

BCALS Annual Report

2021-2022

BCALS EXECUTIVE TEAM FOR 2021-2022

- Chair: Sajni Lacey
- Chair-Elect: Karleen Delaurier-Lyle
- Recording Secretary: Jennifer Zerkee
- Continuing Education Coordinators: David Gill (2nd Year), Alex Kuskwoski (1st Year), Susie Wilson (1st Year)
- Student Representatives: Estelle Frank, Peyton Moriarty, Katie Punia

SUMMARY

The work of the BCALS 2021-2022 Executive has continued to focus on moving forward with our [Anti-Racism Action Plan](#). The Executive has finalized an [Implementation Plan](#) for the action plan, and began work on completing the actions outlined within it. Of note we completed a diverse [Speaker Selection Policy](#), the first of an annual review of the BCALS documentation, and intentional connection with ViMLoC and IDEAS. A summary of this work was published in [Perspectives](#) to communicate this work to a larger audience.

The Continuing Education Coordinators successfully hosted another series of online events for the Winter Event and resume/CV clinic for librarian and library technician students. The Student Representatives continued to expand our social media activity, continuing to focus on supporting IBPOC voices. The Outstanding Contribution was also awarded again through volunteers from the membership and executive.

BCALS JEDI ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

As part of its ongoing commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, BCALS assembled an [action plan](#) in 2021 to guide its work. To move this work forward the BCALS Executive reviewed the action plan, identified priorities, and brainstormed steps to implement those actions, which were compiled in the [Implementation Plan](#). Areas of focus identified included communications, continuing education and knowledge sharing, and material support. The BCALS

Executive identified actions that will be taken in each of these areas including, at minimum, a yearly update on their progress.

BCALS CONTINUING EDUCATION

BCALS Winter Event

BCALS Winter Event

The BCALS Annual Winter Meeting Event took place on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 10:00 am PST - 2:45 pm PST via Zoom; 144 tickets were sold. The event was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide greater accessibility.

Unlike previous years, this event was entirely free for attendees. BCALS collaborated with Keeping it ReAL (Research in Academic Libraries) to co-host a two day event focused on building capacity. Keeping it ReAL funders agreed to provide BCALS funds for honorariums to the panelists. This collaboration was brought on by recognition that both organizations serve similar audiences. A few members of the BCALS executive sat on the organizing committee for Keeping it ReAL which helped with communication.

The event's topic was on learning and implementing decolonial practices amongst all library workers in academic library services. The event consisted of an introduction and panel discussion, followed by 5 lightning talks. The event was recorded and will eventually be uploaded onto BCALS YouTube page.

Panel participants:

BCALS CE Coordinators approached a number of potential panelists, a number of whom were interested but unable to participate due to scheduling conflicts and capacity to take on additional commitments. The session was confirmed with two panelists, but due to unforeseen circumstances one panelist was unable to attend.

- Karleen Delaurier-Lyle, Information Services Librarian, X̱wi7̱x̱wa Library, UBC Library

Library Student Resume and Cover Letter Clinic

The CV Clinic again took place virtually, and based on feedback from last year was scheduled earlier, from May 28 to April 8, 2022. Library Technician and MAS/MLIS students, as well as recent graduates were invited to participate. Volunteers with MLIS/MAS and/or Lib Tech hiring experience were requested via the BCLA and BCALS listservs.

There were a total of 23 student participants (8 Library School students and 13 Library Technician students) and 12 volunteers. Each volunteer was matched with 1-3 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.

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. Based on the feedback we plan to continue to offer the CV Clinic virtually, but will consider adding options to indicate availability for in-person meetings if geographically feasible. Based on additional volunteer feedback we plan to create additional materials to clarify the level of support provided by the CV Clinic, with links to other organizations where students and early-career professionals can seek longer-term mentorship. Finally, as the CE Coordinators, we plan to investigate and implement support of a self-identification strategy for BIPOC students to have preferential placement with BIPOC volunteers. Recognizing that this could potentially place higher demands on BIPOC volunteers, we plan to prioritize options that will not replicate existing systems that often already place more expectations of BIPOC library workers.

BCALS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Student Representatives Estelle Frank, Peyton Moriarty, and Katie Punia maintained the BCALS Twitter account. The Student Representatives operated on a rotating schedule, appointing one Student Representative to take the lead on posting each month. Throughout the year, they maintained a consistent schedule of posting at least 1-2 times per week. Posts consisted of either retweets, original tweets, or quoted re-tweets.

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 year, the Student Representatives developed a Social Media Strategy, outlining goals and objectives for the BCALS social media presence. Throughout the year, the BCALS Twitter account saw an increase of 52 followers. Twitter analytics were used to assess engagement. It was found that posts with the most engagement included those with original content such as original tweets and quoted re-tweets promoting other library-related accounts. Student representatives also used Canva to design visual graphics to include in posts promoting BCALS events and celebrating the BCALS Outstanding Contribution Award winners and nominees. The goal of increasing engagement with and sharing of anti-racist or BIPOC-created content by at least 50% was easily surpassed, as the majority of the account's content focused on these issues.

In the future, Student Representatives could work on increasing content that is of relevance to non-librarian library staff and to promote events and resources created by those who are not situated in the Lower Mainland.

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.

In 2022 BCALS Outstanding Contribution Award was presented to Pia Russell, of the University of Victoria Library for their exemplary work on the [BC Historical Textbooks Project](#).

As part of the document review outlined in the Implementation Plan, the BCALS Executive has revised some elements of the Outstanding Contribution Award to clarify details around who can be nominated and who can nominate to ensure that current, incoming, or running for election BCALS Executive cannot be nominated or nominate people in order to ensure conflicts of interest are not occurring.

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

- Christine Walde, University of Victoria
- Susie Wilson, University of Northern British Columbia
- Arielle Lomness, University of British Columbia Okanagan
- Alex Kuskowski, University of British Columbia

BCALS FINANCES

BCALS has no financials to report this year. Funds are normally collected for the Winter Event as for the Winter Event, BCALS partnered with Keeping it ReAL who were able to support the honorariums for BCALS gets speakers.

BCALS MEMBERSHIP

As of June 9, 2022, BCALS had 67 active BCLA members registered on the BCLA website and 578 subscribers to the BCALS listserv, up from 568 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
- Follow us on Twitter [here](#)
- See the BCALS website [here](#)

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- Contact us at bcals@bcla.bc.ca