



What is the Canadian Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Commons?

The Canadian Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Commons is an in-development, national- scale, bilingual (French & English) network for HSS researchers and stakeholders to share, access, re-purpose, and develop scholarly projects, publications, educational resources, data, and tools. It is the first digital commons of its kind with an explicit emphasis on empowering both the humanities *and* social sciences communities; it is also uniquely positioned to respond to the legal, academic, and institutional contexts most relevant to *Canadian* HSS researchers (a potential user base of approx. 90,000+). Currently focused on HSS, it can be scaled to include all academic disciplines.

The prototype is available at hsscommons.ca. It is an initiative of the [INKE Partnership](#), and project partners include Compute Canada, CANARIE, UVic Systems, the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and the US-based Humanities Commons, with additional support from the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN–RCDR), the Canadian Association for Research Libraries (CARL), the Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI), University of Newcastle, Edith Cowan University, Érudit, Iter, the Public Knowledge Project (PKP), and UVic Libraries.

Key features:

- Individual **user profiles** for academics and non-academics alike (with easy access via general Commons accounts or Single Sign-On through ORCID + the Canadian Access Federation)
- **Subject repository** for Open Access publications that assigns digital object identifiers (DOIs) & Creative Commons licenses to protect and facilitate stable, accurate engagement with your research
- Compliance with FAIR principles for **effective research data management and visibility**
- **Project development environment** with free storage + integration with Google Drive & Dropbox
- **Research-sharing, communication, and management tools:**
 - E.g., interest groups, collections, blogs, discussion forums, member-to-member messaging, Q&As, site-wide calendar, and more
- **Canadian servers** and open source **digital research infrastructure (DRI)**

Key benefits to Canadian HSS researchers, teams, associations, and institutional partners

- **Access an integrated, user-friendly suite of free tools and resources—all in one place!**
- **Establish a professional online presence** via public profiles, CVs, blog posts, publications, & more
- **Increase research impact and visibility**, with full access to page views and other metrics
- **Share publications and research projects** with the wider HSS community and beyond; **create themed collections** of research or pedagogical materials
- **Connect** with like-minded people with shared interests; **develop, manage, and promote** collaborative research projects; **form special interest groups** relevant to specific academics/organizations
- **Communicate** directly with HSS researchers and other stakeholders invested in academic work; **facilitate discussions** in an online forum while retaining control over permissions, privacy controls, and self-governance features such as content-flagging
- **Promote and coordinate events** (e.g., society meetings, conferences, webinars, workshops)
- **Enhance** visibility, **increase** access, **support** disciplines, and **view and integrate** metrics in an HSS platform that is responsive to evolving Tri-Agency requirements and recommendations regarding funding, long-term research data management, and OA
- **Sign up and sync your profile and publications with ORCID**

Future directions

- **Continued translation of the site into French**, with plans for additional multi-lingual support
- **Further integrate/align with distributed Canadian institutional repositories and research data organizations**
- **On-board Canadian HSS societies** in partnership with the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
- **Repurpose the Canadian HSS Commons instance**, which is [freely available on GitHub](#), scaling across disciplines nationally and internationally