North
Nord

5 YEARS OF COLLABORATION

BUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE FOR CANADA'S SCHOLARLY RECORD

5 ANS DE COLLABORATION

BÂTIR UN AVENIR PLUS FORT POUR LE PATRIMOINE SCIENTIFIQUE DU CANADA



5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY REPORT | RAPPORT DU 5E ANNIVERSAIRE

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North
Nord

Thank you to our partners and funders for their continued support and collaboration.

Merci à nos partenaires et bailleurs de fonds pour leur soutien et leur collaboration continus.

We gratefully acknowledge the leadership and support of our funders in advancing shared-print coordination across Canada.

CARL ABRC

COPPUL The Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries

CAAL CBPA Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries / Conseil des bibliothèques postsecondaires de l'Atlantique

OCUL Ontario Council of University Libraries

Canadian Urban Libraries Council / Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada

PBUQ Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec

Library and Archives Canada / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada

Table of Contents

Table of Contents
Acknowledgements
    Our Funders
Executive Summary
Message From Chair & Vice-Chair of the North/Nord Steering Committee
Meet Our Team
Achieving Core Infrastructure Objectives
    Historical Timeline
Project Updates
    Canadian University Presses Project
    Indigenous Historical Periodical Project
    Government Documents Project
    Digital Alignment Project
    National Topographic Map Series
North/Nord Custom Collection Analysis Method
Looking Ahead
Recent Presentations
Publications
Appendix A: Acknowledgements
    Our Funders
    Our Working Groups
    Our Archive Holders
    Our Administrative Host

Acknowledgements

As North/Nord celebrates five years of collaboration and collective achievement, we extend our sincere gratitude to the many individuals and organizations whose contributions have made this work possible (Appendix A). We thank our funders for their vision, commitment, and investment in building a sustainable national shared print program. None of this would have been possible without our funding partners, North/Nord is extremely grateful to our funding partners for their continued support. We are deeply grateful to the members of our Steering Committee and our many Working Groups, whose expertise, leadership, and volunteer efforts have guided the program's development and growth. We acknowledge the Archive Holders and participating institutions that have committed collections, resources, and staff time to the stewardship of Canada's scholarly record. Finally, we extend our appreciation to the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL), North/Nord's administrative host, for providing operational support, infrastructure, and a strong foundation that has enabled the program to thrive. Together, these partners have built a collaborative network that strengthens long-term access to and preservation of print collections across Canada.

Our Funders

North/Nord is extremely grateful to our funding partners for their continued support.



Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)
Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)
Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries (CAAL-CBPA)
Library & Archives Canada (LAC)
Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL)
Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec (PBUQ)
Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL)

Executive Summary

This year we proudly celebrate five years of North/Nord—five years of bold ideas, meaningful collaboration, and national impact. What began as a shared vision has evolved into a dynamic network of leaders, innovators, and partners working together to advance projects of national significance. Over its first five years, North/Nord has evolved from a conceptual initiative into a nationally coordinated network with demonstrated capacity to deliver large-scale retention initiatives, engaging **23 project partners as Archive Holders** and situated within a broader national framework **encompassing 35 Members** and **114 Canadian libraries represented through funding consortia.**

Innovation remains a defining characteristic of our work, with each initiative advancing new models for collaborative collection stewardship. The Canadian University Presses (CUP) Project—our largest undertaking to date—established a nationally distributed archive by assigning retention commitments for **125,388 monographs across 17 Canadian libraries**, while introducing a prospective shared print framework designed to support sustainable growth over time. Building on the success of the Government Information Project, which preserved **17,672 government information monographs across 14 partner institutions**, including Library and Archives Canada, a new phase of work is extending archiving activities to serials through the application of advanced bibliographic analysis capabilities developed in-house. Emerging initiatives focused on Indigenous Works and Federal Maps are expanding our work into new formats and stewardship approaches, while the Research-in-Residence Program and Digital Alignment Working Group are strengthening our capacity to generate knowledge, foster innovation, and shape the future of shared print in Canada.

Our mission is to protect, preserve, and provide fair access to Canada's scholarly and cultural records while ensuring responsible and sustainable collection management. Through cooperation and shared stewardship, we safeguard critical academic and historical materials while adopting practical, efficient strategies to support long-term preservation. By minimizing duplication, reducing waste, and optimizing storage solutions, we strengthen Canada's ability to independently manage its knowledge resources. This initiative ensures that Canadian institutions remain resilient, forward-thinking, and committed to preserving our nation's intellectual and cultural legacy for future generations.

This level of organizational growth would not have been possible without the dedication and support of our staff, the Steering Committee Members, funding and project partners, and working group participants.

North/Nord benefits from a diverse pool of experts across its working groups, bringing together senior administrators, metadata specialists, collections experts, and subject librarians. This past year North/Nord collaborated with **30+ participants spanning five Canadian provinces as well as the United States,** with representation from **four international organizations**, **five national-level bodies**, and **four Canadian regional consortia** (Figure 1), reflecting a multi-layered shared print and library collaboration ecosystem. Their expertise, commitment, and collaborative spirit continue to drive our success and strengthen our collective impact.



