



**For immediate release**

**\$47 million for digital scholarly content to transform social sciences and humanities research at Canadian universities**

**Vancouver, June 3, 2008** — Thanks to a joint \$47 million investment by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), eight provinces and 67 universities, nearly 900,000 researchers, scholars and students in Canadian universities will gain desktop access to an extensive body of national and international material.

With the click of a button, researchers and students in Canada will be able to access, search, sort and consult a rich digital collection of scholarly content, ranging from books, letters and historical documents to music scores, maps, artworks and visual materials. Many of these were not previously accessible to Canadians, or were only offered with limited access in print version.

This investment is the work of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), a consortium of universities dedicated to expanding digital content in support of the academic research enterprise in Canada.

“Providing access to this wealth of scholarly material is a critical step in enabling researchers and students across the nation to further understand our society and how Canadians are shaping the world we live in,” said Dr. David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Victoria and Chair of the CRKN Board of Directors. “The newly-gained access to this material will have a profound impact on the way Canadians conduct research, collaborate and turn ideas into a better, more innovative society.”

Increased access to social sciences and humanities knowledge is essential to enhancing the capacity of nations to tackle complex, global issues that are, by their very nature, interdisciplinary. By creating a national infrastructure to access digital knowledge in many areas of social and human activity, the investment will greatly improve the ability of Canadians to undertake interdisciplinary research and contribute to the search for solutions to these pressing issues.

“The Canada Foundation for Innovation recognizes the critical contribution that researchers in the social sciences and humanities make to Canada and the world,” said Dr. Elliot Phillipson, President and CEO of the CFI. “These world-class knowledge management tools provide a partnership that is essential to Canada’s ongoing success in the knowledge-based economy, enabling institutions and researchers to conduct the leading-edge research that will benefit all Canadians.”

The funding allowed CRKN to negotiate with international and Canadian scholarly publishers of 14 major collections, bringing global knowledge to Canada and making accessible in digital form some of the finest in Canadian published scholarly material. Acquired both as one-time only purchases as well as through multi-year license agreements, this rich knowledge base will be delivered to the desktop of every Canadian researcher, wherever in this nation they may be found.

“This is a major advancement for Canada’s academic community in the digital age,” said Deb deBruijn, CRKN Executive Director. “The partnership of the CFI, the provinces and the universities has helped reshape the very marketplace for digital scholarly materials. As a result, Canadian researchers and students will now be able to access materials that would otherwise not have become widely available in digital form.”

Social sciences and humanities researchers and students at 67 Canadian universities will have access to the new content by Fall 2008.

**About CRKN:** The Canadian Research Knowledge Network is a partnership of Canadian universities, dedicated to expanding digital content for the academic research enterprise in Canada. Through the coordinated leadership of librarians, researchers and administrators, CRKN undertakes large-scale content acquisition and licensing initiatives in order to build knowledge infrastructure and research capacity in Canada’s universities. For more information on CRKN visit our website at [www.ResearchKnowledge.ca](http://www.ResearchKnowledge.ca).

- 30 -

For photos of the event, please [CLICK HERE](#)

For more information, please contact:

Louisa Hood  
Communications Officer  
Canadian Research Knowledge Network  
Tel.: 613.907.7031  
Cell.: 613.851.5163  
[lhood@ResearchKnowledge.ca](mailto:lhood@ResearchKnowledge.ca)  
[www.ResearchKnowledge.ca](http://www.ResearchKnowledge.ca)

Yves Melanson  
Coordinator, Media Relations  
Canada Foundation for Innovation  
Tel: 613.996.3160  
Cel: 613.447.1723  
[yves.melanson@innovation.ca](mailto:yves.melanson@innovation.ca)  
[www.innovation.ca](http://www.innovation.ca)