



CAPAL Connections

Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians

VOL. 6, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2018

Continuing the Conversation



Source: [Marc Wathieu](#)
License: [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

In this Issue:

The Board	p. 2
Communications Committee	p. 2
Call for Proposals, CAPAL19	p. 3-4
Member Profile: Emma Popowich	p. 5
Advocacy Committee	p. 6
Publications Committee	p. 6
Member Profile: Amanda Wheatley	p. 7
Education & Prof. Development Committee	p. 8
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines CoP	p. 8
Diversity and Equity Committee	p. 9
Research and Scholarship Committee	p. 9

The Board

Our CAPAL19 conference is beginning to take shape. It looks to be an exciting event in Vancouver in June! We hope to see you there!

Our focus this year is on the development of our organization. No longer in its infancy, it's time for CAPAL to review past practice, look at lessons learned, and implement some strategies to keep us healthy and vibrant over the next few years. A large scale consultation is planned with our membership to identify core activities for the upcoming year. At the same time we are working on our financial health to create the stability and transparency our membership has asked for. We have a new crop of both directors and committee chairs this year with loads of energy and ideas to bring to our organization. Stay tuned!

Emma Popowich, Board Chair, 2018 - 2019



Communications Committee

The CAPAL Communications Committee provides communications support and assistance to the board and other committees. To this end, the committee aims to either develop communications at the request of others or to disseminate already developed communications. In addition, the committee has several standing communications initiatives such as the biannual Newsletter and regular social media postings that we solicit from other committees.

The committee is comprised of members from across the country with an interest in supporting the communications of CAPAL. This summer, we welcomed Céline Gareau-Brennan (University of Alberta) to the committee to assist with minor French translations and to verify the accuracy of translations by our translators. We also welcomed Chris Thomas (Mount Royal University), who has taken the responsibility of our new monthly initiative, Member Profiles. These profiles seek to highlight the personal and professional lives of CAPAL members. Other members that continue to work on the committee are Kara Blizzard, Colleen Burgess, Kevin Tanner (Chair), Lydia Thorne, and Janice Winkler.

The committee will be collaborating with the Publications Committee to develop a survey to better understand how the association can support CAPAL's members. This survey will be developed and sent out to membership in the next few months.

The committee will also be working on projects as they arise. We welcome any communications from other committees and from our membership as appropriate to share with our membership. The focus for our communications is on the profession.

As always, If you wish to get involved with the committee, have any comments or suggestions, or want to learn more about the work that we do, please email Kevin Tanner at kevin.tanner@sait.ca

Kevin Tanner, Communications Committee Chair

Call for Proposals

CAPAL19: The Politics of Conversation: Identity, Community, and Communication

CAPAL/ACBAP Annual Meeting – June 2-4, 2019

Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2019

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, British Columbia

The Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians (CAPAL) invites you to participate in its annual conference, to be held as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2019 at the University of British Columbia on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the $x^w m \theta k^w \acute{e} \acute{y} \acute{e} m$ (Musqueam) people. This conference offers librarians and allied professionals across all disciplines an alternative space to share research and scholarship, challenge current thinking about professional issues, and forge new relationships.

Theme

In keeping with the Congress 2019 theme, Circles of Conversation, the theme of CAPAL19 is ***Politics of Conversation: Identity, Community, and Communication***.

This conference provides an opportunity for the academic library community to critically examine and discuss the ways in which our profession is influenced by its social, political, and economic environments. By considering academic librarianship within its historical contexts, its presents, and its possible futures, and by situating it within evolving cultural frameworks and structures of power, we can better understand the ways in which academic librarianship may reflect, reinforce, or challenge these contexts both positively and negatively.

In what kinds of conversation are we or are we not engaging within the profession, academia, and civil society? How are the various identities that constitute our communities reflected (or not) within academic librarianship, and how do we engage in conversations within our own communities and with communities that we may see as external.

Potential Topics:

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

- Diversity: how do we ensure our circles (communities, spaces) are diverse? What are the circles available to librarians, and how do we ensure that librarians are not circumscribed by their identities within these circles? This could apply both to academic public librarianship, or academic librarian vs. the broader academic community, but perhaps more importantly, it could ask these questions with respect to women, people of colour, and Indigenous librarians.
- Intellectual and academic freedom: How do we define our responsibilities and our liberties in these areas? Are these positive or negative freedoms, especially with respect to broader communities?

