

Annual Report 2020–2021

ÉRUDIT CONSORTIUM

FROM APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021

érudit

[COALITION
PUBLICA]

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OUR MISSION

Érudit supports open digital publishing and research in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

OUR VISION

Dedicated to open knowledge.

OUR VALUES

- Common good
- Openness
- Collaboration
- Innovation

An Exceptional Year of Adaptation

The vast majority of the erudit.org corpora are open access and available to all thanks to the mobilization of numerous actors within the research community, including the researchers themselves, the scholarly journals, the university libraries, and the funding bodies. Towards this end of open accessibility, I would like to underscore the growing commitment of our partners to the open science movement, most notably, this year's adoption of the [Plan S principles](#) by the Fonds de recherche du Québec. Taking action in such a way contributes to the transition toward open access for scientific publications. At the federal level, SSHRC's launch of the PCKAI program will also support Coalition Publica operations and highlight the importance of research dissemination activities.

Research in the humanities and social sciences is essential to understanding and analyzing major changes in the human experience. It is therefore not surprising that it plays a key role in this pandemic. I am therefore proud to see articles available on the erudit.org platform shedding a useful light on the issues raised by this crisis: [access to information](#), [conspiracy theories](#), the [impact on First Nations](#), the [challenges of teleworking](#), [post-Covid tourism](#), [end-of-life care](#), etc. This quality research—and, just as importantly, its dissemination—contribute to moving our society forward.

From an organizational standpoint, Érudit Consortium has reaped the rewards this year of all the adaptive and structural work of the last few years, including the 31 journals newly made available on the erudit.org platform, the creation of multiple positions on the team, and the publication of a [Strategic Directions Plan](#) for 2021–2023. The Érudit board has gone through many changes this year as well with the arrival of Frédéric Giuliano, Laurence Monnais, and Michel J. Tremblay. They replace long-standing members distinguished by their engagement and commitment to Érudit. I offer my heartfelt thanks to Benoît Melançon, Lynda Gadoury, and Marie Audette.

To conclude, I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate the whole Érudit team. Everyone managed to adapt to this year's numerous challenges and continue developing our services and infrastructure.



Frédéric Bouchard

ÉRUDIT CONSORTIUM PRESIDENT,
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND
FULL PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
AT THE UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

Opening up science, even remotely

At the beginning of the pandemic, the [International Coalition of Library Consortia](#) (ICOLC) issued a call to promote open access to all scientific publications in light of the COVID-19 lockdowns. The journals that we make available are typically accessed through universities and libraries; with campus reopenings being postponed continuously, action was necessary to maintain this access. Érudit and these key partners did not hesitate to respond to the ICOLC's call.

This year, we strengthened the initiatives which allow users to access remotely the thousands of articles available on our platform. Over 70 journals accepted to temporarily lift their paywall for recent publications. This arrangement, which ended January 1, 2021, required a good deal of communication and hand-in-hand collaboration among Érudit's team, its executive committee, university libraries in Canada, and the scholarly journals we make available. We are therefore very thankful to those who dedicated themselves with us to guarantee continued access to the products of both research and culture.

All this work has been fruitful since our platform has welcomed close to a million more unique users this year! This initiative was part of an ongoing intensification of our activities. Indeed, we are serving ever more journals, libraries, researchers, and students. This increase is supported not only by the evolution of our team, but also by strengthened support on the part of our partners and funding bodies, including the Fonds de recherche du Québec and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. We thank them for supporting our mission and operations. Together, we are building a research dissemination environment that is more open and more easily accessible to all.

To conclude, I would like to highlight the fact that Érudit received the President's Award (*Prix du recteur*) in Winter 2020 from the Université de Montréal in the French-Language Promotion (*Valorisation de la langue française*) category. This prize, which rewards our commitment to French-speaking communities and our contribution to their influence for over twenty years, was awarded to the whole team. This choice demonstrates the importance of collaboration in our organization and makes me even prouder of the work we've accomplished.



