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## CONFERENCE 2025

# Solidarity or Bust: Resisting the Corporatization of Libraries and Archives

**October 3 - 4, 2025**

**Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel**

Join librarians and archivists from Canada's post-secondary education sector to fight corporatization. This conference will offer a mix of panels and skills-building activities to strengthen our collective bargaining power, increase collegial governance practices, and enhance organizing capacities. Attendees will learn tools and strategies to build solidarity, advocate for transparency and shared governance, and defend the integrity of libraries and archives.

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## Agenda

### Friday, October 3

07:30 – 09:00 **Breakfast** (*provided*)  
**Registration**

09:00 – 09:30 **Territorial Acknowledgment and Welcome**

09:30 – 10:30 **Session One**  
**Keynote and Q&A**

10:30 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session Two**  
**Panel I: Corporatization of Libraries**

Libraries and archives are heavily impacted by corporate practices in universities. Secretive procurement practices, the exclusion of librarians and archivists from decision-making, administrative bloat, and pressure on archivists to support fundraising goals are examples of pressures affecting the quality of education that librarians and archivists can provide. What does corporatization look like today? How can we build solidarity with colleagues to resist these destructive practices?

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12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch** (*provided*)

13:30 – 15:00 **Session Three**

**Panel II: Artificial Intelligence**

Artificial intelligence systems purport to perform our labour, including providing reference help, describing records, creating search strategies, suggesting search keywords and databases, and more. Employers are looking to AI to achieve efficiencies, enhance existing services, and save on labour costs. What are the risks to higher education? What ethics and equity concerns need to be considered? How can we make librarian and archivist labour more visible and valuable? How can labour activists best be prepared?

15:00 – 15:30 **Break**

15:30 – 17:00 **Session Four**

**Panel III: Solidarity –Organizing, Resistance, and Power**

A panel for discussing the state of labour in Canada's academic libraries and archives, past, present, and future. What are the challenges we face in organizing and building solidarity? Panellists will discuss this question from various perspectives including unions that are only in the organizing stage right through to those who took recent strike action. We will also discuss trends uncovered through the CAUT listening tour of librarians and archivists.

17:30 – 18:30 **Reception**

## **Saturday, October 4**

07:30 – 09:00 **Breakfast** (*provided*)

09:00 – 10:30 **Session Five**

**Workshop I: Organizing for Power – the Tools of Resistance**

Mini workshop on 'Organizing for Power,' which is a joint initiative of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and the late Jane McAlevey. The program equips organizers with the skills to build strong, disciplined movements capable of winning measurable victories through well-planned campaigns.

- 10:30 – 11:00 **Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Session Six**  
**Workshop II: Collective Bargaining – Organizing Part 2**  
This workshop builds on the Organizing for Power skills from Workshop I. Once we've mapped our workplaces and we understand what is important to colleagues, we start planning strategies to win. One way to achieve success is through collective bargaining. In this workshop we will discuss real-world librarian and archivist examples and do simulation exercises.
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch** (*provided*)
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Session Seven**  
**Workshop III: Collegial Governance**  
Building on themes discussed during the preceding panel, group exercises will build participants knowledge, skills, and capacity to engage effectively in collegial governance.
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Break**
- 15:30 – 16:45 **Session Eight**  
**Panel IV: Solidarity 2.0**  
Organizing entails building solidarity between colleagues, across institutions, across working units, between faculty and librarians and archivists, and across regions. This panel focuses on non-traditional labour solidarity with groups that are outside academic librarian and archivist unions.
- 16:45 – 17:00 **Session Nine**  
**Closing Remarks**  
Summarising and closing remarks from the CAUT President and Chair of the CAUT Librarians' and Archivists' Committee.