

The logo features the word 'erudit' in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black drop shadow, set against a yellow and red abstract background. The number '25' is in white inside a dark blue circle to the right.

erudit²⁵

25 years of open knowledge

Press Package

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What is Érudit?

Érudit is the most important platform for the digital dissemination of scholarly publications in Canada.

→ Established since 2004 as an interuniversity consortium that includes Université de Montréal, Université Laval and Université du Québec à Montréal.

→ A non-profit and community-driven solution that competes with large-scale commercial publishers.



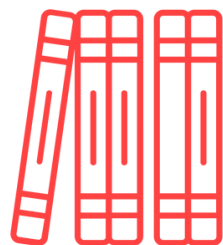
Our Vision:

Committed to open knowledge.

Our Mission:

Support the open digital publication of research in the social sciences, the humanities, the arts and literature.

We Work With:



Over 300
independent
journals



1,200 libraries and
documentary
institutions



Universities and
research centres



Users of the
erudit.org
platform

A Few Dates

1998: 1st Platform

While the Internet was still in its infancy and fax machines were in their glory days, we launched the first version of the erudit.org platform, a year after the creation of the Direction des publications électroniques by the Presses de l'Université de Montréal.

2004: Creation of the Consortium

Érudit becomes the Érudit Consortium, as a general partnership, which includes the Université de Montréal, the Université Laval and the Université du Québec à Montréal.

2015: Partnership for Open Access

Creation of the Partnership for Open Access with the Canadian Research Knowledge Network.

2018: Coalition Publica

Érudit and the Public Knowledge Project collaborate to create Coalition Publica, a partnership with the objective of building a national, open and non-profit infrastructure dedicated to research, dissemination and digital scholarly publishing.

2021: Signature of the Helsinki Initiative

By signing the Helsinki Initiative, we are confirming our commitments to the protection of bibliodiversity and to the promotion of Québec- and Canada-based scientific journals presenting content in French, or in bilingual and multilingual formats.

2001: 2nd Version of the Platform

2010: 3rd Version of the Platform

Launch of the 3rd version of the platform with new features and the objective of digitalizing more than 60,000 articles found in cultural journals which are members of the Société de développement des périodiques culturels québécois (SODEP).

2017: 4th Version of the Platform

Over 150,000 articles are available.

2019: Expansion of Services to Researchers

The services offered support innovative research practices in the social sciences, the humanities, arts and literature, through the development of extensive textual datasets, the curation of bibliometric data and open-source software for digital scholarly publishing.

2023: 25 years of Érudit!

What Do We Do?

Promote Research Results and Make Them Available to the Widest Audience.



Production: Read by humans as well as machines.

From the layout files provided by the journal, we create a digital document in the XML format. This document can be accessed in different reading formats and indexed in search engines.



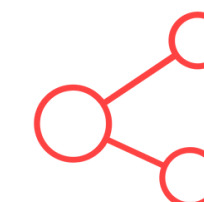
Preservation: Sustained access for centuries to come

We ensure that the digital document will still be accessible in the very long term, even when reading formats will have changed and our servers have stopped existing. To achieve that, our partner Portico stores our corpus on several protected servers.



Dissemination: Accessible everywhere, and for various purposes.

The document is available through the erudit.org platform, but also through several discovery tools, aggregators and search engines with which we have signed agreements (Ebsco, Google Scholar, Crossref, Isidore, etc.).



Support: To us, each journal editor is unique.

We offer tailored support to each editorial team in their digital endeavours. And with over 1,200 subscriptions and partnership agreements with libraries, we also help fund their operations.



Innovation: For the future of the humanities and social sciences

By creating new digital tools and contributing to research projects, we foster innovation in the humanities and social sciences.

Three Examples of Windfalls Outside Academia:

A Source of Rigorous Citations for Wikipedia

Érudit has been participating in the Wikipedia Libraries project since 2018, which gives regular contributors to the online encyclopedia free access to restricted scholarly journal collections. This collaboration promotes Québec and Canadian research in the social sciences and the humanities, and enhances the quality and scientific validity of Wikipedia pages. We are proud to participate in this important initiative, and are pleased to see it bearing fruit, with several thousand citations to articles to date.