Tanja Niemann
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ÉRUDIT CONSORTIUM

Evolution of the Corpora and Their Availability

 **217,909**
ARTICLES AVAILABLE

↓
INCLUDING
8,945
ARTICLES MADE AVAILABLE
THIS YEAR

NUMBER OF JOURNALS AVAILABLE
ON THE ERUDIT.ORG PLATFORM



INCLUDING
112 JOURNALS WITH
EMBARGO PERIODS **104** OPEN-ACCESS
JOURNALS **56** ARCHIVED
JOURNALS



 A 23% INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PAGES
CONSULTED ON THE ERUDIT.ORG PLATFORM SINCE
2018-2019

 NEARLY TWICE THE AMOUNT OF UNIQUE USERS THIS
YEAR ON THE ERUDIT.ORG PLATFORM COMPARED TO
2018-2019

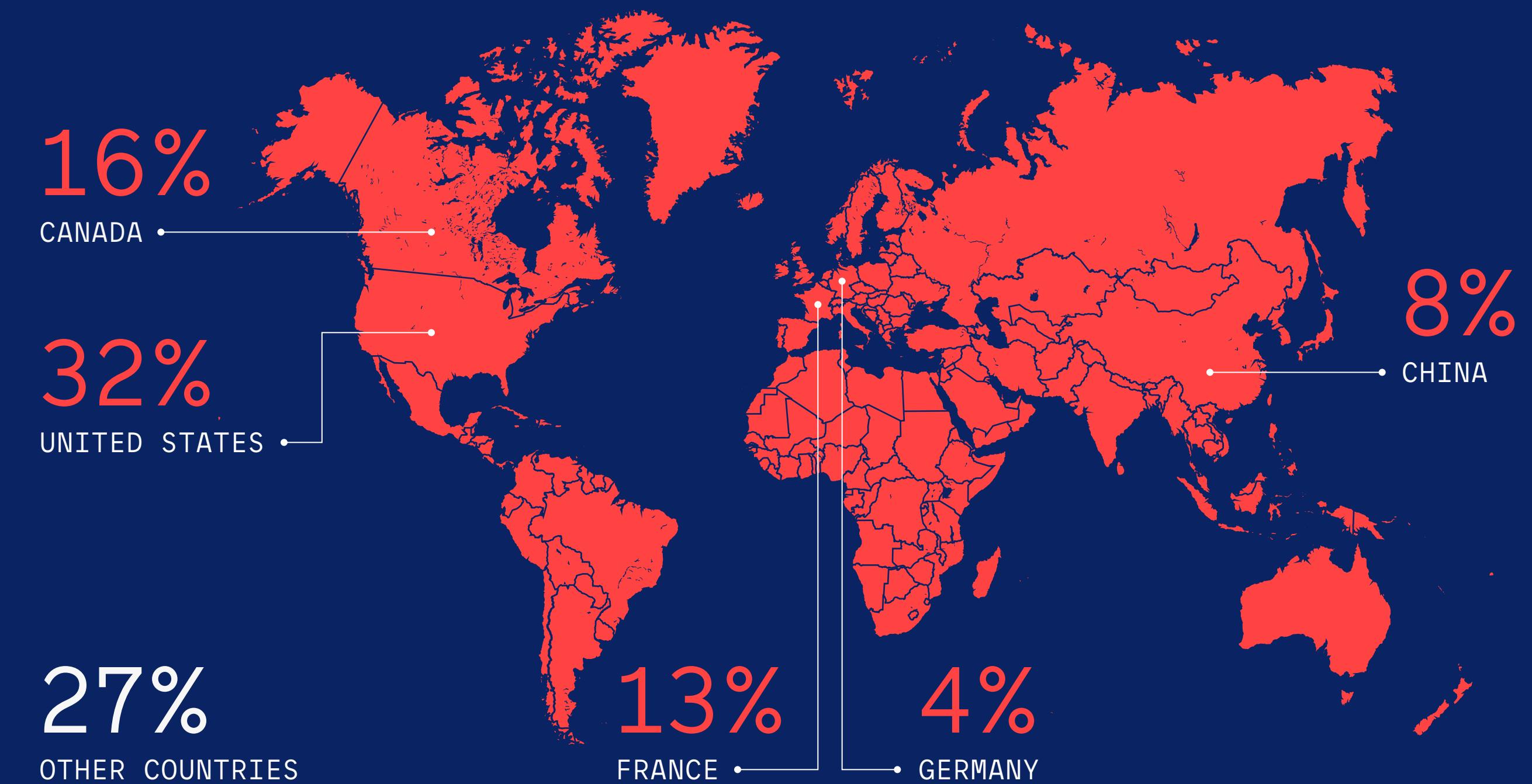
\$1.34M CA

ROYALTIES PAID TO THE JOURNALS.

THESE REVENUES, WHICH SUPPORT THE EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE JOURNALS, COME FROM AGREEMENTS WITH LIBRARY CONSORCIA THROUGH THE PARTNERSHIP FOR OPEN ACCESS OR FROM THE MARKETING OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONS.



TOP 5 OF COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF CONSULTATION PROVENANCE IN 2020:





AMONG THE ARTICLES MOST CONSULTED IN 2020 IN THE
1,200 LIBRARIES THAT HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO OR ARE PARTNERS
OF ÉRUDIT:

- “La sexualité des jeunes Québécois et Canadiens. Regard critique sur le concept d’‘hypersexualisation’,” Blais, Martin et al. *Globe*, vol. 12, no. 2, 2009, p. 23–46. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1000705ar>
- “Problème social: le concept et les principales écoles théoriques,” Mayer, Robert et Marcelle Laforest. *Service social*, vol. 39, no. 2, 1990, p. 13–43. <https://doi.org/10.7202/706475ar>
- “L’anxiété des élèves en milieu scolaire telle que perçue par des enseignants du primaire,” Lambert-Samson, Véronique and Claire Beaumont. *Enfance en difficulté*, vol. 5, Nov. 2017, p. 101–129. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1043356ar>
