

Browser Briefs

Compiled by: Leanna Jantzi.

Legislative Library collects campaign materials

The Legislative Library would like to thank the public libraries across B.C. for helping to gather campaign materials during the recent provincial election. We received approximately 300 items, believed to be the largest number ever collected by the Legislative Library during an election.

In April, the Legislative Library sent out letters to representative public libraries around the province asking them to send in campaign brochures from all parties and candidates in their local ridings. Not long after, envelopes of pamphlets began to arrive in Victoria. Over the next few months, Legislative Library staff will sort through the materials, weed out duplicates, and determine how many ridings are represented.

The Library's historic campaign material collection includes items dating back to 1900. There are handouts from the Conservatives, Greens, Liberals, New Democrats and Social Credit parties, as well as some independent candidates and lesser known parties. The collection is not exhaustive and mostly Victoria-focused, but it nonetheless provides a fascinating sample of candidate and party communications during provincial elections.

Some interesting examples from B.C.'s early days:

- A copy of a page-long handwritten letter from one candidate in 1953 to "those who I was unable to meet personally during this short election campaign"
- The lyrics of a song called "The Lamentation of British Columbia" distributed during an election in the early 1900s
- A leaflet used during a 1922 by-election stating "the eyes of all B.C. are on the women voters of Nelson"
- There is still time for libraries that haven't mailed in their envelopes to do so. Please send to Dorothy Graham, c/o Legislative Library of British Columbia, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4.

Contributed by Emily Yearwood-Lee, acting Reference Manager at the Legislative Library of B.C.

Vicki Donoghue joins Burnaby Public Library as Children's and Teen Services Coordinator

Burnaby Public Library (BPL) is pleased to announce the appointment of Vicki Donoghue in the position of Children's and Teen Services Coordinator to replace Joyce Pinsker who held the position for two decades. She started work with BPL in April and is settling in quickly, her considerable experience proving an asset.



Vicki Donoghue

Vicki has been a children's and youth services librarian since 1992. Her undergraduate degree is in History and Art History from Queens University, and her MLS is from the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of BC. She started her career at Port Moody Public Library where she enjoyed many years of developing her craft, serving the community and her co-workers. Vicki has been active in BCLA as the Chair and Continuing Education Coordinator for the Young Adult and Children's Service Section (YAACS). She is interested in how library managers and others can support the development of great children's services staff, so they can continue to fulfill their important role. At Port Moody, she focused on babytimes and their importance to libraries and also helped launch the Tech Café program where teens mentor adults around technology. Her first ever radio spot happened on the CBC Early Edition last summer when Rick Cluff interviewed her and two teens about the Tech Café program. Vicki says that she is "very pleased to be joining the great staff at Burnaby Public Library and is excited about the future, for Burnaby and for the profession in general."

Contributed by Deb Thomas, Deputy Chief Librarian of Burnaby Public Library.

BCLA Mentorship: One year in

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the BCLA Mentorship Program launched. The program

was introduced at the 2012 BC Library Conference at a session called *Speed Mentoring for Library Professionals*. 166 librarians and library technicians have participated in the program to date and the response has been highly positive.

For those who haven't heard about BCLA mentorship, the program is aimed at new graduates, those new to BC, library students, and those involved in a career transition or interested in exploring a different aspect of library work. Less experienced participants (mentees) are matched with those who have more experience in the profession (mentors), and pairs are invited to meet via email, by phone, in person, or online.

During the spring 2013 session, 19 mentees were paired with mentors. Upon completion of the program one mentee said: "If you want to meet another great person in the profession, try the mentoring program. Enthusiasm is contagious."

And, we received the following feedback from a mentor: "Mentorship provides a great opportunity to the mentor and mentee to form a relationship that can otherwise be so limited because of my working hours."

Participant feedback is a very important component of the BCLA Mentorship Program. At the end of each session, participants are asked to complete a survey. The information gathered is used to make adjustments and improvements for future sessions.

The next session will take place in the fall of 2013. Stay tuned to the BCLA listserv for the announcement. If you are looking for some guidance from a more

experienced library employee, consider taking advantage of this opportunity and apply as a mentee. If you feel you have something to offer and want to give back to your profession, consider applying as a mentor. Everyone wins.

For more information visit the website at www.bcla.bc.ca/mentorship.

Contributed by Pat Cumming, librarian at BCIT and member of the BCLA Mentorship Committee.

TNRD shares technology training guides

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library System recently released a variety of computer skills guides under a Creative Commons License. We believe other libraries in B.C., in Canada or across the world are teaching their patrons many of the same technology skills. Check out the guides at: http://www.tnrplib.ca/pages/find/online_resources/computer_skills/

While we have posted the documents in PDF format to ensure their integrity, we would be happy to share an Microsoft Word version with you if you email questions@tnrdlib.ca

We'd also like to encourage other libraries to share their documents. The load is lighter when shared by many hands!

Contributed by Melissa Lowenberg, Supervisor of Support Services at the TNRD Library.