Figure 1: Representation of North/Nord Working Group Members across Canada

To mark these important milestones, this year's Annual Report takes the form of a *Five Year Anniversary Report*—celebrating five years of growth, collaboration, and collective achievement. It reflects on the progress North/Nord has made in advancing coordinated stewardship of Canada's scholarly and cultural record, the lessons learned through our evolving work, and the opportunities that will shape our future. It celebrates the contributions of leaders and experts across our community, including those representing our funding organizations.

Message From Chair & Vice-Chair of the North/Nord Steering Committee

On behalf of North: the Canadian Shared Print Network / Nord : Réseau canadien de conservation partagée des documents imprimés, we are pleased to welcome you to our 2026 *Five-Year Anniversary Report*. It's hard to believe that the *Final Report* of the Canadian Collective Print Strategy Working Group (CCPSWG) was only published in September 2020, recommending the formation of a national shared print network which was launched in May 2021, making this year the fifth anniversary of North/Nord. From ideation stage, to creation of the building blocks of a new national organization, and launch of pilot projects to set the stage, North/Nord has experienced tremendous growth and achieved core infrastructure objectives recommended by the CCPSWG, demonstrating its effectiveness in national coordination, undertaking projects of national significance to close gaps in activities undertaken by regional shared print programs as well as highlighting its future potential for growth and even bigger impact.

What began as a focused mission has expanded into sustained, multi-year growth driven by collaboration, creativity, and community trust. Shared print is playing an increasingly vital role in safeguarding the scholarly record through long-term, distributed stewardship that protects access in the face of geopolitical instability, climate risk, and infrastructure disruption. The momentum built over the last five years positions North/Nord to continue engaging in meaningful and lasting change. Together with our various supporters, North/Nord has built a strong foundation for sustainable growth, innovation, and future impact. We look forward to advancing our mission by continuing to work with our project partners and funders, and to securing sustained ongoing financial support to continue our work.

We look forward to future conversations with you,

Trish & Joseph



Joseph Hafner
Chair, North/Nord Steering Committee (2025-2027)
Dean of Libraries / Doyen des bibliothèques
York University Libraries



Trish Chatterley
Vice-Chair, North/Nord Steering Committee (2025-2027)
Associate University Librarian, Library and Museums,
University of Alberta Library

On behalf of the North/Nord Steering Committee,
Gillian Byrne, Manager, Toronto Public Library (CULC)
Jean Blackburn, Executive Director, Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL SPAN)
Joseph Hafner, Dean of Libraries / Doyen des bibliothèques, York University Libraries (CARL)
Julie Anne Richardson, Director, Acquisitions, Library & Archives Canada (LAC)
Katya Pereyaslavska, North/Nord Network Coordinator (Ex-Officio)
Khalid Jouamaa, Directeur des collections, du traitement documentaire et des métadonnées, Bibliothèques de l'Université de Montréal (PBUQ)
Kyla Everall, Downsview Coordinator, University of Toronto (Keep@Downsview)
Liz Hayden, Associate University Librarian, Content and Access, University of Ottawa (OCUL)
Megan Chellew, Interim Associate Dean, McGill University Libraries (Valleyfield)
Nicole Slipp, Collections Strategy Librarian, University of New Brunswick Libraries (CAAL)
Sheila Laroque-Bear, (Chair, Indigenous Works), Indigenous Knowledges Coordinator, Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries
Trish Chatterley, Associate University Librarian, Library and Museums, University of Alberta Library (COPPUL)

To learn more about the North/Nord Steering Committee, we invite you to review our recently updated Terms of Reference

Meet Our Team

2025-2026 marks an exciting growth in North/Nord's team as we welcomed our two new Data Analysts (Milica Ivetic & Erin Bourgard) and our inaugural Researcher-in-Residence (Jennifer Browning). Together, our team has engaged in conversations about technology across our partner organizations, developed a custom collection analysis method and maintained the momentum necessary to advance exciting new initiatives as well as completing one very big project. It has been a super year!



Katya Pereyaslavska, Coordinator

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Katya holds a dual appointment as the Network Coordinator with North/Nord and Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries' Shared Print Archive Network (SPAN). Previously, she held two senior academic librarian roles which included Librarian III at Scholars Portal, Ontario Council of University Libraries and as Associate Librarian at Western University Libraries.



Milica Ivetic, Data Analyst

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Milica joined as a Data Analyst with North/Nord in November 2025. She also holds the role of Technical Services Associate at the University of Toronto Libraries. Milica's professional interests include process analysis and innovation, cataloguing and metadata, and accessibility of library resources. Milica holds an Honours Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics and a Master of Information in Information Systems & Design from the University of Toronto.



Erin Bourgard, Data Analyst

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Erin is a data analyst with North/Nord and a librarian at Western University. Her areas of professional interest include communications, critical cataloguing, data management, and collaborative metadata practices.



Jenn Browning,

Researcher-in-Residence

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Jennifer Browning is the Head of Cataloguing, Metadata, & Digitization at Carleton University Library. She is North/Nord's inaugural Researcher-in-Residence for 2025-2026 and is Chair of the North/Nord Indigenous Works Metadata Subgroup.

