



CAPAL Connections

Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians

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Finding Balance



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The Board

In early fall, the board considered several areas of focus for the coming year. The one that we have selected is to focus on assisting CAPAL members to more fully understand and inhabit their roles, responsibilities, and rights as academic staff. This may involve such areas as faculty governance, academic freedom, and academic status.

The board is grateful for the CAPAL18 Conference Committee's hard work so far in planning another great conference for 2018. The board recently approved the conference theme, and the conference committee will soon be publicizing the Call for Papers.

The board recently endorsed, on behalf of CAPAL, the Centre for Law and Democracy petition regarding reforms to the Access to Information Act.

The board welcomes comments and questions from CAPAL members at any time. Please feel free to write to capalibrarians@gmail.com and your message will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

Lisa Richmond, Board chair



Advocacy Committee

In the coming year the Advocacy Committee will be working on the 2018 iteration of the Census of Canadian Academic Librarians. A summary of findings of the 2016 census are available [here](#). The Committee will set up a working group in January to start planning the instrument and its distribution, anticipated to take place throughout the summer of 2018.

Other projects over the coming year will include drafting on a Statement on the Academic Status of librarians, to be published alongside [previously released statements](#) on the CAPAL website. The goal is to have a draft statement for CAPAL members' consideration in time for the Congress conference in Regina.

The Committee is also planning a response to the October 18th passage in Quebec of Bill 62 – the “religious neutrality” law – which threatens to affect the ability of Muslim women employees and students to work or study in provincially-funded university libraries.

Michael Dudley, Advocacy Committee chair

CAPAL18 Call for Proposals

Community, Diversity, and Education: Academic Librarianship in Challenging Times

will be held in conjunction with Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2018 at
University of Regina, Saskatchewan, 29-31 May, 2018

(Preconference 28 May, 2018)

CAPAL18 provides an opportunity for academic librarians to critically examine and discuss the ways in which collaboration, respect for differences, and professionalism empower us at a time when the values of our profession are in danger of being eroded, both within our universities and within the wider world. It is time to consider the role of academic librarianship in a changing world and the ways in which academic librarians can challenge the corporatization of our universities and libraries, institutional inequities, and the attempts to deprofessionalize academic librarians.

Papers presented might relate to aspects of the following themes (*though they need not be limited to them*):

- Challenges to academic status for librarians
- The identity of academic librarians in uncertain times
- Challenging racism in Canadian universities
- The role of academic librarians in the changing academic library environment and culture
- The ways in which professionalism intersects with race and gender, and how it may reinforce institutional power dynamics
- Challenges to academic freedom and intellectual freedom
- Challenges to academic integrity in a “fake news” and anti-science world
- The roles and responsibilities of academic librarians in Reconciliation
- Resisting the corporatization of universities and academic libraries
- Confronting barriers to diversity in academic libraries

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The Program Committee invites proposals for individual papers as well as proposals for panel submissions of three papers. Proposed papers must be original and not have been published elsewhere.

- Individual papers are typically 20 minutes in length. For individual papers, please submit an abstract of no more than 400 words and a presentation title, with a brief biographical statement and your contact information.
- For complete panels, please submit a panel abstract of no more than 400 words as well as a list of all participants and brief biographical statements, and a separate abstract of no more than 400 words for each presenter. Please provide contact information for all participants.
- Incomplete proposals or proposals that exceed the requested word count will not be considered.

Please feel free to contact the Program Committee to discuss a topic for a paper, panel, or other session format. Proposals should be emailed as an attachment as a .doc or .docx file, using the following filename conventions:

- Lastname_Keywordoftopic.docx

Proposals and questions should be directed to the Program Chairs, Lorna Rourke and Laura Koltutsky, at capalproposals@gmail.com.

Deadline for Proposals is: 22 December, 2017

Further information about CAPAL 2018 and Congress 2018 are available at:

<http://conference.capalibrarians.org/> & <https://www.congress2018.ca/>

Please note: The University of Regina is pleased to offer the Congress 2018 Graduate Student Travel Awards (<https://www.congress2018.ca/student-funding>), funded by the President's Planning Committee for Congress 2018. Fully-qualified graduate students and recent PhD graduates will be able to apply for a subsidy of up to \$500 towards accommodation, meal, & bookstore credits to facilitate participation at Congress 2018.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has continued our efforts in disseminating internal and external CAPAL communications among our membership and to our Canadian colleagues at large, related to the activities of the association and news of interest to academic librarians in Canada. This year, former chair Colleen Burgess has stepped down and Kevin Tanner has accepted the role of chair. Colleen will remain on the committee and will continue to be a vital resource. The committee is grateful for all Colleen has done as chair of the committee and as a member of CAPAL in general.

