

# Services for People with Print Disabilities: Annual Report: 2012-13

By Deb Thomas.

In the spring of 2012, the SPPD undertook a survey of library staff, with the considerable help of UBC iSchool student Lisa Snider, to determine their needs and interests in regards to training in providing services to people with disabilities. The results of [The Accessibility Training Needs for B.C. Public Library Staff Survey](#) were released in July 2012. Following up on these results, co-chairs Deb Thomas and Margarete Wiedmann have met with BC Coalition for People with Disabilities librarian Shelley Hourston and BCLA Executive Director Annette DeFaveri to plan for creating and delivering training modules on the topics rated as extremely and very important by respondents to the survey. The group is currently investigating further partnerships and grant funding.

SPPD members have also been actively involved in the ongoing discussions about a national strategy for

providing and developing resources for people with print disabilities. In May of 2012, we submitted our comments on CNIB's Hub proposal. In the intervening months, we have continued conversations with BC Libraries Cooperative concerning their [National Network for Equitable Library Service \(NNELS\)](#) initiative as well with the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) who is currently working with CNIB to come up with a plan to merge the resources of CNIB with those of Canadian public libraries to offer access to alternative formats directly through public libraries. We continue to encourage the two groups to find common ground and to come up with a workable plan that will develop and grow the collections needed and wanted by people with print disabilities across Canada.