OCULA Annual General Meeting Reports, 2016

The following reports will be delivered or referred to at the OCULA 2016 Annual General Meeting on February 2, 2017.

Thank you to the 2016 OCULA Council and our Members-at-Large for all your hard work and support in making this year's OCULA activities a success. Below is a comprehensive overview of the full range of activities undertaken by OCULA in 2016. As of December 31, 2016, we had 611 OCULA members.

2016 Council:
Denise Smith (President)
Sarah Shujah (VP/President Elect)
Shanna Pearson (Past President)
Jennifer Browning (Councillor-at-Large)
Jaclyn Chambers-Page(Councillor-at-Large)
Andrew Colgoni (Councillor-at-Large)
Fiona Inglis (Councillor-at-Large)
Jack Young (Councillor-at-Large)

Super Conference Co-Planners:
Courtney Lundrigan
Jennifer Peters

Editorial Team:
Elizabeth Yates (Editor-in-Chief)
Graeme Campbell (Deputy Editor)
Michel Castagne (Junior Editor)

New Librarian Resident:
Chris Landry (January - August 2016)

Strategic Initiative: Growing Career Paths & Potential

Our goal for this initiative is that our members look first to OCULA for progressive, thought-provoking, and practical professional development that expands their thinking, their capabilities, and their career opportunities. OCULA continues to focus on providing professional development to our members, and all of our events were received positively by participants.

OCULA Spring Conference (April 29, 2016)

The OCULA Spring Conference was once again held at the Inn on the Twenty in lovely Jordan Station. The conference theme was "Creating Space: Expanding the Physical, Digital, and Mental Boundaries of the Academic Library". The conference had 49 registrants, 11 of whom also contributed lightning talks. Keynote speaker Jutta Treviranus, Director of the Inclusive Design Research Centre at OCAD, delivered a fascinating session on the benefits of designing space with inclusivity in mind. Jack Young, Fiona Inglis, and Chris Landry worked together to organize this year's event and we would like to thank them for all of their hard work. It was a great day!

OCULA Spring Dinner (May 19, 2016)

The OCULA Spring Dinner was themed *Open Access, Open Minds* hosted at Hot House Restaurant and Bar that included appetizers and dinner. We had 23 attendees. For part of the event we encouraged a community of sharing by asking libraries and librarians to share how they celebrate and advocate for Open Access (OA) week. We collected OA ideas in the form of a Pinterest Board that everyone can access, to help the community brainstorm ideas for future Open Access Week events. During the first part of the dinner, attendees mingled and viewed a slideshow of postings from the Pinterest board. This was followed by a special presentation by Nelly Cancilla and Bobby Glushko from University of Toronto's Scholarly Communications Office that discussed their *Open Robarts* initiative that used an alternative reality game to celebrate and promote Open Access Week. Participant feedback was positive and appreciative of the opportunity to network with colleagues. We'd like to thank Sarah Shujah and Andrew Colgoni for organizing the timely event, and thank Chris Landry for kindly volunteering during the event.

OCULA Fall Event (November 23, 2016)

The 2016 OCULA Fall Event, in collaboration with OLITA, took place online via Adobe Connect on November 23, 2016. The conference included a two speakers and a collaborative activity. The conference theme was, "The Next Transformation: Libraries and the Future of Higher Education." The speakers were Dr. Alec Couros, Associate Professor - Information and Communication Technologies, University of Regina and Louise McGillis, Associate University Librarian, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University. The conference was very well attended with 53 participants. The planning committee consisted of Jaclyn Chambers Page, OCULA Member-at-Large Courtney Boudreau, OLITA councillor-at-large Sarah McIntyre, and OLITA councillor-at-large Susanna Galbraith; we would like to thank them for organizing this engaging event.

New Librarian Residency Award & New Librarian Residency Award Fundraising Committee

The New Librarian Residency Award (NLRA) was created to provide entry-level professional work experience in an academic or research library to a new librarian. This award has been presented to six institutions since 2009. OCULA awards $20,000 to the successful academic library and the host institution funds the remainder of the librarian's salary. OCAD University was the successful recipient

of the 2015/2016 award and they hired Chris Landry to be a Scholarly Communications Librarian/Digital Projects Officer. Traditionally, this award has been funded by the OLA Board. This year the New Librarian Residency Award Fundraising Committee's efforts focused on identifying ways OCULA can independently fund the award without impacting OLA's status as a charitable organization.