Achieving Core Infrastructure Objectives

Over the course of its existence (2021 - present), North/Nord achieved all of our key infrastructure development objectives outlined in the Final Report of the Canadian Collective Print Strategy Working Group. These include the following milestones,

Infrastructure & Governance

- ☑ Form and sustain a national shared print network to coordinate national activities
- ☑ Provide a path to participation for libraries not yet involved in shared print programs, across academic, public, and government sectors;
- ☑ Position North/Nord as a coordinating -- not duplicative -- network alongside regional consortia and shared print programs (**ongoing work**);

- ☑ Establish a national Steering Committee with representation from regional academic library consortia, existing shared print programs, Library and Archives Canada (LAC), CULC, and others;
- ☑ Create Working Groups composed of practitioners with expertise in collection management, metadata, holdings disclosure, and access ;
- ☑ Hire a part-time network coordinator to manage day-to-day coordination, communications, and implementation activities;
- ☑ Design and implement a national collective print preservation strategy that supports long-term retention and access to scholarly and cultural records;
- ☑ Focus initially on Canadian materials, while remaining inclusive of multiple categories of print (monographs, serials, government documents);
- ☑ Support both distributed and centralized preservation models, recognizing differing regional capacities;

Data Analysis

- ☑ Conduct national overlap and scarcity studies to identify materials that are rare or at risk in Canadian library collections;
- ☑ Use shared bibliographic data to support coordinated decision-making around retention, transfer, and weeding;
- ☑ Apply consistent scarcity indicators in catalog records to inform responsible local and consortial collection management;

Engagement & Capacity Building

- ☑ Engage regional consortia as the primary mechanism for participation and decision-making, wherever possible;
- ☑ Maintain regular communication with participating consortia and libraries about activities, findings, and next steps;
- ☑ Use webinars, documentation, and shared tools to support understanding and uptake of national shared print work.

Over the past five years, North/Nord has enabled critical partnerships that leverage collective capacity to meet member needs and aspirations. Together, Canadian libraries have developed a robust national program to ensure access to Canada's print cultural record now and into the future. Together, we can continue to transform our collaborative activities to create a thriving ecosystem with Canadian library users at its heart.

Historical Timeline

April 2015
Business Case: Last Copies - Canadian Overlap Study is published by Library and Archives Canada (LAC) highlighting opportunities for collaborative conservation of print collections across Canada. It cites

the need “to reduce redundancy in… collections, thus decreasing the physical space requirements and making space available for other purposes.” This document also recommends that libraries work collaboratively on an overlap analysis to identify last copies of publications which would need to be preserved.

November 10, 2017
Following the *At Risk* forum hosted by the Centre for Research Libraries in Chicago in April 2016, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) and Library and Archives Canada (LAC) co-sponsored a national Canadian forum, @Risk North (Collections en péril). This event included participants from across Canada that discussed the status of Canadian shared repository initiatives and the possibilities emerging from a robust shared print infrastructure in Canada, including the future of shared print in Canada. Participants engaged in identifying next steps in national or regional coordination highlighting opportunities for collaboration.

July 2018 - August 2020
In collaboration with Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), the Canadian Collective Print Strategy Working Group (CCPSWG) undertakes the National Overlap Study project which is funded by Library and Archives Canada. This project intends to gain a better understanding of the national collection of Canadian Federal government publications by conducting an environmental scan of Canadian and international shared print programs as well as developing a proposal for a national framework. The Project Charter focuses on “a national strategy of collective print preservation and access”.

Engaging 25 participants including CARL libraries, LAC, BANQ, Library of Parliament, NRC, Toronto Public Library and Vancouver Public Library, the project results in the identification of scarcely held materials and the addition of scarcity notes into local records.

September 2020
CCPSWG delivers its Final Report which includes a number of recommendations for the successful establishment of a national shared print network in Canada. Following this report, CCPSWG proposes that the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) assume the role of administrative host for a Canadian shared print network for preservation and access. As the library consortium with the most mature and robust shared print preservation program in Canada, COPPUL is uniquely placed to take a lead role in the creation of a national network.

May 2021
Marks the development of the very first National Shared Print Steering Committee Terms of Reference. The North/Nord network will be governed by a national steering committee with representatives from the regional academic library consortia and shared print programs including:

Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)
Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)
Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries’ Shared Print Archive Network (SPAN)
Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries (CAAL)
Keep @ Downsview
Library and Archives Canada (LAC)

Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL)
Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec (PBUQ)
Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL)

June 2021
North/Nord Participant Agreement (French version) is finalized and recruitment of member organizations begins.

August 2021
Press release to announce the formation of a national shared print network that coordinates the activities of existing shared print initiatives and provides a path to participation for libraries not already a part of a shared print program marks a public launch of North/Nord.

October 2021
21 institutions sign on as North/Nord program level participants, with representation across academic, government, and public library sectors.

Recruitment of individual libraries begins in relation to specific retention projects in three categories:
Canadiana, Indigenous Works and Government Documents:

- 18 of the original 26 National Overlap Study participants indicating they will participate in the North/Nord Government Documents project.

- The Indigenous Works Working Group crafts both a land acknowledgement and a statement of intent with regard to engaging with Indigenous communities.

- Academic libraries at institutions that host University Presses, as well as LAC and BAnQ, are invited to participate in the Canadian University Presses project.

June 2022
A new bilingual North/Nord website is launched improving program communications, providing access to information such as membership updates, access to Participant Agreement and an Events page.

