

Pacific Rim Research Libraries Alliance (PRRLA) 2026 Meeting  
University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
September 14-16, 2026

*Call for Presentation Proposals*

## From Cultural Memory to Knowledge Futures: Libraries in an Era of Intelligent Systems

PRRLA brings together research libraries from across Asia and the Pacific to reflect on their evolving roles in an increasingly digital and AI-driven world. Libraries in the region face distinctive opportunities and challenges shaped by linguistic diversity, cultural richness, uneven technological capacity, and rapidly changing research and policy environments. This meeting explores eight interconnected themes that speak to these realities, focusing on how libraries of all sizes and contexts can responsibly steward cultural memory while embracing intelligent systems to enhance discovery, access, and engagement.

Together, these themes examine the infrastructures, practices, ethical frameworks, and partnerships needed to safeguard cultural materials, strengthen trust in knowledge institutions, and ensure that emerging technologies serve scholarly communities and the public good. By bridging preservation, access, and innovation, the conference invites participants to collectively imagine resilient, inclusive, and future-oriented knowledge systems for the region and beyond.

We welcome proposals from all PRRLA members for presentations at the meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Proposals should include:

- Presentation title
- Presenters' names, titles, and institutional affiliation
- Presenters' e-mail address
- Brief biographical notes of the presenters (max. 100 words)
- A short abstract (max. 250 words); may engage with one or more of the themes
- Preference (if any) for short 15-20 minute presentation, panel, or lightning talk

Please note that presentations will be in-person only. **Proposals should be sent to [ulo@uvic.ca](mailto:ulo@uvic.ca) by end of day, Sunday, April 19, 2026.** Proposals will be evaluated by the Program Committee and may be combined into panels and/or lightning talk sessions.

The Program Committee will review submissions and notify presenters by Monday, May 18, 2026.

## Conference Themes

- 1. Stewardship of Cultural Memory**  
Preserving and sustaining tangible and intangible cultural heritage across diverse linguistic, historical, and community contexts.
- 2. Intelligent Systems and Ethical Innovation**  
Applying AI and automated technologies in responsible, transparent, and human-centered ways that align with library values.
- 3. Discovery, Access, and Knowledge Visibility**  
Advancing discoverability and access through digital platforms, metadata practices, multilingual systems, and inclusive design.
- 4. Equity, Inclusion, and Community Partnership**  
Centering diverse communities, including Indigenous and underrepresented groups, in the creation, stewardship, and use of knowledge.
- 5. Trust, Governance, and Knowledge Integrity**  
Strengthening ethical frameworks, policy, and institutional trust around privacy, intellectual freedom, and data stewardship.
- 6. Resilient and Sustainable Knowledge Infrastructures**  
Building durable, adaptable infrastructures for preservation, access, and long-term stewardship amid technological and environmental change.
- 7. Capacity Building and Collaborative Futures**  
Developing skills, leadership, and partnerships that enable libraries of all sizes to shape shared regional and global knowledge futures
- 8. Other Current Topics Around PRRLA Libraries**  
Our libraries and profession is changing rapidly. Share how you and your organizations are evolving to meet current and future needs.

The questions embedded in each theme are designed to inspire meaningful dialogue, highlight shared challenges, and foster innovative approaches to advancing library missions in the digital and AI era.

**Thank you and we look forward to receiving many outstanding presentation proposals for our meeting in Victoria!**