

BCLA - CLIG meeting UBC iSchool. November 27, 10am-noon

In attendance, in person (22):

Anne Bechard - Chair (RPL), Winnifred Chong (RPL), Shideh Taleban (NVCL), Victoria Gomez (iSchool), Nicoletta Romano (iSchool), Allison Jones (iSchool), Ginny Dnunill (iSchool), Stephanie Marston (iSchool), Heather De Forest - Secretary : (SFU), Andrea Lukic (iSchool), Sara Ellis (BPL/UBC), Sadaf Ahmaelbeigi (iSchool), Nick Ubels (iSchool), Alyse Hebert (iSchool), Kelty Roberts (VPL), Shenuri Nugawila (VPL), Andrea Lukic (iSchool), Nicole Sousa (BPL), Shideh Taleban (NVCL) , Gordon Yusko (UBC), Sadaf Ahmaelbeigi (iSchool), Elizabeth Fernandes (UBC)

In attendance, by teleconference (3): Tara Thompson (ORL), Rachel Burke (FVRL), Mikale Fenton (NVCL).

Regrets (3): Heidi Schiller (VPL), Jorge Cardenas (BPL), Millicent Everrestars (RPL),

Opening

Anne Bechard: introduced herself and her role. Warmly welcomed students. We look forward to welcoming new professionals who are interested in the community-led approach. Today's meeting is packed full of housekeeping. We need to create housekeeping documents, such as a Terms of Reference, as we move forward so we can refer back to it. It will be flexible, but when we start any team or interest group, we want a guiding document to help us move forward.

Round of introductions.

Addition to the agenda:

Promotion of events:

1. Dr. Brenda Chawner event: Exploring Community-initiated libraries in New Zealand. November 29th 12-1:30pm. Chilcotin Room, IKBLC, UBC. Anne is aiming to be there; If someone attends, please take notes and send to Heather, who will post on CLIG website.
2. BCLA PLIG Journal Club. Sara Ellis with the Public Libraries Interest Group (PLIG) shared that group's framework of hosting journal club discussions, in collaboration with other interest groups, to get a "finger on the pulse" of research publications. The next session will be themed Community-led and she has been in contact with members of the group to identify appropriate articles. They aim for recent, Open Access, within certain page count parameters, and two readings each time. A challenge in the area of

community-led. Librarians doing great work, but only publishing short write-ups. There is a Zotero account for folks to openly propose a variety of articles. Sara requested feedback on a number of articles, including:

Pateman, John. (2016) Why do library workers not have the skills to meet community needs? *Information for Social Change*, 36. <http://libr.org/isc/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/ISC36.pdf>

And on the idea of bringing forth literature that is not exclusively about librarianship but which may address service design, marketing, identifying groups and needs within the community that could then be discussed and brought into a community-led librarianship context.

Eg. Schulman, Sarah. (2017) Redefining the politics of inclusion with George and Dustin. *Journal of Design Strategies*, 8, 49-55. https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/inwithforward/app/uploads/2017/05/26164215/The-Journal-of-Design-Strategies-Volume-8_p49-55.pdf

Discussion:

Anne: The staffing component is an important one to consider. Library schools have to be producing staff that can work in the the community-led model, people who are flexible, empathetic, outside the box thinkers, etc.... This is different work from the traditional role of librarian.

Sara: this gets to the idea of the Jnl Club and exploring other ways that ideas are shared within librarianship.. Blogs, videos, etc. These are other bigger questions. In terms of publications, the majority of stuff is in other fields that relate to libraries but are not explicitly being written about by librarians. Is the other literature worthwhile? To bring it in and have the conversation about how these things play out in a community led way, in a library context?

General agreement.

Anne: I would like to see from this IG that we eventually start producing articles that highlight what the community-led service model looks like in Lower Mainland libraries and beyond. It would be great if we are presenting as a group, highlighting the similarities and differences. The first step is to start submitting BCLA Conference proposals and our suggested topic for 2019 will be discussed later in this meeting.

Sara: Questions to ask ourselves: What are the gaps? What are the issues and can we act on those?

