

**BC Academic Libraries Section
Annual Winter Meeting**

University of British Columbia, November 29, 2019

BCALS Exec PRESENT: Adena Brons, Ean Henninger, Chloe Riley, Melissa Smith, Reba Ouimet, Ioana Liuta, Hannah Tanna, Ryan Casciano

REGRETS: Kate Shuttleworth

Agenda:

1. **Call to Order at 2:00pm**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
 - a. Adopted with no amendments/changes
3. **Discussion Items:**
 - a. Summer Survey (Adena)
 - i. We surveyed BCALS members and non-members to identify priorities for BCALS for the coming year and in the future. We received 88 responses.
 1. 76% of respondents were current members of the BCALS listserv, 15% were not, and 8% were not sure.
 2. Roughly 60% of respondents had attended a BCALS event in the past, with the December/Winter meeting being the most common (28% of all respondents), followed by the pub socials (12%).
 3. We asked about what activities you would like to see from the BCALS; this will continue to help us guide our decision-making for the year. The top three results from this question were:
 - a. Greater use of listserv for information sharing
 - b. Professional development events in person
 - c. Professional development events online
 - b. BCLA Perspectives column (Adena)
 - i. We launched a regular column in BCLA Perspectives: "Getting to know ..." This column profiles academic library staff across the province, bringing attention to the work in academic libraries being done in BC.
 - ii. If you would like to be interviewed/profiled, get in touch with our exec: bcals@bcla.bc.ca
 - c. BC Libraries Conference: Libraries, Democracy, and Action (Adena)
 - i. April 15-17, 2020 Sheraton Vancouver Airport in Richmond, BC. Proposals are accepted until Dec 2, 2019.

- d. BC ALS Outstanding Contribution Award 2019 (Adena)
 - i. This award honours an academic worker or team who has made an outstanding contribution to their institution or the library community.
 - ii. We will be putting out a call for volunteers to sit on the Awards Committee (chaired by Adena) in the new year, followed by a call for nominees.
 - e. 2019/2020 Events (Adena)
 - i. Resume and Cover Letter Clinic
 - 1. We intend to run this event for the third time in Spring 2020. Last year's event was open to iSchool students, but we would like to extend the event to Langara and UFV students.
 - 2. We will be looking for volunteers from library staff willing to give feedback to students in the clinic.
 - 3. Suggestion: could we give students a generic job ad, so that students can write a cover letter and get a critique? Maybe, we can suggest students bring the job ad as well as the cover letter.
 - 4. Also an opportunity to connect with BCLA Mentorship committee on support for resumes.
4. Upcoming BC ALS Executive Positions - to be voted for by/at the 2020 BCALS AGM
- a. Chair Elect (1 position, 2 year term)
 - i. *The Chair-Elect shall assist the Chairperson in his/her duties and shall preside at meetings of the Organization in the absence of the Chair. The Chair-Elect shall also perform the duties of and exercise the power of the Chair in the Chair's absence or disability. The Chair-Elect shall work as a general Executive Member, with the specific responsibility for maintaining membership records and membership recruitment. The Chair-Elect will also monitor the Financial Records of the organization, in coordination with the Association's Treasurer. The Chair-Elect will also act as the Returning Officer during elections.*
 - b. Continuing Education Coordinator (1 position, 2 year term)
 - i. *The Education Coordinators shall review various programs and educational ideas and recommend these to the Executive for approval. The Education Coordinators may strike and will work with committee(s) to establish workshops and other educational activities and opportunities for members. The Education Coordinators bring important topics to the Executive for review and approval.*
 - c. Recording Secretary (1 position, 1 year term with possibility of renewal)
 - i. *The Recorder will maintain records of meetings, business, and members and maintain the safe custody of these minutes and records. The Recorder will ensure communication to members, and communications to the Association and other agencies as appropriate.*
 - d. Student Representative (2 positions, 1 year term)

