

CLA Information Commons Interest Group

Mandate and Statement of Purpose

The Information Commons Interest Group brings together library stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds to develop, support, and promote projects and ideas that foster the growth of an information commons. Recognizing that we as information workers are under immense pressure from industries and governments (both domestic and international) to tighten control over information creation and dissemination, we are of the mind that projects contributing to the free-flow of information are vital if we want to foster a nation where ideas can be shared freely and openly. We represent public, school, academic, government, and special libraries; we recognize the extent to which we all have a stake in how we produce and access information.

Our scope is as broad as our base and includes interests in licensing, copyright, freedom of information, international trade, privacy, broadcasting and telecommunications policy, principles of democracy, archives, open source software, and much more. Canadian libraries contribute enormously to the creation and preservation of spaces that allow for the evolution of Canadian culture. The increasing control and commodification of information restricts our ability to encourage and foster positive developments in our cultural, academic, and economic growth. We aim to work internationally with librarians, library associations, our employers, and other interested people to contribute to the growth of the global information commons.

Purpose:

- To provide an organizational node for CLA members interested in facilitating dialog about information commons.
- To provide a mechanism for sharing experiences with promoting, developing and sustaining commons.
- To provide a base for conference programming, formal contacts, e-lists, etc.
- To encourage participation in efforts and partnerships to help promote, build and sustain information commons.
- To work with both Canadian and international organizations (including other CLA Interest Groups and Committees) to promote initiatives which contribute to information commons.
- To organize a forum for discussing information commons initiatives at the annual CLA conference.

Petition to the Canadian Library Association’s Executive Council to setup an “Information Commons Interest Group”(33 names)

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