



# CAPAL Connections

Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians

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## Dear colleagues,

Greetings and welcome to this, our first issue of *CAPAL Connections*. In the interests of outreach, communication, and transparency, we in the Communications Committee present you with our first CAPAL/ACBAP newsletter, created on behalf of the Steering Committee. We are aiming to produce three annual newsletters, coinciding with each academic term, beginning with this first fall issue.

The theme of this issue is *new beginnings*. In starting any endeavour, there is always much to articulate and mull over, and work to be done. In this issue, we invite you to engage with CAPAL/ACBAP's various committees, to consider their achievements, and potentially reach out and become involved in some of the exciting work happening within this burgeoning association. Volunteers are needed in several core committees including Advocacy, Communications, Constitutional Review, Membership, Publications, and the Student Committee.

## Communications Committee

The Communications Committee's goal is to "ensure the membership is informed and actively encouraged to be engaged in activities" (CAPAL Constitution, By-Laws 7.06). To this end, our committee has been working to develop our communications portfolio in the areas of engaging the membership, liaising between committees, and producing the inaugural CAPAL/ACBAP newsletter.

Since the AGM, the committee has been working on: engaging members via social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn), writing articles for the CAPAL/ACBAP blog, disseminating the CFP for CAPAL/ACBAP 2015, liaising communication efforts between committees, creating a safe space policy for CAPAL/ACBAP 2015, and producing the first newsletter.

In the coming year, we'll be working on setting a strategic direction for our social media outreach and engagement, inviting CAPAL/ACBAP members to serve as guest bloggers, promoting our upcoming conference at Congress 2015, and growing our committee.

If you enjoy writing, editing, blogging, or outreach, please consider becoming involved in our committee! We urge you to add to the diversity of voices representing our association and help us expand our outreach and communication. We particularly urge those members who are able to translate English content into French to consider joining our team. If you're interested in becoming involved, please contact Colleen at [colleenburgess@gmail.com](mailto:colleenburgess@gmail.com).

*Current members of the Communications Committee include:*

Kara Blizzard (University of Alberta, Augustana Campus)  
Colleen Burgess (Recent graduate, Western University), Chair  
Ali Versluis (University of Ontario Institute of Technology)

## Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee's goal is to advocate for issues pertaining to academic librarianship. At the 2014 CAPAL/ACBAP Conference, four main issues were identified and agreed to as priorities for the committee:

- 1) de-professionalization, 2) faculty/academic status, 3) assessment frameworks, and 4) collegial governance.

The first meeting of the Advocacy Committee happened via Skype on October 8. We have since drafted a terms of reference, and are currently in the process of devising timelines and responsibilities for a general work plan. Our goal is to draft policy statements for consideration and feedback at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Congress 2015. Although the issues are big and complex, the committee is confident they will be able to address two (if not three) of the mentioned priorities.

Any CAPAL/ACBAP member who is interested in advocacy is welcome to join us. The wider the perspective and insight the better! If you're interested in becoming part of this committee, please email Eva at [revitte@macewan.ca](mailto:revitte@macewan.ca).

### *Current members of the Advocacy Committee include:*

- Sonya Betz (MacEwan University)
- Leona Jacobs (University of Lethbridge)
- Mary Kandiuk (York University)
- Susan Lancsak (University of Waterloo)
- Sean Luyk (University of Alberta)
- Eva Revitt (MacEwan University), Committee Chair
- Lisa Samchum (MacEwan University)
- Ali Versluis (University of Ontario Institute of Technology)

## Conference Planning Committee

Building on the success of our 2014 conference, the 2015 organizing team has been working hard for the last few months on organizing CAPAL15: Academic Librarianship and Critical Practice. This will be our second annual conference, to be held May 31st to June 2nd, 2015 at Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Ottawa (unceded Algonquin territory). The CFP is out ([bit.ly/CAPAL15CFP](http://bit.ly/CAPAL15CFP)) and has been received warmly by practitioners and scholars alike across the globe, while in the background we've been working away at all kinds of other big and little logistical matters. Check our website and social media for exciting announcements related to the program, as well as potential volunteer opportunities, as the conference draws nearer.

