

# Information Policy Committee Annual Report: 2011-2012

By Shawna Kristin & Heather Morrison

The British Columbia Library Association's Information Policy Committee undertakes to:

- Monitor developments in information access and advise BCLA and the general library community on appropriate policies and actions
- Organize conferences, public talks, newsletter articles, salons, brochures, etc.
- Develop public education and lobby campaigns
- Establish liaisons and coalitions with other organizations to further the position of BCLA in ensuring the public good is paramount in information policy development.

This past year, the IPC hosted a number of events, drafted a submission for the Open Government Consultation on behalf of BCLA, and stepped up communication and educational efforts through the BCLA Browser column, a new Twitter account and revamped blog.

## Advocacy

The IPC drafted and submitted several documents on behalf of BCLA, including:

- Submission for the Open Government Consultation on behalf of BCLA.
- Resolution on Access Copyright and Academic Libraries for consideration at the 2012 AGM.
- Resolution on supporting Library and Archives Canada for consideration at the 2012 AGM.

## Events

### Lawful Access Salon

Lawful Access (a.k.a. the Online Spying Bill) refers to legislation requiring Internet Service Providers (arguably including libraries) to retain personal information on subscribers to hand over to authorities without a warrant. Previous attempts to pass this type of legislation have failed in Canada, however Bill C-30, currently on hold, could be brought back at any time. On October 14, 2011 IPC hosted a Salon featuring Vince Gogolek, Executive Director of the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association (FIPA). A summary of Vince's talk in the BCLA Browser can be found in the IPC column at

<http://bclabrowser.ca/index.php/browser/issue/view/17>

### Out of the shadows: The Access Copyright Tariff and the Copyright Modernization Act

The Access Copyright Tariff has created a division in the academic sector. Some institutions continue to operate under the Tariff while others have opted out. At the same time, the Copyright Modernization Act in draft contains some elements that are useful to libraries such as including educational use in fair dealing, with some elements of concern, particularly language protecting digital locks that in effect removes many of the positive effects of the bill, making it illegal to pick a digital lock even for legal uses. On November 2, 2011, IPC and the Copyright Committee jointly sponsored a free session on these timely topics. Speakers were Paul Jones (Canadian Association of University Teachers), Meera Nair (Independent Scholar), and Dan Burnett (media lawyer).

### Media Democracy Day

BCLA sponsored the fall 2011 Media Democracy Day in Vancouver featuring a number of speakers including academics, media experts and politicians. BCLA's sponsorship provided an opportunity to ask a library-related question.

### 2012 Government and Legal Information Gathering

On May 4th, 2012 IPC co-sponsored with Simon Fraser University Library the Annual Government and Legal Information Gathering, a free event. James Turk, Executive Director, CAUT, spoke on advocacy in light of what is happening to libraries and librarians in government, universities and communities from an organizational-political perspective. Jennifer Marles, Oyen Wiggs Green & Mutala LLP, spoke to issues around Crown copyright and provided a general overview of Parliamentary privilege, its origins and distinctions from copyright law. Gay Lepkey, Manager, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Publishing and Depository Services provided an overview on DSP initiatives. Diane Thompson, Library Manager, Natural Resources Canada Library, talked about preserving science records as well as e-book service delivery from with a governmental library context. Marilyn Carr-Harris and

Erika Luebbe, Legislative Library of British Columbia, provided context and information about the Royal Commission Digitization Project and the development of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada (APLIC) Portal.

### Connecting with SLAIS

Several students from Lisa Nathan's Information Policy class (LIBR 561) at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, The iSchool at The University of British Columbia contributed articles for the IPC blog! Watch for further details on:

- Chelsea Bailey's *Censoring Sexuality: GLBTQ Resources in Public Libraries*  
<http://bclainfopolicycommittee.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/censoring-sexuality-glbtc-resources-in-public-libraries/>
- Kristy Brimacombe's *Public Libraries and the Homeless*  
<http://bclainfopolicycommittee.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/public-libraries-and-the-homeless/>
- Alison Dodd's *Canadian Public Domain in 2012: the Trans Pacific Partnership Negotiations*  
<http://bclainfopolicycommittee.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/canadian-public-domain-in-2012-the-trans-pacific-partnership-negotiations/>
- Shannon Mills' *Censorship Issues in School Libraries*  
<http://bclainfopolicycommittee.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/censorship-issues-in-school-libraries>
- Devin Soper's *Bill C-11: A Guide for Academic Instructors*  
<http://bclainfopolicycommittee.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/bill-c-11-a-guide-for-academic-instructors/>
- Christie Hurrell's *Open Access Policies on Scholarly Publishing in the University Context*  
<http://bclainfopolicycommittee.wordpress.com/2012/05/03/open-access-policies-on-scholarly-publishing-in-the-university-context/>

in the BCLA Browser. Heather Morrison spoke to Lisa Nathan's LIS 501 class on the benefits of joining BCLA and the Information Policy committee this March.

### Please join us!

Sign up for the active IPC listserv through the BCLA website, keep up with the latest through the Browser's IPC column, the IPC blog at <http://bclainfopolicycommittee.wordpress.com> or check out our Twitter feed at [https://twitter.com/#!/BCLA\\_InfoPolicy](https://twitter.com/#!/BCLA_InfoPolicy)

### Thanks!

The IPC would like to thank everyone for their interest in and support of the committee and in particular the following active members:

Brian Campbell  
Carla Graebner (co-chair until fall 2011)  
Devon Greyson (co-chair until fall 2011)  
Percilla Groves  
Joseph Haigh  
Leanna Jantzi  
Lisa Nathan  
Susan Pegram  
Sylvia Roberts  
Carolyn Soltau

Congratulations to long-time IPC member Percilla Groves on winning a 2011 BCLA Honorary Lifetime Member award!

*Shawna Kristin and Heather Morrison are the IPC Co-chairs.*

*Shawna Kristin is an on-call librarian at Douglas College, Fraser Valley Regional Library, and North Vancouver District Public Library. She completed her MLIS at SLAIS in December 2011. Shawna has worked as a Limited Term Librarian at Simon Fraser University, a Community Access Program Trainer at Fraser Valley Regional Library, and as a Student Librarian at a variety of libraries in the Lower Mainland. Shawna can be reached at [kristin@gmail.com](mailto:kristin@gmail.com).*

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