Call for Proposals, continued

- “Imagined Communities”: It is the 35th anniversary of Benedict Anderson’s Imagined How do librarians see themselves in various “imagined communities” (nationality, community of practice, inter- and cross-disciplinary), and what are the politics of our participation?
- Conversations outside the circles: how do we make our research relevant outside LIS? Is this different for different kinds of research? How do we bring public values and ideas into our work and research?
- Labour and solidarity: how do we organize ourselves within academic librarianship; how do we connect our conversations with other library workers, other academic workers, other workers as a
- Conversations within practice/praxis: how are communications and connections established and maintained with the profession and between academic librarians and administrators, faculty, students, and other

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 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. Please identify and provide participants’ contact information for the panel organizer.

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 in your preferred format (open formats welcome!), using the following filename convention:

- Lastname_Title.<extension>

Proposals and questions should be directed to the Program Chair, Sam Popowich at
Sam.Popowich@ualberta.ca

Deadline for Proposals is: 21/12/2018

Further information about the conference, as well as Congress 2019 more broadly, will be available soon.

CAPAL Member Profiles

In September of 2018 the CAPAL Communications Committee launched our first CAPAL Member Profile. This initiative was created to showcase our membership and to provide a fun way to learn more about your colleagues in the association. Members being profiled choose two personal questions, two professional questions, and one CAPAL question.

Interested in being profiled? Contact capalibrarians@gmail.com to be added to the list.

Our first member profile is with the new CAPAL Chair, **Emma Popowich**.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Walk in forests, go to local produce markets and bakeries, drink lattes.

Tell us about something you're passionate about outside of work?

Fresh air and access to nature. Geographic isolation.

What is your current role?

Acting Head of three libraries at the University of Manitoba.

What is something that surprised you about your current work position?

How you do things is as important as what you do. The work is in the relationships.

Weigh in: Is CAPAL pronounced "capple" or "ca-pal"?

I used to say capple, but I like the ka-pow! Sound of ca-pal, so I'm leaning that way.



Advocacy Committee

After a successful turnout and productive discussions at the two-part session hosted at [CAPAL18](#) in Regina, “The MLIS Degree - Really, Why Bother?”, the Advocacy Committee is considering how we might continue and expand upon the discussion at the upcoming CAPAL19. The Congress 2019 theme, “Circles of Conversation”, is particularly relevant to this endeavour.

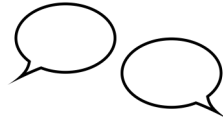
The 2018 Census of Canadian Academic Librarians is now complete and will soon be made available. The census had a total of 976 responses, using the new instrument, and will provide a greater picture of who we are as professional academic librarians in Canada.

On May 2, 2018, the CFLA issued [National Forum Paper: Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Freedom, Key Policy Concerns for Canadian Libraries](#). Advocacy has crafted a response statement addressing problematic areas identified by CAPAL membership. This will be made available in November 2018 on the CAPAL website.

The recent United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMAC), revising the two decades (plus) old NAFTA, has presented new issues for academic librarians with its updated approach to [Intellectual Property and Copyright](#). The Advocacy Committee is currently drafting a response to the changes on behalf of CAPAL. Stay tuned.

We look forward to CAPAL19 and continued productive discussions!

Mary Greenshields, Advocacy Committee Chair



Publications Committee

The Publications Committee is proud to be the newest addition to the CAPAL/ACBAP family. Our responsibilities include oversight of the official external CAPAL/ACBAP publications, the annual conference proceedings, and other future publication projects. Since our first meeting in July, the Publications Committee has been busy recruiting new members and discussing our mandate with other CAPAL/ACBAP committees.

We would like to develop publication opportunities that align with the needs of our members and so our current focus is on identifying how we can assist CAPAL/ACBAP committees, the membership at large, and all Canadian academic librarians.

The Publications Committee would like to introduce our full roster of members: Chris Thomas, Eveline Houtman, Jeannine Berroteran, Justine Wheeler, Lori Giles-Smith, Rumi Graham, and Sara Klein.

Keep an eye out for us in the coming months and feel free to contact us at capalpublications@gmail.com

Amanda Wheatley, Publications Committee Chair

CAPAL Member Profiles

Amanda Wheatley, Liaison Librarian for Management & Business at McGill University and chair of CAPAL's Publications Committee

What would you be if you weren't a librarian?

Definitely an astrophysicist, it was always my dream job. Either that or a party planner.

What are you reading right now (professional or personal)? What is it about?

Right now I am reading *Brotopia: Breaking Up The Boys' Club of Silicon Valley* by Emily Chang. It's looking at the toxic bro culture that was rampant in the 90s/2000s and the lack of women in the tech industry. Great read!

What are you most excited to be working on right now?

