

Browser Briefs

Compiled by: Leanna Jantzi.

B.C. Library Conference

B.C. Library Conference buzz is growing with the announcement of a brand new conference website at <http://bclaconnect.ca>, where you can register and view the conference program.

The conference will be held May 9-11 at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, B.C. With the theme "Are we there yet?" the conference will explore the change and transition in the library community and provide you with the opportunity to learn more about issues and subjects that define the library environment and guide much of the work we all do.

The opening keynote speaker will be Lev Grossman, a senior writer at Time Magazine and a best selling author. Joe Janes, the Chair of the MLIS program at the University of Washington Information School, is the closing keynote speaker.

In addition to the wide variety of informative and exciting sessions, the conference will also feature social events, including the BCLA/BCLTA Awards Recognition Luncheon, and a tradeshow.

This year the Browser and the conference organizers will have a roving photographer to help record the events of the conference. Pictures may be used for BCLA-approved publication, but if you are camera shy just let the photographer know before your picture is taken.

BCLA concerned by LAC's Values & Ethics Code

In March, the BCLA President expressed BCLA's great concern regarding the Values and Ethics Code recently issued to govern the behaviour of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) employees.

"The implications of the Code and its attempts to regulate behavior, critical thinking and freedom of expression both in and out of the work environment threaten the principles of a democratic society," President June Stockdale said in a [press release](#) issued by BCLA on March 19. "BCLA is deeply concerned by sections of LAC's Values and Ethics Code because it devalues and dismisses employees' professional integrity and their underlying freedom of thought and expression. The accomplishments – and

professional opinions – of LAC employees should be a source of pride rather than suspicion and should be a focus for discussion rather than censorship."

Stockdale, speaking on behalf of the BCLA membership, urged LAC to withdraw and reformulate the code. The release, developed through the efforts of BCLA, the Information Policy Committee, and the Intellectual Freedom Committee, was followed by an [interview](#) on CBC's As It Happens with IPC Chair Myron Groover on March 20.

"You're right that some of the language is very disturbing," Groover told As It Happens host Carol Off. Groover stated later in the interview that the code is "putting librarians and archivists in a position where [it is] asking them to, effectively, hide or restrict access to public information and this is in a case when doing so would seem to fly in the face of LAC's legal mandate."

For a more information on issue, visit IPC's blog at <http://bclaifopolicycommittee.wordpress.com/>

Meet the new grads

Colin Preston, Media Librarian, CBC Vancouver, is guest speaker at the UBC SLAIS (the iSchool at UBC) Alumni Association's 2013 Meet the New Grads. The event will take place at the Alice Mackay Room, lower level VPL Central Branch, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver, on Friday, April 12th from 5:30-8 p.m.

To purchase tickets and sponsor one or more graduating students, please visit: <http://www.eventbrite.ca/event/3172873149>

For full details visit <http://blogs.ubc.ca/slaisalumni/>.

The 2013 Beyond Hope library conference is ready for your call

The Prince George Public Library is pleased to host the 2013 Beyond Hope conference from June 10-11. This year's theme is: Call us Maybe?: Connecting people & libraries now!

Beyond Hope is a biennial library conference that brings together library staff and trustees from across

British Columbia for practical, professional development.

Beyond Hope 2013 will focus on the ways libraries connect with users, with particular attention paid to unique services and access to or use of digital technologies. The conference committee is putting together a diverse program that includes sessions and hands-on workshops on topics such as open data, on program evaluation, providing readers advisory services, emotional literacy in the workplace and many more. Our popular one-minute book talks are back, this year titled, "We just met you, and we're crazy: Read these books, no maybes."

A pre-conference session will offer a trustee orientation program (TOP) for library trustees, sponsored by the B.C. Library Trustees Association. TOPS will take place on Sunday, June 9th.

The keynote speaker this year is Sandra Singh, Chief Librarian for the Vancouver Public Library, and former Director of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at the University of B.C. On Monday, June 10th delegates and sponsors are invited to attend our social event,

"Bowties and Boas." Don't miss this black & white dinner event to be held at a secret location!

So start humming that tune or download it from your library's digital music collection and join us in Prince George for Beyond Hope 2013, Call us Maybe?: Connecting people & libraries now!

For more information and to register, visit our website at <http://beyondhope.lib.pg.bc.ca>.

Questions about Beyond Hope 2013 can be sent to Beyond Hope Coordinator Janet Marren at beyondhope@lib.pg.bc.ca.



Contributed by Andrea Palmer, Communications Coordinator, Prince George Public Library.