

THANK A CLA STAFF MEMBER

Organizing an annual conference is always demanding. Three years ago, CLA staff had to deal with the impact of the SARS crisis on the joint ALA/CLA conference in Toronto.

This year they had to deal with a change of venue due to a strike. If you see a staff member (look for a black ribbon), please express your appreciation.

Brenda Shields will be at the registration desk; Sylvie Delencourt and Don Butcher will be “everywhere”.

THANK A VOLUNTEER – Part 1

Our volunteers are everywhere and numerous—there are at least 40 working at any time. All are sporting blue ribbons; many are wearing t-shirts. Please take the time to thank a volunteer, to express your appreciation for all the hard work that has gone into organizing this conference.

Helen Apouchtine	Jim Gillespie
Ann Archer	Lina Gordaneer
Lily Au	Giovanna Gossage
Kristof Avramsson	Line Gravelle
Chris Baxter	Joan Haire
Alison Blackburn	Barbara Herd
Nathalie Blanchard	Genevieve Hillsburg
Julie Boileau	Janet Hollingsworth
Linda Bonder	Ian Hunter
Angela Bowen	Yasmin B. Jamel
Paul Brisson	Megan Jardine
Claire Cameron	Dorothy Jeffreys
Carole Lague	Margo Jeske
Helene Carrier	Carole Joling
Mary Cavanagh	Leslie Jones
Lyse Champagne	Shayna Keces
Trish Chatterley	Dianne Kharouba
Hyunduk Chung	Elizabeth Kirby
Glennis Cohen	Adele Kostiak
Vanessa Czop	Shannon LaBelle
Linda Daly	Ariel Lebowitz
Penny Day	Lilian Li
Halina de Maurivez	Deborah MacLean
Deborah Dearham	Cheryl MacLennan
Rudi Denham	Christine Manzer
Clarie Desaulniers	Mary McConnell
Monique Desormeaux	McGinn, Dorothy
Michelle DeVidi	Courtney Mellor
Junli Diao	Vicki Milnes
Inta Douglas	Frances Montgomery
Jennifer Downing	Helena (Nina) Morgan
André-Yves Duchesne	Mary Nash
Sharon Ells	Laura Newton Miller
Peggy Feltmate	Sarah Normandin
Lori Fielding	Josephine Norton
Pierre Gaudet	Dianne Parsonage
Franceen Gaudet	Diana Pepall
Norma Gauld	Martine Plouffe
Sandra Gianakas	Verna Preston



WIN! WIN! WIN! PRIZE DRAWS in the Trade Show

Be sure to drop off your
Lucky Draw ballot
in the Trade Show drum
and take home one of the
fabulous prizes donated
by our Exhibitors.

**Your Lucky Draw ballot
is in your Delegate Bag.**

En français

Saturday's excitement will include 2 sessions in French with simultaneous translation. Thanks to ASTED for partnering with CLA to bring us talks by Benoît Ferland, president of the Corporation of Librarians of Québec with on L'élaboration de politiques en bibliothèque (session 53) and Robert Chiasson and Lise Rousseau. La lecture aux enfants tous les jours. (session 60)

Heard in the Halls of Lansdowne...

New librarians are ready to share their knowledge and contribute to research.

The conference is an eye-opener—it is good to learn that many share similar goals.

Loved the conversation of Stephen and Avi—it inspires us to work for the greater good and to uphold the responsibility of all in libraries to democratize knowledge.

Lansdowne is great for the exhibits. We applaud the decision to avoid the strike at the Congress Centre.

There is a great mix of delegates, but I hope to see more passion about issues.



