

Words move. They move us to understand Canada's traditions and diversity. They move billions of dollars yearly through our publishing industry. They move people halfway around the world to visit a farmhouse on PEI.

Words move differently now, through semi-conductors, across screens, at lightning speed, and in vast quantities.

The Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory project is building an online environment to enable unprecedented avenues for studying the words that most move people in and about Canada.

www.cwrc.ca

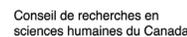
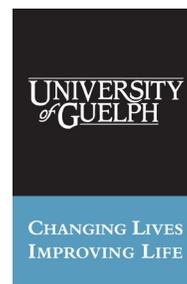
CWRC infrastructure is in development now and will be released for public use by 2013.

CWRC conferences bring together researchers to share work in progress and disseminate results.

CWRC workshops and training provide hands-on guidance in new tools and methods.

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The Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory
Le Collaboratoire scientifique des écrits du Canada

CWRC / CSÉC



The Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory (CWRC) is building an online infrastructure for literary research in and about Canada.



The need

Today we are witnessing an explosion of digital content as textual and visual materials move online, and the methodological implications are profound. Yet literary researchers rely on tools and approaches derived from print models, an impediment in taking advantage of newly available resources.

The CWRC (pronounced "quirk") project will connect scattered and siloed materials for literary research, and support the investigation of links between writers, texts, places, groups, policies, and events.

Collaboration and involvement

CWRC currently involves more than 100 scholars, from graduate students to senior academics. We aim to engage contributors and users from the Canadian writing research community worldwide.

CWRC will support not only larger collaborative projects but also individual researchers interested in new modes of working digitally. Its pilot projects cover a range of research methods and scenarios.

CWRC is:

- the Online Research Canada, "ORCA"
 - » digital repository for newly created scholarship
 - » digitized materials

ORCA materials will be designed to connect with each other and with other web resources. ORCA will launch with some existing collections including materials from the Canadian Women Writers project.

- a tool set for
 - » enabling new collaborative modes of scholarly writing
 - » editing and annotating materials
 - » collaborating with other researchers
 - » furthering knowledge through analysis and visualization

The ORCA repository and toolkit will enable literary scholars to produce new knowledge. CWRC will advance digital humanities by developing tools in concert with active researchers.

The project is multi-lingual and interdisciplinary in expertise and approach, involving literary studies, information studies, humanities computing, design, business and computing science.

Access

The CWRC platform will be freely available. Its materials will be largely open-access, accessible to Canadians and the world.

Funding

CWRC is funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario, and the Universities of Alberta, Simon Fraser, and Guelph.

Major collaborations and supporters:

- **institutional:** the Canadian Literature Centre / Centre de littérature canadienne, University of Alberta; the University of Alberta Libraries; Early Canadiana Online; the TransCanada Institute
- **research:** Biblifo, Canada's Early Women Writers, Canadian Women Writers since 1950, the Editing Modernism in Canada project, and numerous pilot projects; individual scholars with digital content to share
- **technical:** WestGrid; TAPoR; Voyant tools; Synergies; the Software Engineering Research Lab; SHARCNET
- **the Orlando Project**, whose innovations in collaborative online scholarship are being extended through CWRC.

CWRC is led by Professor Susan Brown (University of Alberta, University of Guelph).