October 2022
Extensive consultations with stakeholders including our funding bodies, CRKN, coordinators of other shared print programs such as EAST, WEST and Hathitrust help shape project developments. Investigations of grant funding opportunities and meetings with potential funders continue.

North/Nord is registered with OCLC's Approved archiving program.

Summer 2023
Following a specific recommendation of the original report, North/Nord conducts a program evaluation which included engaging with members to inform future directions.

October 2024
Efforts are underway to strengthen regional representation across working groups to ensure broader participation and perspectives in shared planning and decision-making, as well as to improve North/Nord's communications by increasing outreach, conference participation and community engagement. This month also welcomes a new Network Coordinator.

May 2025
North/Nord's Annual Report highlights the launch of several new projects with a focus on topographic maps and government serials, as well as an inaugural Researcher-in-Residence program. The successful applicant joins the North/Nord staff team in the Fall.

A Digital Alignment Working Group is launched towards the end of the year to develop a print-digital alignment roadmap for North/Nord. This group has strong representation from Canadian and American shared print programs as well as key partners including Canadiana and Hathi Trust.

Continued collaboration with CRKN has integrated a shared print provision into the Canadiana Collection Development Projects, and advanced a collaborative shared print initiative to archive the

> From a shared vision to a national network, North/Nord represents a significant step forward in Canada's collective stewardship of the scholarly and cultural record.

Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM) microfiche.

2026
This year marks the successful completion of the *Canadian University Presses* project resulting in 125,388 retentions across 17 organizations including Library and Archives Canada. This is a significant milestone for North/Nord as well as a project which helped shape custom collection analysis methodology to be adapted and replicated across future projects.

A part of this project is a prospective shared print pilot which will allow participants to experiment with a new shared print model which does not rely on retroactive analysis and allows organizations to assign retentions to materials which they already acquire. This will allow the program to archive materials on an ongoing basis in a more efficient and proactive way without additional cost implications.

North/Nord works with IFLA to add the network to the Library Map of the World as a library program which meets several United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

For those who are interested in learning more about the history and development of North/Nord, please refer to the Primer published in May 2025.

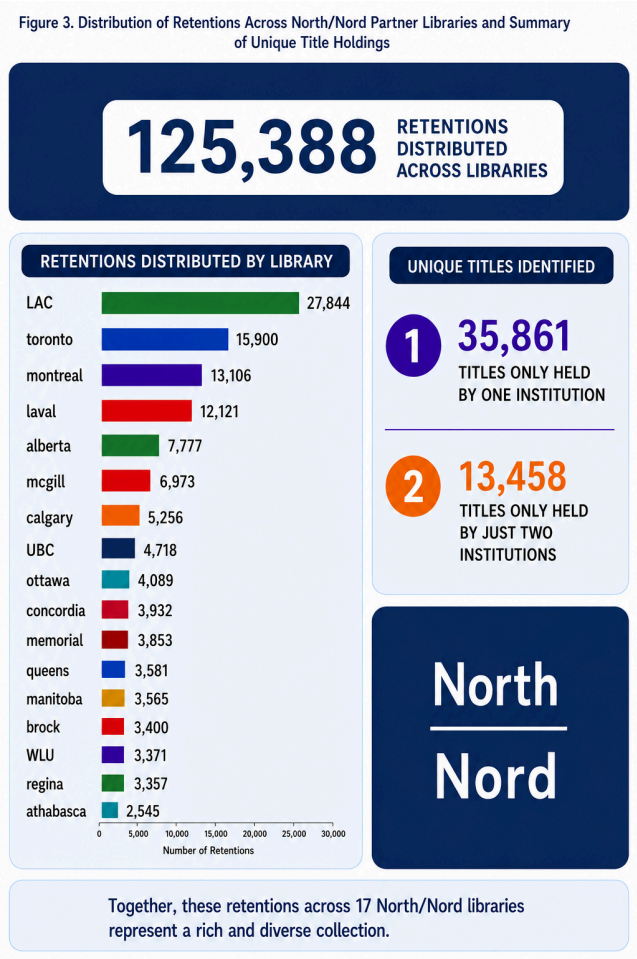
Project Updates

By the end of its fifth full year (2026), North/Nord will have grown from a concept into a national shared print network responsible for the retention of approximately 200,000 physical collection items. This remarkable growth demonstrates both the rapid adoption of the initiative and its capacity to deliver large-scale, nationally significant preservation and stewardship outcomes. North/Nord's growth has been driven by a series of strategic milestones rather than incremental expansion. Foundational work began with government documents in 2021, followed by rapid scaling through the Canadian University Presses initiative in 2023. A major diversification phase occurred in 2025 with the addition of new projects including Canadian National Topographic Series (NTS) 1:50,000 scale maps, covering print editions produced between the 1950s and 2012, an Indigenous Works project focused on serials, and research initiatives, culminating in 2026 with a shift toward digital alignment and integrated preservation strategies as a key network goal.



