

# LTAIG Conference Report

By Stephen Karr and Sarah Felkar.

## Preconference session and roundtable

Shanna Meunier and Sarah Felkar of the Library Technicians' and Assistants' Interest Group (LTAIG) and Michelle Mallette of UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) presented a half-day pre-conference session entitled "Speak Up! Public Speaking for Libraries." We had 18 attendees from a variety of positions and geographic locations. It was well received with lots of participation from the audience. The slides are archived at: <http://eprints.rclis.org/18362/>.

LTAIG facilitated a roundtable on the last day of the conference entitled "Library Support Staff in the Big Picture." Eight people participated from various locations across BC. Discussion topics included trends in education, opportunities to work up North, places to find webinars, and the future role of LTAIG. Participants tended to have plenty of library experience, and had much wisdom to convey. Notes on the session can be found here: <http://eprints.rclis.org/18361/>.

## LTAIG table and petition campaign

Much of our time at the conference was spent at the LTAIG table at the Trade Show. As Co-Convenors of the Interest Group, we had a unique opportunity to speak with members of the British Columbia library community about library support staff, library technician education, and the role a BCLA Interest Group can have in supporting the community.

LTAIG also introduced a petition to become a section of BCLA at the conference. Petition signatures will be collected until the 2011 BCLA AGM. Becoming a section would give LTAIG a seat on the BCLA Executive and a stronger voice within BCLA. We need the signatures of 10% of BCLA members for our petition to be considered for approval at the next AGM. We gathered 26 signatures at the conference. More information on LTAIG and the petition can be found at: <http://www.bcla.bc.ca/ltaig>.



LTAIG table at the BCLA Conference Trade Show.  
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## Thompson/Okanagan Chapter meeting

We are developing regional LTAIG chapters so we can better represent library technicians and assistants in more rural or distant regions in BC. While in Penticton, members of LTAIG attended the inaugural meeting of the Thompson/Okanagan Chapter. The meeting was chaired by Christina Neigel, head of the Library & Information Technology (LIBIT) department at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) and an advisor to LTAIG. Thirteen people attended the meeting, and like other chapter meetings, there was positive feedback to the idea of developing a chapter. Minutes from this and other chapter meetings are available on the LTAIG website.

## Friday night social

On the Friday night during the conference, LTAIG held a social at the Ramada, in a suite Christina Neigel had booked. It was an opportunity for library support staff, instructors, and students from across BC to meet in a relaxed setting. Over a dozen people came out for the social.

*Stephen Karr and Sarah Felkar are the  
Co-Convenors of LTAIG.*