

Fall 2010 HLABC Meeting

By Ursula Ellis

Health Libraries Association of British Columbia (HLABC) is the BC chapter of the Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA/ABSC). HLABC has 90 members from across the province who work in hospital, academic, government, non-profit, public and research settings. Members network and share ideas about effective health sciences library service at quarterly meetings and through a lively discussion list. HLABC and BCLA have an affiliation agreement which allows members of either organization to take advantage of member rates on continuing education and other activities. HLABC cosponsors the British Columbia Library Conference, and its members will present several sessions at the 2011 Conference.

On October 21st, 2010, HLABC held its fall meeting at Simon Fraser University's W.A.C. Bennett Library. Dean Giustini, Amy Ashmore, and Dan Hooker presented "To Share is to Learn: Using Social Media to Take Libraries to Learners." Dean Giustini is the Biomedical Branch Librarian at UBC, and a prominent blogger who is active in social media. Amy Ashmore, MLIS student at UBC SLAIS, is a research assistant who is currently working on a study of social media usage in CARL/ABRC libraries. Dan Hooker is a Researcher at Office of eHealth Strategy at UBC, a recent UBC SLAIS graduate, and a noted blogger. Dan, Amy and Dean are members of the Social Media Research Team (<http://smertlibrarians.wordpress.com>), a group which exchanges a variety of perspectives on innovative ways to use social media in academia.

The discussion covered topics such as the visibility of social media tools offered by academic libraries; staff responsibility for various social media functions; and the significance of social media in health care and health education settings. Initial findings from the CARL/ABRC survey showed that the most frequently

used social media tools in these academic libraries are RSS feeds, blogs, instant messaging, and social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. A key point of the talk was that "social media are more than tools – they are a **statement**" – that libraries are willing to engage with the communities they serve in innovative ways.

Slides from the presentation can be viewed at: <http://www.slideshare.net/giustinid/to-share-is-to-learn-using-social-media-to-take-libraries-to-learners>

Through a pilot program sponsored by the Canadian Health Libraries Association, HLABC members throughout the province were able to stream the presentation and the subsequent business meeting via WebEx.

HLABC holds meetings featuring educational programming four times per year. Non-members are welcome to attend our programs, which are generally free or low-cost. Membership is \$25 per year, free for students for 1 year, and open to anyone with an interest in health sciences librarianship. For more information, please contact Ursula Ellis at uellis@sfu.ca.



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