

From LTAIG to LTAS: What does this mean exactly?

By Stephen Karr and Mary Afonso.

LTAIG Grows Up

Currently, the Library Technicians and Assistants Interest Group (LTAIG) is just one of many groups under the "umbrella" of the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA). LTAIG has benefited over the years from BCLA's guidance, use of their meeting rooms and equipment, and periodic financial assistance.

In recent years, LTAIG has grown considerably with many new members, the development of regional chapters, and the establishment of a mentorship program that BCLA has taken note of and expanded across the entire Association. Now, with LTAIG more firmly on its feet, we are making our second attempt to become a section within BCLA.

We made our first attempt to have our petition accepted at the BCLA Annual General Meeting in 2011. We needed the valid signatures of 10% of BCLA members for approval of the petition to be put to a vote. The petition was promoted on the website and LTAIG list, and was made available at LTAIG meetings. Ultimately, we did not attain enough signatures of updated individual BCLA members for it to be presented at the 2011 AGM.

Our Second Attempt

Post-conference, we decided to start over again, and begin anew our campaign to have our request for section status accepted by BCLA at the 2012 BCLA AGM in Richmond. As of January 11th, 2012, we had 88 signatures.

Being successful in this campaign would be to our advantage for two tangible reasons:

- 1) We will have a seat on the BCLA Board, and on BCLA committees and subcommittees.
- 2) We will be required to elect our executive.

These changes will give us more visibility and credibility within BCLA. With a stronger voice, we will be in more of a position to leverage our influence. It will also allow us to drum up more interest among library technicians and assistants to become members.

Once again, we need the signatures of 10% of the BCLA membership for the petition to be accepted. Please note that petitions must be printed out and that only the signatures of individual (not institutional) BCLA members will be counted. You do not need to be a member of LTAIG to sign. The petition can be found online at:

<http://www.bcla.bc.ca/ltaig/Section/Section%20Petition.pdf>. We can also mail copies of the petition. They need to be returned by March of this year.

Like LTAIG, the purpose of LTAS (Library Technicians & Assistants Section) will be:

- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and concerns among library technicians and library assistants
- To represent the common interest of library technicians and library assistants
- To coordinate educational and networking activities for its members
- To utilize online networking tools to raise awareness of LTAS, and to update its members on the activities of LTAS
- To act as a liaison with relevant institutions and organizations on behalf of its membership.

If we become a section, it also means that we will adopt the proposed Constitution and Bylaws, which can be found at:

<http://www.bcla.bc.ca/ltaig/Section/Proposed%20Constitution%20and%20Bylaws.pdf>

In anticipation of achieving section status, LTAIG has been hard at work designing a new logo to reflect the change in name should the petition go through. Stay tuned!

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