Issue 2

Friday, June 16, 2006

Libraries Build Communities

In Deference to Empathy: Building a Future of Communities

Depending on which social commentator one consults, I am either part of Generation X or the newly-minted category of Millennial. The discrepancy of a year or two is of little consequence, though, as these two groups share a number of traits. One of these characteristics was highlighted on Wednesday evening by Avi Lewis when he stated (and I paraphrase) that young people no longer pledge allegiance to large institutions, be those religious, state-based or political parties. Speaking in general terms, this failure (or refusal?) to acknowledge such institutional authorities is one way in which the current generation is markedly different from those previous.

An argument can be made that this questioning of authority is a healthy thing—and I don't disagree—but I must ask. With what will my generation replace these institutions? Or, perhaps, more importantly, what will our common ground be?

The answer, I think, lies in what I'll call the “getting to know your neighbour” theory of social cohesion. Whether those individuals live across the city or half a world away, I believe that the energy of current and future generations is best put toward creating new communities of individuals with whom they can find that common ground. It is in aiding these generations in their quest to learn about the world, its countries, its neighbourhoods and its citizens that I feel libraries can remain essential institutions. And it is in their support of such learning that libraries will help the Generation Xers, the Millennials, and others to come, achieve a social cohesion based on a deference to empathy and shared progress.

Monique Woroniak, Dalhousie University

Libraries : the community storyteller

Jeremiah was waiting for the elevator when Stephen and Avi Lewis came around the corner. He introduced himself, shook their hands and said “Wow!” He was speechless. He has a political science background, yet he could not think of a single thing to say. He did not have his “thirty-second elevator speech” prepared.

Speechless was how we felt after hearing Stephen and Avi's conversation. But we walked away with new ideas and a richer vocabulary. The casual dialogue between father and son gave us unique insights into their advocacy and the forum for sharing ideas that libraries, as a public place, provide.

“Dignifying act of empathy.” While different people might understand this phrase of Avi's differently, we all understood the sentiment behind it. When reading a book, you learn to put yourself in the shoes of someone else.

“Narrative imperative.” One of Avi's most memorable statements, according to Barbara Clubb, calls upon us to be storytellers. The act of storytelling allows us to represent diverse perspectives and the library is a community that encourages this storytelling.

Additions, Changes & Corrections

CANCELLATIONS

Concurrent Session F

#36. Tell it from the Heart: Building a Community with Stories

Concurrent Session H

#51. Research Success @ your Library: Guiding Secondary Students on the Journey of Research

“Futility gets you nowhere.” Stephen replied with this statement when Avi asked him why he keeps fighting. This statement should remind us that we should keep telling stories even if we feel our story is not being heard.

Libraries are fundamental to the equal sharing of information, regardless of life situation, to paraphrase Avi. One such program that helps to fulfil this mandate is the library book rate, which Avi stated was a “magnificent program.”

Stephen and Avi reminded us that whether we are working at the UN or at the CBC or in a small public library, we can plant the seeds of political and social change through the simple act of reading to our children. As Avi reminded us, the whole world is in a children's book.

Jeremiah Saunders, UBC, and Jill Boruff, McGill



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Mindblogging – Technology Track #A

Dr. Michael Geist, Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-Commerce Law, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, says “Canadians can choose copyright policy that looks ahead and not behind.” He argues for a “fair for all, not free for all” approach to copyright law that protects those who create content and those who use it.

Publishing generally has changed and copyright law needs to keep up, said Dr. Geist in his speech: “Our Digital Future: Copyright, Culture and the Internet.” There are new stakeholders including bloggers, podcasters, public broadcasters, television and radio, librarians, musicians, artists, writers, independent film makers, the gaming industry, scholars and citizens.

The future is knowledge sharing in the form of creative content licensing. Musical groups, like the Bare Naked Ladies, are putting their music out on the net for users to take and play with and create their own new music, using whatever they want from the Ladies’ music. Dr. Geist’s new book “In the Public Interest” is available free to download—a concept that he says increased sales of the print version.

