

# BCALS Annual Report

## 2020-2021

### BCALS EXECUTIVE TEAM FOR 2020-2021

- Chair: Ean Henninger
- Chair-Elect: Sajni Lacey
- Recording Secretary: Jennifer Bancroft
- Continuing Education Coordinators: Reba Ouimet and Melissa Smith (2nd Year), David Gill (1st Year)
- Student Representatives: Estelle Frank and Janet Hilts

### SUMMARY

Many of the BCALS executive's accomplishments in the past year were guided by last June's [statement and call to action on anti-Black racism](#), with the main goals being to ensure inclusive and antiracist approaches in every part of the organization and to sustain that work and motivation beyond the initial wave of attention prompted by the police killing of George Floyd.

Most significantly, the executive team created an [action plan](#) to ensure this work continues in future terms, and it hosted an all-BIPOC [panel on racism in academic libraries](#) at its Winter Event, which raised substantial donations for the speakers and for Black Lives Matter Canada. Internally, we worked to create a [terms of reference](#), revise our constitution and bylaws, rework meetings and finances, and expand documentation with a critical examination of our structures and biases in mind. The Continuing Education Coordinators managed a successful move to online events with both the Winter Event and a remote resume/CV clinic for librarian and library technician students, and the Student Representatives expanded our [social media activity](#) and documentation with special attention to supporting BIPOC voices.

This work is by no means complete, and what we said a year ago remains true: "Explicit commitments to change are needed, and we look forward to joining others in making that change happen." Read on for more about what we've done and what we hope to do in future.

- Ean Henninger, BCALS Chair

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## BCALS ACTION PLAN

As part of its ongoing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, BCALS assembled an [action plan](#) to guide its work in future terms, which can be found here. Consultation on this plan occurred through the BCALS listserv, Twitter, and targeted outreach to BIPOC groups and colleagues. For the sake of transparency and accountability, the anonymous feedback received and our responses can be found [here](#).

## BCALS CONTINUING EDUCATION

### BCALS Winter Event

The BCALS Annual Winter Meeting Event took place on Friday, November 27, 2020, 10:00 am PST - 2:30 pm PST via Zoom; 92 tickets were sold. The event was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Entry to the event was by donation. Outside of speaker honoraria amounts, all proceeds from the event were donated to Black Lives Matter Canada.

The event's topic was combating racism and addressing racial issues in academic libraries. The event consisted of an introduction and panel discussion, followed by 5 lightning talks. The event was recorded and is available on the BCALS YouTube page.

Panel participants:

- Norda Bell: Associate Librarian, York Universities, York University
- David James Hudson: Librarian, McLaughlin Library, University of Guelph
- Ashley Edwards: Librarian, Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre, Simon Fraser University
- Maha Kumaran: Associate Librarian, Education & Music Library, University of Saskatchewan

### Library Student Resume and Cover Letter Clinic

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CV Clinic took place virtually over the week of April 12th - 16th, 2021. For the first time, Library Technician students from Langara College and University of the Fraser Valley were also invited to participate along with MLIS students. Volunteers with MLIS and/or Lib Tech hiring experience were requested via the BCLA and BCALS listservs.

There were a total of 43 student participants (29 Lib Tech students and 13 MLIS students) and 17 volunteers to provide feedback. Each volunteer was matched with 2-3 students based on career interest and experience. Over the course of the CV Clinic, volunteers met with each student for a ~30 minute period to review application materials. For scheduling flexibility, volunteers and students were encouraged to arrange a time amongst themselves to meet during the week.

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Feedback from the event was generally very positive, with students expressing gratitude for the experience of the mentors and time spent dedicated to reviewing the documents.

### **Socials & Other Events**

Due to constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, social events were postponed for the duration of the 2020-21 year. Socials will resume after social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

## **BCALS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

During the 2020-2021 academic year, student representatives Estelle Frank and Janet Hilts were responsible for managing the BCALS social media accounts and achieved the following accomplishments:

- Developed and implemented a social media strategy for the year, including short-term goals to support BCALS's focus on antiracism.
- Posted on the BCALS Twitter account 2-3 times a week (tweets or retweets) and livetweeted during the Winter Event.
- Created a Twitter tracking & scheduling tool that tracked followers count, demographics of those we engage with (through likes & retweets), a posting schedule, content information, and future content ideas.
- Increased Twitter following by 122 (a 38% increase); increased likes & retweets of content by BIPOC individuals to be nearly 60% of those by personal (rather than organizational) accounts; significantly reduced coverage of content focussed on the Lower Mainland and increased that from other regions in BC.
- Created promotional virtual posters for BCALS events and promoted BCALS events on various platforms.
- Conducted basic edits on video recordings of BCALS events and uploaded them to Youtube.

## **BCALS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

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

The 2021 BCALS Outstanding Contribution Award is presented to Kwantlen Polytechnic University Library's [Open Publishing Suite](#) Team for their exemplary work in the area of open access and education:

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- Caroline Daniels
  - Karen Meijer-Kline
  - Paula Pinter
  - Beverly Whitcutt
  - Syreen Pestonji
  - Urooj Nizami

In recognition of both the labor involved in submitting a nomination and the excellent work that resulted in these nominations, BCALS would also like to recognize the other nominees for this year's award:

- Debra Flewelling (Douglas College)
- The Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre as developed by Ashley Edwards (Simon Fraser University)
- CapU Library and Academic Services chat service (Capilano University)

BCALS would also like to recognize the work of volunteers who gave their time to serve on the awards committee:

- Jennifer Abel, Portage Network, Canadian Association of Research Libraries
- Jackie McFarlan, Camosun College
- Janis McKenzie, Simon Fraser University
- Chloe Riley, Simon Fraser University

## **BCLA PERSPECTIVES COLUMN, "GETTING TO KNOW..."**

BCALS continued its regular column in BCLA Perspectives, called "Getting to Know..." which features a short interview with an academic library worker in British Columbia. Columns this year featured:

- [Sunni Nishimura](#)
- [Ioana Liuta](#)
- [Annelise Dowd](#)

If you are interested in being interviewed, please contact [bcals@bcla.bc.ca](mailto:bcals@bcla.bc.ca).

## **BCALS FINANCES**

BCALS started the year with \$25.75 in its possession. Due to various factors, such as the difficulties involved in maintaining and transferring a cash purse during a pandemic and setting up a bank account for online events, the fact that BCALS has no revenue or expenses beyond those involved with the Winter Event, and the desire for better financial management, the executive decided to partner with BCLA for any future events requiring financial transactions

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given the expertise and infrastructure there, and to fold the remaining \$25.75 into the donations solicited for this year's Winter Event.

## **BCALS MEMBERSHIP**

As of June 8, 2021, BCALS had 75 active BCLA members registered on the BCLA website and 568 subscribers to the BCALS listserv, up from 532 subscribers last year.

## **GETTING INVOLVED WITH BCALS**

Want to get involved with BCALS? New members are always welcome! There are a variety of ways to participate, such as events, discussions, clinics, and more. Most communication occurs through the BCALS listserv, so make sure you're subscribed!

- Become a member on the BCLA website [here](#) (requires login)
- Subscribe to the BCALS listserv [here](#)
- Send messages to the listserv: [bcals-list@bcla.bc.ca](mailto:bcals-list@bcla.bc.ca)
- Follow us on Twitter [here](#)
- See the BCALS website [here](#)
- Contact us at [bcals@bcla.bc.ca](mailto:bcals@bcla.bc.ca)