

Ottawa, December 17, 2004

Dr. Marc Renaud  
President  
Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada  
350 Albert Street  
P.O. Box 1610 STN B  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 6G4

Dear Dr Renaud:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Association of Learned Journals/L'Association canadienne des revues savantes (CALJ/ACRS) and I am very pleased to inform you that the Association strongly supports collaborating with the Synergies group and SSHRC, to better serve the interests of its members.

CALJ members share with SSHRC the belief that new communication technologies create an exciting opportunity to increase the visibility of Canadian research in Canada and abroad. Given new economic and technological conditions and the aspiration of young generations of students, researchers, and many others to find information online, we welcome the idea of a wide dissemination of and publicity for Canadian scholarly research and the prospect of increased visibility through open access, as initiated by SSHRC. We are fully in support of a collective approach to on-line-publication and look forward to working with SSHRC on building a unified strategy that takes into account the diverse nature of the ownership, resources and cultures of the individual journals represented by CALJ/ACRS.

To that end, we would enthusiastically join with others in elaborating the mechanisms that will arise from the foundation of SSHRC commitment and would collaborate as a full partner in the Synergies project. Our support is grounded in the understanding that this very valuable initiative would provide journals wishing to go online with financial and technical support appropriate to their means and resources.

We would like to stress that Association members have been familiar with Synergies for some time now. We have seen it mature through consultations with various stakeholders. Synergies has kept its momentum by building new understanding and a shared vision of enhancing Canadian research through new technological means. We feel the overall infrastructure project seems to offer a great deal to publishers of social science journals and that the segment to be funded by SSHRC is an extremely important one. Recently incorporated, the Association is well placed to take a strong leadership role on behalf of those journals ready to go online now and to prepare the way for those journals which, because of such concerns as reader demographics and funding, are not ready at this point in time.

Finally, we think the collaborative and regional diversity of the Synergies infrastructure bodes well and would be a uniquely Canadian solution for the future of research dissemination by the social sciences. By underpinning this infrastructure, SSHRC would signify to all stakeholders that it is moving forward in its transformation in a positive and prescient manner.

Yours sincerely,

Brigitte Lévy  
President, CALJ/ACRS