Three Examples of Windfalls Outside Academia:

Teach the Next Generation the Right Way of Doing Documentary Research.

The erudit.org platform is a popular tool in CEGEPs, available through an agreement signed with 54 collegiate libraries. Érudit is thus regularly used by librarians to teach good research practices to new student cohorts (citing sources, checking the rigour of a piece of data, using an advanced search engine, etc.).

Érudit was created around the same time as I started my university studies, and it's still there for me today in my job. From literature student to teacher of French and French literature at the CEGEP de Lanaudière in L'Assomption, I regularly use Érudit to enrich my research and my teaching. It is a useful tool to find your way in the wide world of scientific and cultural publications, from A to Z!

Catherine Bourassa-Gaudreault, teacher, Cégep de Lanaudière (quote translated from French)

Three Examples of Windfalls Outside Academia:

Promote Universal Access to the Latest Scientific Research.

Articles on Érudit are viewed by students and researchers, but also by curious Internet users with specific interests, who need rigorous knowledge (for example in local history). Articles are also often used for professional reasons, notably in the fields of psychology, law and education.

For me, Érudit is a precious and wide-open window on culture, knowledge and sociology in particular. Everything is very accessible and rich. I opened that window during one of the COVID lockdowns, out of curiosity, because I wanted to understand Inuit culture. Since then, I have not stopped reading Érudit.

Nathalie Ducamp, lover of Inuit art (quote translated from French)

Our Commitments



Promoting Québec and Canadian Research Around the World

75% of scholarly article views on the erudit.org platform come from outside Canada, with users in more than 200 countries! France, the United States, Germany, Morocco, Belgium, Cameroon and the Ivory Coast are among those that generate the most article views.



Support and Develop Bibliodiversity in the Social Sciences and the Humanities

The journals disseminated on erudit.org are representative of the richness of the research being done in the social sciences, the humanities, the arts and literature. Anthropology, literary studies, psychology, demography, education... In all, more than 35 disciplines are represented in the available corpus. These journals are editorially independent and most are published by a Canadian scholarly society, a university press or a faculty.

Our Commitments

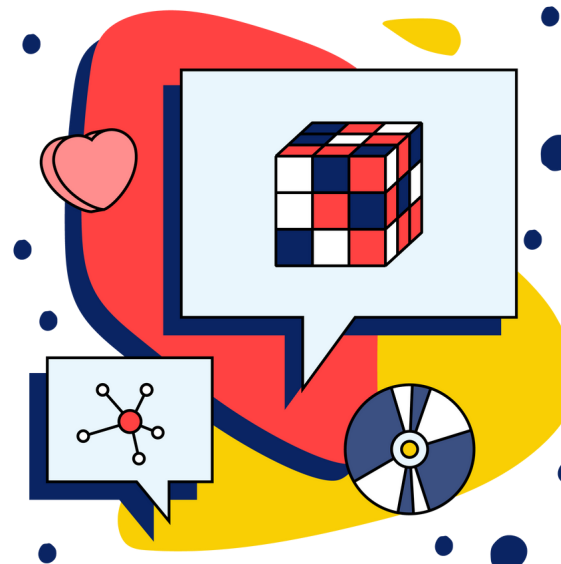
Promote Access to Research Results for a Larger Audience

Érudit has established over 1,200 agreements with libraries and documentary institutions worldwide, ensuring wide distribution of its corpus.



Contribute to a Knowledge-Based Society

In a context where disinformation is becoming more prevalent, guaranteeing open and easy access to thorough and serious scientific and cultural resources for college students has become essential. With its policy of open access and its strategy for content discoverability, Érudit is proud to contribute to the democratization of knowledge.



Support Scholarly Publications Through a Viable Economic Model

Journals can choose to be disseminated on Érudit in immediate open access or behind a mobile barrier of variable length. Subscription revenues go to restricted journals, while open access journals receive financial support from the Partnership for Open Access. This hybrid model ensures both economic support for the journals and access to a majority of the research.



