



CAPAL Connections

Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians

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Building Rapport

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The Board 2015-16

At the CAPAL15 Annual General Meeting, CAPAL members elected their first Board of Directors:

- Melanie Boyd (University of Calgary) – Director
- Colleen Burgess (Western University) – Director
- Camille Callison (University of Manitoba) – Director
- Douglas Fox (Victoria University at the University of Toronto) – Director
- Leona Jacobs (University of Lethbridge) – Chair
- Mary Kandiuk (York University) – Vice Chair
- Hilary Lynd (Graduate, Dalhousie University) – Director
- Amanda Power (Memorial University) – Director
- Eva Revitt (MacEwan University) – Director
- Lisa Richmond (Wheaton College) – Director
- Harriet Sonne-de-Torrens (University of Toronto Mississauga) – Treasurer

The Canadian Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (S.C. 2009, c.23), Section 127 (1) directs the Board to decide, from those directors elected, who will serve in various offices (as noted above). Jeff Newman (University of Toronto) volunteered to serve as Secretary to the Board. The Board has decided to meet monthly.

Since the CAPAL15 Annual General Meeting (AGM), the Board has been busy! In addition to supporting efforts in conference planning and the launch of our (forthcoming) journal, our focus has been to create opportunities for our student chapters and student members to engage with CAPAL events, to develop a translation policy for key documents and communications for the benefit of our French-speaking members, and to officially document the mandates of our Standing Committees.

Increasingly, CAPAL is developing financial stability. Our Association is self-funded through our membership and any conference surplus (after expenses); it receives no grants or other public funds. The goal is to build a foundation of \$10,000-\$20,000 to support the work of our standing committees, membership endeavours, our conference, and those priorities as noted above.

The CAPAL16 conference and AGM will soon be upon us. Please mark your calendars for 2016 May 28 (pre-conference workshop) and 2016 May 29-31 (conference and AGM). We hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,
Leona Jacobs, Chair CAPAL/ACBAP



From left to right: Douglas Fox, Colleen Burgess, Melanie Boyd, Lisa Richmond, Hilary Lynd, Leona Jacobs, Eva Revitt, Mary Kandiuk

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee is moving forward with a number of initiatives, including a census of our profession. At the 2015 CAPAL AGM in Ottawa, CAPAL members endorsed the committee's proposal to conduct a census of Canadian academic librarians.

A census is an enumeration of a population which includes the collection of related demographic information. The goal of the census is to build a comprehensive demographic picture of our profession. A small group of librarians from across Canada has been formed to move this project forward. Professor Emeritus Dr. Alvin Schrader will serve as expert advisor to the project. Once the collected data has been anonymized, it will be deposited into a data repository, where it will be made publicly available to facilitate research, policy development, advocacy, and education efforts within the profession.

In the fall of 2015, the CAPAL Advocacy Committee issued two open letters on behalf of CAPAL: [a letter to Minister Joly urging a restoration of funding to LAC](#) and a [letter of support for academic librarians at McMaster University](#). Other advocacy initiatives included a literature review on de-professionalization, a depository of the terms of reference of library councils (where they exist), a statement on faculty status, and a statement on fair dealing.

If you are interested in the work of the committee, or have suggestions or questions, please contact Advocacy Committee Chair, Eva Revitt at revitte@macewan.ca

Research and Scholarship Committee

New Committee

The CAPAL Research and Scholarship Committee has fledged! We are currently three strong, with others in the wings. Melanie Boyd, Chair (University of Calgary), Selinda Berg (University of Windsor), and Jessie Loyer (Mount Royal University) are busy developing Terms of Reference. We are keen to hear CAPAL members' thoughts and suggestions about these Terms, especially regarding our mandate and objectives.

We want to know what roles the Research and Scholarship Committee could assume to help you advance your research and scholarship endeavors as an academic librarian.

To begin the committee's work in that direction, we are bringing a new event to the CAPAL 16 conference. On Saturday, May 28 – the day before CAPAL 16 begins at the University of Calgary – we will offer **a full-day preconference workshop**. Although the theme and presenters have not yet been finalized, we are planning a day that will combine theory and application in an energetic workshop, where we roll up our sleeves and get down to work. Participants will leave with practical, implementable results. Our agenda will focus on research and scholarship, with ample opportunity for participant interaction in a supportive and enjoyable atmosphere. Stay tuned!

