.

About the Association of Canadian University Presses (ACUP/APUC)

www.acup.ca

The Association of Canadian University Presses/Association Des Presses Universitaires Canadiennes exists to serve the interest of Canadian scholarship. By their publishing activity, ACUP/APUC members encourage the broadest distribution of the fruits of research and scholarship. The ACUP/APUC provides an organization through which the exchange of ideas relating to university presses and their functions may be facilitated.

For further information contact **John Yates**, President, Publisher, and Chief Executive Officer, University of Toronto Press, E: jyates@utpress.utoronto.ca P: 416-978-2239, ext. 222

About eBOUND Canada

www.eboundcanada.org

Launched in 2009, eBOUND Canada, formerly the Canadian Publishers Digital Services (CPDS) arm of the Association of Canadian Publishers, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing Canadian publishers’ engagement in the digital marketplace. Its growing number of programs includes ebook distribution, digital asset management, conversion services and professional development. eBOUND acknowledges the financial support of the government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund and the Ontario Media Development Corporation on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

For further information contact **Krys Ross**, Chief Executive Officer, eBOUND Canada
E: krys_ross@eboundcanada.org, P: 416-487-6116, ext. 236

