



# CAPAL Connections

Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians

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## Education & Professional Development Committee

The EPD Committee is continuing to provide learning opportunities for CAPAL/ABCES members. In March, the EPD committee hosted a free online panel discussion entitled: 1 year in: What We Have Learned During COVID-19. This webinar was a resounding success. Thank you to committee member Christine Moffatt, from University of Waterloo, for moderating!

We're eager to explore new opportunities for professional development. If you have any suggestions, please contact us.

We currently support five Communities of Practice:

- Information Literacy
- Web Content and Accessibility Guidelines
- Research and Writing
- Game-based Learning
- Displays, Outreach and Engagement

Please visit [this page](#) if you are interested in joining one of these CoPs or starting a new one.

Thank you to the EPD committee for their contributions this year: Martha Attridge Bufton, Anna Flak, Justin Fuhr, Gavin Goodwin, Rhiannon Jones, Christine Moffatt, Melissa Moleirenho, Joanne Rumig, and Mark Weiler.

Helen Power, Education and Professional Development Committee Chair ([helen.power@usask.ca](mailto:helen.power@usask.ca))

## Communications Committee

Over the past year our committee has seen many changes. We welcomed new members Chad Currier, Inaam Charaf, and Emily Carlisle-Johnston. They join Chris Thomas, Emily Hector, Anna Flak, and Lindsay Bontje to make up the busy Communications Committee.

This year we have aimed to work more closely with other CAPAL committees. For example, we have worked with the Student Committee to improve communications with student members. And in the coming year, members will start to see regular contributions from the Research and Scholarship Committee in the Monthly Digest.

We maintained our existing communications channels, including our Member Profiles, social media activity, and of course the annual update, which you are reading now. And we have opted to maintain the Monthly Digests, a project which began as a pilot in January of 2020.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering for the Communications Committee, please contact [Janice.Winkler@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Janice.Winkler@umanitoba.ca).

Janice Winkler, Communications Committee Chair ([janice.winkler@umanitoba.ca](mailto:janice.winkler@umanitoba.ca))

## Diversity & Equity Committee

This year's committee had some membership changes and also saw the start of two new co-chairs in Summer 2020.

Michelle Brown is the Head, Learning & Student Success at uOttawa Library. She is currently a member of the CARL Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group and she was previously a member of the uOttawa Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. Her research interests include Open Educational Resources and accessibility / democratization of information, Indigenous language education and traditional knowledge, as well as Indigenous data sovereignty.

Cecilia Tellis is the Head, Design & Outreach at uOttawa Library. She co-leads several EDI-initiatives including a community of practice, and a task group to review EDI issues at a strategic level. She is a contributing member of Visible Minority Librarians of Canada and is a fellow in the ARL Leadership & Career Development Program which prepares mid-career librarians from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to take on leadership roles. Her research interests include designing for diversity, and the application of EDI in higher education and academic library settings.

The committee has developed an initial work plan for the year, and is looking forward to actively contributing to the CAPAL21 virtual conference with its theme of **EDI in Academic libraries – How are we doing?**

Questions about the committee can be sent to Michelle ([michelle.brown@uottawa.ca](mailto:michelle.brown@uottawa.ca)) and Cecilia ([ctellis@uottawa.ca](mailto:ctellis@uottawa.ca)).

Michelle Brown, Diversity and Equity Committee Co-Chair ([michelle.brown@uottawa.ca](mailto:michelle.brown@uottawa.ca))

Cecilia Tellis, Diversity and Equity Committee Co-Chair ([ctellis@uottawa.ca](mailto:ctellis@uottawa.ca))

## Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship

CJAL welcomed new editors in 2021: Nicole Doro and Karen Nicholson. We published Volume 6, our special issue on [Academic Libraries and the Irrational](#) in December 2020, which included research articles and creative works. The articles have been downloaded more than 500 times each since they were published! Congratulations to all our authors and thank you to our reviewers.

We published our first article in the [2021 volume](#), "Creation of an Online Library Instruction Course for Faculty," by Diane Zerr and Tasha Maddison, as well as three book reviews. This volume will include a special focus on "Refusing Crisis Narratives"; Sam Popowich will join as a guest editor.

CJAL welcomes submissions at any time on topics related to academic librarians and the profession of academic librarianship. We are open to all research methodologies and aim to provide a supportive publishing experience for authors. We look forward to seeing your submissions!

## Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the CAPAL Board of Directors election results. The following members will be joining the Board of Directors for the 2021-2024 term:

- Justin Fuhr (University of Manitoba)
- Amanda Wheatley (McGill University)
- Carol Leibiger (University of South Dakota)

The nomination period was open from January 8 - February 28, 2021. The election ran online from April 9 - 16, 2021. 43% of eligible CAPAL members cast a vote with 63 people (98.4%) voting yes to approve the slate of nominees.

We would like to thank the outgoing Board of Directors members, Maha Kumaran and Afra Bolefski, for their work with the Association over the last three years.

The Nominations Committee is in need of additional members! If you are interested in helping the committee in their work please reach out to [capal.nominating.committee@gmail.com](mailto:capal.nominating.committee@gmail.com).

Lori Giles-Smith, Nominations Committee Chair ([lori.giles-smith@umanitoba.ca](mailto:lori.giles-smith@umanitoba.ca))

## Advocacy Committee

As we look forward to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Advocacy Committee thanks our members and the CAPAL Board of Directors for their ongoing support and guidance.

### Summary of 2020 - 2021 Projects

- Statement response to CARL Consultation Draft of Competencies for CARL Librarians (January 2020)
- Statement on Academic Libraries and COVID-19 (March 2020)
- Anti-Black racism statement (June 2020)
- Completed CAPAL website redesign and reorganization

### Anticipated Goals and Objectives for 2021 - 2022

- Continued engagement and response with ongoing issues as related and relevant to Canada's professional academic librarians;
- Plan for CAPAL Census of Academic Librarians 2022
- Collaborate with CAUT Librarians' & Archivists' Committee around labour issues and priorities
- Draft academic rank and title guidelines for professional librarians working at Canadian universities.

We invite new members interested in advocacy issues to join the committee. If you would like to get involved or have questions please contact Mary Greenshields, [greemc@uleth.ca](mailto:greemc@uleth.ca).

Mary Greenshields, Advocacy Committee Chair ([greemc@uleth.ca](mailto:greemc@uleth.ca))

## National Student Committee

With school and classes remaining online this year, CAPAL's student chapters have been active to varying degrees: some have been completely inactive, some have worked to re-launch their chapters after several semesters of inactivity, and others have found success with online programming. The UWO Student Chapter has shared highlights and challenges from the last year in [a letter](#) on the CAPAL National Student Committee (NSC) blog.

In addition to local chapter activity, the NSC has continued to encourage and recruit student members to CAPAL. At the end of the 2020-21 academic year, the group launched a marketing campaign calling students to take advantage of the student membership rate before graduation. The committee will launch another marketing campaign in Fall 2021. Other future projects include preparing a proposal for a CAPAL mentorship program.

Many thanks to this year's NSC members for their dedication and engagement. Library school students and recent graduates are invited to signal interest in joining the National Student Committee for the 2021-22 academic year by emailing [capal.students@gmail.com](mailto:capal.students@gmail.com).

Emily Carlisle-Johnston, National Student Committee Chair ([ecarlis2@uwo.ca](mailto:ecarlis2@uwo.ca))

## Publications Committee

This year the CAPAL Publications Committee has continued our work with the Journal Editors of the Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship. We collaborated with the Editors to bring forward a proposed budget for incoming revenue from Érudit.org. This money will help improve the journal and provide more opportunities to promote CJAL for future submissions. We are also working with the journal to coordinate new transition dates for editors. Our typical call for journal editors which goes out in the spring will take place late-summer/early-fall to better align with CJAL's publication timeline. As there was no 2020 Annual Conference, we did not get to process the conference proceedings, however, we are looking forward to the 2021 Annual Conference.

Amanda Wheatley, Publications Committee Chair ([amanda.wheatley@mcgill.ca](mailto:amanda.wheatley@mcgill.ca))

## Keep in touch with CAPAL/ACBAP!



Submissions not received from the Membership Committee or the Research & Scholarship Committee.

Newsletter designed and edited by:  
CAPAL Communications Committee

Anna Flak, Chris Thomas, Emily Hector, Lindsay Bontje, Chad Currier,  
Inaam Charaf, Emily Carlisle-Johnson and Janice Winkler (chair).

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