Please send comments and suggestions to Melanie Boyd, at maboym@ucalgary.ca

CAPAL16 Conference Committee



congress 2016
OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

energizing
communities

CAPAL16: BEYOND THE LIBRARY: AGENCY, PRACTICE, AND SOCIETY

Call for Papers

CAPAL/ACBAP Annual Conference – May 28–June 3, 2016

Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2016

University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

The Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians (CAPAL) invites participation in its annual conference, to be held as part of Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2016 at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (<http://congress2016.ca/>). The conference offers an opportunity to share critical research and scholarship, challenge current thinking, and forge new relationships across all disciplines.

THEME

In keeping with the Congress 2016 theme, Energizing Communities, CAPAL16 seeks to look “Beyond the Library” to rethink how academic librarians engage with their communities within which our institutions are situated or those with whom we share disciplinary concerns or approaches. Such communities may be physical, epistemic, academic, or imagined communities, communities of identity, or those communities around us and to which we contribute. What can the discipline of library and information studies (LIS) learn from other disciplines? What might LIS as an interdisciplinary field look like? Where and how should academic librarianship be situated within and in relation to other communities?

RATIONALE

Like any institution, academic libraries both reflect and help shape the societies of which they are part. It is therefore critical for academic librarians to consider how they and their work are situated – professionally, ontologically, ethically, epistemologically, and physically. As social agents, we share and occupy socio-economic, political, and technological spaces in our efforts to provide diverse, high quality, informational resources and critical education within a contemporary (i.e., neoliberal) legal and economic framework.

In such an environment, effecting change requires seeking out, examining, and engaging with new ideas, approaches, theories, communities, understandings, and ways of knowing, which, themselves, may fall outside the traditional boundaries of the discipline of library and information studies. We need to move our lines of inquiry “beyond the library” – physically and intellectually – into new arenas and new communities. This conference is an invitation to academic librarians and scholars who study libraries and information to discuss how we can reframe academic librarianship: in practice, in policy, in theory, and in society.

Continued on next page

CAPAL16 Call for Papers *(continued from the previous page)*

Potential topic areas include but are not limited to:

- Academic librarianship in the context of urgent socio-political priorities, such as climate change, environmental sustainability, and social equity;
- The relationship between academic librarianship and democracy;
- Academic librarianship and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples;
- Indigenizing, decolonizing, diversity, and inclusion in academic librarianship;
- The philosophical bases of academic librarianship in social theory;
- The history of academic librarianship and the role of academic librarians in the academy;
- The potentially biased treatment of controversial issues and scholarly debates in knowledge organization and information retrieval systems;
- The sociology of knowledge mobilization;
- Academic librarianship and its relationship to the design of user spaces;
- Academic librarianship's response to privacy and security in the "post-Snowden" era;
- Community development, "town-gown" relationships, and academic librarianship;
- Core values of academic librarianship in mediated spaces;
- Critical theory, interdisciplinary approaches and subject expertise in LIS education for academic librarians.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The Program Committee invites proposals for individual papers as well as proposals for panel submissions of three papers. Individual papers are typically 20 minutes in length. For individual papers, please submit an abstract of 300 words and a presentation title, with brief biographical statement and your contact information. For complete panels, please submit a panel abstract of 300 words as well as a list of all participants and brief biographical statements, and a separate abstract of 300 words for each presenter. Please identify and provide participants' contact information for the panel organizer. International proposals and proposals from non-members and students are welcome.

Proposals and questions should be directed to the Program Chairs:

Michael Dudley: m.dudley@uwinnipeg.ca

John Wright: jpwright@ucalgary.ca

Deadline for proposals: January 15th, 2016.



Dr. Sarah T. Roberts



Emily Drabinski, Jessie Loyer, Heidi Jacobs



Dave Hudson



**Photos from
CAPAL15!**



Dr. Henry Giroux

Constitutional Review (Special Committee)

The Special Committee on Constitutional Review, struck at the CAPAL14 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and assigned the task of reviewing the Constitution, completed its work by presenting new bylaws to the CAPAL15 AGM. These bylaws, developed with reference to Canadian Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (S.C. 2009, c.23), were approved by the membership at that meeting and are now available [on the CAPAL website](#).

