

BCALS Annual Report: 2019-2020

Delivered at the BCALS 2020 AGM - June 24, 2020

By Adena Brons

BCALS EXECUTIVE FOR 2019-2020

- Chairperson: Adena Brons (SFU)
- Chair-Elect: Ean Henninger (SFU)
- Education Coordinator, 2nd Year: Kate Shuttleworth (SFU) and Ioana Liuta (SFU)
- Education Coordinator, 1st Year: Reba Ouimet (University Canada West, BC ELN) and Melissa Smith (UBC 2019, SFU 2020).
- Recording Secretary: Chloe Riley (SFU)
- Student Representatives: Hannah Tanna (UBC iSchool) and Ryan Casciano (UBC iSchool)

BCALS EVENTS

BCALS Winter Meeting @ University of British Columbia

BCALS Annual Winter Meeting Continuing Education Event took place on **Friday, November 29, 2019**, 9:30am - 3:00pm at the University of British Columbia, Irving K Barber Learning Centre, 1961 East Mall, Vancouver, BC Canada; **35 attendees** total.

The event's topic was **User Engagement**

The event consisted of an introduction and brief panel discussion, followed by 6 lightning talks. The panel was recorded and is available on the [BCALS website](#).

The full event description is below:

This year's theme is user engagement. Academic library workers' focus on community engagement and patron-centred services conveys their commitment to service and their interest in remaining conscientious of patron needs and barriers. Join us as we hear from a panel of experienced library and information professionals to explore opportunities for engaging with user communities, seeking and making the best use of user feedback and assessment strategies, and

forging partnerships within and beyond the library that can support and enhance the diverse experiences of library users.

Panel participants:

- Ebony Magnus, Head, Belzberg Library, SFU
- Julie Mitchell, Assistant Director, Student Engagement, IKBLC, UBC
- Heather O'Brien, Associate Professor, UBC iSchool
- Joyce Wong, Librarian / Coordinator User Experience, Langara College

UBC iSchool Resume and Cover Letter Clinic

The resume and cover letter clinic was scheduled to be held on April 9, 2020. Due to precautions related to COVID-19, the clinic was postponed.

BCALS Pub Socials

-September 19: A pub night to celebrate the start of the school year was held at St. Mahoney and Sons, Convention Centre location.

-November 29: The BCALS Winter Meeting was followed by a social at The Point, UBC Vancouver.

-February 25th: The Fair Dealing event “Creativity in the arts: The role of copyright” was followed by a social at Brown’s Crafthouse on Pender St..

BCALS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Established in 2002, the BCALS Outstanding Contribution Award is presented to an individual who works in an academic library or a team of academic library personnel whose professional achievements have made a real difference to students, faculty, or colleagues in British Columbia.

The 2019 BCALS Outstanding Contribution Award was presented to Nicole White

BCALS MEMBER SURVEY

Over summer 2019, the BCALS executive decided to conduct a membership survey to get a better sense of what they would like to see from the section. The survey went out to the BCALS listserv as well as the BCLA general list and we received 88 responses. 76% of respondents were current members of the BCALS listserv, 15% were not, and 8% were not sure. 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%).

We asked about what activities you would like to see from the BCALS. The top three results from this question were:

- 1) Greater use of the BCALS listserv for discussion or information sharing
- 2) Additional professional development events (in-person)
- 3) Additional professional development events (webinar or other online format)

Respondents identified many excellent themes or topics for future discussion including: indigenization; equity, diversity and inclusion; advocacy; work-life balance; information literacy and fake news; trends in research, scholarship and open access; copyright; privacy; and many more.

The executive chose to focus on greater use of the listserv, promoting professional development opportunities, particularly web-based ones as well as news from the section. We also made distance participation in the Winter Meeting a priority, accomplished by the use of community note taking and video recording the panel.

These priorities will continue to inform the BCALS executive in 2020-2021.

BCLA PERSPECTIVES COLUMN, “GETTING TO KNOW...”

We started a new regular column in BCLA Perspectives, called “Getting to Know...” This column features a short interview with an academic library worker in British Columbia. Our first column featured [Ashley Edwards](#). A second column will be published in the Fall 2020 issue of Perspectives.

If you are interested in being interviewed, please contact bcals@bcla.bc.ca

BCALS STATEMENT AND CALL TO ACTION

In early June, based on renewed examples of police violence against Black people and subsequent protests, BCALS issued a statement standing in solidarity with Black communities and Black library workers and committing to anti-racist actions. The full statement can be read here: <https://bclaconnect.ca/bcals/files/2016/01/BCALS-Statement-and-Call-to-Action.pdf>

SOCIAL MEDIA / COMMUNICATION

With the support of BCLA, a BCALS email address was set up for centralized communications. The address is bcals@bcla.bc.ca.

Student Representatives Report:

As student representatives for BCALS, part of our responsibility has been to manage BCALS' social media presence. We opted to come up with a strategy and reflect on how this was done previously. Our first proposed change was to stop using BCALS' designated Facebook page as it was a closed group and had little engagement and interaction with members. We decided Twitter was the most appropriate social media platform on which to focus and connect with the library community. We devised a plan to tweet on a regular basis with content pertaining to BCALS, BCLA, and general retweeting about the library world. Typically, we aimed to engage with the library community either once a week or every other week primarily by tweeting/retweeting relevant content and/or following and liking the content of the library community to ensure steady growth as well maintain BCALS' presence on the platform. Overall, we had a solid and consistent year given our size and target demographic. We saw an increase of about 42 followers for the year, and reached our initial goal of 300 by the end of summer. We started at around 270 and currently have a total of 312 followers. Despite seeing a minor slowdown in the winter months, we are pleased to report a modest growth over the year and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

GET INVOLVED WITH BCALS

Want to get involved with the BCALS? New members are always welcome! To learn more, visit the BCALS Website: <https://bclaconnect.ca/bcals/>