Figure 2. North/Nord Retentions: Program Overview

Canadian University Presses Project



As a large-scale, highly complex initiative, the Canadian University Presses (CUP) project demanded substantial coordination and depth of work, and as such timelines were appropriately extended to support a thorough delivery. We are pleased to report that the retention lists for all of 17 participating libraries (Figure 3) were distributed in April of this year along with a custom *Missing Items List* for Library & Archives Canada. In addition, participants were invited to take part in a prospective shared print pilot developed for this cohort of libraries. This initiative represents a significant evolution in North/Nord's project model, offering a strategic opportunity to pilot a more sustainable, forward-looking approach to shared print. It will enable libraries affiliated with university presses, alongside Library and Archives Canada, to formalize and scale existing collection and retention practices for Canadian university publications. Through coordinated, ongoing retention commitments under North/Nord, the model supports long-term stewardship of these materials through 2050.

A recent 2025 North/Nord survey provides evidence that university libraries routinely retain a minimum of two copies produced by their own university presses, indicating that this is a common and established practice across institutions and one which would not have implications on collection budgets. This proactive approach will eliminate the need for lengthy waiting times in comparing collections retroactively or costly technology solutions to develop retention lists and instead allow North/Nord to reallocate our energies to working with complicated legacy collections such as government documents or maps to address myriad library problems to solve them collectively to the benefit of our member institutions.

Indigenous Historical Periodical Project

Since its inception in 2022, the North/Nord Indigenous Works Working Group has focused on relationship-building, consultation, and adopted an exploratory approach to its work. Early foundational work focused on expanding a dataset of historical Indigenous newspaper and periodical holdings across Canada, and into some border communities in the United States, utilizing this groundwork and an important collaboration with COPPUL, for the Indigenous Historical Periodicals Project launched in 2024. With the help of an Indigenous Works Metadata Subgroup which supports technical analysis and metadata remediation, this initiative centers on discovery and description of Indigenous Works, helping institutions to build stronger relationships with the collections which they hold and to explore them in greater depth. Due to variations in metadata quality, many of these materials remain “hidden” within Canadian libraries while missing item level catalogue records, containing inaccurate metadata and harmful discriminatory language.

The Indigenous Historical Periodicals Project, through relationship-building, communication and hands-on shelf verification, is illuminating important library collections that have been previously obscured. The project is also implementing and sharing new and improved metadata standards and respectful, accurate, community-led terminology that will not only improve discovery and description of the specific records in the project, but also future amelioration of other Indigenous works records. This collaborative work, involving careful ethical considerations helps address historical and ongoing wrongs perpetuated on Indigenous communities by memory institutions, and responds to Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (Action 67) and the United Nations’ Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (13.1 & 31.1). Future possibilities that will come from this project include the groundwork for further communication & consultation with Indigenous communities who may, as a result, learn of and access materials of which they may not have been previously aware.

The North/Nord Indigenous Historical Periodicals Project contributes to a growing body of ethical care practices of Indigenous works held by libraries, and seeks to establish shared print and archival practices that could be applied to future North/Nord projects or other shared print programs involving Indigenous materials. As their next step, the Metadata Subgroup intends to work with the records for items in this collection to remediate in line with new and improved metadata standards and to make them available to share back with holding institutions.

Government Documents Project

In 2025, Government Documents Working Group welcomed a new Chair - Nich Worby from the University of Toronto Libraries. We thank Louise White, Associate University Librarian, Memorial University Libraries, for her leadership as the very first Chair of this working group. Upon competition of the Stable Print Repositories of Canadian Government Documents, this working group is turning its attention to developing a serials project. The scale of Government of Canada serials presents a significant preservation challenge for holding institutions. To address this, the group is piloting a deduplication algorithm that uses OCLC identifiers and other bibliographic data to perform fuzzy matching of records. The goal is to generate more accurate holdings and scarcity data, enabling the creation of retention lists that balance preservation priorities with project feasibility.

Digital Alignment Project

This project responded to a clear direction in member feedback gathered during the 2023 North/Nord program evaluation and one which continues to be of strategic importance. The future of shared print can be strengthened by thoughtful alignment between print and digital collections, improving flexibility around access and format options. While digitization expands access and creates new possibilities for discovery, physical copies remain essential for preservation, authenticity, and long-term stewardship. Aligning strategies across print and digital can help to ensure that libraries avoid unnecessary duplication while still protecting at-risk titles, particularly government documents, special collections, and other materials that may not be comprehensively captured in digital form. By integrating print retention commitments with digital surrogates, libraries can create complementary pathways that serve both access and preservation needs. This alignment not only strengthens resilience in the face of technological and financial uncertainty but also positions shared print as a bridge between traditional stewardship and the evolving digital scholarly ecosystem. The newly-formed Digital Alignment Working Group is currently developing a Roadmap for North/Nord as well as other shared print programs which will further highlight case scenarios and opportunities for digital pairing.

National Topographic Map Series

This project seeks to improve access to, visibility of, and long-term stewardship for three complete sets of the National Topographic Series (NTS) 1:50,000 scale maps, covering print editions produced between the 1950s and 2012. While many Canadian organizations hold these

print collections, not all are able to commit to long-term retention or storage in stable environments. In addition, Canadiana digitized a portion of this collection held at McGill University Library providing a terrific opportunity for print to digital alignment as an outcome of this project.

The starting point for this project will focus on institutions that have large NTS print collections which have been inventoried since many of these collections are not catalogued at sheet level. This project will focus on assembling a set of inventories which we are able to compile in order to develop a master list of all known publications across Canada. This list will become foundational to outreach efforts to open conversations with archive holders and will provide much needed information about items in this collection since a comprehensive inventory list does not currently exist.

