



# CAPAL Connections

Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1

MAY 2015

## Finding our Feet

### In this issue:

Advocacy Committee	p. 1
Conference Committee	p. 2
Photos from CAPAL14	p. 2
Communications Committee	p. 3
Education & Professional Development Committee	p. 3
Nominations Committee	p. 4
Publications Committee	p. 4
Constitutional Review Special Committee	p. 5
Membership Committee	p. 5



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### Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee has been meeting regularly to identify strategies for engaging with the issues identified as priorities at the 2014 CAPAL/ACBAP Conference: de-professionalization, faculty/academic status, assessment frameworks, and collegial governance.

As part of this work, we have identified the need for more in-depth data about the members of our profession and have been investigating the feasibility of conducting a census of Canadian academic librarians. In February, we conducted a preliminary survey of CAPAL/ACBAP members to gauge support for this initiative. We received 70 responses along with many thoughtful and constructive comments that represented a very high level of support for conducting a census. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey and provided their valuable feedback! The Advocacy Committee will provide a detailed information package about the proposed census for members to consider at the AGM.

The Advocacy Committee has also been busy drafting statements on collegial governance and academic freedom as well as a literature review examining de-professionalization. These issues are multi-faceted and complex, so we are eager to discuss them in more detail at the 2015 CAPAL/ACBAP Conference.

If you have any questions about the work of this committee, contact Committee Chair Eva Revitt ([revitte@macewan.ca](mailto:revitte@macewan.ca)).

## Conference Committee

The CAPAL/ACBAP 2015 Conference Committee has continued to work away excitedly and diligently on all aspects of the this year's conference. We have been focused on compiling the final program, working on our website presence, sending out communiques to speakers, attendees, and the general public, figuring out logistical and budgetary matters, and developing volunteer coordination approaches—you know, all that work that is unglamorous but necessary (and satisfying in a dorky kind of way).

The preliminary program has been out for just about two months now, with members and others alike continuing to express excitement. Registration has already well surpassed the healthy number at our inaugural conference in 2014. There's a distinct possibility that we could see a sell-out crowd—we're more than half-way there! Register now at [congress2015.ca/register](http://congress2015.ca/register).

If you have any questions about the work of this committee, contact Programming Chair Dave Hudson ([dhudson@uoguelph.ca](mailto:dhudson@uoguelph.ca))



CAPAL members out for dinner



Michael Dudley's presentation



Roma Harris delivering her keynote

## Photos from CAPAL14!

If the education system has been discussing racism, the library information science field has slapped itself with a gag order. Discussion of diversity in libraries proliferated over the past few years, but meaningful dialogue around race has been eviscerated or altogether evaded. Trade Hall, "The Black Body at the Front: Racial Race Theory and Black Librarianship"



CAPAL/ACBAP's first AGM



A presentation by Dave Hudson

## Communications Committee

Over the last few months, the Communications Committee has been busy developing the scope of our reach, supporting the work of various committees, and writing content for our communication channels. At present, we are working in support of the Conference Committee on various tasks in preparation for CAPAL15, liaising with various committees to distribute their messages to the membership, and updating our social media channels.

We seek a few new members interested in writing social media content, acting as a communications liaison sitting on various committees, conducting interviews, and writing editorials and blog posts. If you are an enthusiastic writer, editor, graphic designer, illustrator, or photographer, please join our team! We are also seeking a volunteer to provide English to French translations of our various updates.

If you want to become involved or have any questions about the work of this committee, contact Committee Chair Colleen Burgess ([colleenburgess@gmail.com](mailto:colleenburgess@gmail.com)).

## New Committee

### Education and Professional Development Committee

We have been busy over the past few months determining the scope and priorities of this committee (formed in January 2015) and are currently working on drafting our terms of reference.

We have also created a survey with the aim of gathering feedback from CAPAL/ACBAP's membership on the three areas of interest defined by CAPAL/ACBAP's constitution: education, professional development, and mentorship. The survey will be available to the membership by mid-April. We strongly encourage you to participate in this voluntary survey and look forward to your responses!

The committee also recognizes that it is important to provide a repository for existing and relevant opportunities related to the education and professional development of current as well as future academic librarians. Keep an eye out for email updates from PEN (Professional Development, Education News).

We encourage all members who are interested in the education and professional development of academic librarians to join the committee. If you have any questions about the work of this committee or if you are interested in participating, contact Committee Chair Amanda Power ([arpower@mun.ca](mailto:arpower@mun.ca)).

*Current members of the Education and Professional Development Committee include:*

Martha Attridge Bufton (Student, University of Alberta)  
 Jeannie Bail (Memorial University)  
 Agatha Barc (Victoria University at the University of Toronto)  
 Robin Canuel (McGill University)  
 Luisa Fisher (Student, University of Toronto)  
 Rhiannon Jones (University of Calgary)  
 Amanda Power (Memorial University), Chair  
 Alan Reed (Student, McGill University)

**Keep in touch with CAPAL/ACBAP!**



**New Committee****Nominations Committee**

As we move towards the AGM, the membership is tasked with electing CAPAL/ACBAP's first Board of Directors. This election marks a major event in CAPAL/ACBAP's history. The Steering Committee established at the birth of the association has done a wonderful job of establishing, incorporating, and nurturing the association through its early days. This election will mark another stage in the growth of our organization and give the membership its first chance to directly shape the association's future. The nominations committee is pleased to report that we have received nine nominations for the first elected CAPAL/ACBAP Board of Directors.