### *Members of the Conference Planning Subcommittee include:*

- Colleen Burgess, CAPAL/ACBAP Communications Chair, Communications
- Jennifer Dekker, (University of Ottawa), Logistics and Co-Chair
- Douglas Fox (Victoria University in the University of Toronto) Web/Technology
- Marni Harrington (Western University) Volunteer Coordination
- Dave Hudson (University of Guelph), Program and Co-Chair
- Elizabeth Marshall (Western University), Budget

### *Additional members of the Conference Program Subcommittee include:*

- Michael Dudley (University of Winnipeg)
- Mary Kandiuk (York University)
- Harriet Sonne de Torrens (University of Toronto)

## Constitutional Review Committee

The Constitution Committee was formed by a special motion at the CAPAL/ACBAP 2014 AGM. In order to get CAPAL/ACBAP legally recognized, the organization needed a constitution.

Instead of writing a founding constitution from scratch, the CAPAL/ACBAP Steering Committee opted to import a model constitution, doing a quick edit of it to ensure it was reflective of CAPAL/ACBAP discussions regarding organizational structure. This "interim" constitution was approved at the CAPAL/ACBAP 2014 AGM with the provision that it be reviewed at the 2015 AGM, with any additional recommendations for further changes being brought forward at that time. As a result, the Special Committee on Constitutional Review was struck.

Between the summer being too short and the opening months of this academic fall being very hectic for the committee's members, the group has yet to meet. Recognizing our timeline, we are currently in the process of scheduling meetings with the intention that each member individually review the interim constitution. Any issues will be identified and discussed during these upcoming meetings. Part of the constitutional review includes incorporating feedback from the Steering Committee, who has noted areas where the constitution is not meeting its needs.

If you're interested in becoming involved, please contact Leona at [jacolm@uleth.ca](mailto:jacolm@uleth.ca). The more eyes, the better!

*Current members of the Constitutional Committee include:*

Betty Braaksma (Brandon University)  
 Michael Dudley (University of Winnipeg)  
 Leona Jacobs (University of Lethbridge), Chair  
 Eva Revitt (MacEwan University)

## Diversity and Equity Committee

The Diversity and Equity Committee was formed in May 2014. Our next steps are to draft the Terms of Reference; conduct an Environmental Scan regarding what is out there pertaining to diversity and equity; and develop a toolkit or some type of policy to address competencies of a cross-cultural, cross-gender, cross-sexual nature. Our intention is to present this research to the membership at CAPAL15 in Ottawa. In the near future, we will be sending out a survey to assess matters of diversity and equity as they relate to academic librarianship.

All CAPAL/ACBAP members are encouraged to join the committee, as we welcome all new voices and perspectives! Please contact Camille at [camille.callison@umanitoba.ca](mailto:camille.callison@umanitoba.ca) if you are interested in joining.

*Current members of the Diversity and Equity Committee include:*

Betty Braaksma (Brandon University)  
 Camille Callison (University of Manitoba), Chair  
 Michael Dudley (University of Winnipeg)  
 David Eden (University of Toronto)  
 Pat Serafini (University of Toronto)

### Want to keep in touch?

Follow CAPAL/ACBAP on [Twitter](#),  
 like us on [Facebook](#),  
 and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#)!

## Finance Committee

During the past year, January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, the primary focus of CAPAL/ACBAP's budget has been devoted to Congress 2014, the technical costs of establishing a virtual presence, the creation of a CAPAL/ACBAP logo, and memberships in the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the International Federation of Library Associations. Additionally, our first submission of documentation to Revenue Canada as a non-profit organization was completed this year.

Our sole source of income during this time has been membership dues. For the most part, the expenses of the annual congress are expected to be covered by revenue generated by registration fees. In the future, we anticipate incurring more expenses pertaining to technology, liability insurance for officers of the board, and those precipitated by new activities.

As it stands, CAPAL/ACBAP—despite operating on a shoestring budget—is financially solvent. This is in large part due to the generosity of our many volunteers.

A full statement of accounts for this year will be presented at the AGM in May 2015.

### *Current Members of the Finance Committee Include:*

- Leona Jacobs (University of Lethbridge)
- Elizabeth Marshall (Western University)
- Harriet Sonne de Torrens (University of Toronto), Chair



## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is in a period of transition at the moment, with Cynthia Williamson taking over duties from Douglas Fox. Cynthia is in the process of updating membership lists and migrating membership fees.

CAPAL/ACBAP currently has 231 members, including 86 students. This represents an impressive growth during our short lifespan. The committee feels particularly energized by the youth, engagement, and dedication of the membership. It urges you to reach out to colleagues in your institution and encourage them to consider joining us.