My most exciting work project right now is developing the Entrepreneurship functionality of my position. I get to teach interdisciplinary sessions and approach the subject in innovative ways. I am really enjoying evaluating the collection and building up plans for future workshops and collaborations.

Do you have a mentor in the library field?

My "mentor" in the field (and I say that in quotes only because she is truly so much more) would be Afra Bolefski, the Business Librarian at the University of Manitoba. Afra gave me my start in libraries and business librarianship and for that I owe her everything. She taught me how to refine my reference and teaching skills, how to engage with my faculty and create partnerships. She encouraged me to build up my research interests and to serve my library community. Afra taught me to go after what I want and to be less timid about approaching my interests. Because of her, I had the opportunity to immerse myself in active learning and gamification – two of my priority research areas. The advice and friendship I received from her has made me the librarian I am today.

Weigh in: is CAPAL pronounced 'capple' or 'ca-pal'?

I'm a "capple" girl myself, but that could be my bias love of Diet Snapple speaking...



Education and Professional Development Committee

A new academic year is here and with that the Education and Professional Development (EPD) Committee continues to create opportunities for CAPAL members to learn, discuss, share and contribute to professional skills and knowledge.

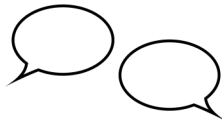
In addition to connecting with student committees and engaging in opportunities to provide input to LIS curricula, the EPD Committee supports a number of active Communities of Practice (CoP). These groups meet virtually to share information and experiences with each other, boosting knowledge and awareness of particular issues in librarianship. Group activities have culminated in a number of successful and wide-reaching webinars, open to all CAPAL members to attend.

Current Communities of Practice:

- Information Literacy, facilitated by Helen Power
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, facilitated by Mark Weiler

For more information about or to join the EPD Committee or a Community of Practice please contact James Murphy or reach out to a CoP facilitator. We also welcome new CoPs and facilitators!

James Murphy, Education and Professional Development Committee Chair



Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Community of Practice

The first year of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Community of Practice (CoP) has been amazing, due entirely to the commitment of the core team.

We finished an eight-month introduction to WCAG 2.0 and are now doing a five-month case study of the Big 10 Academic Alliance's library e-resource accessibility project.

May was a busy month. We went on a WCAG 2.0 field trip with stops at an assistive technology company and Mozilla, the makers of Firefox. For Global Accessibility Awareness Day and as a public service, we hosted a public webinar by Gregg Vanderheiden, co-editor of WCAG 2.0.

On November 15th, in service to the association, we held a webinar for CAPAL members on accessible virtual reality, led by Jasmine Clark of Temple University.

If you are unsure if you can commit to joining the CoP, CAPAL members can join a WCAG Interest Group. Contact facilitator Mark Weiler at mweiler@wlu.ca for more information about either group.

Mark Weiler, WCAG CoP Coordinator

Diversity and Equity Committee

The Diversity and Equity Committee has regrouped with two new co-chairs and had their first meeting on September 17, 2018. Members were enthusiastic participants and there were many discussions on different topics from house-keeping (regarding documents) to several initiatives to promote opportunities for our diverse student and professional members. There was also agreement to meet on a regular basis, possibly every month. The committee has met again in October and have worked on an exciting proposal idea which they hope to share in the near future.

Michael Dudley and Maha Kumaran, Diversity and Equity Committee Chairs



Research and Scholarship Committee

In June 2018, Melanie Boyd completed her term as chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee. Members of the committee express their sincere gratitude for her strong leadership and guidance during her term. We are thankful that Melanie will continue to be a contributing member of the committee. Melanie passed the chairship to co-chairs Jenaya Webb (University of Toronto) and Selinda Berg (University of Windsor). The committee also welcomed new members at this time representing institutions across Canada and a wide array of experiences and backgrounds.

In Fall 2018, we are focused on editing a special issue for the Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship gathering diverse perspectives and voices surrounding research and scholarship in academic libraries. The response to the call for papers for the special issue was excellent. The committee is thankful for the continued guidance and support of the CJAL editors. We look forward to publishing the special issue in Spring 2019.

Selinda Berg and Jenaya Webb, Research and Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs

Keep in touch with CAPAL/ACBAP!



Other CAPAL committees include the Membership Committee, the Student Committee, and the Nominations Committee.

Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians

Email: capalibrarians@gmail.com Website: capalibrarians.org

Newsletter designed and edited by CAPAL Communications Committee

Kara Blizzard, Colleen Burgess, Kevin Tanner, Lydia Thorne, Janice Winkler, Celine Gareau-Brennan, and Chris Thomas