Coalition Publica: Working with Library Publishing Partners

Coalition Publica succeeds thanks to the involvement of the Canadian library publishing community

- Librarians who support journals at their institutions are invited to participate in the Library User Group, whose co-chairs sit on our Stakeholder Advisory Committee. More details about these groups can be found in the Community page of the Coalition Publica website.

- As members of the CARL Library Publishing Community Engagement Team and along with the broader community of library publishers, we collaborate to develop learning resources for journals. Many of these are hosted on our shared document portal and featured in the Resources page of our website.

- We maintain a list of Canadian scholarly journals and count on your input to keep it accurate. Library publishers can submit corrections for their hosted journals via public feedback.

- Each year, Coalition Publica issues a call for applications inviting Canadian scholarly journals to join the Érudit platform. Library publishing teams play a key role in supporting these journals through onboarding and technical integration.This document outlines our collaboration with libraries during recruitment and onboarding, and provides further detail on financial considerations for participating journals.

The Érudit call for applications: an annual overview

Journal recruitment and onboarding activities occur annually.

- **January–August**: Recruitment and contracting
- **August–December**: Technical integration and onboarding

The Coalition Publica team connects with libraries throughout this process.

Recruitment and contracts

While we remain in contact with interested journals throughout the year and welcome presentation requests at any time, the recruitment phase officially begins with the annual call for applications to join the Érudit platform. This call is typically issued in late January or early February and remains open for 6 to 8 weeks.

Once a journal submits an application, the Érudit team reviews the articles published in the journal's three most recent issues and prepares a quote for both full XML production and minimal XML production. At the same time, the journal is reviewed by the scientific committee to ensure it meets the eligibility criteria.

Approximately 3 to 4 weeks after the application period closes, the quote and the eligibility decision are shared with the journal. The journal then has 6 weeks to respond to the offer. If they choose to proceed, they will be asked to sign a distribution contract and, if selecting full XML, a production contract. Journals operating under a 12-month rolling wall subscription model will also sign a commercialization contract. Contracts are typically finalized by the end of July, after which journals enter the technical integration phase.

Technical integration and onboarding

Some aspects of the integration process begin as early as June, when the team reviews the journal's copyright details and verifies the information on file with ISSN Canada. It's essential that this record be accurate and up to date, including elements such as the print and online ISSN, proper title, parallel titles and subtitles (if applicable), and Publisher. This basic editorial information is required to set up the journal on the Érudit platform.

By September 1st, the Érudit integration team validates this basic information with the journal to ensure it can be included in Érudit's financial and subscription information for libraries for the upcoming year.

Next, this information is shared with the Érudit Production team, which creates a production workflow instance for the journal. Simultaneously, the IT team sets up the journal's space on the erudit.org platform and adds it as a tracked entity in the statistics system.

Between September and December, additional publication information is added and existing information is confirmed including publication frequency, licensing and copyright information, and editorial team details. Journals are granted access to their online space, and the statistics tools are configured to be ready for the first production on the Érudit platform.

While the integration process is generally completed by mid-December, it continues as journals publish their first issue on the platform and supply any additional details they wish to include on erudit.org.

Financing - What can journals expect?

The goal of dissemination on Érudit is for it to be a revenue-generating activity for journals participating in Coalition Publica. It is rare for this not to be the case, as the team works closely with each journal to understand their specific costs and revenue expectations. Journals are free to choose the model that best suits their needs. The figures below are illustrative; actual revenue will vary depending on several factors.

All journals benefit from the financial support provided by libraries through the Partnership for Open Access. Revenue from this program depends primarily on the number of libraries participating in the Partnership. Libraries join through their consortia and pay both for access to 12-month rolling wall subscription content and to support fully open access (OA) content. For CRKN libraries, contributions are based on their institutional banding.

Immediate OA journals receive a fixed annual share of Partnership funding. In 2023, for example, each journal received approximately $4,150 CAD. As more libraries join the Partnership, the total amount available for OA journals increases. Currently, CRKN, Couperin, and BICfB consortia are all participating.

For 12-month rolling wall subscription journals, the revenue received is influenced by several variables, including their subscription pricing and the number of institutional subscribers outside the Partnership.

Journals may use these funds to cover production costs. While these vary, it is uncommon for revenues not to cover expenses. Costs depend on a number of factors, such as the choice between full or minimal XML processing, issue frequency, article volume and complexity, and whether the journal uses OJS. For example:

- A journal using OJS, with minimal XML and a lower article count, might expect costs of around $300–$500 per issue.

- Full XML processing generally comes to $1,100 to $1,300 per issue, though costs can be higher for journals with high publication outputs and complex articles, including those with tables, images, equations, poetry, or other non-standard content requiring detailed tagging.

Érudit is currently reviewing the revenue distribution model for the Partnership to enhance transparency, equity, and sustainability across all participating journals. The team will consult the community before implementing any changes.

When can you expect to hear from us?

- We'll be in touch when the call for application opens via our website and social media channels, through the Érudit Infolettre (subscribe here), as well as on the Schol Comm in Canada Mattermost.

- Coalition Publica maintains a list of journals that could benefit from participation, or sometimes they reach out to us. If one of these journals is hosted by a library, we'll try and get in touch!

- Once the call for applications is closed, Coalition Publica will endeavour to notify the library if a journal from their service has been accepted, and will be in contact after the journal returns their decision.

- Our team works with journals to ensure that ISSNs and copyright information are correct as well as to go through the OJS/Érudit metadata guide. Libraries interested in participating in these conversations are welcome to do so, but as each library has its own way of working with its journals, there is no obligation on the part of the library to participate in this part of the process. However, as language settings must be correct in OJS, journals may contact their library regardless.

- Throughout the Fall, the OJS configuration is initiated, involving the direct participation of the library. The work consists of ensuring that plug-ins are properly installed and configured, that certain parameters are respected, and that texts are indexed after configuration. Further information is available in the Coalition Publica Configuration Guide.

- Before the first issue is published on the Érudit platform, we'll be in touch to ensure that OJS has been set up correctly.