Agenda item 1. Quick roundtable of success stories:

Winnifred: lead on community-led initiatives at the RPL's Hamilton location. Hamilton library is a service point of Richmond Public Library. It is located quite close to New Westminster in the Queensboro area. Shares space with community centre, elementary school and is 12km from closest RPL branch. Library services and programs are available once a week, on Saturdays. Thanks to generous funding support from Richmond City Council, RPL launched a book dispenser in September 2018 which is now located in the Community Centre. It ensures that Hamilton residents of all ages have access to popular library collections, seven days a week. It works like a vending machine: Insert card, PIN, open, RFID checkout, close up. Screen shows what you've checked out, and the return process is the same.

RPL has also launched family fun night bags which are currently only available to Hamilton residents. Thanks to another community donation, fourteen individual bags are available. The concept behind the bag is to encourage families to spend more time together. Each bag contains a board game, DVD, and three picture books.

Winifred is busy connecting with community and determining their programming needs. Winnifred created a survey and went around on different days to the elementary school and community ctr. Some days she started at 7am so as to reach customers attending exercise programs at the community centre. In the past story times have been offered on Saturday mornings but the audience has been dwindling. Winifred learned that parents were more interested in their children having a preteen book club. 7 sign ups for the first one. People are already looking forward to the next ones in the new year. Additionally, there will be programs for seniors including computer help in Cantonese.

Shideh: NVCL small grants. Annual grants, sharing \$2000 into \$500 grants to community members who want to run them. They are collaborating with community members, supporting them as they prepare and advertise. The community runs the programs. We had: cookie decorating program, acrylic painting for seniors, teen board games club, grow and cook with herbs (2 sessions, planting and then potluck). This last one was especially effective at creating connection and friendship. Another program that bridges cultures and brings friendship is a food workshop culture day from Persian, Chinese, Spanish and Italian communities, where leaders demonstrate a dish, and participants mingle and having fun.

Mikale : chiming in about small grants program. Closest NVCL comes to CL. Challenges associated with logistical constraints. However, the small grants program has really gone beyond expected programs by community's creative ideas for things NVCL may not have considered as a library program. Unique opp to have ppl come together to socialize in ways that make sense to the them and not that library is making assumptions about. One of the coolest things: each program feels very different. Not polished library programs where we have promotions having the same look and feel. It creates a challenge in terms of how to market, you want to be clear about what it will be like to attend, but on the flip side, when it's peer to peer, the opportunity for connection has been much more palpable than an eg author reading. Mikale gave the example of a stretching/nutrition/socializing session, where no arrangements had been made for yoga mats, eg. People made eye contact and agreed "I guess we're going to do this". They were able to break through some of the barriers of "Canadian polite society". Became intimate and lovely quickly because it was not super polished.

Anne: Compliments the job that NVCL has been doing with CL. Cara Pryor originated the work. There's been a focus on friendship and creating connections within community, done really really well. We all have to avoid prescriptive thinking and action. NVCL incredibly successful and have made community connections and people have become friends.

Mikale: NVCL approaches it that social isolation is a very serious issue. Libraries often focus traditionally on metrics around literacy program participants etc. but when focusing on community living room there's an effect that creates stronger communities and belonging. They take it quite meaningfully into their programming. It's about getting a bit uncomfortable. 80% of programs we have an icebreaker that starts with people getting to know one another. Try to do ongoing program series to try to create a community of like-minded people, similar to baby story time. If we have adults who don't have very many opportunities to socialize, the ice-breaker activity is a great way to make friends and find people to connect with.

Gordon : UBC campus community engagement network. Led out of the community-university engagement office, December 5th, 3pm-4:30pm at Ctr for Community engaged learning. Principles that guide community engagement work.

Share with Heather and will get out [etto](#) the list.

IKBLC will sponsor annual Beyond Hope conference in Prince George, June 2019, in line with ctr's focus on rural and northern BC. May have the opportunity to influence the selected sessions. IBLC will sponsor 6 attendees from rural and northern BC to both Beyond Hope and BCLA conference. Fulfilling mandate to give back to parts of province where Barber generated his wealth.

Tara: ORL is opening a new location solely focused on programs, outreach, etc. which is very exciting. Furnishings have been ordered; becoming a reality.

Andrea: Question/comment for Sara re: food oriented programs and programs that subversively address food security and community building. Andrea did a co-op term in Halifax. A lot of their initiatives are food oriented. Lots of internal documents, not published. Not a lot of literature in the library context, but coming from a health and education perspective it could be very valuable.

