

# Public Librarians Interest Group Annual Report: 2011-2012

By Eileen Gillette.

PLIG's membership continues to grow, from 73 members (2009/10) to 112 members (2010/11) -- an impressive 53 percentage difference!

This year has been marked by networking. Two of PLIG's goals are to encourage and foster collegial collaboration, and to promote networking and mentoring opportunities. With this in mind, Eileen Gillette, PLIG Convenor, assisted a number of young librarians who requested to be connected with other colleagues working in BC. Eileen acted as a liaison to network MLIS graduates with librarians employed at the Vancouver Island Regional Library, Vancouver Public Library, just to mention two. She also engaged in conversations with international librarians who are contemplating moving to BC to pursue a career in public librarianship.

Deb Thomas continues to represent PLIG as co-chair of the BCLA Services for People with Print Disabilities (SPPD) working group. In November and December 2011, SPPD and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) jointly conducted an online survey to people with print disabilities. The purpose of the survey was to help members and others better understand the needs of people with print disabilities in regard to library services, as well as begin to build better

provincial and federal supports. The Executive Summary of results was put together by Lisa Snider, a MAS/MLIS student at UBC SLAIS, under the supervision of Deb Thomas. The Executive Summary can be viewed here: <http://www.bcla.bc.ca/SNIG/page/sppd.aspx>.

PLIG continues to offer, through its email list, an opportunity for both PLIG members and nonmembers a forum for communication and discussion on issues of professional concern/education/debate. Topics include news from library systems and associations worldwide, articles of interest revolving around all subjects "library" (budgets & library closures, staffing, innovations in building design, future of libraries, thoughts from library gurus), save-the-library campaigns, innovative library projects and programmes, a day in the life of a librarian, and publishing and the e-book debate. Additionally, this platform has facilitated inter-interest group communication when the subject has proven to have not only public library applications but a global impact (intellectual freedom, information policy, etc.) as well.

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