This is one of several current North/Nord projects which will have a set of positive outcomes beyond shared print work, allowing for the uncovering of hidden and underutilized collections to improve access and awareness. It will draw upon the North/Nord skill of bringing together communities of experts to understand more about unique collection features that refine deduplication workflows to isolate rare and scarce content. The following quote from one of our working group members highlights the importance of this work now and into the future:

> *"...thanks again for the tremendous work with SPAN 6 and Nord/North groups. It has provided me with a bedrock (end goal) to the surface work I engage with. Now, into the tail end of my professional endeavors I would not want to deny future curators and researchers access to this material, and only a collaborative, shared print spatial archive retained in perpetuity will ensure that.***"**
>
> Larry Laliberte,
> GIS Librarian, Library and Museums Library Portfolio
> University of Alberta Library

North/Nord Custom Collection Analysis Method

The Canadian University Presses project represents a foundational and highly innovative undertaking for North/Nord, marking its first foray into large-scale, in-house collection analysis. Drawing on institutionally supplied title lists from participating partners, the initiative not only enabled coordinated analysis and implementation, but also served as a critical testbed for developing new technical and operational approaches. To address the complexity and national

scale of the work, North/Nord engaged a range of subject-matter experts to experiment with and refine emerging workflows, laying the groundwork for a more robust, scalable, and sustainable model for shared print analysis moving forward.

The processing and analysis of the title lists provided by each institution relied heavily on the Pymarc Python library. Pymarc was designed to work with bibliographic data encoded in MARC21. Each institution provided its record sets as MARC binary files. Using Pymarc allowed us to avoid converting the data to different formats which mitigated the risk of information loss, and to streamline processing in Python. The data analysis was conducted using a mix of human- and AI-generated code. The code and workflow were tested and refined several times to achieve a desirable confidence level score. To ensure utmost accuracy levels, all planning, execution, and reviewing were done without the assistance of AI.

This proof of concept demonstrated the feasibility of conducting large-scale collection analysis in-house while maintaining a high standard of accuracy (matching accuracy rate of 97% or higher). The analysis also highlighted the value of leveraging AI as a supporting tool, while reinforcing the importance of a human-led approach, with staff serving as both drivers and reviewers to ensure data integrity and quality. Findings underscored that consistency in data deposits significantly contributes to smoother and more efficient workflows. At the same time, the project identified potential risks associated with the analysis of multi-volume sets, emphasizing the need for careful review and specialized handling in these cases.

For those who may be interested in an extensive granular version of this workflow, you are most welcome to review the following Detailed Documentation currently available on the North/Nord website.

Researcher-in-Residence Program: Inaugural Year

On June 26th, 2025, North/Nord officially launched its inaugural 2025/2026 Researcher-in-Residence Program. This program presents a distinguished opportunity for scholars to undertake original research that draws upon our rich collections, institutional expertise, and collaborative networks to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of shared print scholarship and collection stewardship.

Details in English are available at: https://northnordsharedprint.ca/

We were extremely fortunate to welcome Jennifer Browning from Carleton University as our first ever Researcher-in-Residence starting in September 2025. Jennifer's research proposal

focuses on exploring the relationship between vendor platforms and collaboration in the context of shared print. Jennifer is researching collaboration as a strategic choice in libraries to understand the factors that enhance or impede collaborative outcomes. She seeks to answer the following research questions:

> 1) Are there conditions unique to North/Nord partners that may enhance or impede the outcomes of shared print projects? And how do these influence library participation and strategic collaboration?
>
> 2) What technical or administrative factors, such as access to collection analysis tools or availability of cataloguing staff, influence participation in shared print partnerships? What approaches can North/Nord take to provide solutions and enable participation?

Given that this role is intended to support research projects that aim to solve practical issues pertinent to shared print, this is a particularly well timed topic that supports North/Nord's goals around organizational growth and national-level impact.

As a national network, North/Nord facilitates coordination among Canadian libraries to ensure the long-term preservation and accessibility of research resources. This is achieved by balancing traditional print preservation with innovative, pragmatic approaches such as alignment with digitization and other services and programs across Canada. Technology plays a central role in our activities with significant impact on how much and how quickly we are able to achieve when working at an interorganizational level.

In her role as the 2025/26 Researcher-in-Residence, Jennifer has engaged both within North/Nord and across partner consortial organizations, consulting broadly to inform and advance this work. Thus far Jennifer has conducted semi-structured interviews with participants from the US, the UK, Australia, and Sweden. In Canada, she is ensuring that she includes perspectives from Library and Archives Canada and each geographic region. These conversations have been incredibly insightful and truly a highlight of Jennifer's project so far.



In March, Jennifer was in Australia over several weeks connecting with librarians from the University of New South Wales (Sydney) to chat about their robust print stewardship strategies as well as folks from the CAVAL (Melbourne) office at La Trobe University, where she received an extended tour of CARM1 and CARM2 print storage facilities. Jennifer also led two workshops for invited CAVAL members at Deakin University in Melbourne, with the sessions focusing on reparative descriptions and shared print programs in Canada. She also provided an overview of North/Nord and an overview of her research to date. Below are a few images from Jennifer's visit.

