

Academic research commons, RDA integration, and more

By Stephen Karr.

It was a great pleasure for me to convene sessions at the BC Library Conference at the Vancouver Airport Sheraton Hotel in Richmond, as I did two years ago in Penticton. This is my fourth BCLC, and I have always thoroughly enjoyed the sessions I have attended. I have to honestly say that many of the sessions I was assigned to convene on the Friday this year were also very likely the ones I would have chosen to attend during these time slots.

Academic Research Commons: From Concept to Reality (F2)

The speakers were [Trish Rosseel](#) from University of British Columbia Library, [Elaine Fairey](#) from Simon Fraser University Library, and [Lauren Ray](#) from the University of Washington Library. A research commons is a space where people can come together to collaborate on projects and share research ideas. Trish and Elaine both spoke of their plans to create academic research commons in their [UBC](#) and [SFU](#) libraries. Lauren informed us of the academic research commons that was set up at [U of W](#) in 2010.

Shape Shifting (F11)

The second sessions was called Shape Shifting: Library Education, Work and Expectations for the Future, and was presented by [Christina Neigel](#) from the University of the Fraser Valley Library and Information Technology Program. Christina discussed the changes that have been and are currently taking place in the library field, and the imperative for institutions to [support lifelong learning for their staff as much as they do for their members](#). She sparked a discussion based on a handout asking participants what it means to work in a library, what pressures exist

in the library workplace, how they are prepared to work in the library field, and what core competencies and attributes are essential for all library workers.

When Worlds Collide (F16)

The third session was called When Worlds Collide: Integrating [RDA](#) records into your AACR2 catalogue and was presented by [Linda Woodcock](#) from Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Essentially, Linda discussed how cataloguers managed the transition from AACR2 to RDA, and forwarded suggestions for integrating RDA into an AACR2 catalogue. Of particular note was the fact that issues around the transition this time around are similar to those that that arose during the switch from AACR to AACR2 three decades ago.

Helping Your Patrons Move towards Success in a 21st Century Economy (F22)

The fourth and final session was called Helping Patrons Move towards Success in a 21st Century Economy. It was presented by Broadus Mattison, a librarian at Vancouver Public Library. Relevant to chronic unemployment levels, Broadus discussed VPL's establishment of the [Skilled Immigrant Infocentre](#). Coordinated and staffed by Broadus, the centre is designed to address the job-hunting needs of recent immigrants, and to share experiences and feedback. Some participants found that it is applicable not just to immigrants, but to the general population. As a job-seeker myself, I can attest to this.

Stephen Karr is Website and Social Media Coordinator and Past Chair of the Library Technicians and Assistants Section.