We are happy to report that the 2016 Annual General Meeting will mark the official launch of the New Librarian Residency Award crowd-funding campaign. OCULA asks our members and colleagues to contribute to kickstarting a new librarian's career, by making a small monetary contribution to the New Librarian Residency Award Fund. OCULA's fundraising goal is $10,000 by SuperConference 2018. OLA has agreed to support the launch of this campaign by matching all contributions to a maximum of $10,000.

A very heartfelt thank you to Stephanie Pimentel, Shelagh Paterson, Annesha Hutchinson and Robert Nishimura at the OLA office for their tireless efforts and sharing their expertise to support OCULA as council took on this task. Thank you also to Denise Smith, Sarah Shujah and Shanna Pearson of the OCULA NLRA Fundraising Committee for your unwavering commitment to fund this very special award.

OCULA Lightning Strikes Student Award (OLA SC)
We had many great submissions for this year's Lightning Strikes session at the OLA Super Conference and 6 amazing presentations. The winner of this award will be announced at the OCULA Awards Reception following the OCULA AGM. Many thanks to Sarah Shujah and Courtney Lundrigan for their contributions to making this session successful for another year running.

OCULA Award for Special Achievement
This year, the Award for Special Achievement is being given to two worthy projects:

Student2Scholar

Colin Couchman (Western University)
Monique Flaccavento (UTL)
Denise Horoky (Western University)
Cory Laverty (Queen's University)
Christena McKillop (Western University)
Melanie Mills (Western University), Elan Paulson (Western University)
Jenaya Webb (UTL)
 Caroline Whippey (Western University)

Student2Scholar is a suite of ten online, self-paced learning modules designed to help graduate students in the social sciences develop core academic literacies and research skills. The quality and depth of the content helps strengthen library instruction to social science graduate students, and a facilitator's guide helps instructors incorporate Student2Scholar content into class curriculum.

The quality and unique contribution of this online learning resource has been demonstrated by its acceptance into ALA/ACRL's Instruction Section's Peer-Reviewed Instructional Materials Online (PRIMO) database as well as the University of Toronto's Graduate Professional Skills (GPS) Program.

Developed under a Creative Commons licence, the modules are publicly available and adaptable, and have already been accessed by people from all continents. Student2Scholar supports library instruction to graduate students in disciplines beyond the social sciences, and serves as a model to other library professionals for its creative adaptation and application of the principles from the ACRL's Framework for Higher Education (2016).

La Casita Azul

Dana Craig, Environmental Studies Librarian
Tom Scott, Acting Associate University Librarian Information Services

La Casita Azul is a project initiated at York University Libraries. In partnership with their Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES) and local stakeholders in Costa Rica, Dana and Tom are recognized for spearheading and developing a library and research centre within the Alexander Skutch Biological Corridor of Costa Rica, home to York University's Eco Campus.

Initiated in June 2015 as part of the Las Nubes Project, La Casita Azul fosters the research pursuits of York University students in Costa Rica, while also acting as a resource centre for local residents to learn about research being pursued in their own community. Aligned with York's strategic priorities of fostering socio-environmental research, and developing educational programming and outreach, the centre provides research and educational opportunities within and about the Biological Corridor. It enhances York students' field courses at the Las Nubes EcoCampus by enabling access to library materials in English and Spanish. It also facilitates interactions with the local community by using the space for workshops events.

La Casita Azul is an example of a successful and innovative community and outreach model for anyone striving to plan or implement library programs through library and research centres based in remote satellite campus locations.

OCULA Award for Lifetime Achievement
The 2016 OCULA Award for Lifetime Achievement is awarded to Anne Dondertman, former Associate Chief Librarian for Special Collections at the University of Toronto Libraries (UTL), in recognition of her outstanding contributions to OLA, OCULA, and the broader library community.

Anne's distinguished career in academic librarianship spanned nearly three decades where she devoted herself to The University of Toronto Libraries systems. After starting at the UTL as a library student, Anne received her Masters in Library Science in 1988 and launched her career at Massey College Library as a Rare Book Cataloguer. She later joined the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, serving as Department Head and Assistant Director of the Fisher Library from 2000-2013, and as Acting Director of the Fisher Library from 2011–2013. In 2013, Anne became the first Associate Chief Librarian for Special Collections and Director of the Thomas Fisher Library, selflessly postponing her retirement for three years to assume the role during a critical time of transition.