- “Détresse et anxiété chez les étudiants du collégial et recours aux services d'aide socioaffectifs,” Gosselin, Marc-André and Robert Ducharme. *Service social*, vol. 63, no. 1, 2017, p. 92–104. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1040048ar>
- “Le bonheur des gens heureux,” Veilleux, Mélanie, et al. *Revue québécoise de psychologie*, vol. 38, no. 1, 2017, p. 103–128. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1040072ar>
- “Bienfaits psychologiques de l’activité physique pour la santé mentale optimale,” Poirel, Emmanuel. *Santé mentale au Québec*, vol. 42, no. 1, Spring 2017, p. 147–164. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1040248ar>
- “Repenser le sexe, le genre et l’orientation sexuelle,” Dorais, Michel. *Santé mentale au Québec*, vol. 40, no. 3, Fall 2015, p. 37–53. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1034910ar>
- “Finding a Place for Father: Selling the Barbecue in Postwar Canada,” Dummitt, Chris. *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association / Revue de la Société historique du Canada*, vol. 9, no. 1, 1998, p. 209–223. <https://doi.org/10.7202/030498ar>
- “De la perspective d’‘aidant naturel’ à celle de ‘proche-soignant’: un passage nécessaire,” Saint-Charles, Denis et Jean-Claude Martin. *Santé mentale au Québec*, vol. 26, no. 2, Fall 2001, p. 227–244. <https://doi.org/10.7202/014533ar>
- “Dangerosité, risque et technologies du pouvoir,” Pratt, John. *Criminologie*, vol. 34, no. 1, Spring 2001, p. 101–121. <https://doi.org/10.7202/004756ar>

Flagship Projects

In addition to being guided by open access and open science principles, Érudit projects are directed by our new strategic plan and the Coalition Publica partnership. We therefore start with these two flagship projects before laying out the large strides accomplished this year towards open science. The other projects follow, presented under the headings of our main operation areas: digital publishing, access and dissemination, research and knowledge mobilization, and technological developments.

