

BCLA Readers' Advisory Interest Group

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, February 18, 2014, BCLA classroom

Attended by: Jenny Fry, Co-Chair (Surrey Libraries); Anthea Goffe (Fraser Valley Regional Library); Matthew Murray (SLAIS co-rep); Jessica Brown (Langara library technician rep); Caroline Crowe (Vancouver Public Library); Meghan Savage (Surrey Libraries); Anna Ferri (SLAIS student); Margo Schiller (Terrace Public Library); Jay Peters (Coquitlam Public Library)

Regrets: Heather Bindseil (Library Bound)

Meeting reminder: the next meeting is Tuesday March 18, from 9:15-11am, BCLA boardroom

Interesting RA tidbits:

- Caroline: participated in an RA webinar: How Do You Measure Up? It was a good summary of RA, used the core competencies from OLA (Ontario), looked at samples, forums, forms-based and suggested keeping print forms at the information/reference desk, promoting RA on social media, keeping up with RA journals and blogs, Early Word, Novelist, improve services and training from ArtReads.org and Library Journal's article "The State of Readers' Advisory" (Feb 2014 issue):
<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/02/library-services/the-state-of-readers-advisory/>
- Anthea: her observation while on holidays: no one had a "real" book, everyone seems to have an iPad mini.
- Matthew: brought a "fortune teller RA" folded paper game that you manipulate with two hands to reveal various RA genres and a reading suggestion for each genre folded inside.
- Anna: request for good RA podcasts? [Bookrageous](#), [Book Riot](#), [The Book Pod](#), [The Narrative Breakdown](#), [The Readers Podcast](#), [Lit Reactor](#), [Nancy Pearl on NPR](#), maybe NPR? CBC Radio? BBC Radio? Any other suggestions?

New podcast from SLAIS students: S.S. Librarianship: <http://sslibrarianship.com/>
Recent post: how to do RA for videogames when you don't play? Doesn't affect too many libraries – VPL has some, small collection at Coquitlam, North Vancouver? Richmond? Burnaby?

- Margo: her library had a successful "blind date with a book" for Valentine's Day. She is also very interested in the BC Library Toolshed that is being developed:
<http://bclabrowser.ca/index.php/browser/article/view/587/703>
Also interested in looking into the idea of an "awesome" box – might be better suited to smaller branches and promoted on social media:
<http://tumblr.libraryjournal.com/post/70413070833/bigger-on-the-inside-brookline-ma-public-libraris>
Discussion about using Novelist Select in the public library catalogue.

- Meghan: did a library display of “blind date with a CBC Reads book”, posted it on Facebook and then all the books got checked out.
- Jay: running into a lot of mediocre fiction lately, looking for something great, got kudos from a patron for his “staff pick”.
- Jenny: suggested having an RA mentoring program, and we talked about quick & dirty RA at the information desk.

Social Media/Blog:

February: Tara

March: Barbara/VPL

April: Surrey Libraries: Naomi, Meghan, Jenny

May: SLAIS: Matthew and Anna will coordinate

June: Greater Victoria/Olivia

July: TBD at next meeting

BCLA Conference table: We have a table booked for Wednesday April 2nd. It is worst possible week for students to participate. No one has been approved yet for attending the conference, so we'll organize the table staffing at the next meeting. Discussion about getting reading prescription pads for distribution. Matthew will get quotes for 200 pads from at least 2 accessible print shops in the next week. Bookmark: we need someone to design it – a promotional bookmark of our group to hand out. Tell Jenny if you can do this. Bring samples of RA tools that you use to the next meeting or mail to Jenny at City Centre Library, 10350 University Drive, Surrey BC V3T 4B8 – either one for display or a stack to give out. Short RA videos – can we use Heidi's camera again? Use a tablet to show the book cover. Very short, 10 seconds, to be posted on our social media, need permission sheet as well.

Ideas for the table from the last meeting: ask people to suggest genres for next RA in a Half Day, using post-its or stickers on a board/wall/flipchart. Create bookmarks that condenses key genre authors and RA tools. Ten-second videos – borrow video camera from Heidi again? – book talks by conference participants, who hold up a book, or a tablet/ipad with the book cover on it, or a piece of paper with the title and author written in marker on it, and they say why they loved the book and why you should read it. Will be put on our YouTube channel, so we need a consent sheet with room for names and signatures, and tweet/live blog/Facebook the book talk titles as well. Stream the videos on the tablet/ipad or project them onto the wall behind the table. Bring sample RA materials for people to look at, maybe a couple extras if people really want to take them, maybe on a board with Velcro. Use a QR code.

2014 Activities: *the brainstorming session was at the last meeting, reporting back on progress at this meeting:*

- Caroline will look into local academic opportunities and will look at what the OLA RA group has done in this area. Sadly, not much out there in our neck of the woods. Caroline surveyed OLA's projects, RA Roundtables, and RA-related activities. The East Coast has Keren Dali – a professor who specializes in RA and reading: <http://current.ischool.utoronto.ca/news/2013/dr-keren-dali-wins-first-misc-outstanding-instructor-award> Discussion about Dr. Dali as a future keynote speaker.

Other interesting things Caroline found: [Truly Doing Dewey: Nonfiction Readers' Advisory from](#)

[000 to 999](#). Discussion about doing a book club properly/successfully. Suggestion: adding an RA component to the NewtoBC website in the library section.

- *Robbie will create a template by the end of this week for us to use to recruit more people to our group – Jenny will edit it before we use it. Deferred until next meeting.*
- *Recruiting: Anthea and Barbara will contact BPL, Anthea and Caroline will contact Coquitlam, Jenny and Naomi will contact Port Moody. Jenny will contact Shelley re: Richmond. Very successful recruiting efforts. Terrace, Coquitlam joined us for this meeting, and we will soon have active participation from Port Moody and Richmond, plus another one or two from VPL. Jessica will continue to monitor interest in Prince George. Margo offered to bring it up at the North Coast Library Federation meeting, and Jay mentioned that another librarian from Coquitlam is interested. All wonderful – we still need to pursue the Kootenays, Thompson-Nicola, Okanagan – do we have any contacts in these areas? Any luck with BPL?*

RA in a Half Day: 2014

We need a venue, for about 100 people. Jessica talked to Burnaby – no rooms for over 50 people. Naomi reported on the New Westminster auditorium: 60-70 people max, no room rental charge, books about three months in advance and she got the contact info for booking. Jenny will ask Richmond. Meghan will get details for Guildford Rec Centre. Caroline will look into VPL options. Discussion about City Centre Library in Coquitlam – will consider after Evergreen skytrain is operational.

Let's look at dates: proposed Mon Oct 20th or Wed Oct 22nd. What else is happening that week? Margo will find out the date for the ABCPLD fall meeting (would be nice to draw people who are already coming to the Lower Mainland for something else). More discussion at the next meeting.