

Workshops inform, connect, and educate

By Katherine Anderson and Allison Richardson.

BCLA's Continuing Education Committee has been busy developing, planning, and offering a number of workshops over the past few months. In November and December, the Redefining Reluctant Readers and Teaching and Training in a Library Setting were well attended and well received.

Redefining Reluctant Readers

In the Redefining Reluctant Readers (RRR) virtual workshop, participants examined definitions and societal beliefs about reading, literacy, and literary formats. Participants learned ways to redefine, reach, and "turn into readers" even the most reluctant patrons and students in their libraries and schools.

The workshop was facilitated by Jenine Lillian, MLIS. After earning her degree in 2005, she soon began presenting at Library Association conferences, serving on YALSA's Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers Committee, and teaching eCourses on "Boys and Books: Encouraging Early Teen and Tween Boys to Read." Jenine has been nationally recognized for her work with teens in libraries.

The RRR virtual workshop was delivered to more than 50 enthusiastic participants representing public and school libraries from all over the province on November 15, 2011. A number of library science students also attended. Participants interacted with Jenine and each other via chat and much knowledge and many great ideas were shared.

Sponsored by IslandLink Library Federation, with moderating support from Kootenay Library Federation, Elluminate Web Conferencing provided by Libraries and Literacy Branch, Ministry of Education and promotion and registration by BCLA, the workshop was a true collaboration of organizations supporting libraries in BC.

Teaching and Training in a Library Setting

Focusing on adult learners, this workshop provided participants with the chance to learn core skills necessary for effective teaching and training.

Kay Cahill, a frequent BCLA presenter and former Training Librarian at Vancouver Public Library, reviewed characteristics of adult learners, instructional styles, how to create a positive and effective learning environment, as well as a variety of instructional techniques and how to match them to the situation to improve learning outcomes.

At the December 16, 2011 session, participants came from diverse library backgrounds. Most were public and academic librarians, but a student and a consultant also attended. One great benefit of the session was the chance to ask questions of colleagues and to share tips and success stories.

Three of these workshops have been offered recently – each selling out and receiving very positive reviews. Teaching and training skills are in demand!

The workshop was organized by the BCLA Continuing Education Committee with the support of Burnaby Public Library's Tommy Douglas Branch. The CE Committee sends a special thank you to Branch Manager Roberta Summersgill for organizing the great refreshments.

Future workshops

The next CE Committee workshop is Introduction to web scripting with PHP on February 16 and 17 at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby. Registration deadline is February 9. For details and online registration, visit <http://tinyurl.com/7zsvws4>.

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