Data About Today

A Platform Used Around the World

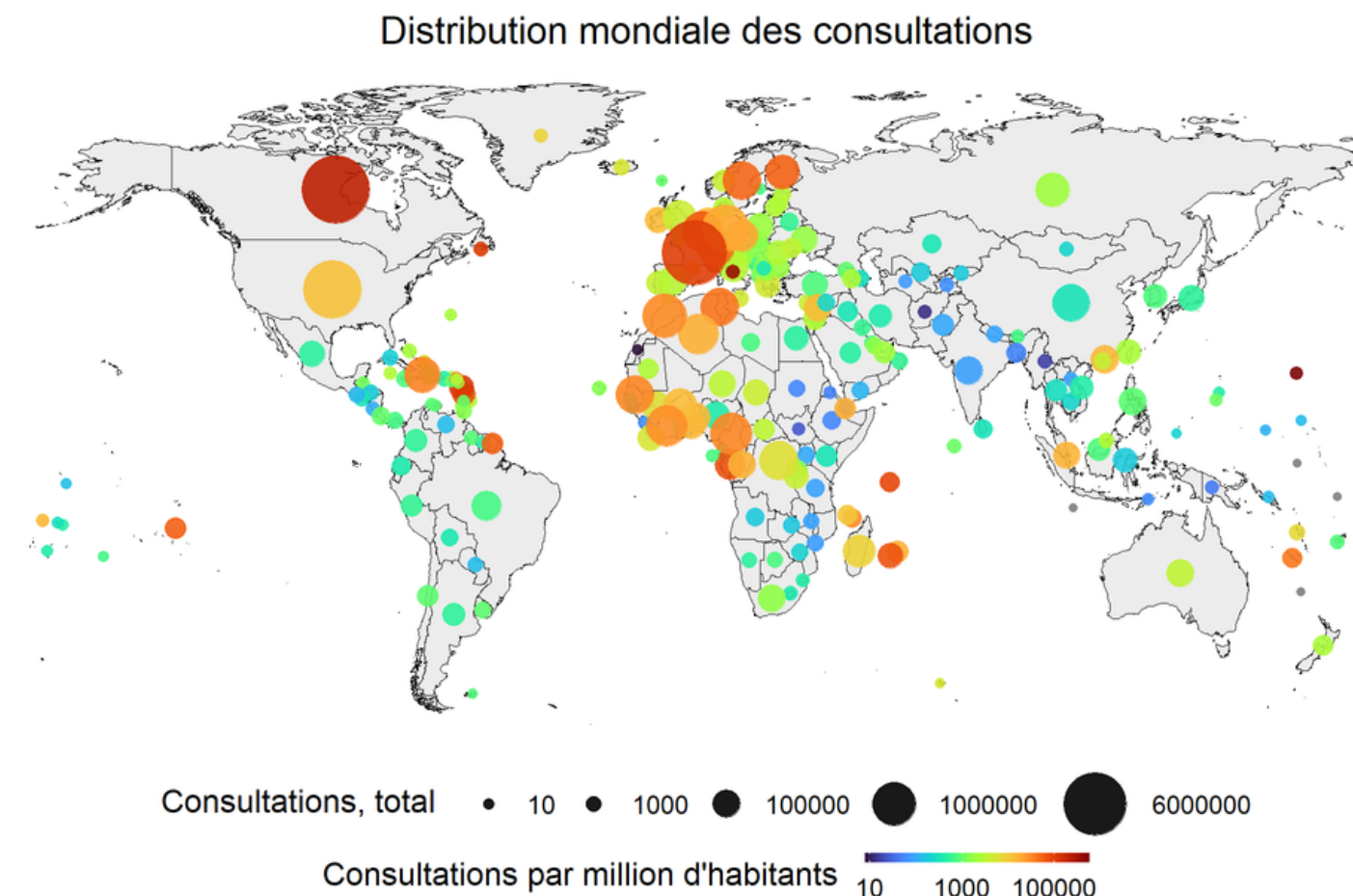
By promoting dissemination in open access, and developing a variety of dissemination strategies, we enhance the value of research and provide access to knowledge for all, without geographical or financial barriers.