With their work completed, this Special Committee has been disbanded. Many, many thanks to Betty Braaksma (Brandon University), Michael Dudley (U.Winnipeg), and Eva Revitt (Macewan U.) for their participation in this undertaking.

Respectfully submitted,
Leona Jacobs, Chair
Special Committee on Constitutional Review

Communications Committee

Since our last report, the Communications Committee has worked in support of the CAPAL15 conference held in Ottawa, Ontario in the spring of 2015. In order to facilitate participant engagement with the research presented at the conference, the Communications team ran a "Critical Tweets" competition in which conference participants could win prizes for tweeting critical questions in response to the presentations. The competition was a success: hundreds of critical questions and responses were tweeted using the #CAPAL15 hashtag over the two and a half day conference and the competition provided a platform for critical engagement between participants. We would like to thank Library Juice Press for donating prizes to the competition, and we extend our congratulations to the winners and to all those who participated in the event. Since the conference, a subcommittee has formed to address a backlog of CAPAL communications to be translated into French, and to design a strategy in addressing the backlog of content. In 2016, The Communications team will work on putting our plans into action and making more of our association materials freely available in both official languages.

Most recently, the Communications Committee has divided our efforts in assuming project leadership for each of our key areas of service and support to the CAPAL Board and to our membership: (1) conference communications and translations projects, led by Colleen Burgess (2) social media, led by Kara Blizzard and (3) the CAPAL newsletter, led by Juliya Borie. Each project lead is seeking additional help from our CAPAL membership. If you are interested in any of the aforementioned aspects of Communications work, we encourage you to contact Communications Chair, Colleen Burgess, at caburges@uwo.ca

Lastly, we bid farewell to Communications member Ali Versluis of UOIT in 2015 and welcomed Juliya Borie of UofT to the Committee. We thank Ali for her service and wish a warm welcome to Juliya! In the months to come, the Communications team will work with the Conference Organizing Committee in preparation for the CAPAL16 conference. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Keep in touch with CAPAL/ACBAP!



Publications Committee

The Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship / Revue canadienne de bibliothéconomie universitaire is set to launch its first issue within the next month. This first issue of our open-access, peer-reviewed publication will offer articles based on some of the conference presentations at CAPAL15, as well as several book reviews. It has been a pleasure to work with the authors and reviewers for this issue.

CJAL / RCBU is focused on advancing the profession of academic librarianship, particularly in Canada. In keeping with the mission of CAPAL/ACBAP, the journal will focus on topics that relate to the defining features of academic librarians and the values articulated in our association's guiding document, "[Academic Librarianship: A Statement of Principles](#)." The journal is open to all research methodologies. It is also bilingual, offering content in English and in French. We welcome you to consider submitting your work to our journal.

The journal's website was designed by Jennette Weber, a graduate of the University of Toronto's iSchool, and the site is hosted and supported by the University of Toronto. Please visit cjal.ca or rcbu.ca and take a look around. The launch of the first issue will be announced on the CAPAL email list.

The editors,
Monica Fazekas, University of Western Ontario
Kristin Hoffmann, University of Western Ontario
Marie-Ève Ménard, Université de Montréal
Lisa Richmond, Wheaton College

Student Committee

The CAPAL National Student Committee has been hard at work since the AGM. Our five chapters, located at LIS schools across Canada, have been busy facilitating professional development and skills based workshops for student members. These events include Q & A sessions with academic librarians in the field, introductions to relevant software, library tours, and more.

The Student Committee has worked to obtain funding to support student activities, including a \$50 bursary for each local chapter to host an event that promotes CAPAL. In addition, a new merit-based bursary will support an individual student's attendance at the CAPAL16 conference. This bursary consists of conference registration (at a value of \$250), as well as \$250 to support travel, lodging, or meals at the conference.

Finally, the Student Committee is currently developing a series of documents to outline the committee's operations. The documents include Terms of Reference, an operations policy for the National Student Committee, and a corresponding framework for local chapters.

If you have any questions about the work of this committee, contact Hilary Lynd (hilary.lynd@dal.ca).