

LTAS: A New Section for Technicians & Assistants

By Tamarack Hockin.

This year's B.C. Library Conference saw the creation of a new section in BCLA: The Library Technicians' and Assistants' Section (LTAS). Previously an interest group in the association, LTAS collected signatures from more than 10% of membership to ask that a special resolution to become a section be put before membership at the BCLA AGM. The resolution passed unanimously with an additional 87 proxy votes from our supporters.

This year's conference was a historical and joyful milestone for technicians and assistants. LTAS is both a home base and launching pad within BCLA for many of our members, and this increased recognition allows us more participation in the overall association.

The creation of LTAS is an opportunity to start building more for technicians and assistants in BCLA: more professional development, more advocacy, more membership, and more inclusion. LTAIG had a very active few years leading up to now, and this victory grants us stability and motivation for the coming years as LTAS.

What LTAS Means to Members

We asked the LTAS community what our new designation as a section and victory at the B.C. Library Conference meant to them.

Sandra Cole said:

Hearing that the resolution passed unanimously at conference gave me a good feeling of relief after the past year of trying to collect signatures for the petition. It proves that library technicians and assistants are valued throughout library world. Having been a member of LTAIG for the past three years it has been a great experience and I recommend anyone to join.

Ashley Van Dijk said:

It was such a great feeling to be sitting at the AGM on May 12th and see everyone's hand holding up their voting card to unanimously vote for LTAIG to become an official section of the British Columbia Library Association. Library technicians hold important roles in many libraries, regardless of their official job

title (technician, assistant, support staff, and even assistant librarian) and to have us recognized as an official section versus an interest really showed how much we are valued by our fellow library staff. I have only been a member of LTAIG (now LTAS) since the fall, yet the support and encouragement I have found in the group has been wonderful - and sometimes overwhelming! Achieving section status was a huge project, and I'm happy to have played even a small role in its success.



LTAS Logo designed by Liza Capdecoume.

And on the conference itself, Phil Menger said:

I have been an executive, a suit, a business man, with lots of conference experience. I knew conferences were a primary way to meet people in my new career. It was also nice to come out from behind the curtain of the internet and social media to speak and listen to actual real live people. People with a passionate career they enjoy and love. And because of this genre of people gathering all in one place it was a warm hearted conference. As a first conference in my new career it will remain an indelible mark.

Come Join Us

We already have an active network of members in Vancouver, the Fraser Valley and Prince George – as well as online – and I anticipate that our presence throughout the province will grow with our increased profile in BCLA. If you would like to connect with colleagues in your area, email ltaschair@gmail.com, or visit [our webpage](#) to find contacts for your local chapter. We also encourage you to check out our

blog at ltaig.wordpress.com and join our [Facebook group](#).

Thanks to Our Supporters

My thanks on behalf of LTAS to Sandra Cole and Stephen Karr for their work in carrying the LTAS petition these past two years. Thanks to Sarah Felkar and the LTAIG executive of 2009-2010 who drafted the petition, constitution and by-laws. Our thanks to faculty and students at Langara College's LIT program and the University of the Fraser Valley's LIBIT program for their support and encouragement of LTAS (especially Christina Neigel, Noreen Dragani, Susan Burdak and Jeffrey Libby). Thanks to the many members without whose interest and support LTAS could not exist, and the current LTAS Board without

whom LTAS would be nothing more than a name. Thanks also to members of the BCLA Board who have supported and welcomed us in our new role, especially Annette DeFaveri, Errin Morrison, Christopher Kevlehan, and June Stockdale.

On a personal aside: I am lucky enough to work with wonderful colleagues who supported the petition, sent proxy votes, and voted in person at the BCLA AGM to pass the resolution for LTAS. Many thanks to my colleagues at Surrey Libraries.

Tamarack Hockin has been Convenor for LTAIG, and now LTAS Chair, since the spring of 2011. Tamarack works with teens at the new City Centre branch of Surrey Libraries.