

CALJ – A Short History

The early days of the Canadian Association of Learned Journals (CALJ) can be traced to a meeting at Laval University in 1989. The Association began to function in 1990-1991, with the support of the Social Sciences Federation of Canada (known today as the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences—CFHSS).

By-laws were drafted in 1991 at the Learned Societies Congress at Queen's University, adopted in 1992, and proclaimed official in January 1993.

From the start, CALJ's vocation has focused on the well-being of learned journals: "To represent, develop and support the academic community of Canadian learned journals in disseminating original research and scholarly information, and to promote intellectual culture in Canada and internationally."

Over the years, CALJ has provided a forum for its members to contribute to and to learn and benefit from Canada's rich intellectual culture. The Association, through constant interaction with government agencies and universities, contributes to a better awareness of the accomplishments of its members and makes their needs known.

In 1998, CALJ published the *Best Practices Handbooks for Canadian Learned Journals* and the *Financial Management Handbooks for Journals*. This was done in collaboration with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and with the financial support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

In December 2002, CALJ prepared a Policy Statement on Academic Recognition for Editors. It is worth noting that this has been a recurrent issue for CALJ members, as pointed out by Jesse Vorst (see Past President): "...--and promptly initiated a survey on university recognition for academic editors."

A letter was mailed in February 2003 to about 80 vice-presidents and provosts of academic institutions in Canada (signed by the President and the President-Elect of CALJ), emphasizing the

important role of editors of learned journals, and their contribution to the dissemination of research in Canada. The December 2002 policy statement was joined to that letter. The urgent need of time-release or other forms of support to editors of learned journals, as well as recognition of their contribution to annual reports and promotion processes, were emphasized.

In 2003, the decision was taken to incorporate CALJ to give it better means to serve the interests of its members. The by-laws were revised and adopted at the annual June Congress in Halifax. CALJ became officially incorporated as not-for-profit organization on January 23, 2004.

In the new millennium, CALJ's activities kept growing. Issues of electronic publishing, copyrights, digital rights, and open access became more acute in Canada, and in the world.

CALJ represents the interests of learned journals in many consultation processes. It also helps establish a better dialogue through the input that CALJ members can bring to these consultations, based on their experiences.

Following the path of technological changes and interest from scholars and society in a new global era, CALJ launched its first Web site in 2000 with the help of Athabasca University.

The new Web site, still located at Athabasca University, was launched in January 2006, with a financial contribution from the Canada Magazine Fund at Canadian Heritage. This interactive Web site is expected to enhance cross-communication with the membership, funding agencies and the public at large.