

# ALPS Annual Report: 2011-2012

By Todd Rowlatt.

## The ALPS Executive for 2011-2012

- Chair: Todd Rowlatt (VCC)
- Chair-Elect: Tara Stephens (UBC)
- Continuing Education Director, 2nd Year: Deb Nielsen, (UNBC)
- Continuing Education Director, 1st Year: Rebecca Dowson (SFU)
- Recording Secretary: Danielle Winn (UBC)
- SLAIS student representatives: Nick Josten, Ebony Magnus, Cynthia Ng

## "Getting Hired in Higher Education" Event

ALPS held our annual "Getting Hired in Higher Education" event at SLAIS (UBC) on October 5<sup>th</sup>. A panel of five (fairly) new academic librarians shared insights and answered questions about their own experiences entering academic librarianship. This year's speakers were Aleha McCauley (UBC), Annie Jensen (Langara), Emma Lawson (Langara), Danielle Winn (UBC) and Baharak Yousefi (Capilano). The event was well-received with more than 20 SLAIS students attending. Thanks to all our panelists for their time and expertise!

## ALPS December meeting

On December 2, 2011 at the SFU Harbour Centre, ALPS hosted two workshops in our annual December meeting.

50 people attended the sessions in person, and for the first time ever in ALPS's history, many more watched by live streaming, thanks to the generous sponsorship from six institutions (Camosun College, Okanagan College, Simon Fraser University, the Irving K Barber Learner Centre at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver Island University and Vancouver Community College).

The video of both sessions have been uploaded into institutional repositories at SFU or UBC.

The presentations were:

"Reference Gone Mobile", by Debra Flewelling, Emerging Technologies Librarian, Douglas College;  
Nicole Gjertsen, Interactive Arts & Technology

Librarian, Simon Fraser University; and Joyce Wong, Coordinator of User Experience, Langara College

In recent months, Langara, Douglas and SFU Libraries have all launched Text Reference services in their never-ending efforts to be available to researchers. Join us in a conversation about the SMS services offered at each of our institutions. Learn who is using the service and how librarians and other library staff are responding to questions posed in 160 characters or less. "whr R d journals?", "how do I buk a grup study room?", and "wen duz d library open?"

Video: <http://summit.sfu.ca/item/10807>

"Good Assessment Starts Before You Begin," by Margaret Friesen, Assessment Librarian, UBC

How can you use assessment methods and tools to:  
a) improve services? b) demonstrate accountability?  
The session will include some practical examples of projects using the tools: Desk Tracker, Vovici Survey Tool and Excel. Margaret will also offer some tips on "assessment simplified" -- what to do when you don't have an Assessment Librarian.

Video: <http://hdl.handle.net/2429/39822>

## "Embedded Librarian: Enhancing Student Learning through Collaboration"

On March 13, 2012, ALPS presented a free, online continuing education session on embedded librarianship by Kealin McCabe, Research and Learning Services Librarian, University of Northern British Columbia. Nearly 40 participants attended this informative session, with lots of questions and discussion.

Abstract: Librarians are leaving the confines of their libraries to reach students in new and innovative ways, working with class instructors to enhance student learning. Students are spending less time in the library and more time in the virtual environment in order to complete their academic assignments. This shift has forced librarians to rethink the ways they reach out to students and contribute to their academic success.

Kealin was the ALPS Award winner in 2011 for her work as an embedded librarian.

### "Standing Out While Fitting In" Event

The ALPS Student Reps at SLAIS, Nick Josten and Ebony Magnus, hosted "Standing Out While Fitting In: Succeeding in Academic Library Culture" on April 18, 2011, at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC.

Many thanks to panelists Dean Giustini (Reference Librarian, Biomedical Branch Library, Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre, UBC), Teresa Lee (eResource and Access Librarian, Woodward Library, UBC), Julie Mitchell (Managing Librarian, Chapman Learning Commons, KBLC, UBC), Janis McKenzie (Head, Information and Instruction, SFU), and David Pepper (Director, Library Services, BCIT) for donating their time, and sharing valuable and insightful advice with an audience of SLAIS students, graduates, and professionals.

Topics covered included: standing out during the hiring process, adjusting to the organizational culture of an academic library, transitioning from other library environments to work in academic libraries, and avenues for personal and professional development, among other things.

### BCLA Conference Planning

ALPS Executive Member Rebecca Dowson represented ALPS on the BCLA Conference Planning Committee. The ALPS Executive reviewed the BCLA Conference program and recommended sessions of interest to ALPS members for sponsorship.

### ALPS Award for Outstanding Service

The 2012 ALPS Award for Outstanding Service was presented to Jan Gattrell from the University of British Columbia – Okanagan.

Established in 2002, the Academic Librarians in Public Service (ALPS) Award for Outstanding Service is presented to an academic public service librarian, or team of same, whose outstanding service has made a real difference to students, faculty, or colleagues in British Columbia.

Many thanks to the 2012 ALPS Award Committee: Nick Josten (SLAIS), Ophelia Ma (Langara), Deb Nielsen (UNBC), Shawna Parlongo (UBC), Susan Paterson (UBC), and Jenna Walsh (SFU).

### ALPS Document Management

The ALPS Executive spent some time this spring getting a handle on ALPS's document management. We archived all of the documents we had available to us, and began to set up document naming guidelines and templates for commonly used document (reports, meeting minutes, etc.).

Only some initial work has been completed, and there is still work to be done ensuring that our historical records survive.

### Get involved with ALPS

Want to get involved with ALPS? New members are always welcome! To learn more, check out: The [BCLA ALPS website](#).

And don't forget to join the BCLA ALPS email list (<http://www.bclibraries.ca/listservs/bcla/>) for all of the latest news and discussion about events and issues of interest to academic librarians in public service.

*Todd Rowlett is Assistant Department Head, Library Public Services, at Vancouver Community College.*