

BCLA Academic Libraries Section

2025 -2026 Annual Report

BCALS Executive 2025-2026

- Chair: Susie Wilson, UNBC
- Chair-Elect: Katharine Shipley, Douglas College
- Recording Secretary: Kristy Hancock, UNBC
- Continuing Education Coordinators:
 - Year 1: Nicoletta Romano, University Canada West
 - Year 3: Julie Jones, Simon Fraser University
 - Year 2: Michelle Ng, Emily Carr University
- Student Representatives: UBC School of Information Studies, Sam Carter;

Report of Activities

The 2025-2026 years for BCALS was a status quo year, focusing on maintaining activities and reflecting on how best to engage with academic library professionals and students interested in academic library work. BCALS Continuing Education Coordinators continue to provide engaging, valuable, and low-barrier access to professional development for professionals through the Knowledge and Ideas Exchange, and students and new professionals through the annual CV Clinic. The executive as a whole reflected on the role of corporate social media as a means of engagement, and we continued to move towards un-platforming the section and shifting intentionally to using our section website and our Branches forum section as the main means of communicating our work.

BCALS CONTINUING EDUCATION

[BCALS Knowledge and Idea Exchange 2025](#) was a half-day virtual event held on the morning of November 26th, 2025. The forum brought together professionals from across the province to promote the exchange of ideas and build professional expertise in the use of the latest methods, systems, and technologies in post-secondary libraries in British Columbia. The event included 4 Lighting Talks and 3 presentations from professionals at UBC, SFU, Douglas, UCW, and ECUAD. Feedback as well as suggested

topics for future events were gathered through Padlet and will provide a foundation for future planning.

[2026 BCALS CV Clinic Webinar](#) is an annual webinar supporting emerging library professionals in making sense of the academic job search and its hidden and assumed competencies. This year's event took place on April 2nd, 2026, with 35 attendees, most were recent graduates from the UBC iSchool program. The virtual webinar was held in conjunction with an asynchronous CV clinic where job seekers could get support from librarians with hiring experience. We had a wonderful turn out for the CV clinic including 10 professionals who volunteered to share their experience with 19 job seekers. Feedback gathered from the webinar and CV clinic will be used to refine this event in the future.

BCALS MEMBERSHIP AND FORUM SUBSCRIBERS

BCALS membership currently stands at 276 members, with 123 subscribers to our forum area on Branches.

BCALS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

This year's BCALS Outstanding Contribution Award was given to Carla Graebner, Research Data Services and Government Information Librarian at SFU, for her longstanding work organizing GovInfoDay.

Carla's ongoing leadership of GovInfoDay goes back 18 years, the majority of the event's 25-year history. Carla had led the expansion of this annual event from one to two days, and works to secure sponsorship and funding to keep the event free to participants. GovInfoDay reaches beyond libraries academic libraries, attracting public, special, and government library workers; legal professionals; journalists; students; and members of the public as both participants and presenters. Beyond serving as a forum to connect and learn about government information, GovInfoDay has served to provide a forum for advocacy on issues of concern, and has contributed to positive change in the Government Information landscape, including improvements to Depository Services Program services, the creation of CAUT's Canada's Past Matter Campaign, and improvements in the Treasury Board of Canada's Open Government initiatives.

We would also like to thank the following members of the BCALS Outstanding Contribution Award Committee for their time:

Susie Wilson, University of Northern BC

Nicoletta Romano, University Canada West

Kristy Hancock, University of Northern BC

Kat Louro, University of Northern BC

BCALS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

BCALS no longer has active social media presence (see below for Facebook group information) after our X/formerly Twitter account was put on pause last year. For this year, the BCALS Student Rep focused on posting to the branches forum, creating a monthly roundup of articles of interest and upcoming professional development opportunities. This focus on using the Branches forum for communications like this will continue, and in the future as the social media landscape stabilizes BCALS may go back to managing an active social media presence outside of the BCLA forum.

Facebook

BCALS executive became aware of a BCALS Facebook group, which had not seen activity for many years. Examination of records showed a previous board had intended to sunset the group, as it was not having much traffic, and there were concerns about management and moderation going forward. This year's executive made the decision to pause the Facebook group, as permanently deleting a group can be difficult to impossible depending on membership and moderator settings. The group still exists, but no longer allows new people to join, or for posts to be made in the group, with information re-directing potential members to the BCALS website and our section of the Branches forum. Documentation of the dormant group will be included in BCALS documentation going forward to ensure the board is aware of its presence and management.

BCALS FINANCES

BCALS continues to operate on a \$0 budget, with all events being free

GETTING INVOLVED WITH BCALS

New members are welcome! There are a variety of ways to participate, such as: events, online discussions, CV clinics, and more. You can also:

- Check out our YouTube channel [here](#)
- Learn more about BCALS on our website found [here](#)
- Contact us at bcals@bcla.bc.ca

BCALS communication occurs through the [BCLA Online Forum](#), to freely access the BCLA Forum (and BCALS communications) see [here](#); subscribe to the BCALS online forum [here](#).