Figure 4. From left to right: Jaime MacCowan, CEO, CAVAL, Jennifer Browning and Sae Ra Germaine, Deputy CEO, CAVAL



Figure 5. La Trobe University, CARM1 and CARM2 print storage facilities.



Figure 6. Workshop attendees at Deakin University in Melbourne

We are looking forward to Jennifer's final report which will help shape North/Nord strategy and future directions!

Partnerships and Collaborations

Over five years, North/Nord has significantly expanded its reach, deepened its partnerships, and strengthened its long-term impact. A good example of tangible outcomes is our collaboration with the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) and Canadiana. CRKN and North/Nord each contribute distinct and essential functions within Canada's research and preservation landscape. CRKN's work in enabling digital access, funding, and infrastructure complements North/Nord's focus on coordinated retention of physical library collections and their stewardship. This collaboration reflects an intentional alignment of efforts rather than overlap of mandate, ensuring that both digital and physical dimensions of Canada's scholarly record are preserved in a coordinated and sustainable manner forming a coordinated preservation ecosystem across both digital and physical domains. One specific outcome of our partnership is North/Nord's collaboration on the CRKN's CIHM Preservation Plan Task Group which has worked together for the past year to develop a strategy as well as the Partnership Agreement for Archive Holders to support of the preservation of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM) Collection. This collaborative effort is designed to help Canadian libraries make informed decisions about discarding their sets.

Looking Ahead

As North/Nord continues to provide leadership for the strengthening and stewardship of Canada's scholarly and cultural record, we remain committed to building resilient, collaborative approaches to shared print preservation. Our work is increasingly connected to a growing international network of shared print programs, enabling Canadian libraries to contribute to—and benefit from—global efforts to ensure long-term access to print collections. As an active member of the Shared Print Partnership, North/Nord is working closely with peer organizations across North America and beyond to advance shared standards, improve interoperability, and explore new models for collective collection management. These partnerships position Canadian institutions within the broader preservation ecosystem while amplifying the impact of local and regional retention commitments. We will continue to pursue these partnerships to maximize impact and deliver value to our members and our funding partners.

In the coming year, the main goal of the North/Nord Steering Committee is to undertake a renewal of our mission and vision and to engage in strategic planning. This strategic renewal will facilitate the development of an action plan which will shape the next phase of activities. Meanwhile we will continue to advance our current projects towards completion which currently include a Government Documents Serials project, a serials Indigenous Works project which we anticipate will be followed by a monographs project, and the national topographic maps project. In addition, our newly formed Digital Alignment Working group is developing a roadmap for North/Nord to identify opportunities around pairing digital and print. This fall we also look forward to receiving our Researcher-in-Residence's final report which focuses on technology. This well-timed research topic supports North/Nord's goals for organizational growth and national-level impact, as technology plays a central role in shared print programs and underpins interorganizational participation.

As North/Nord has matured and strengthened its operational foundation, we are well positioned to expand our activities and further optimize shared resources. The success of this work depends on the ongoing engagement of our library partners, funders and stakeholders. We invite the community to stay connected through projects, active engagement through our working groups, consultations, and knowledge-sharing opportunities. Together, we are building a sustainable foundation for preservation, access, and collaboration, while strengthening national representation and ensuring that today's collections continue to support research, learning, and discovery for generations to come.

Recent Presentations

The Future of Shared Print: Collaboration, Access, and Sustainability, Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Conference, June 17, 2026.

Shared Print in Action: Discovering the Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec, North/Nord Webinar, May 29, 2026.

Infrastructure Through Collaboration: Shared Print Capacity in Canadian Libraries, CRKN Conference (*national*), May 14, 2026.

OCUL-GEO Update, April 10, 2026 (slides).

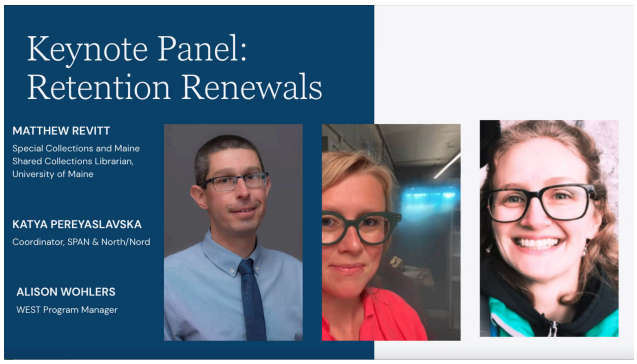
Partnership in Practice: North/Nord Indigenous Works – A Case Study, PCC At Large Virtual Conference (*international*), April 22, 2026.

Strengthening Access, Honouring Knowledge: North/Nord Shared Print Strategies for Indigenous Materials, Ontario Library Association Conference, January 2026.

Shared Print as Infrastructure for Trust: Protecting Access, Integrity, and Intellectual Freedom Across Institutions, IFLA Panel, Preconference, Ontario Library Association Conference, January 2026.

Networks of Trust: Institutional Interoperability through Shared Print Programs, Ontario Library Association Conference, January 2026.

Keynote Panel: Retention Renewals, Eastern Academic Scholars Trust (EAST), November 2025.





Figures 7 & 8. Images from conference talks delivered in 2025-2026.

