

# Academic Librarians in Public Service Annual Report: 2012-13

By Tara Stephens.

On Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> ALPS held its annual "Getting Hired in Higher Education" event at UBC. SLAIS students gathered to hear a panel of six academic librarians discuss making the transition from library student to working librarian. Jeremy Buhler (UBC-V), Andrea Cameron (SFU), Leanna Jantzi (Capilano), Trevor Smith (Capilano), Sarah Stang (UBC-O) and Lindsay Tripp (Langara) spoke about their experiences as library students and offered advice to the 25 students in attendance.

## ALPS December Meeting

ALPS held its annual Business Meeting on December 12, 2012 at Langara College. For the second time in ALPS history, we were able to screencast this event thanks to the generous sponsorship of our hosts at Langara College. Recordings and presentations of the event are available through cIRcle, UBC's Digital Repository, where they have been downloaded more than 400 times in three months!

<http://hdl.handle.net/2429/43866>

This year's theme focused on two of the hottest topics in academic librarianship: service reviews and assessment. Scott Mackenzie and Janis McKenzie spoke to *Library Service Reviews: Trends, Implementation and Next Steps*. Their presentations were entertaining narratives of the Technical Services and Liaison Librarian Reviews currently underway at SFU.

Sarah Stang and Sierra Stephens spoke about UBC-Okanagan Library's Service Review. In order to effectively analyze changes that needed to be made, the library established a Public Service Desk Committee, a Service-Level Task Group and a Core Competencies Task Group.

Julie Mitchell and Gordon Yusko (UBC-Vancouver) spoke to UBC's multiple service reviews. They provided excellent tips on how to conduct a review, noted some challenges and highlighted the key findings.

Erin Fields reported on UBC-Vancouver's First Year Integrated Instruction Assessment project. Her talk focused on: project development and goals, a program overview, assessment practice, assessment

development and outcomes and the needs of first year students.

## BC Library Conference Planning

ALPS Executive Member Aleha McCauley represented ALPS on the BC Library Conference Planning Committee. The ALPS Executive reviewed the BC Library Conference program proposals and recommended sessions of interest to ALPS members for sponsorship.

## "Building Your Professional Profile"

In March, the BCLA/CLA Student Chapter at SLAIS held its ALPS-sponsored spring event: "Building Your Professional Profile". Panelists included: Erin Fields, Interim Teaching and Learning Librarians, Irving K. Barber Centre / Librarian, Humanities & Social Sciences Division, UBC; Dean Giustini, Librarian, Biomedical Branch Library, UBC; Myron Groover, Archivist; Lindsay Ure, Reference Librarian, David Lam Management Research Library, UBC. They shared their insight and spurred some lively dialogue on incorporating research into daily practice, using social media as an effective professional tool, being an advocate in the field of librarianship, and finding professional development opportunities. About 30 SLAIS students attended the event and feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their desire to see more conversations like this on campus.

## "Innovation Bootcamp"

On Wednesday, April 10th, 2013, a number of librarians, library assistants, and SLAIS students from UBC, SFU and various public libraries gathered at UBC to participate in Innovation Boot Camp. Innovation Boot Camp is a unique program created by M.J. D'Elia and Robin Bergart, librarians at the University of Guelph who were curious about, and decided to investigate, the nature of innovation. They sought to answer the following questions: Can innovation be intentionally learned? Can innovation be cultivated? Can anyone learn to be innovative in a supportive environment?

M.J. introduced stimulating and inventive instructional activities that encouraged participants to: collaborate, take risks, identify problems, frame problems, generate ideas by thinking laterally, challenge their assumptions, evaluate the quality of ideas and improve ideas.

The workshop was an overwhelming success, thanks in equal part to the enthusiasm and optimism of participants and to M.J.'s outstanding skills as a facilitator in keeping us committed to thinking outside the box.

### **New Social Media Policy & Practice**

One of the key priorities of the 2012-2013 ALPS Executive was to improve communication with our membership. In response, we surveyed our members for feedback during the planning stages of the ALPS December Meeting and formed a Social Media

Working Group within the executive to revitalize the ALPS Yodeler Blog and the ALPS Facebook Group, and to create a new Twitter account. The working group also drafted a social media policy and best practices to support a legacy of relevant, timely communication with our members.

### **Get Involved with ALPS**

Want to get involved with ALPS? New members are always welcome! Join the BCLA ALPS mailing list (<http://www.bclibraries.ca/listservs/bcla>) for all the latest news and discussion about events and issues of interest to academic librarians in public service. Check out the ALPS Yodeler blog (<http://alpsyodeler.wordpress.com/>) or find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2320168684/>) and Twitter (@alps.bcla).