Strategic Plan 2021–2023

We accomplished the important work of updating and strengthening our strategic planning with the aim of unifying our direction and better linking it to that of our Coalition Publica partnership. This was a collaborative exercise completed with an ad hoc committee of the Érudit Board; the entire team was involved throughout the process.

This strategic plan was built around five higher-level goals:

1. To contribute to the development of open access and to a non-commercial scholarly communication system;
2. To promote and enhance research findings in the arts, humanities, and social sciences;
3. To study the scholarly communication system;
4. To operate an innovative technological and service infrastructure;
5. To ensure the sustainability of the services provided.



The plan is presented in greater detail in both official languages:

- English version
- French version

Coalition Publica

Coalition Publica is one of Érudit's major initiatives to contribute to open access and to the development of a non-commercial scholarly communication system in Canada.

Established in 2017 by Érudit and the Public Knowledge Project, Coalition Publica is a federating partnership that includes many Canadian university libraries, scholarly journals, and organizations in the digital publishing industry. The members of this initiative's [various committees](#) (Steering Committee, Stakeholder Advisory Committee, International Advisory Committee) have renewed their respective mandates, a sure testament to Coalition Publica's relevance and successful functionality. Committee members represent the Canadian SHS journal community, university libraries, the research community, and organizations involved in knowledge dissemination.

One of the greatest successes of Coalition Publica is its contribution to strengthening what services are provided in Canada for the digital publishing and dissemination of scholarly journals, be they in English, in French, or bilingual. We therefore have today on the

erudit.org platform journals from around the country that represent the diversity of research done in Canada in the social sciences and in the humanities. This success has been made possible by close collaboration with the university librarians who support scholarly journals in their daily operations and development.



It is worth noting that interest in open infrastructure is giving the Coalition Publica partnership ever-greater recognition on the international stage. For example, a blog post entitled "[Publishing Philosophy Open Access Without a Particle Collider](#)," published by the prestigious London School of Economics, presents Canada as a world leader in this area.

Open Science

The movement for open science is gathering momentum, both within the scientific community and with governments throughout the world. In Canada, the federal government launched its Roadmap for Open Science. Meanwhile, Quebec has received its own Open Access Policy courtesy of the Fonds de recherche du Québec, which recently joined cOAlition S.

Through its dedication to open access and bibliodiversity, Érudit has been contributing to the open science movement for a number of years. Most recently, our team's accomplishments have focused on the following three objective areas to foster open science:

- To make it easier to access research results in the context of Covid-19
- To contribute to the development of persistent identifiers for researchers
- To explain open science and open access issues

+ **Facilitate access to research results research**



In response to international COVID-19 lockdowns, we carried out essential work in communications to facilitate access to our corpora and answer the International Coalition of Library Consortia's call to action. More than 70 scholarly journals available on the erudit.org platform temporarily lifted their paywall on articles that are normally under restricted access for 12 months.

We were delighted to see this beautiful outpouring of solidarity during a time when access to research results was more essential than ever. This temporary embargo-lifting operation started in the month of April 2020 and ended on January 1, 2021, when embargo periods were restored.

+ To contribute to the development of persistent identifiers for researchers



One of the main goals of Érudit is to support the teams behind journals, as well as researchers, in the adoption of publishing standards and best practices. During 2020-2021, we continued our efforts to progress the standardization and structuring management of persistent digital object identifiers (DOIs) in the publishing environment developed by Érudit with PKP (Coalition Publica).

