

# Chinchinstway!

By Desiree Baron.

Chinchinstway is the Squamish word, meaning "helping one another" — for me, it was the theme of seemingly four disparate sessions at the recent BCLA conference, whose sole commonality was the room they were all presented in.

## Business Research: Buried Treasures and Secret Strategies (F4)

This session was a dizzying array of business research resources on the web, presented by Mark Bodnar, Aleha McCauley and Leanna Jantzi, along with other business librarians from across B.C. Each presented for about two minutes on mostly free websites and databases, which covered everything from industry statistics to international business etiquette. If you want to see the sites, visit <http://www.sba-bc.ca/BusinessPlanning/KeyResources/2012/BCLC>.

I was impressed by the collective knowledge of the presenters and how much this session could help any "newbie" librarian on the reference desk help any patron with a business question.

## Working Together towards Common Goals (F10)

The following session was on information services for Indigenous peoples in B.C.

Sarah Dupont, from the Xwi7Xwa Library at UBC talked about their community engagement initiatives. Mimi Lam, Digital Project Librarian at UBC presented about an online toolkit (<http://www.indigitization.ca>) whose mandate is to help First Nations peoples digitize and conserve their community information resources. Gerry Lawson from the Museum of Anthropology talked about his work on preserving oral history. Amanda Nahanee, cultural ambassador of the Squamish Nation talked about her work in sharing her people's story and the challenges that still remain in the understanding of First Nations culture in the mainstream.

This session taught me that we cannot develop library services, programs and resources for Indigenous peoples without working side-by-side with First Nations stakeholders and groups, helping one another achieve our visions.

## World Digital Library: A Free, Multilingual Collection of Cultural Treasures (F17)

The third session was presented by Erin Hawkins, a metadata specialist from the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Erin presented on the World Digital Library ([www.wdl.org](http://www.wdl.org)), an international project involving 148 partners and 74 countries whose goal is to share knowledge and build capacity for learning all around the globe.

Erin showed us some wonderful features of the site, including world maps, lithographs, art and digitized rare books. All the site information (except actual content) is translated into seven languages. One notable low participator was Canada — there was little Canadian content on the site, and the hope is to engage more Canadian partners.

The theme of chinchinstway is here as well — as Erin showed pictures of data conversion centres from Iraq, Uganda and Africa, I was struck how this project can only be as good as all the helpers and contributors.

## Location, Location, Co-location (F25)

The last session was case studies of three libraries jointly built or renovated with other institutions.

Diana Guinn from the Vancouver Public Library talked about the planning of the new Downtown Eastside/Strathcona Branch, working with the YWCA on a joint facility featuring housing for women and children and a library. Hilary Russell from the Fraser Valley Regional Library talked about building their newest library branch, co-located with the Abbotsford Collegiate Secondary School complex. Sybil Harrison from Camosun College talked about her experiences as the award-winning Camosun Library and Learning Commons was being built. Core to each presentation was the need for collaboration and "chinchinstway"!

I had a great day listening to all the presenters, and left feeling inspired to build capacity and partnerships where I can.

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