



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

CFLA Statement on Internet Archive – April 2021

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) unites libraries in Canada to advance the nation's intellectual, social, economic, and cultural success. Libraries have been increasingly purchasing and delivering digital resources for many years, a shift that has accelerated in response to COVID-19 closures. This year especially, the Internet Archive's Open Library has played an important role in helping serve the needs of library patrons who learn and work from home.

CFLA is disheartened to see publishers taking legal action against the Internet Archive for a service provided to address library users' needs, especially during a global emergency. Millions of print books in libraries have been inaccessible, and the Internet Archive's Open Library with controlled digital lending has supported learning and research. Controlled digital lending works within reasonable interpretations of the law, using legally acquired content.

Canada's libraries value the work of the Internet Archive and recognize that exploring new approaches to lending digital content must happen if libraries are to continue to provide the access to information that they have offered throughout their existence. CFLA recognizes that the Internet Archive, as a library, shares libraries' mission to provide equity of access to the world's knowledge for all, including access to and preservation of out-of-print content. Internet Archive works with libraries to create an equitable society where everyone can seek information and learn, regardless of limitations based on their economic circumstances.

The Internet Archive has created resources that bridge the gap between libraries' physical and digital collections. They have supported the needs of libraries and their users through preserving web pages in the Wayback Machine, digitizing print content, and offering lending of that content through the Open Library. Like all libraries, the Internet Archive has worked with its partner institutions to provide access to collections around the world.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations supports the Internet Archive in their vision, and libraries in Canada hope to continue to work with them to provide equitable access to information for all in the transition to an increasingly digital world.