The future is also online. The internet is killing print media and those media companies that choose to join in are profiting and those who don’t “get the net” are losing financially. Media companies can do things online that they can’t do in their print versions. They can include audio, video, instant updates, blogs and podcasts. Forbes Magazine, a company that has embraced the technology, increased distribution from 1.7 to 7.8 million by putting their entire content online.

We thought the size and impact of the blogosphere was fascinating. Technocrati, a blog directory, lists 40 million blogs with 75,000 new blogs added daily and most of these maintained. Through blogs, everyone can contribute knowledge and expertise and actually influence bigger events. For example, Dr. Geist said: mainstream media picked up on a story about Toronto-area MP Sam Bulte and the resulting blog storm, that eventually hit mainstream media, may have changed the course of the election in which Bulte was defeated.

Dr. Geist’s presentation was lively, informative, brilliant and accessible even to people who are uncomfortable with technology.

Mahalya Havard, Université de Montréal
Lisa Morry, University College of the Fraser Valley

Libraries Build Communities

Throughout the conference we’ll be hearing that “Libraries build communities”. Part of that statement means recognizing that libraries are communities themselves, places of meeting, interaction and socialization. Presenters have described libraries as “social spaces” which, for many libraries, especially academic and large public libraries, means users in front of computers connecting to information and users in coffee shops and cafeterias connecting to others. Libraries are also social spaces in many smaller communities where community groups meet, friends gather to do genealogical research or where individuals congregate to read newspapers to find out what’s happening in the area. All of us also know that libraries are places of community for employees who build important social networks and interact

with colleagues, many of whom are also friends. Like the local pub, much like the one from a famous 1980s sitcom, libraries are communities where “everyone knows your name”.

Geoffrey Little, Toronto & Jeremiah Saunders, UBC

It is common knowledge, at least to us here at the CLA conference, that libraries are the hubs of our respective communities, whether that community is academic, professional, or public in nature. I am often told by the patrons at my workplace that they cannot believe how many things libraries can do for them. Libraries provide places to find information, learn about new things, and meet with other people. They also have a further impact on their communities by providing access to services such as Employment Resource Centres, volunteer organizations, or simply someone to talk to about a favourite subject in a non-threatening atmosphere. Here at the CLA conference we have our own community of professionals where all of these “services” are being provided. Let us not hesitate to use them to our greatest advantage while we’re here!

Lindsay Holdsworth, The University of Western Ontario

I admit that when I first heard this year’s CLA conference theme, I guiltily thought “isn’t that...obvious?” I had a notion that conference themes are meant to be provocative, and I couldn’t see “libraries build communities” in that way. However, I’m not only a conference first-timer but also a newcomer to librarianship, so I decided that I must be mistaken. In its simplicity, I thought, “libraries build communities” might in fact be profound, like some sort of Zen puzzle that may appear pat but provides great (if hidden) potential for insight.

Not even a day later, I realize that this is true. I was mistaken. This notion of libraries building communities is actually both deep and wide. Economics, trade agreements, politics, social action, information equity: as libraries’ reaches broaden, so do the implications of their participation in increasingly global initiatives and agreements, affecting communities everywhere. This breadth was noted by the Lewises in Wednesday’s keynote.

At the same time, libraries continue to host and to support communities through real, daily, non-masse actions and interactions. This became particularly clear during Alvin Schrader’s Thursday morning session on “the last taboo:” information provision for LGBTQ citizens. While libraries struggle to increase resources, to collaborate with influential stakeholders, and to attend to other behind-the-scenes business, library practitioners contribute to communities every time they meet a patron. Library workers can take everyday steps to connect LGBTQ youth with community-based information to which they might not otherwise have access. It is unlikely that we can overestimate the potential significance of this simple act.

Jewelle Gomez said in *Reaching Out*, a video presented by Dr. Schrader: “Everything is in the library.” We appear to have progressed from one Zen puzzle to another. Perhaps we can begin by considering whether every community is in our libraries, and if not, why not.

