

Info Policy News: Letter Writing, Planning and Gathering.

Compiled by Ali Minni-de Haan and the members of the Information Policy Committee.

This quarter has been a busy one for the Information Policy Committee full of letter writing, planning and gathering

Letter Writing

We've drafted a letter of guidelines for the government to follow in regards to FOIPPA. The letter was sent on Monday March 15th. So far there has been no response but we are hoping to hear something soon.

We've also been following the CAP situation quite closely and have drafted a letter of inquiry to the government about the status and future of the CAP program particularly as it effects cuts in funding to BC public libraries.

Planning

As identified in our SWOT analysis at the beginning of the year we've been reviewing our current committee communications set up (i.e. blog, website and the listserv). Taking an in-depth look at how we get information out to committee members and to the greater BCLA community. While the listserv seems to be the easiest method for getting information out fast and to the most people we are looking at ways to reinvent our blog and website. So look for a lot of exciting changes in the months to come.

Meanwhile those of us who went to the Annual BCLA Conference had a wonderful time and learned lots of interesting things; from how to include a sense of play in what you do to the recent things Google has been cooking up, to how to build a book cart maze to escape from zomb... er the life impaired. We did notice the lack of talks sponsored by IPC and are currently brainstorming up a bunch of ideas for next year's conference. If we are able to put half of our ideas in motion, next year's conference should prove to be very lively. To this end if you have any suggestions we would love to hear them.

We are also open to any ideas you may have for future salons, topics, locations or speakers. Please

contact us through the IPC listserv.

A Gathering of Librarians Interested in Government & Legal Information

Our main event of the quarter was the Gathering of Government Information Librarians at SFU. This year's gathering was well attended and all the speakers did an excellent job.

Highlights include:

- Nancy Meagher, who spoke on Population Data BC, which provides data linkage and development for population research. This is a nationwide multi-university based effort which started as an archive. Meagher also spoke at great length about their security protocols which allow them to give researchers access to this aggregated data while protecting the individuals' right to privacy.
- Marilyn Carr-Harris, Gail Curry, Brain Owen, Susan Patterson and Ken Cooley spoke on the Document Digitization Initiative which is undertaking the effort of creating an online collection of provincial government publications. They spoke in turns about the problems with different types of copyright and the logistics of this multi-university effort.
- Andrea Reimer gave a fascinating talk on the Open Data Initiative or Open3. She explained how having an open data catalogue with Open Standards for media and using open source software allows citizens access to not only information but also the ability to create apps and the like that benefit the whole city. Examples are the City of Vancouver's garbage reminders and fixmystreet.ca.

All in all it was a good quarter with more exciting things to come

Ali Minni-de Haan is a recent grad and transplant to BC.