Publications

Hafner, J. (2023). North: The Canadian shared print network / Nord: Réseau canadien de conservation partagée des documents imprimés. *Library Management, 44*(5), 329–332. https://doi.org/10.1108/LM-05-2023-0037

Hayden, L. (2025). *Communication in shared print at academic libraries: Report of findings*. University of Ottawa. http://hdl.handle.net/10393/50255

Huculak, J. M., & Davis, C. (2024). Preserving digital humanities projects using principles of digital longevity. In I. Galina Russell & G. Layne-Worthey (Eds.), *The Routledge companion to libraries, archives, and the digital humanities*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003327738-22 (p.

Pereyaslavska, K. (2026). Invitation to collaborate with North/Nord: The Canadian shared print network. *The APLA Bulletin, 89*(3).

van Ballegooie, M. (2025). *Maximizing efficiency in shared print programs: A DIY approach to overlap analysis*. NASIG Proceedings, 39. https://doi.org/10.3998/nasig.7752

Weessies, K. W. (2026). *Pursuing map collection collaboration: A research agenda*. *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries*. https://doi.org/10.1080/15420353.2026.2645571

Appendix A: Acknowledgements

Our Funders

North/Nord is extremely grateful to our funding partners for their continued support.

Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)
Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)
Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries (CAAL-CBPA)
Library & Archives Canada (LAC)
Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL)
Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec (PBUQ)
Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL)

Our Working Groups

North/Nord's working group members comprise a highly collaborative, academically anchored network with critical relationships to national and international preservation efforts. North/Nord benefits from a diverse pool of experts across its working groups, bringing together senior administrators, metadata specialists, collections experts, and subject librarians.

Digital Alignment Working Group, northnord_digital_alignment@coppul.ca

Adele Torrance (Canadian Research Knowledge Network)
Alison Wohlers (Western Regional Storage Trust)
Amy Wood (Center for Research Libraries)
Dale Storie (Shared Print Archive Network)
Heather Weltin (HathiTrust)
Kim Stathers (University of Northern British Columbia)
Kyla Everall (Keep@Downsview)
Ratna Dhaliwal (University of Saskatchewan)
Tina Bach, EAST (Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust)
Katya Pereyaslavska (ex-officio)

Maps Working Group, northnord_maps@coppul.ca

Dan Duda (Memorial University)
Francine Berish (Queens University)
Julia Guy (University of Calgary)
Larry Laliberte (University of Alberta)
Nick Field (University of Toronto)
Nina Takahashi (Natural Resources Canada)
Sarah Reeser (Scholars Portal)
Katya Pereyaslavska (ex-officio)

Government Documents Working Group, northnord-gov-info@coppul.ca

Chris Burns (Kwantlen Polytechnic University)
Hong Cui (Library and Archives Canada)
Katie Cuyler (University of Alberta)
Nich Worby, Chair (University of Toronto)
Shuzhen Zhao (Windsor University)
Tyler Leach (Environment & Climate Change Canada)
Katya Pereyaslavska (ex-officio)

Indigenous Works Working Group, northnord-indigenous-works@coppul.ca

Sheila Laroque-Bear, Chair (COPPUL)
Jessie Lampreau (University of Victoria)
Gillian Byrne (Toronto Public Library)
Rachel Chong (Kwantlen Polytechnic University)
Myles Shingoose (Saskatchewan University)
Rudi Aker (Concordia University / McGill University)
Katya Pereyaslavska (ex-officio)

Indigenous Works Metadata Subgroup, indigenous-works-subgroup@coppul.ca

Jennifer Browning, Chair (Carleton University)
Erin Bourgard (Western University)
Juliya Borie (University of Toronto)
Matt Fesnak (McMaster University)
Sheila Laroque-Bear (COPPUL)
Sarah Chomyc (University of Alberta)
Katya Pereyaslavska (ex-officio)

CUP Working Group **(work completed)**

Caitlin Tillman, Chair (University of Toronto)
Scott Gillies (Wilfrid Laurier University)
Trish Chatterley (University of Alberta)
Katya Pereyaslavska (ex-officio)

Our Archive Holders

With gratitude to North/Nord Archive Holders who are committed to retaining materials from their own holdings on behalf of our Network. Our partnership model supports a distributed retention framework in which preservation responsibilities are shared across institutions. This enables redundancy, mitigates risk, and creates a more sustainable national preservation ecosystem.

North/Nord has demonstrated continued expansion through participant recruitment across multiple library sectors. The network's governance and infrastructure were intentionally designed to support future growth and broader national participation.

Government Information Monographs Project
Library and Archives Canada
McGill University
McMaster University
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Queen's University
Simon Fraser University
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Manitoba
University of Toronto
University of Ottawa
University of Saskatchewan
University of Victoria
Western University

Canadian University Presses Project
University of Alberta
Athabasca University
Brock University
University of Calgary
Concordia University
Library & Archives Canada
Université Laval
University of Manitoba
McGill University
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Université de Montréal (UdeM)
University of Ottawa
Queen's University
University of Regina
University of Toronto
The University of British Columbia
Wilfrid Laurier University

Our Administrative Host

Our sincere appreciation to our administrative host, Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) for playing a crucial role in the creation of a national network and for your ongoing support!