

# ALPS Annual Report: 2009-2010

By Katherine Miller.

## The ALPS Executive for 2009-2010

- Chair: Katherine Miller (UBC)
- Chair-Elect: Hope Power (SFU)
- Continuing Education Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year: Nicole Aerts (Royal Roads)
- Continuing Education Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year: Ophelia Ma (UVic)
- Continuing Education Director, 1<sup>st</sup> Year: Todd Rowlett (VCC)
- Recording Secretary: Susan Paterson (UBC)
- SLAIS student representative: Tara Stieglitz

## New Member of Executive

The ALPS Executive welcomed returning executive member Ophelia Ma (UVic) replacing Nicole Aerts (Royal Roads University) effective October 19, 2009. Thanks to Nicole Aerts for her active service to ALPS over the last year and a half! We wish her all the best in her new position in a school library. Thanks to Ophelia Ma for joining the executive mid-year and providing her leadership and experience to the executive.

## ALPS December meeting

On Dec 4, 2009 at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, BC, ALPS held a workshop on the theme of Sustainability in Libraries. Presentations included:

- "Sustainable Library Careers" by *Janis McKenzie*, the Head of Reference at the Simon Fraser University Library  
  
Libraries are changing, and so are library jobs. In order to build and maintain sustainable careers, librarians need to know what's coming, what might come, and how to position themselves for the coming changes. In this mini-workshop participants discussed and had a chance to try out strategies for envisioning possible library futures.
- "Take David Suzuki to Work!" by *Aryne Sheppard*, the Manager of Community Leadership at the David Suzuki Foundation.

More and more Canadians want to work in organizations that share their environmental values and are demanding that their workplaces incorporate sustainability into day-to-day practices. Post-secondary institutions can act as sustainability role models not only for their students, but for the larger community they serve. The [David Suzuki at Work](#) program makes it easy to increase energy efficiency, reduce waste and engage staff in sustainable behaviour at work. We learned about how our libraries can benefit by reducing its environmental footprint, inspiring patrons and fostering a happier, healthier and more productive work environment.

## ALPSlink – Laud a Librarian Contest

Annual contest to promote sharing of learning objects. Awards were presented at the December meeting. See: [http://www.eln.bc.ca/irl/link\\_fall09.pdf](http://www.eln.bc.ca/irl/link_fall09.pdf)

## BCLA Conference Planning

ALPS Executive Member, Todd Rowlett represented ALPS on the BCLA Conference Planning Committee. ALPS Executive reviewed all submissions for the BCLA Conference and sponsored sessions of interest to ALPS members.

## BCLA Board recommendation for restructuring

In response to a request by BCLA President Ken Cooley and BCLA Vice President/President Elect, Marjorie Mitchell, who attended the ALPS Executive meeting on September 14, 2009, the ALPS Executive has actively communicated with the ALPS membership to seek feedback on the following questions:

- ALPS position on holding a BCLA board seat
- ALPS membership composition
- ALPS mandate

The ALPS Executive communicated with membership through several emails since September 2009, in-

person at our December 4, 2009 meeting, through a wiki and finally a survey<sup>1</sup>, which was available January 15, 2010 to February 13, 2010. The following is a summary of the responses:

- 1) Maintain the ALPS BCLA Board Seat.  
61.4% agree or strongly agree with the statement: "It is important to me that as a section of the BCLA, ALPS maintains a board of director's seat."<sup>2</sup>
- 2) Continue with the Public Service Mandate.  
68.4% agree or strongly agree with the statement: "I would like ALPS to continue with its current mandate of focusing on the public service aspects of work in libraries."<sup>3</sup>
- 3) Keep the Name: ALPS & Membership Composition  
While we welcome all library staff from all sectors and roles within the library community to our continuing education events and meetings, the survey respondents emphasized at several points in the survey the need for a professional association dedicated to academic librarians in public service in BC.

66.7% disagree or strongly disagree with ALPS changing its name to Academic Library Staff in Public Service.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There were 57 responses to the online survey; members were asked to respond via emails circulated through the ALPS listserv.

<sup>2</sup> 17.5% disagree or strongly disagree; 21.1% neither agree nor disagree

<sup>3</sup> 24.6% disagree or strongly disagree; 7% neither agree nor disagree

<sup>4</sup> 5.3% agree or strongly agree; 28.1% neither agree nor disagree

60.7% disagree or strongly disagree with ALPS changing its name to Academic Library Staff.<sup>5</sup>

45.7% disagree or strongly disagree with the statement: "I would like ALPS to clarify/emphasize that its membership is open to all library staff (library technicians, librarian assistants, librarians and all library employees) that have a public services role as part of their work or research interests."<sup>6</sup>

47.4% disagree or strongly disagree with the statement: "I would like ALPS to expand its mandate and membership to all academic library staff – not just those in a public services role."<sup>7</sup>

The ALPS Executive reported back to the BCLA Board that the ALPS Membership have clearly identified the importance they place on having a board seat, and maintaining the public service mandate and section membership composition.

*Katherine Miller is the Reference Librarian at Woodward Library, UBC.*

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<sup>5</sup> 16.1% agree or strongly agree; 23.2% neither agree nor disagree

<sup>6</sup> 36.8% agree or strongly agree; 17.5% neither agree nor disagree

<sup>7</sup> 33.3% agree or strongly agree; 19.3% neither agree nor disagree