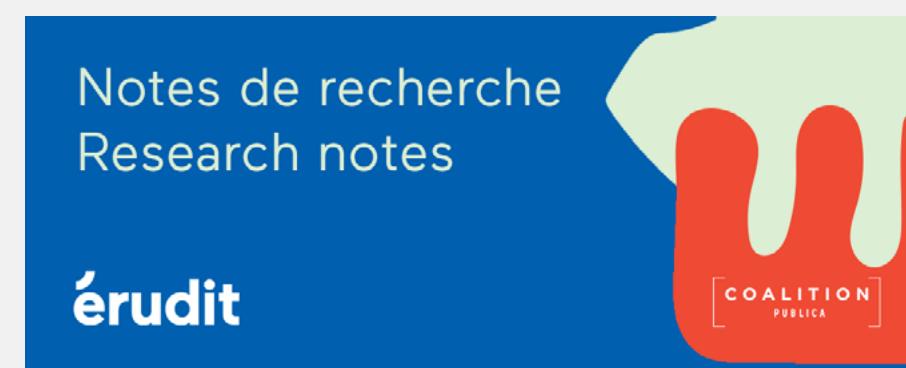
Érudit has also strengthened its involvement in the groups that actively promote persistent identifiers by joining the ORCID-CA Consortium and nominating two Coalition Publica representatives to the Canadian Persistent Identifiers Advisory Committee, which is led by the Canadian Research Knowledge Network.



[Read the announcement regarding the joining of ORCID-CA](#)

+ To explain open science and open access issues

To promote open science and topics useful to researchers and journals, four bilingual research notes have been disseminated widely through explanatory emails and social media posts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). These notes, which tackle issues such as open science, copyright, and impact metrics, have reached over 12,000 individuals.



[Read the research notes](#)

Digital Publishing

+ 31 journals added in 2021

The corpora made available by Érudit continue to increase in a controlled manner, thanks to the annual campaign to recruit and integrate new journals that has been conducted by Coalition Publica for many years. The total number of journals on the platform has increased by 30% since January 1, 2019. In 2021, 31 new journals joined the platform.



[Discover the new titles in our 2021 catalogue](#)



Access and Dissemination

+ Partnership for Open Access

The **Partnership for Open Access** (POA) is an innovative model for collaboration between university libraries and scholarly journals that is designed to support open-access scholarly publishing. It gives 75% of partnering libraries' financial contributions to journals in the form of royalties, while the other 25% are used to fund the services that Érudit provides directly to the journals.

The POA ensures that journals earn revenue that will allow them to continue their editorial operations in a fair and sustainable open-access environment, i.e., without article processing charges (APCs) for the authors. There are three ways in which Érudit supports journals in the context of the POA:

- consolidating current POA agreements;
- leading negotiations to reach new partnership agreements;
- strengthening journals' internal expertise and skills.



[Learn more about the POA](#)

+ Partnership with the DOAJ



The indexation criteria developed by the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ) now function as international standards and seal of approval for open-access scholarly journals. The DOAJ is endorsed by the funding bodies joined in cOAlition S and Plan S. In 2020-2021, Érudit launched a pilot project designed to increase the number of French-language, open-access journals in the DOAJ.

This project involves the following activities:

1. the production and French translation of materials to present the DOAJ and to support the journals;
2. the selection of journals to participate in the pilot project;
3. the organization of meetings, webinars, and support for journals as they complete the requirements for DOAJ indexation.



[Read the press release](#)

Research and Knowledge Mobilization

+ Launching Coalition Publica scholarships

In collaboration with the researchers from the Pan-Canadian Knowledge Access Initiative, Coalition Publica launched a scholarship program for early-career researchers. The program's objective is to support work relating to systems of scholarly communication and research dissemination that applies digital humanities methods.



