

From Photovoice to X-Ray Goggles: A day at the 2014 BC Library Conference

By Larissa Image.

April 1st at the BC Library Conference began in Salon E with a thought-provoking and collaborative presentation on Photovoice (T02: Photovoice – a means to cultivate conversation and change).

What is Photovoice exactly? Devon MacFarlane walked the audience through the research method wherein participants take a snapshot on a given theme and then use the photo as a means of discussion (note: the conversation and contextualization of the photo is key). His research was in the ER department of a local hospital, where the hospital staff snapped photos on the theme of the recently-implemented 'People First' policy. But the practice is just as applicable in the library field.

Want to create a neat, conversation-building teen program? Want to check in on your staff and their engagement? How about researching how your patrons use their library facilities? Photovoice can be your answer. As Devon put it, photovoice promotes critical dialogues and discussion; allows the voices of participants *and* their communities to be heard; brings in the perspectives of marginalized groups; reflects community strengths and concerns; and can effect change with policy makers (a photo is worth 1000 words!).

Next up was Galen Charlton's call for change in the way we handle metadata (T07: Lovingly crafting a mountain, not by hand: managing piles of metadata). What are some of the current challenges with metadata? For starters, cataloguers and metadata librarians don't grow on trees – and neither does money. Those two limited resources, along with time, mean that records often go unchanged, even when change is necessary. But, what if we had better tools for greater efficiency in handling metadata? What if, instead of altering one record at a time, we could alter one record and have that change reflected in many records or catalogues? With his witty turns of phrase, Galen walked us through his vision for handling mountains of metadata with an iterative approach.

In the afternoon, copyright librarian Lindsay Tripp filled the audience in on the recent copyright

changes in Canada and gave us the scoop on what libraries need to know (T14: Moving from 'no' to 'know': Recent developments in Canadian copyright).

She started off with an overview of copyright essentials – including what Bill C-11 means, how the Supreme Court of Canada is involved in Canada's copyright scene, and the role of the Copyright Board of Canada. Then, she walked us through examples and rules for copyright exceptions for libraries and fair dealing; the rules that accompany exceptions, she noted, are more restrictive than relying on fair dealing so, whenever possible, rely on fair dealing first and use the exceptions as a last resort. Lindsay also filled us in on legal perspectives on Canadian copyright issues, as well as ways in which institutions can manage copyright without purchasing licences from a copyright collective. Lastly, she shed light on recent interactions between copyright collective Access Copyright and post-secondary institutions. The most important information she imparted to us all? Copyright issues aren't nearly as frightening as we might believe – thanks to her well-informed, reassuring presentation.

The day rounded out with a Webmaker Party, courtesy of Accessibility Librarian Cynthia Ng, computer programmer Dethe Elza, and tech-savvy folks from Mozilla (T20: Webmaker Party: Building & Engaging a Community of Learners and Mentors). Webmaker is a suite of tools designed to encourage everyone – even you! – to become a creator on the web. Want to make your library website look like one for Hogwarts' library? Try X-Ray Goggles. (Not to worry: your own website is left intact.) Want to create your own version of the "Keep Calm and ____" meme? Give Thimble a shot. And if your goal is to remix an array of media into hilarious and fun presentations, try out Mozilla's media editor, Popcorn Maker.

But, how does this relate to libraries? Mozilla is all about building web literacy and community engagement – and, hey, so are libraries! Libraries are the perfect venue for Webmaker Parties – all you need are computers (or power bars to keep laptops going), an Internet connection, tech-savvy

volunteers to help out, and someone to organize it. Libraries already have the computers and Internet, so the next step is merely to organize the program and contact the local coder community to recruit volunteers. And if the lively Webmaker Party at the conference is any indication, a Webmaker Party at

your library would be a straightforward, well-attended, and highly engaging program for all ages.

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