- i. Open to SLAIS, UFV, and Langara students

5. Institution Update Report Roundtable

- a. UBC-O: Barbara Sobol has just completed [a report](#) on her province-wide study on academic library service models. She invites folks [to join her listserv](#).
- b. Alexander College: revamping info lit classroom sessions (for consistency, adding more activity-based sessions).
- c. UBC: Music, Art, Architecture Library is in the process of moving some out of scope collections (such as math journals) to other libraries
- d. UBC: Education Library's Critical Kits: developing learning kits on problematic books, themes, or topics for critical literacy development. Will be collaborating with Xwi7xwa Library on next steps.
- e. Langara College Library: an articulated skeleton is a new item in the Library's collection, available for check out! They used social media to run a naming contest, posing skeleton in campaign around the library. (Name that won: Albert Spinestein.) This campaign promoted new collection, and also gained more followers in one month than any month before that.
 - i. Are there differences in users on social media platforms? Yes; undergrad students are on Instagram.
- f. TRU: offering free menstrual products in bathrooms in the Library. Started doing this because it was identified as a barrier - no longer any dispensers, only available at select campus spaces that are open 9-5. Pilot started in Sept: added to 3 women's, 2 men's, 2 all-gender bathrooms. Products are being taken from all bathrooms: ~800 pads, ~700 tampons. Budget is \$500/semester; they've just reached that. Great response; hope for momentum to build across institution.
- g. UBC: Research Commons recently opened new space in Koerner Library. Two new positions (Data Librarian, Digital Scholarship Librarian); developing further services to support researchers at UBC.
 - i. Is the space restricted or key access? No, it's freely open.
- h. SFU: Media and Maker Commons opened; laser cutter, printing press, greenscreen room, podcast studio, VR room, 5 3D printers, embroidery/sewing machine, open tables for making. Makerspace Librarian + grad student employees staff the space 9-5; labs are closed when staff are gone, but open space is available outside of those times.
- i. BC ELN: AskAway has had a busy term: 15-20% increase this semester. Opening at 9am was a change this year. Starting to explore options for proactive chat; has been shown to increase usage, also increases the complexity of questions (as users are prompted if they have any questions rather than coming to AskAway with fully-formed existing questions). If this moves forward, it would start as a pilot with a few interested institutions. Also BC ELN is collaborating with institutions over the transition to 7th edition of APA.
- j. Langara: Update from Open Education Librarians Group. For OA Week, the group collaboratively hosted Can We Decolonize Open with Jessie Loyer at KPU.

Recording is [now available online](#). At Langara, focus has been to grow open initiatives. Conducted a study on how open textbooks affect international student success; looking to make that information available.

- k. Columbia College: huge number of international students. APA guide will be coming out next semester (earlier than some others who are waiting until later); this is due to the hands-on work they do with international students on citation. Anticipate that faculty may be working with previous editions; want to be able to back students up if there is conflict.
- l. SFU: Planning for APA transition soon. Launching a Decolonizing the Library Interest Group; this started with Decolonizing Instruction practice sessions over the past summer. The group will be interested in partnering with different groups within SFU Library: instruction, cataloguing, others.
- m. SFU: partnering on a collaborative Fair Dealing Week event in February: a half-day symposium on copyright in the creative arts. Will be recorded or live-streamed.
- n. University Canada West: rapid growth: 400-1500 students in two years. Space constraints! Will be moving to new building in new year near Granville Bridge.
 - i. Will move include expansion to library collections, staff? Not to collections, but staff have been growing as needs grow.
- o. SFU: using LibCal appointment booking system: students can directly book an appointment from the LibGuide. Also weeding the curriculum collection.
 - i. Audience comment: started using the LibCal embedded in LibGuides a year ago and saw one-on-one appointments skyrocket.
- p. University Canada West: University Access Program: bridging program to enter university. Working with instructors to have 3 sessions with students: orientation, touch-point partway through term, plus a final touch.
- q. Langara: Library instruction report. Aimed at libraries, shared with college admin. Outlines info lit instruction, introduces ACRL framework & active learning, shares stats, identifies pain points. Also: created forms for instructors to request instruction (in LibWizard). Launched the Library Activity Library. Set up a simple student question form for help requests. Staffing changes: hired new Reference Librarians.
- r. SFU: Trying out a new instruction technique: putting up list of topics and asking students what else they want to know about. One faculty member wanted students to spend a 3 hour class in library; librarian was on hand for pop-up appointments. Assessment: interested in who is in the library at Vancouver campus: will be conducting a study on the perception gap between what students want and what librarians think they want. (Based on study from Young and Kelly 2018).
- s. SFU: User Engagement Librarian just started at SFU Surrey.
- t. BCLA Board update: Strategic Planning is beginning. Draft will be coming out soon; will be ratified at the AGM at the BCLA Conference. Some priorities that have emerged in initial discussions:

- i. Awareness of the fact that we're a provincial association - how can the Board advocate for/include remote participation so we are more representative of our membership.
- ii. Notice that academic library staff are less engaged in BCLA (Conference, Board members, etc.). Working on addressing this & extend encouragement to academic colleagues to participate in local events.

Thank you very much to UBC for hosting this event!

Motion to close at 3:02 pm.

Next exec meeting: No exec meeting in December; our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2020