

BCLA Readers' Advisory Interest Group

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, May 17, 2016, Metrotown branch, Burnaby Public Library

Attended by: Jenny Fry, Co-Chair, Surrey; Shelley Wilson-Roberts, New Westminster; Barbara Edwards, Vancouver; Stephanie Hong, Langara rep; Claire Westlake, North Vancouver District; Virginia McCreedy, Port Moody; Meghan Savage, Surrey; Ana Calabresi, Burnaby; Fiona Hunt, Douglas College; Chloe Humphreys; Lori Nick, Fraser Valley; Bryce Dunn, Langara; Matthew Murray; Alan Woo, SLAIS; Meghan Whyte, Surrey/Vancouver

Regrets: Tara Matsuzaki, Co-Chair, West Vancouver; Chloe Riley, SLAIS rep; Caroline Crowe, Vancouver; Winifred Chong, Vancouver

The next meeting is Tuesday June 21 2016, from 9:15-11am at BPL's Metrotown branch.

Election results:

- Shelley Wilson-Roberts is the new co-chair.
- Fiona Hunt is the new Education Liaison.
- Barbara Edwards is the new Recruitment Chair.

BCLA Conference: debrief. Our session went very well (90-100 people attended).

Interesting RA tidbits:

- Meghan S. just started a [Litsy](#) account (combo of Instagram and Good Reads). She loved seeing the reading tags at the BCLA conference.
- Matthew: the Book Club for Masochists is doing spy fiction this month. News: SLAIS is involved in new media studies undergraduate degree at UBC. Invited by ALA to participate in a professional development opportunity for librarians and educators on graphic novels at the San Diego Public Library for San Diego Comic Con.
- Alan: co-manages [This Book is RAD](#) blog on Wordpress. RAD = Readers' Advisory Diversity
- Fiona: running an ESL Book Club at West Vancouver
- Barbara is hosting an author reading with Michael Kluckner (Toshiko).
- Ana: Emma Watson's feminist book club on Good Reads, hugely popular, global, active forums, monthly titles. She suggested that we add our photos and names to personalize our Instagram posts, and ask more questions of our followers.
- Virginia wanted to know who else is doing an adult summer reading club? Good SRC theme to tie into this year (Travel). New Westminster, North Vancouver District (Book a Trip, branch winners, book marks), FVRL (adult reading record, after 7 days of reading they get a draw entry slip)
- Claire: adult summer reading club, staff picks in shelf talker project. Pitch for Loan Stars: please sign up, if you haven't already. You don't have to read the whole book (no one has time for that), you can

also read reviews. Ask Claire or Barbara if you have any questions.

- Lori: staff picks are popular, but trying to do public picks (PoCo Read) and that isn't very popular.
- Jenny: [Poetic Places](#) app (UK)

Sept/Nov/Dec meeting space: Ana will find out if we can continue to use BPL

RA in a Day 2016

- Tues Oct 18, 2016 from 9:30am-4pm at VPL – Alice MacKay room, downstairs
- Keynote speakers: discussion. Barbara emailed Catherine Sheldrick-Ross (University of Western Ontario in London) to see if she is interested/available, no answer yet. If so, we'll contact SLAIS and see if collaboration is possible again. Another suggestions: Toronto author Ann Walmsley – she wrote "The Prison Book Club" – Barbara will reach out to her.

However, in re-drafting the agenda, we may not have room for a keynote speaker anymore (see below).

- Draft agenda: use flip charts for themed recommended reads, 2 rounds
 - 9:30am – welcome/introduction
 - 9:45-10:45am: RA and cataloguing (interactive): Samuel
 - 10:45-11:15: Loan Stars (Claire and Barbara)
 - 11:15-11:30: Coffee break
 - 11:30-12:30: Speed-dating through the genres
 - Travel/Adventure: Tara and Ana
 - Fiction in Translation: Mexican/Latin American: Meghan W. and Ana
 - Non-fiction graphic novels: Matthew
 - Mindfulness: Fiona
 - LGBTQ+ and crossover YA fiction: Jenny
 - 12:30-1:15pm: Lunch
 - 1:15-1:45pm: Bookslam, open up to audience with advance invitation
 - 1:45-2:45pm: RA Training in Genres: one per table, 15 minute discussion, switch tables, 15 minute discussion, repeat
 - Science Fiction
 - Stand-Alone Fantasy
 - Cozy Mysteries
 - Historical Fiction
 - Paranormal Romance
 - Psychological Thrillers
 - Westerns
 - Appeal Factors
 - 2:45-3pm: Coffee break
 - 3-3:50pm: Blog panel: Samantha Mills (Matthew will ask), Alan Woo, Anna Ferri, Mikale (Meghan W. will ask)
- Food & beverage: discussion
 - Fruit platters (morning and afternoon)
 - Bagels and cream cheese (morning; easy on the jam this time)

- Tea/coffee/water
- Cookies/squares (afternoon)

Blog:

- May: New Westminster
- June: Vancouver
- July: North Vancouver
- August: Langara
- September: Librarians at Large (Chloe and Alan)
- October: Burnaby
- November: Vancouver
- December: Fraser Valley

RAIG RA Training Survey 2016: Results

108 responses (101 complete)

Burnaby	11
Coquitlam	2
Delta	1
Fernie	1
Fraser Valley	1
Grand Forks	2
Kamloops	3
Langley	2
Lower Mainland	1
Mackenzie	2
Maple Ridge	1
Mission	1
Nelson	4
New Westminster	2
North Vancouver	4
Northern BC	1
Port Moody	8
Prince George	2
Prince Rupert	1
Richmond	16
Rossland	1
Salmon Arm	1
Savona	1
Squamish	7
Surrey	5
Terrace	4
Trail	1
Tumbler Ridge	1
Vancouver	19
Victoria	2

Library roles

Librarian	42
Casual librarian	9
Head cheese	7
Circulation	16
Clerks	12
Student librarian	1
Technicians	14
Coordinators	2

RA skill levels

Beginner	25
Intermediate	58
Advanced	22
Not sure	3

Received RA training in-library?