In the coming months, the committee plans on developing a survey to determine what communications our membership prefers. The survey will help the committee better understand what our membership expects to see and in what format.

In support of the CAPAL18 conference planning, the committee will work alongside the conference organizing committee to set timelines for the writing, translation, and dissemination of conference and promotional documentation via our blog, email, social media channels, and in liaising with our webmaster, Douglas Fox (University of Toronto) on the conference website.

In the dissemination of our CAPAL communications including and beyond the scope of the conference, the committee has continued into year three of our social media strategy. In this strategy, a member of each standing committee is responsible to write a blog post and a variety of social media content on a rotating monthly basis which allows for a greater variety of voices to be shared across our various communications channels and allows awareness of the work conducted within all of the CAPAL standing committees to reach our overall membership.

Our newsletter, CAPAL Connections, provides a similar overview of the work of the standing committees and of our board.

If you're interested to become involved in the work of the CAPAL Communications Committee, please do not hesitate to contact kevin.tanner@sait.ca.

Kevin Tanner, Communications Committee chair

Keep in touch with CAPAL/ACBAP!



Student Committee

The National Student Committee's mandate is to represent, support and advocate for CAPAL-ACBAP student members and for emerging professionals across Canada. Student chapters organize local professional development and skills-based workshops and meet once a month to share resources and work toward cohesive goals.

In October, we hosted a webinar by James Murphy (University of Calgary) called Designing and Delivering Instruction: Tips and Strategies for New Academic Librarians and recruited two new Members at Large to participate with the Education and Professional Development committee. In the coming months we will be considering how we can best respond to our mandate for promoting advocacy.

Success for the student committee depends upon meaningful engagement with academic librarians, so if you are interested in presenting a webinar or connecting with the student groups in another way, please contact sarah.shaughnessy@ualberta.ca.

Sarah Shaughnessy, Student Committee chair



Nominating Committee

The All-New Travel-Free Election Process!

Can't make it to CAPAL18 but want to vote for the incoming members of the Board of Directors? Worried that you'll miss the vote because your flight to CAPAL18 was re-routed through Churchill? Well, worry no more! The new election procedure approved at CAPAL17, means that votes for the next Board will be collected in an online election prior to the AGM – allowing you to vote from anywhere with an Internet connection.

But wait... it gets better! If you choose to run for a position on the board (which you should!) all of your colleagues and friends in CAPAL will be able to *vote for you* using this exciting new voting system. Imagine how thrilled all the CAPAL members in your LinkedIn network will be to click a button beside your name that has actual real-world consequences! The call for nominations will be coming in December.

Have questions about joining the Board of Directors or one of the Association's committees? contact the nominating committee at capal.nominating.committee@gmail.com.

Jeff Newman, Nominating Committee chair

Membership Committee

It has been a busy start of term for the Membership Committee! September saw the return of the annual student membership drive, during which students can join CAPAL for the reduced price of \$10 (compared to \$20.88). Given that the start of semester is always a busy time for students, the committee collaborated with the student chapters to extend the membership drive through to the month of October, to ensure that all students had an opportunity to connect with their student chapters, learn more about CAPAL, and join for the reduced rate. The Membership Committee continues to seek out new connections with all of our members, in addition to developing membership resources to support members in registering, renewing, or changing their membership levels with CAPAL.

We are always seeking out new ways to support our members – If you have questions or feedback about membership, please contact capalibrarians@gmail.com.

Alison Foster, Membership Committee chair



Education and Professional Development Committee

Learning doesn't (and shouldn't!) end with the MLIS degree. Education is a lifelong process, which can be hard to remember when we overcommit and stretch ourselves too thin. But how do you carve out time in your busy schedule for professional development when you're barely staying afloat?

The only way around this is to sit down, push yourself to identify a webinar or two of interest, and sign up. Put it in your calendar. Mark yourself as busy and prioritize this fragment of your workweek for professional development. Don't let anything else encroach on this essential practice.

Regularly setting time aside for education is invaluable. Webinars allow us to take a step back and reconsider our work. Are there topics I should learn more about? What innovative ideas could I implement? Don't keep putting off lifelong learning, or you'll miss opportunities to improve and build upon both theory and practice.

Helen Power, Education and Professional Development Committee member

Newsletter designed and edited by:
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