[Discover the nine recipient projects](#)

+ Aggregating research corpora

Under the banner of the Coalition Publica partnership, Érudit and the Public Knowledge Project have developed and operate a research repository which provides access to over 4.2 million files from thousands of digitized historical and scholarly periodicals, a total of 11 terabytes of data. These collections are available in full text and may be used for research projects in the digital humanities or that leverage computer science in other ways. Many major Canadian corpora were added to the repository this year. Coming from Library and Archives Canada and the library of the National Assembly of Quebec, they represent many millions of additional documents now made accessible.

+ Research project on the cultural history of Quebec

A research project by Professors Jean-Philippe Warren (Concordia University) and Karim Larose (Université de Montréal) aims to better understand the cultural history of Quebec from the 1970s to today. More precisely, the researchers are seeking to confirm or reject the hypothesis that a series of events and trends, including the 1995 referendum, economic free trade, cultural globalization, and the digital era, have reshaped periodical discourse. To do so, they have analyzed a large number of articles in scholarly journals and cultural magazines, disseminated by Érudit, and in Quebec newspapers, made available by Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec.



[Discover the research repository](#)

+ The importance of social sciences and humanities research

Érudit has collaborated with a number of world-renowned French-language institutions to promote open-access research, including the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, with its [La langue française à la maison](#) project, and the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie, for its platform [BNeuf](#).

In tandem with these collaborations, Érudit continued the “Thinking through the crisis one article at a time” campaign, first instituted in spring 2020 with the goal of highlighting social science and humanities research in scholarly journals. As part of this campaign, over 50 articles have been explained in simpler terms and spotlighted on social media this year.



[View the selection](#)

+ Responding to the Stratégie québécoise de la recherche et de l'innovation 2022

With the goal of developing a [Stratégie québécoise de recherche et d'innovation 2022](#), the Ministry of Economy and Innovation invited submissions in Spring 2021. Érudit submitted a memorandum pointing out the advantages of embedding open science and French-language publishing in such a strategy, proposing three specific actions:

- An ambitious open-science policy and a plan to foster French-language publishing;
- Support for open-access publishing in all fields of knowledge;
- A national strategy to maximize research discoverability.



[Read the memorandum \(only in French\)](#)

Technological Developments

+ Optimizing the erudit.org platform

A rapid increase in users of the erudit.org platform since 2019 forced us to improve many of its technological aspects to meet new demands. Our information technology (IT) team carried out several major operations to increase the website's speed and improve access to its contents.

+ Continued optimization of the OJS-erudit.org technological bridge

Work continued on the OJS-erudit.org technological bridge, through which to process articles in journals that use the Public Knowledge Project's Open Journal Systems (OJS) software. A number of changes have made it possible to optimize digital production work, reducing processing times and the affiliated costs. An important agreement with the Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire (BCI), which will start at the end of 2021, will allow for new developments regarding this bridge. The aim is to increase the discoverability of OJS articles by producing XML markup of an article's metadata and text body.

+ Contributing open-source code

In 2020–2021, Érudit's technological team shared 9,950 code blocks on the open-source platform [GitHub](#), thereby contributing to the development of open-source IT solutions.

+ Reviewing the quality of metadata

Érudit strengthened its collaboration with the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a worldwide non-profit serving libraries. In the context of this agreement, the teams of the two organizations revised their procedures and quality standards for article- and journal-level metadata, including for WorldCat, the aggregated catalogue.

Governance and Funding

Integrating equity, diversity, and inclusion principles

Our new vision statement, “Dedicated to Open Knowledge,” acknowledges the diversity of our stakeholders and contributors as well as our commitment to include them in our work on open science. The Érudit team is currently developing an equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) statement to improve the integration and promotion of these principles, both within our organization and within Coalition Publica. This work is based on action already taken by the Université de Montréal on the EDI principles. The tools built by the university will be put to good use in the coming months, including for communications and in-house training.

Renewing the Board

The Board assists the Érudit team in managing and developing the organization. It is made up of members of teaching and research communities, university library staff, and scholarly publishing professionals. The contributions of our Board members are essential to our vitality and to accomplishing our mission.