Yes = 41

No = 67

Preferred way to learn RA

Webinar	46
BCLA conference session	34
In-person workshop	73
RA in a Day	35
RAIG listserv	10
University/college course	15
RAIG blog	14
Other	13

In-Library RA training

RA Workshops approximately every 2 years and Novelist Webinars
Novelist readers advisory workshop
Workshops, industry events
Some staff training on different websites to use
Two 1 hour workshops over 3 years
At VPL we have a RA training page that is required reviewing for all staff; I have also attended numerous RA webinars facilitated by the system.
Mostly tips and tricks using the tools we have in house (e.g. Novelist)
Minimal amount - mentorship from a now-retired technician, and occasional webinars
About 3 RA workshops over the past 10 years
system-developed half-day workshop on RA basics
I have completed the CLTP Reader's Advisory course.

RA Seminar
Former data base options, Bibliocommons, word of mouth
Links to Novelist talks, links to RA sites
Novelist webinar, RA in half a day seminar.
RA workshops
RA in a half day; webinars
Different workshops
There is an on-your-own-time RA tool kit available, but no formal training/education
Webinars keep me current on what is popular. I pass these on to staff.
Have attended some RA workshops
Have attended several workshops
Very basic and quite a while ago so I can hardly remember details. Think we were introduced to some common readalike websites, shown how to use Novelist. Print resources may have been mentioned but are probably now out of date. More detailed training came incidentally when I was being trained in our homebound service, where RA is at the heart of the service. But those staff members were not librarians and did not seem very up to date in current trends, though they were good at what they did.
We had training with a librarian and also did self-directed training with Novelist
Community Library Training Program RA course offered through Terrace Public Library
would like to have in depth info
Variety of training: on specific e-resources (eg. NoveList), outside training (RA in a 1/2 day), in-library book chats
None
We have been given instruction in how to use Novelist to help find Read-alikes for patrons. We also share reading lists at our monthly staff meetings. We also have a shelf where we place staff picks and this shelf is replenished every day.
Book Talking
Very informative
Orientation
self guided training modules
Webinars, RA in a Day attendance, conference attendance
BCLA courses at conference and special courses, also many years at Kaleidoscope Conference in Calgary
Attended a couple of RA-in-an-hour sessions.
Training in a short seminar, ongoing advice from our readers adviser and other co workers
Sent to BCLA's RA in a Day session - it was great!
one on one from former boss,
Tim from VPL came and did a workshop just recently for my department.
Annual Reader's Advisory Workshop offered to SOME staff
I've given training

Other RA training

Novelist
Serendipity / Reconciliation through story (will be attending)
RA in a day, RUSA CODES convos, conference sessions, webinars
at Pickering Public Library and others in Ontario
I've been to one of the "RA in a half day" workshops.
Online webinars
workshops, bookclubs, school projects
Webinars through Library Journal or Booklist every now and then; RA in a day
ALA courses; BCLA RAIG's annual event.
RA in a day 2015
VPL workshop RA in a Day; self-taught through book-clubs and blogs; graphic novel session at VPL
Brief units in school. Not a whole course, just part of youth services and reference services courses.
One course through the now non-existent CLTP program
Library Technician Diploma
I took an online course through ALA on RA for teens
sessions at library conferences, online webinars, library literature
Readers Advisory seminar (1/2 day)
Readers advisory in a half-day workshops, my own reading on the subject
Tech school
BCLA RA workshop
RA Class at school
CLTP, Langara College
webinar's
RA in a Day event; Novelist webinars
Years of working with patrons and books. Courses I took in 2002 - 3
Online webinars
Courses thru library technician training
Attended 2014 RA in a half day and presented on steam punk. :-)
I am doing an MLIS and some classes had very quick mentions of RA (particularly youth services classes). But there is no RA course for adults at my school (UBC), nor is there a course with a significant RA (for adults) component.
Some basic training in library school
At school
YA services course
Class during MLIS and self training
RA in a Day
12 years working in a bookstore.
VPL RA training
workshops at conferences
At Langara in the Library Technician program

webinars, RA in a Day attendance, conference attendance, blogs, list-serv
I have taken a number of RA workshops at conferences and provided by BCLA
College course while earning my Lib Tech
RAIG RA in a Day; Novelist webinars
Nancy Pearl lecture at SLAIS
Courses at SLAIS, online classes
Courses during MLIS, BCLA sessions
during my MLIS
Novelist webinar
During my schooling for Lib Tech, we did touch on the topic.
MLIS - Coursework
When I first started working in a library 22 years ago; a little from past BCLA conferences
Library School - The University of Western Ontario; Conferences
At my previous job in a public library

Other ways of getting RA training

- a bunch of book blogs that keep me up to date with new and upcoming books
- Publishers blogs/websites, Good Reads, Novelist
- Not sure. Need to try different options. Uni course was a good intro, but need more.
- I try and read a lot of book reviews, esp. on Good Reads
- Good Reads, Brain Pickings, Guardian, CBC
- NoveList
- Early Word
- BookRiot.com, Penguin Books, NoveList.com
- Amazon, as much as anywhere
- Good Reads

How else can you get better at doing RA?

- Practice
- online access to an event in lower mainland or elsewhere
- book club/group setting
- Along with reading more widely, getting tips from colleagues.
- Library School
- talking to other librarians and book-passionate people
- Reading voraciously, including reviews
- Best sellers lists
- Podcasts
- conversation with other librarians