

Browser Briefs

Compiled by Leanna Jantzi.

Libraries across borders: Building global library networks

Are you interested in what happens in libraries around the world? Do you have international library experience you'd like to share? Are you hoping to work or volunteer with libraries in other countries? BCLA's Libraries Across Borders (LAB) brings together members interested in libraries and information services around the world.

Through the Assistance to Libraries Fund, with generous donations from Yosef Wosk, Ruth Foley, United Library Services and others, LAB has supported more than 65 library projects over the past 10 years, including the Busolwe Public Library in eastern Uganda, the Lillooet Area Library Association's Book Bus for rural First Nations communities, and Puedo Leer, the only free children's library in Granada, Nicaragua.

While continuing to identify ways to support libraries, LAB is also in the process of redefining its role and will focus on building networks and connections between members and our colleagues around the world. Our first step will be to keep members updated on news from international libraries and associations, stories from libraries already connected with LAB, and international volunteer, work, and networking opportunities.

Possible new initiatives include twinning with other library associations, including grassroots community library associations, hosting talks by international librarians, and providing further resources for BCLA members who want to learn about international libraries.

New members are always welcome and if you'd like to get involved, check out our page on the BCLA website or contact us at librariesacrossborders@gmail.com.

Submitted by Karen Sharkey. Karen is a librarian at the Vancouver Public Library and the convenor of Libraries Across Borders.

TNRDLS welcomes new Branch Head

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library System welcomed Margo Schiller as the Head of the Kamloops Library and Information Services in mid-July. Margo offers a unique perspective as a former TNRDLS staff member who understands the challenges of a regional library system and who sees the opportunities to serve urban and rural patrons. Margo brings with her the experience as former Head Librarian at Terrace Public Library, a commitment to continuous service improvement, and a passion for libraries.

Submitted by Melissa Lowenberg.

Academic Librarians Section update

The Academic Librarians section of BCLA has seen some changes over the past few months. After the motion passed at the last BCLA AGM, the Section changed its name from the Academic Librarians in Public Service section (ALPS) to the Academic Librarians section (ALs). In terms of personnel, Danielle Winn has begun a new job at the University of Windsor and has since left her position as ALs Chair. Roën Janyk has recently taken over as Chair. Roën is the Web Services Librarian at Okanagan College, and also works at Okanagan Regional Library.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Academic Librarians section, we are currently seeking a Chair-Elect to begin immediately. Contact Roën or any member of the Executive to get more information. Meetings are conducted virtually, so BCLA members from across the Province are encouraged to participate. We would also like to welcome Blake Hawkins, who has taken on the role of UBC iSchool's ALs student representative.

If you have been wondering about the annual Winter Meeting, it has been scheduled for **Friday, December 5th**. Sessions will take place in the Earl and Jennie Lohn Policy Room (Room 7000), SFU Vancouver at the Harbour Centre. The theme and calls for speakers will go out shortly. This is a full day event and lunch will be provided. In order to recoup costs, there will be a minimal charge for attendance.

Submitted by Roën Janyk. Roën is the Web Services Librarian at Okanagan College.