It is thus with gratitude that we would like to recognize today the exceptional contributions of three outgoing members:

- **Marie Audette** joined Érudit’s Board from 2015 to 2021 in her capacity as Associate Vice-President, Research & Creation at the Université Laval. She is now Chair of her university’s Curriculum Committee.
- **Lynda Gadoury** was Executive Director, Université du Québec à Montréal Libraries from 2010 to 2021 and Érudit Board member starting in 2013, including as Secretary-Treasurer.
- **Benoît Melançon** had been sitting on the Érudit Board since 2011 and on its Scientific Committee since 2016. A Full Professor at the French-Language Literatures Department of the Université de Montréal, he was also Scientific Editor at the Presses de l’Université de Montréal from 2002 to 2016. The Érudit project originated with this press, which publishes many of the journals available on the erudit.org platform (*Criminologie, Sociologie et sociétés, Études françaises, and Meta*).

Three new members are joining the Board to replace these three outgoing members. They represent the three Érudit Consortium associates, i.e., the Université du Québec à Montréal, the Université de Montréal, and the Université Laval.

- **Frédéric Giuliano** is Executive Director of Library Services at the Université du Québec à Montréal.
- **Laurence Monnais** is Full Professor in the History Department and Director of the Asian Studies Centre of the Université de Montréal. She is also Scientific Editor of the Presses de l'Université de Montréal.
- **Michel J. Tremblay** is Full Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Infectiology at the Faculty of Medicine of the Université Laval and Canada Research Chair in Human Immunoretrovirology. He is Associate Vice-President, Research, Creation & Innovation at his university.



We wish them a warm welcome and thank once more our outgoing members for all the work they have accomplished.



Discover the composition of the Board of Érudit

Receiving two important grants

The Érudit team mobilized intensively to prepare a proposal, undergo expert evaluation, and implement a grant from the [Pan-Canadian Knowledge Access Initiative](#). This grant forms a key component of Érudit's consolidation, enabling us to develop a dedicated support team to strengthen the services provided to journals and to researchers through the technological infrastructure of Coalition Publica.

Important work has also been conducted this year in preparing Érudit's application to AGORA, a new program established by the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture (FRQSC). Our participation in this program strengthens the alliance that already links Érudit to the FRQSC. The two organizations have been collaborating since 2006 to develop an open and fair research results publishing environment that allows Quebec researchers to take up their rightful place in the advancement of knowledge. Thanks to trust built over the years, all the Quebec journals funded and recommended by the FRQSC are made available by Érudit, in accordance with the open-access policy of the Fonds du Québec.

The coming years will be crucial for the dissemination of research results, especially in French, particularly in the context of Plan S. The support of the FRQSC through AGORA will consolidate funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, as well as the direct support of the three consortium associates, the Université de Montréal, the Université Laval, and the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Team

Team development

Five employees joined our regular team:

Mélanie Bélanger

DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

Simon van Bellen

SENIOR RESEARCH ADVISOR

Karine Fréchette

DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

Guillaume Pellegrini

OPERATIONS SUPPORT

Augusto dos Santos Latgé

DEVELOPER

Welcome!

Students and interns have also joined the regular team to complete their training and discover scholarly publishing and research dissemination:

Chloé Dassylva

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

(STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL)

Céline Hostiou

DIGITAL PUBLISHING INTERN

(STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL)

Laurence Landry

COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

(STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL)



