

## Partnership

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## Editorial - French Research in Information Sciences and Partnership

Éthel Gamache

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## Editorial – French Research in Information Sciences and Partnership

Éthel Gamache

Editor of the French section

*Partnership* aims to encourage the dissemination of Canadian Francophone and Anglophone scholarly production in library and information science. This issue highlights research in French with three articles. These manuscripts explore different topics and were a pleasure to read and edit. However, in an issue dedicated to research published in French, why are there so few articles?

Research, in all fields and internationally, uses English as the lingua franca. In Canada, with two national languages currently recognized (although Indigenous languages should also have their place), there is an imbalance in the benefits of publishing in one language versus the other. This issue is particularly reflected in information science, where only two university faculties use French as a language of instruction: the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Montreal is French-speaking, and the School of Information Studies at the University of Ottawa is bilingual. The other Canadian programs recognized by the American Library Association are all taught in English. LIS teaching faculty who publish in Canada therefore include relatively few French-speaking researchers, and hence fewer readers and researchers who will cite French-language work and allow it to be better integrated into scholarly conversations. Considering this limitation, writing in English makes it possible to reach an international scholarly community.

Also, the vast majority of professional librarians in French-speaking universities do not have to publish to obtain permanent employment or promotion. Many of their librarian colleagues must publish in order not to perish in English-speaking or bilingual Canadian universities. For librarians who must publish, it may be more interesting to publish in English to facilitate recognition by their peers. Larivière (2018) noted:

au-delà des enjeux de diffusion des connaissances et de lectorat, l'acte de communiquer les résultats de ses travaux de recherche dans une langue ou une autre est indissociable du capital scientifique qui y est associé, certaines langues – dont l'anglais aujourd'hui – possédant un capital scientifique plus élevé que d'autres dans la plupart des domaines.

[beyond the challenges of disseminating knowledge and readership, the act of communicating the results of one's research work in one language or another is inseparable from the scientific capital associated with it, certain languages—including English today—possessing a higher scientific capital than others in most fields.] (p. 340)

A recent ACFAS report noted that if:

l'anglais est utile, [...] le recours exclusif à cette langue est susceptible de transformer les objets de recherche (les recherches sur les enjeux communautaires locaux sont parfois difficiles à exporter en anglais) et d'empêcher le partage des connaissances auprès des acteurs locaux, souvent éminemment concernés par nos recherches.

[English is useful, [...] the exclusive use of this language is likely to transform the objects of research (research on local community issues that is sometimes difficult to export in English) and to prevent the sharing of knowledge with local actors, often highly concerned by our research.] (St-Onge et al., 2021, p. 7)

The report goes on to say that "research in French in a minority setting needs not only specific conditions but also recognition and enhancement" (St-Onge et al., 2021, p. 7).

*Partnership* positions itself by encouraging the dissemination of research in French and contributing to its vitality, development, and appreciation. The articles published here have the attention of a dedicated volunteer team of professionals who work to ensure the quality of the articles. Our journal allows for easy dissemination, with articles being freely accessible and indexed in the *Érudit* database. By publishing in French, we ensure articles reach an audience that is certainly more restricted but that is no less in need of knowing the results of local and national research.

The articles in *Partnership* are divided into three sections that have their own objectives. The Features section is for debates, discussions, and ad hoc sharing. Manuscripts in English are revised by the Features section editor, and French manuscripts are revised by the French editor. It is a great place to share your latest initiatives and retrospective analyses and to discuss current issues. The other two sections are peer reviewed. Theory and Research aims to publish in-depth articles, and all questions and methodology are welcome; articles are judged solely on their quality and relevance. The Innovations in Practice section highlights publications that describe and evaluate initiatives in libraries and archives. More information is available on the journal's website, under [About the Journal](#). *Partnership* is particularly focused on Canada, but remains open to the world.

I would like to take advantage of this editorial to sincerely thank all the volunteers who make *Partnership* possible. The team is committed to serving the journal's mission to disseminate library and information science research in Canada. The team is composed of copyeditors, proofreaders, a translator, a community manager in social media and web design, editors, and writers. All these professionals invest their time and talent to promote quality research. I would especially like to thank the peer reviewers, who anonymously (through a double-blind review process) devote many hours to reading and considering manuscripts, then offer rich and judicious comments. I am often impressed by the generosity of the reviewers, who use tact, diplomacy, and empathy to support unidentified peers. This work is crucial and ensures the quality of the publications.

*Partnership* is thus an ecosystem whose mission is to publish articles and make them accessible to readers in Canada and abroad: in English and in French.

## **References**

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