

Legislative Library Tour

By Erika Luebbe.

The Legislative Library has a special connection to BCLA. It was here in the Parliament Buildings that a group of librarians met one hundred years ago and agreed to form a provincial library association. To celebrate this occasion, the Legislative Library opened its doors to conference delegates for a special behind-the-scenes tour.

It was early on a bright, sunny Friday morning when staff greeted tour goers in the library's grand marble rotunda. The crowd split up into several smaller groups and off they went to explore.

Tour highlights:

- Walking through the normally closed stacks
- Viewing the largest collection of BC government documents available anywhere (items date back to 1871, the beginning of the province)
- Browsing the library's eclectic book collection (there are about 300,000 items in total)
- Seeing the unique collection of historic bound newspapers as well as the large collection of current community newspapers from across BC
- Riding in one of BC's oldest birdcage elevators
- Looking up at the grotesques/gargoyles that guard over the reference desk
- Thumbing through the famous BC newspaper index
- Learning about the library's early days as a Provincial Library and Archive as well as the former home of the Public Library Services Branch
- Hearing about the library's current role as a special library to the Legislature
- Finding out about the library's digitization efforts and online archiving of BC government documents

Legislative Library staff would like to thank everyone who dropped by during the conference. We hope you had as much fun visiting our beautiful library as we had sharing it with you!



Tour guide Marilyn Carr-Harris shows off the library's large collection of BC and Canadian government documents.



After the tour, attendees were invited to view a display of rare books set up in the library's reference room.

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