38,2 million
page views per year

5,4 million
unique visitors each year

75% of scholarly article views on the
erudit.org platform come from outside
Canada*

* Data from fiscal year 2022-2023



Data About Today

Collections

322 disseminated journals (281 scholarly / 41 cultural)
including 223 funded scholarly journals through the Partnership for Open Access.

237 266 articles available:
our teams publish on average 10,000 additional articles each year.

As well as books, research reports, dissertations and theses from 13 institutions.
ÉTS, ENAP, INRS, McGill, Polytechnique Montréal, UdeM, USherbrooke, UQAC, UQÀM, UQAR, UQTR, UQAT, ULaval.



98 %

of collections
are available in open access.

Our Spokespeople



Tanja Niemann
Executive Director, Érudit

Tanja Niemann has held the role of Executive Director for Érudit since 2012. She joined the Centre d'édition numérique at the Université de Montréal in 2006 as coordinator for publishing (2006-2009) and then as interim director (2010-2011). She has been involved in Érudit since 2006. Tanja holds a diploma in communication from the University of Leipzig in Germany where her studies focused on books and publishing.

For many years, she has been involved in academic circles where she promotes the adoption of open access for the dissemination and democratization of knowledge.

Contact : tanja.niemann@umontreal.ca

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“The discoverability of the thousands of articles disseminated through our platform relies on our teams’ expertise, from text digitization to search engine optimization. It also relies on our model of equitable, non-commercial open access,”
(quote translated from French)

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Our Spokespeople



Vincent Larivière
Scientific Director for Érudit

Vincent Larivière is a professor at the École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information at Université de Montréal and the first UNESCO Chair in Open Science. He also acts as Érudit's Scientific Director, Associate Scientific Director of the Observatoire des sciences et des technologies (UQAM) and regular member of the Centre interuniversitaire de recherche sur la science et la technologie. Since 2017, he has been a member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Vincent Larivière is a world-class expert in the field of scientific communication. His expertise focuses on the new possibilities offered by digital technology for improving scientific dissemination: management and use of research data, interoperability of technologies, digital infrastructures, etc.

Contact : vincent.lariviere@umontreal.ca

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“As the open-access movement gains momentum, knowledge dissemination remains a central issue in today's scientific debate. Open access is a wonderful opportunity to democratize knowledge, but a tremendous challenge for local academic journals, which often operate on smaller budgets.

In collaboration with its partners, whether academic libraries or granting agencies, Érudit plays an essential role in making sure this transition toward open access succeeds.”

(quote translated from French)

”

Our Spokespeople



Frédéric Bouchard

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at the Université de Montréal and Chairman of the Érudit Board of Directors

Frédéric Bouchard is the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at Université de Montréal and Chairman of the Érudit Board of Directors. A philosopher of science, his interdisciplinary research delves into the theoretical foundations of evolutionary biology and ecology, as well as on the relationships between science and society.

He holds a doctorate in philosophy from Duke University, and a postdoctoral internship at the University of Toronto. A full professor in the philosophy department at the Université de Montréal since 2005 and the first holder of the ÉSOPE Chair in philosophy (2014-2016), he was also associate vice-rector for research, discovery, creation and innovation at Université de Montréal (2015-2017). In 2021, he was named a member of the Royal Society of Canada.

Contact : f.bouchard@umontreal.ca

Photo: Frédérique Ménard-Aubin

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“A knowledge society can only exist if knowledge is shared generously and widely. The research disseminated through Érudit helps local and international communities thrive intellectually, socially and economically. Examples include recent studies on school dropouts, Indigenous history and the effects of climate change. Thanks to the work carried out by the Érudit team behind the scenes, along with the erudit.org platform’s usability and the richness of its content, research specialists and the public alike can find and read reliable, high-quality information.”

