Purpose

Collective understandings of who we are in British Columbia are constructed through public dialogue that increasingly occurs virtually, and with greater rapidity than ever before.

A provincial digital library for BC is intended to bring substance to a vision that government articulated in 2014, presenting a digital reflection of BC by making local collections more immediately available to inform social discourse. A digital library as a collaboration of local institutions and communities offers a means to explore BC’s depth and diversity of place, history, and stories, to enrich public life by connecting present to past, and to shape a future informed by the knowledge, experiences, and many dimensions of identity and belonging of our people.

The initiative is a phased project that ultimately will establish access to the intellectual, historical, geographical and cultural record of the province, together with tools to support citizens in constructing meaning and community from its resources.

Timeline

- **2008**: BC Digitization Coalition brings together stakeholders from culture and memory institutions, creating dialogue, relationships, proof of concept projects, e.g. West Beyond the West
- **2014**: BC Government announces the BC PDL initiative, “building on the collaborative nature of the [library] sector”
- **2015**: Nov 4, BC PDL Discussion Forum at Vancouver Public Library; Guiding Principles developed
- **2016**: May 10, BC PDL Symposium at Kwantlen Polytechnic University; Steering Committee confirmed
- **2016**: September 8, first meeting of BC PDL Administrative Team; Communications framework and technical infrastructure work begun
- **2017**: April 21, BC Library Conference; Discuss value of digital libraries and showcase technical infrastructure

Platform Work

A “hub and spoke” infrastructure model is being explored. For more information on technical infrastructure visit http://bit.ly/2o1Tmcz

Guiding Principles

These guiding principles form the foundation for ongoing dialogue, engagement, and collaboration across institutions, organizations, and sectors. At the core of these values is the deeply held belief and commitment to the public good. These principles were reviewed and endorsed at the May 10, 2016 Symposium.

- **Radical Collaboration**: Develop partnerships across institutions
- **Action**: Collaborate to produce tangible outcomes
- **Sustainability**: Commit to the sustained success of the PDL
- **Stewardship**: At all times act responsibly and ethically
- **Coherence**: Align our efforts with the national developments

Digital Libraries on our Radar

- **OurOntario**: http://ourontario.ca
- **DigitalNZ**: digitalnz.org
- **Europeana**: europeana.eu
- **Trove**: trove.nla.gov.au
- **DPLA**: dp.la

Search results from all participating organizations

Search results from multiple channels per organization, e.g. repository, youtube, vimeo

Search results mapped

Comment Online

https://goo.gl/forms/wiHewdHI2wVVoStC3

Presented on behalf of the BC Provincial Digital Library Steering Committee: https://bclacconnect.ca/provincial-digital-library.pdf