Anne: another example of how libraries are changing: traditionally no food or drink in the library, but the movement forward is to community meals and other food-related events because best way to connect is by food, by eating. For Indigenous communities, for those experiencing homelessness, and others: if you bring food, conversation happens more naturally and less forced. Where we used to have cookbook authors come in and tell them not to bring their food, now we're making food in the library.

Sara: PLIG journal club welcomes ideas as they go forward; would love to hear what CLIG members think we should be talking about.

Kelty: also on food, someone came in asking for food the other day and it took a while to understand that he thought the food bank was there. VPL has an asset map (VCH) of where you can get cheap food or free food around the city. There's also the DTES Kitchen table -- who produces a schedule of food by day /time and a holiday meal list. Having those resources for people is important, especially in community.

Anne: a person may not be going to go to the info desk/accounts desk to ask for that info. But in community, you need to make sure you have a "toolkit" filled with community information.

Agenda Item 2. Debrief on Last Meeting's Notes

Anne: Approval of last meeting's minutes?

Mikale: Approved

Gordon: second .

Anne: Due to the conversations held at the last meeting, Anne determined it would be best to have a Terms of Reference for CLIG. Agrees that the group has room for theory and practice. With respect to a wiki, we would need to have someone who feels passionate about that, who would take the lead on it and put it into the ToR that it's their job. Hard to make happen with a new group unless someone does that. Perhaps leave until group is more mature.

Anne: would like to move to guest speakers and proposing that. Tables sharing and roundtables are good and we should also invite non-librarians: social worker, outreach worker, someone from left field so we can all learn and innovate. Yes to supporting experiential student learning via practica and directed studies. If there's a student at SLAIS who's done a CL related directed study, they should come and tell us about it. Students are on the ground doing cutting edge work and may be more exposed to research and innovation than librarians on the job. Yes to CLIG creating student reps. Would have to be on a one year rather than two-year term.

Agenda Item 3. Terms of Reference.

Reading through with an aim to finalizing a working document today to send to Annette and BCLA for their December board meeting next week.

Anne: has agreed to be chair for one year only. Normally it's a 2 year position. There's lots of opportunities and lots of people who can step into the role of Chair. People should be giving this thought as we will change over at next meeting.

We worked through the Draft Terms of Reference document subheadings and signed off or commented.

Definition: Approved as is.

Membership: Gordon commented about adding opportunities to bring diverse voices to the planning and advisory or perhaps leadership role in the group. He will work on some language- doesn't have to be perfect - and will send it to Anne to add.

Executive: February we will agree on who the SLAIS rep is and the new Chair to allow time for cross-over. All new positions will start in May 2019.

We discussed and agreed to the addition of a student representative. Their role would involve assistance with the current literature, would act as a two-way liaison representing student interests to the group and vice versa. May be able to help recruit students working on CL projects as guest presenters.

Meetings: Agreement on 5/year, Feb, April, June, Sept, Nov/Dec.

Media: emphasis that members of this group do not talk to media about this group. Any requests are immediately referred to BCLA for the president or ED to handle.

Goals and Activities:

Should be generally what we want to do each year (not specific yearly goals)... conference proposal, share ideas, publish. These are general enough that we can include them in Terms of Reference.

1. BCLA conference proposal. Winnifred: with Millicent, Jorge, Shideh/Mikale, Kelty potentially. Thinking that we will put together a proposal for a panel/debate. The theme is loneliness/social isolation. Anne: BCLA likes to see partnerships in order to select session, good to have many library systems represented.
(Under our functions and activities, always put together a conference proposal and get it in once a year).
2. We're not yet ready to publish, maybe, but we aim to eventually.
3. Partner with one another... we're all connecting with various groups, there are probably ways we can do that more effectively in partnership.
4. Allison: let's add supporting students to learn more experientially.

Agenda item 4.

Next meeting: Jorge and Nicole will host us at BPL. February 5th, 10am-12pm. Nicole Sousa will organize board room, investigate technology.

Andrea: proposes having someone video in from Halifax to discuss specific initiatives but also the Halifax philosophy overall.

Agreement in the group that Halifax is doing great work and that would be most welcome.

Andrea will consult with her contacts about a 40-45 min guest presentation. Heather/Nicole will investigate technology to make it happen.

Action item: All: if you have speakers or topics to suggest, please send them to Anne/Heather for inclusion at future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25am