(quote translated from French)

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The Main Issues Surrounding Scholarly Communication

A Powerful Commercial Oligarchy

We all know the acronym GAFAM, which refers to the giants that dominate the digital marketplace, namely Google, Apple, Facebook (Meta), Amazon and Microsoft. An oligarchy that is less well known but just as powerful dominates the scholarly publishing system, as a handful of large corporations have divvied up among themselves the sector of scholarly publishing.

These large commercial publishing houses have considerably increased their influence by offering scholarly journal editors the opportunity to take advantage of the new dissemination possibilities offered by the Internet in the early 2000s. Following a trend that took shape in the 1980s, these companies have constantly increased the fees of the subscriptions needed to access their publications in order to generate record profits at the expense of scientific institutions. The research they published being, for the most part, funded by public funds, society ends up paying three times: by funding the research, by funding its publication, and then by paying for the subscription that provides access to the results.

Among 10,000 scientific publishers, 6 international groups – Elsevier, Springer Nature, Wiley, Wolters Kluwer, Thomson Reuters, Taylor & Francis – represented in 2015: 38% of worldwide sales, which amount to US\$26 billion, and 65% of profits, with a profitability rate between 34% and 40%. *

* For comparison, the profitability rates are 35% for Apple, 12% for BMW, 7% for Woolworths.
Source : EPRIST. Résultats financiers 2015 de l'édition scientifique. 30 mars 2016.
https://www.eprist.fr/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/I-IST_16_RésultatsFinanciers2015EditionScientifique.pdf

Local Scholarly Journals Are Fragile

In 2019, there were 825 active Canadian scholarly journals, with 611 (74%) covering the social sciences and the humanities, and 214 (26%) covering science, technology and medicine (STM).*

The vast majority of Québec and Canadian scholarly journals are independent, as they are published by university presses, scholarly societies or other research organizations. They are supported by small to mid-sized editorial structures, and rely on varied economic models (funding from scholarly societies, grants, subscriptions, etc.). Their average revenue varies between \$30-80,000, with about a third still coming from subscription fees.*

Today, several journals find themselves in a very fragile situation. For some, this fragility is financial, notably because of variability in their revenue sources. Moreover, many journals struggle to find the staff to operate smoothly, and experience a lack of support from the institutions that host them. On top of that, the rise of open access has disrupted operations for these journals, as they are forced to adjust to a very dynamic environment. Despite being essential to the scientific world and to the development of knowledge, many journals face a bleak future.

* Canadian scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences, Larivière V., 2021
* Shaping a Collective Future: An Investigation into Canadian Scholarly Journals Socio-Economic Reality, Paquin, É. [2017]

The Main Issues Surrounding Scholarly Communication

Non-Profit Alternatives Are Getting Stronger

Non-profit open access initiatives, such as Érudit and many other organizations around the world, short-circuit this system by offering an alternative for scholarly publication that is free for both researchers and readers alike: unlike the vast majority of journals published in open access by large commercial publishers, journals on the Érudit platform do not charge publication fees to authors. This is what we call Diamond open access.

The Movement for Open Access

Long associated with lower-quality journals, if not predatory ones, open access first appeared on the fringes of traditional publishing. Today, it has become more and more widespread throughout the world, driven by public policies or by the implementation of principles of open transmission of knowledge.

Evolution of Public Policy

The political contexts around open access publishing are undergoing significant changes. Since 2015, the three research councils of Canada, namely the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), have operated with a common policy on open access. A new version of this policy is being developed and will be made public in 2025.

Meanwhile, in Europe, many national and private funding bodies came together in autumn 2018 to create cOAlition S and launch Plan S, their open access publishing mandate which requires all research to be immediately published as open access. The recent adoption of Plan S by the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) could well influence other policies in Canada. Similarly, the publication in the United States of a White House memo on public access could have an effect on those working in subsidized research environments.