The committee is particularly proud of its strong contingent of keen student members, who are in the process of creating student chapters and organizing various events. These students would love to meet librarians working at their respective institutions: U of A, U of T, UWO, McGill, and Dalhousie. If you're affiliated with any of those institutions or you know folks who are, please spread the word—these students want to know about what you do and how you got to where you are! Mentorship is truly invaluable to these members.

If you're interested in working on the Membership Committee, please contact Cynthia at [cynthia.williamson@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:cynthia.williamson@mohawkcollege.ca). We'd love to hear your ideas for our fall membership drive!

Cynthia Williamson (Mohawk College), Chair

## Publications Committee

The CAPAL/ACBAP Publications Committee met on October 9th to discuss issues arising from the October Steering Committee meeting. Our current focus is on our two main scholarly publications projects: publishing the conference proceedings from Congresses 2014 and 2015, as well as starting the process to establish a flagship (online, peer-reviewed) academic journal for CAPAL/ACBAP. This journal will be hosted by the University of Toronto through the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform.

Our next steps will be to brainstorm the aim, scope, and title for a new journal for Canadian academic librarians. We plan to share a draft with the Steering Committee and eventually with the larger membership.

All members are welcome to join the committee, especially those who have experience in editorial and peer-review processes. If you're interested in becoming involved, contact Dean at [dean.giustini@ubc.ca](mailto:dean.giustini@ubc.ca).

*Current members of the Publications Committee include:*

Monica Fazekas (Western University)  
Dean Giustini (University of British Columbia), Chair  
Kristin Hoffmann (Western University)  
Mary Kandiuk (York University)  
Michael Moir (York University)  
Lisa Richmond (Wheaton College)  
Harriet Sonne de Torrens (University of Toronto)  
Cynthia Williamson (Mohawk College)

## Student Committee

Student members were impassioned after attending the 2014 AGM and took it upon themselves to organize a national outreach campaign to find other enthusiastic students to join them in CAPAL/ACBAP. You can watch their campaign video at [bit.ly/1t9e48x](http://bit.ly/1t9e48x).

This campaign was a major success. We now have over 80 student members, with student chapters at Western, McGill, Dalhousie, and U of T. From this growth, a Student Committee has been established with representatives from each school (though some vacancies exist). These chapters have created executive teams and organized skills development workshops and other activities. For example, a student at University of Alberta organized a CAPAL/ACBAP virtual discussion with librarians demonstrating how individual students can create extracurricular activities.

However, we need your help. The student chapters require meaningful engagement with academic librarians. Student engagement can take many forms, whether it is a one-time meeting over coffee or Skype or whether it's a longer-term commitment that might involve advising group projects. If you would be willing to act in this capacity, please contact Mark at [mweiler@alumni.sfu.ca](mailto:mweiler@alumni.sfu.ca). Student members are invited to nominate themselves to fill vacancies—representation is still needed from the Université de Montréal, U of Ottawa, and UBC.

### *Current members of the Student Committee include:*

Jennifer Browning (Western University), Representative and Chair of UWO CAPAL/ACBAP Chapter  
Natalie Colaiacovo (Recent Graduate, McGill University), Vice-Chair  
Christina De Longhi (McGill University), Representative and Chair of McGill CAPAL/ACBAP Chapter  
Hilary Lynd (Dalhousie University), Representative and Chair of Dalhousie CAPAL/ACBAP Chapter  
Stephanie Power (University of Toronto), Representative  
Andrea Townsend (University of Alberta), Representative  
Mark Weiler (Recent Graduate, Western University), Chair

## About the Editors

**Kara Blizzard** is an MLIS graduate from the University of Western Ontario, who also possesses an MA in English Literature from Queen's University. She works as a Public Services Librarian at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus.

**Colleen Burgess** is a former secondary school teacher who recently graduated from the MLIS program at Western University, where she earned an area of specialization certificate in Academic Librarianship. She holds a MA in English and Theatre Studies from the University of Guelph, and recently completed an eight month co-op appointment at Ryerson Library. This year she has been working in the service of the OLA as a Book Reviewer, for OCUL as a Virtual Reference Mentee, and as the Chair of the Communications Committee for CAPAL/ACBAP. She is currently seeking her next appointment at an academic library.

**Ali Versluis** is a graduate of the MLIS program at the University of Western Ontario, where she specialized in overanalyzing information and hyperextending herself. She's a proud alum of Ryerson University, where she attained her BA (with Honours) in Arts and Contemporary Studies. As of September, she has started working at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) as the Librarian for Engineering and Applied Science, Energy Systems and Nuclear Science.