Sarah Polkinghorne, University of Alberta

Building International Communities: Librarians Without Borders

Since its inception in February of 2005 at the University of Western Ontario, Librarians Without Borders (LWB) has made great leaps in its goal to improve access to information resources by forming partnerships with community organizations world-wide. Their vision is to build sustainable libraries and support their librarians.

LWB was founded by Master of Library and Information Students who are now graduating, and the organization itself has grown beyond its student roots. As such, LWB is currently accepting nominations for their Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Voting for these positions will take place at the general meeting in September of this year.

The fall of this year will also mark a milestone for LWB as their library development project in Angola, takes flight, thanks in part to the donations made by CLA members at the opening reception this past Wednesday evening. LWB extends thanks to all of their supporters, as well as encourage anyone who would like to learn more about the organization to attend their poster session (PO 12) on Friday at the Lansdowne Civic Centre.

Lindsay Holdsworth, The University of Western Ontario

First Timer Experiences

Being a first timer at the Canadian Library Association conference in Ottawa is an amazing experience. The brilliance of Dr. Michael Geist, who spoke on digital copyright, and Stephen and Avi Lewis, who held an informal, public chat for 1,000 or so delegates at the opening address, is humbling. The location, in our country’s capital, is also a huge factor. I’m looking forward to exploring the Parliament Buildings, the Rideau Canal and other historic landmarks.

Lisa Morry, University College of the Fraser Valley

In a video played in a session this morning, a woman commented on the terrific value of being able to find yourself in a library: to see who you hold yourself to be reflected in the material. In the same vein, I feel that as a first timer and as a student, I can hope to find myself at this conference. The opportunities to meet, hear from, and speak with different people in a variety of jobs and positions is a wonderful experience for me as I try to determine who I want to be when I grow up (or finish school).

Jocelyn Covert, Halifax



See you tonight
at
Survive This!
AKA Apprentice to
Murder CLA Style!

BOOK SALON continues – 30 minute readings followed by signings on Friday

Charlotte Gray, *Flint and Feather* @ 9:00
Maureen O’Connor and Sharon Smith on reading fiction @ 9:45
Dewey Divas on books for adults @ 10:30
3 Ottawa mystery writers : Barbara Fradkin, Robin Harlick and Brenda Chapman @ 11:15
Val Ross, *You Can’t Read This* @ 13:00
Charles de Lint, *Widdershins* @ 13:45
More mysteries :
Mary Jane Maffini, Rick Mofina and Alex Brett @ 14:30
Madeleine Lefebvre, *The Romance of Libraries* @ 15:15

Especially for Trustees!

The Ottawa Public Library Board invites trustee delegates to a reception to meet and mingle with trustees from across Canada.

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Date: Friday, June 16th, 2006
Location: Room 2318 - Bonaventure Suite Westin Hotel

RSVP: Joanie Asch ~ 613-580-2424 ext. 32178

Show your badge at the Main Branch of the
Ottawa Public Library (120 Metcalfe @ Laurier West)
to receive a free cup of tea or regular coffee at the
City Sky Coffee Bar between 8am and 5pm
Wednesday–Friday.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Every year, the CLA is fortunate to welcome guests from other countries:

Genevieve Clarke, National Coordinator, The Vital Link,
The Reading Agency, St. Albans, U.K. (Session 15)
Cathy De Rosa, Vice-President, Marketing and Library Services,
OCLC, Dublin, Ohio, U.S.A. (Session 57)
Jeff Hall, Techatlas Project Coordinator, WebJunction.org,
OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Seattle,
Washington, U.S.A. (Session 55)
John Pateman, Head of Libraries, Lincolnshire County Council,
Lincoln, U.K. (Session 17)
Ryan Taylor, Genealogy Cataloguer, Allen County Public
Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana, U.S.A. (Session 21)
Heather Wills, Idea Store Programme Director, London Borough
of Tower Hamlets, U.K. (Session 33)