To learn more, read our research notes:

[Open-Access Principles and Policies](#)

[Open Science](#)

The Main Issues Surrounding Scholarly Communication

Science in French

Science has become increasingly anglicized in the last few decades. Indeed, the vast majority of scientific publications in the world today are in English. It is noteworthy that since the mid-1990s, the proportion of new journals being published in French in Canada has gone from 20% to under 5%.*

However, research in French generates interest for research in the next generation of scholars, as well as favouring exchanges between French-speaking communities and contributing to scientific literacy, which acts as a rampart against disinformation. In the social sciences and the humanities in particular, publishing the results of research carried out on local communities in the language of those communities enables them to take ownership of that research.

By signing the Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism, we are confirming our commitments to the protection of bibliodiversity and to the promotion of Québec- and Canada-based scientific journals presenting content in French, or in bilingual and multilingual formats.



Rémi Quirion
Chief Scientist of Québec

“The commitment shown by the Fonds de recherche du Québec in its support for the role of French in scholarly publications takes concrete shape in its long-standing partnership with Érudit. This collaboration contributed to the dissemination of research in the social sciences, the humanities, the arts and literature as well as the results of this research to the population in Québec. It also gives Québec more reach within the Francophonie.”
(quote translated from French)

* Rapport de l'étude Portrait et défis de la recherche en français en contexte minoritaire au Canada
https://www.acfas.ca/sites/default/files/documents_utiles/rapport_francophonie_final_1.pdf

Testimonials from Scholarly Journals

La revue Ontario History, publiée par la Société historique de l'Ontario, adresse ses sincères félicitations à Érudit. Depuis le début de notre relation en 2015, nous avons eu le plaisir et le privilège de travailler avec leur personnel talentueux et diligent. Le lectorat international de notre journal sur la plateforme s'est développé de manière exponentielle. Nous saluons l'important travail d'Érudit et le remercions pour son soutien, qui nous a permis de passer à une revue en libre accès de manière durable.

- Sarah McCabe, Société historique de l'Ontario

Érudit représente pour nous sérieux et rigueur. À travers les ans, elle est devenue une plateforme incontournable dans le monde savant francophone. Érudit nous a permis de passer à une nouvelle étape dans la vie de notre revue, de gagner en visibilité et en prestige. L'équipe d'Érudit fournit un travail de grande qualité, remarquable, pour mettre en valeur les recherches francophones. Nous sommes très fier·es de faire partie de l'aventure. Joyeux 25 ans à Érudit!

- Emmanuelle Caccamo, Executive Director, Cygne noir

Erudit has become an invaluable partner for the dissemination of scholarship published by Canadian SSH journals. By drawing on the expertise of those working at Erudit, our journals have realized growth in their readership as well as general benefits to their respective publishing programs. This level of expertise and growth is difficult for many smaller, independent, Canadian journals to develop on their own. Erudit has proven to be an essential publishing partner for many Canadian journals.

- Kathy Killoh, Journal Coordinator, Labour / Le Travail

Il est impossible d'évoquer l'évolution de la revue Mesure et Évaluation en Éducation (MEE) sans souligner le travail efficace et compétent réalisé par Érudit et toute son équipe dynamique. Depuis 2014, cette plateforme assure la diffusion des numéros de la revue MEE avec un niveau de service exemplaire, tout en contribuant activement à promouvoir le développement rigoureux de la science de l'éducation. Nous souhaitons exprimer notre sincère gratitude à l'équipe d'Érudit pour son engagement remarquable, en formulant des vœux de succès et de progression constante !

- Carla Barroso da Costa, Director, Mesure et Évaluation en Éducation

Érudit's dedication to open access publishing is commendable in an era of steep library pricing and pay-per-essay publishing that limits rather than expands our access to knowledge. Érudit means increased access and longevity for Monstrum, now in its sixth year of publication. As we expand to biannual publication and begin to receive more submissions from across the globe, Érudit's support is essential in our goal to reach a diverse readership.

- Kristopher Woofter, Editor-in-Chief, Monstum

Érudit's capacity to broaden the reach of open access journal articles is truly commendable. The Canadian Journal of Education / Revue canadienne de l'éducation recognizes and greatly appreciates Érudit's commitment to making humanities and social sciences research accessible to a diverse audience. Happy 25th anniversary!

- Sharon Hu, Managing Editor, Canadian Journal of Education

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