Prix du recteur 2020

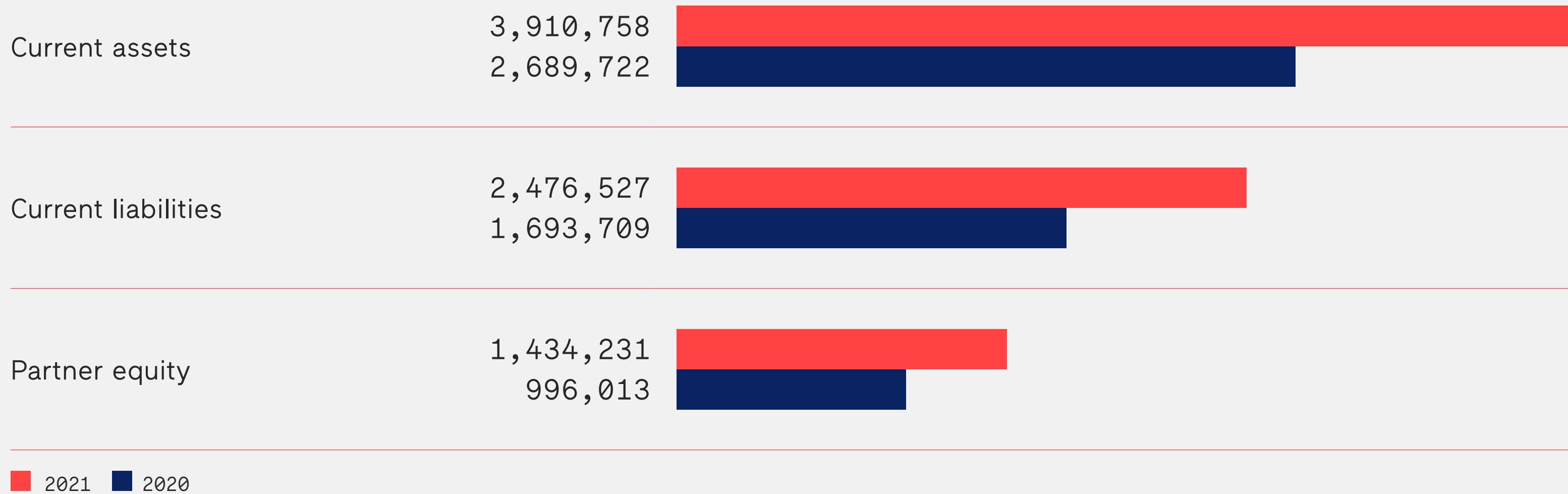
We are pleased to report that the Érudit team received the Université de Montréal President's Award (Prix du recteur) in 2020 in the French-Language Promotion (*Valorisation de la langue française*) category. This honour recognizes all our efforts to promote the French-language research of Quebec, Canada, and the rest of the world.

Thank you for your contributions!

Financial Statements

Income	2021	2020	Expenses Charges	2021	2020
■ Publishing and marketing services, partnerships	2,146,709	1,861,411	■ Publishing and marketing services, partnerships	1,904,425	1,579,776
■ Government grants	1,709,826	1,393,564	■ Payroll and technology support services	1,817,657	1,656,428
■ Contributions of the three Consortium members	493,362	510,861	■ Professional fees and subcontracting	110,523	126,894
■ Other income	5,345	19,865	■ Administration	65,452	75,995
Total income	4,355,242	3,785,701	■ Advertising and communications	18,967	60,288
2021			Total expenses	3,917,024	3,499,381
2020			— Net income (Net loss)	438,218	286,320
			2021		
			2020		

Financial results



Partners

Associated Universities



Funding Bodies



Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada



Partners

The Érudit Consortium is grateful to all the institutional, public, and private partners that have supported it for over 20 years and have contributed to its success.

Among them, we would like to note the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie, Canadian Science Publishing, the Centre d'expertise numérique pour la recherche, the Centre for Digital Scholarship, the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ), Persée, the Public Knowledge Project, the Presses de l'Université de Montréal, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, and the Société de développement des périodiques culturels québécois.

A larger network of organizations also supports the operations of [Coalition Publica](#), our partnership with the Public Knowledge Project. For a full list of partner organizations, see the [Community](#) page on the partnership's website.



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