

The British Columbia Electronic Library Network (BC ELN) is a partnership between the Province of British Columbia and its post-secondary libraries. BC ELN's purpose is to develop, promote and maintain system-wide mechanisms that allow post-secondary libraries to meet the expanding information needs of the province's learners, researchers, and educators at the lowest possible cost. BC ELN operates with core funding from the Province of British Columbia, with additional project funding and staff time contributed by partner libraries.

BC ELN plays a critical role as infrastructure supporting BC's post-secondary libraries and learners. Libraries have come to depend on BC ELN to facilitate collaboration and to launch innovative services that support learning and research across the province. Over 180,000 learners have access to services that in many cases are far beyond what libraries could achieve on their own. BC ELN's position as a system service allows it to take a provincial perspective, coordinating action at libraries across BC and leveraging existing resources to support world-class teaching, learning and research.

Even during the challenging economic times brought on by the global economic crisis, BC ELN and its partner libraries have continued to move from success to success. With the recent approval of base funding for the 2010/2011 fiscal, BC ELN is moving forward with its major initiatives including:

- ◇ Strengthening BC ELN's internal infrastructure through a review of the Steering Committee Terms of Reference, engaging in the Strategic Plan 2011-2016 renewal process, and the admission of the first new private institution members;
- ◇ Supporting a high-quality BC learning environment by negotiating group purchase discounts for electronic information resources on behalf of BC post-secondary libraries, looking for zero or very low price increases and cost reductions on licenses where ever possible;
- ◇ Ensuring that AskAway, BC's virtual reference service, continues to meet the expanding online reference needs of BC's post-secondary learners and educators;
- ◇ Continuing to build on the sustainability of the Undergraduate Foundation Collection, a suite of essential, foundational databases for meeting the needs of undergraduate learners from the smallest college to the largest university;
- ◇ Maintaining and supporting the BC Library Collections Gateway [including the reSearcher Suite, OutLook OnLine, and the Ariel online document requesting and delivery service], essential technological infrastructure that enables resource sharing among BC ELN partner libraries.



More detailed information can be found the BC ELN 2009 Innovation & Success Report:  
[http://www.eln.bc.ca/Innovation\\_Success\\_Report\\_2009.pdf](http://www.eln.bc.ca/Innovation_Success_Report_2009.pdf)