*The nominees for the inaugural CAPAL/ACBAP Board of Directors include:*

Colleen Burgess (Western University)  
Camille Callison (University of Manitoba)  
Douglas Fox (Victoria University at the University of Toronto)  
Leona Jacobs (University of Lethbridge)  
Mary Kandiuk (York University)  
Amanda Power (Memorial University)  
Eva Revitt (MacEwan University)  
Lisa Richmond (Wheaton College)  
Harriet Sonne-de-Torrens (University of Toronto Mississauga)

The nominations period opened on March 16, 2015 and closed on March 28, 2015. The election will take place during the AGM on June 1, 2015. If you would like to add your name to the nomination slate for the board of directors, you can do so from the floor. The nominations committee thanks all members who took the time to put their name forward or to nominate a colleague.

*Current members of the 2015 Nominations Committee include:*

Gabay Divay (University of Manitoba)  
Dean Giustini (University of British Columbia)  
Susan Lancsak (University of Waterloo)  
Lenard Lawless (University of Winnipeg)  
Jeff Newman (New College at the University of Toronto), Chair  
Victoria Skelton (University of Toronto)

**Publications Committee**

This year's conference proceedings will be posted online with the abstract for each paper included. The committee will be contacting all presenters immediately after the conference, providing them with the opportunity to supply a modified abstract, their full paper, and/or other learning objects (such as slides) from their presentation.

We plan to launch the CAPAL/ACBAP journal in fall 2015. Our intention for the inaugural issue is to publish selected papers from this year's conference. Committee members will be attending all of the conference sessions and will invite submissions to the journal from selected presenters. Papers that are accepted for publication to the journal will not appear in the conference proceedings.

The journal will be online, open access, and peer-reviewed, with the focus on topics relating to academic librarians and the profession of academic librarianship. Submissions from a wide range of perspectives and methodologies will be welcomed. Articles need not have a geographic focus, but if they do, the focus should be on Canada or have a strong connection to Canada. Submissions will be welcome in either English or French. Two abstracts (one in each language) will accompany each article published in the journal.

More information about submissions for future issues will be provided as soon as possible.

If you have questions about this committee's work, contact Committee Chair Lisa Richmond ([lisa.richmond@wheaton.edu](mailto:lisa.richmond@wheaton.edu)).

## Constitutional Review Special Committee

The Special Committee on Constitutional Review (a.k.a. the Constitution Committee) was struck at CAPAL14's AGM to review and revise the current constitution. This was necessary because the current constitution was imported from another organization and tinkered so that CAPAL/ACBAP could be incorporated quickly.

I do not think any of us realized what we had taken on (especially in the context of our respective work commitments) but so it goes. The first stop was the Industry Canada website and the Canadian Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (S.C. 2009, c.23). We compared the current CAPAL/ACBAP Constitution (or bylaws, as The Act refers to this document), to the suggested wording for various articles. We have also used the bylaws of six other not-for-profit organizations, revised according to The Act, as guidance for wording and format.

Our agreed upon objectives are clarity and accessible language. Our work continues to be "in progress" because it is difficult to find a common meeting time! That said, we are focused on completing it for the CAPAL15 AGM. Watch for our efforts in the forthcoming AGM package.

If you have any questions about the work of this committee, contact Committee Chair Leona Jacobs (jacolm@uleth.ca).

## Membership Committee

The CAPAL/ACBAP currently has 228 active members, two pending (new members who have not yet paid fees), with 15 new members joining in the last month.

Most members are employed as librarians (122 plus the two pending) or are students (99). We also have a handful of librarians who are retired or not in paid work, and one associate member who is a library assistant.

My guess is that the annual conference, our major endeavour of the year, is a strong driver of growth among professional librarians. Many people seem to like the idea of an association that focuses specifically on the academic library sector as well as the academic aspects of librarianship and that is focused on librarians rather than libraries. Student chapters are also a growth area for CAPAL/ACBAP. Clearly, students with an interest in academic librarianship are seeing us as a good organization to be part of. We must do our best to sustain this growth.

As you can see in the chart below, our geographic distribution is Canada-wide, following the concentration of universities. British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia are the provinces with library schools, so the majority of the students are located there. We have one member working in the United States.

Province	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
<b>Members</b> (Number of Students)	14 (5)	27 (8)	7 (2)	6 (0)	129 (57)	23 (15)	4 (2)	14 (10)	0 (0)	3 (0)

If you have any questions about the work of this committee, contact Acting Membership Secretary Doug Fox (douglas.fox@utoronto.ca).