

Diversity Multicultural Services Group: Annual Report: 2012-13

By Barbara Buxton.

This committee has been meeting regularly throughout the year. This year brought several new members and we currently have 11 active members and some associate members. We have now provided our Intercultural Communication workshop to most libraries in the Lower Mainland. We are still hoping to find a way to expand our workshops into the rest of the province.

In February 2012 we hosted a session with Michelle Rago from the World Digital Library, who spoke about the website containing hundreds of primary source historical documents and images. We sponsored a repeat of this session for BCLA in 2012. We continue to liaise with Michael Burris and InterLINK on the InterLINK strategic plan, and were delighted to hear of the new consortia buying plan for multilingual books. Our website is on the BCLA website Diversity page, with lots of information for multilingual librarians and collections. This is being updated regularly now, and includes a blog for current events.

In the spring of 2012 two members were part of a panel at the UBC Conference for Chinese Librarians. In the fall Scarecrow Press launched its new title *Library Services for Multicultural Patrons*. Two members of our committee, Allan Cho and Ada Con contributed the chapter entitled, *Partnerships Linking Cultures: Multicultural Librarianship in British Columbia's Public Libraries*. This chapter outlines all the exciting things that BC's libraries and our committee have been doing in this field.

In January 2013 both Barbara Buxton (chair) and Ada Con, a founding member, are retiring. The chair will be assumed by Gillian Guilmant-Smith from Vancouver Public Library. This committee has been an active group and members find that meeting regularly also allows us to share ideas and to keep up on new initiatives for multicultural library populations.