Anne's distinct specialty in rare books has made her a highly respected member of the international rare book and manuscript community, and an inspirational role model and mentor for the profession, particularly special collections professionals. Under her leadership, Anne has collaborated with colleagues to build Canada's most important rare book, manuscript, and media collections both in the Fisher Library and in other UTL special collections, including the Media Commons and Archives, while enabling specialized research and teaching collections that have benefited the University of Toronto academic community and beyond.

Anne has fostered an environment of innovation and experimentation, putting the Fisher Library at the forefront of digitization initiatives and forward-thinking platforms such as AtoM, a transformative tool for archival collections. As a member of UTL's executive leadership team, Anne provided counsel on issues that impacted all 44 libraries at the university and helped strengthen the libraries' relationships with other organizations. In her role as Associate Chief Librarian, Anne advocated for the role of archives in research and scholarship as well as for the importance of media collections and media archive preservation.

Anne's influence extends beyond her work at the University of Toronto. Anne has been published in her areas of expertise, has served on a number of organizing committees, including her role as President of the Bibliographical Society of Canada from 2008-2011, and bridged her interest in gardening and horticulture with her professional pursuits by volunteering at the Toronto Botanical Garden Weston Family Library. She is a respected mentor to librarians and colleagues alike, and encouraged others to focus on forward-thinking service initiatives that were proactive and supported users well beyond the UTL network.

Information Briefs
Information Briefs are two-page backgrounders on issues relevant to Ontario's college and university library staff. Each brief addresses an issue in terms of who, what, where, when, why, and how, focusing on the benefits and challenges, as well as the implications for libraries in higher education.

This year, we received updated versions of five of our 14 briefs and have begun the process of transferring all information briefs from static PDFs to live Google docs to make updating even easier. New briefs currently underway include Researcher Profiles, Evidence-Based Practice, & Scholarly Communication. Our thanks to Jack Young and Jennifer Browning for soliciting and coordinating the information briefs and for all those who have contributed to this valuable project.

InsideOCULA
This report is a welcome opportunity to reflect on highlights of 2016 for *InsideOCULA*, the newsletter for Ontario's academic library community. We are proud that 69% of respondents to a 2016 survey rated "access to current information through *InsideOCULA* and *OpenShelf* …" as the most useful feature of their OCULA membership.

After experimenting with various production schedules, 2016 was our first full commitment to five issues per year: February, April, July, October and December. The new schedule worked well, with

each issue featuring a solid amount of engaging content; the workload for editors was more reasonable as well.

The July issue marked a positive milestone when Sophia Apostol and Paula Cardozo collaborated with us as guest editors for a <u>special issue</u> focusing on interviewing for academic library jobs. The *InsideOCULA* team benefited from Paula and Sophia's energy and enthusiasm in generating story ideas, writing articles themselves and collaborating to bring in other top-notch co-authors. Hopefully, more guest editor partnerships will arise in future.

While our editors are usually looking forward to the next issue, much of our time in 2016 was devoted to looking backwards: the newsletter's archives were a major focus. When OLA moved its website to a new platform, six issues of *InsideOCULA* that had been published on the previous site were lost to readers – fortunately most content was still accessible via internal URLs. This crisis required significant time analyzing the situation and discussing potential solutions with OLA staff and Mike Ridley, editor of *OpenShelf*.

Fortunately, OLA Communications and Project Officer Annesha Hutchinson created a practicum placement for a library student to work on migrating the six archive editions *to InsideOCULA*'s current home on the *OpenShelf* platform. This labour-intensive project required publishing expertise, technology skills and superb attention to detail: 23 stories and accompanying photos and videos had to be pulled from the old OLA site, reformatted and republished on our Wordpress platform. I am ecstatic to report that University of Toronto MI student Nikolina Likarevic did a fantastic job and we are extremely grateful for her help. Nikolina has just taken on a Digital Editor role for *OpenShelf*, so our editorial team will continue to benefit from her editorial skills. And the six "lost" issues will be available via *InsideOCULA* in February.

This report is a bittersweet one for me, as I finish my term as Editor-in-Chief and turn the reins over to Graeme Campbell, current Deputy Editor, and Michel Castagné, Junior Editor. Graeme and Michel will move forward as Co-Editors-in-Chief and are currently recruiting for 1-2 new editors to join the team. I look forward to seeing the newsletter grow and flourish under their dedicated leadership.

As always, we remain grateful to all our contributors who share their expertise, insights and time with *InsideOCULA* – and, of course, to our readers.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth

Practicum Student from the University of Toronto's iSchool
In October 2016, University of Toronto MI student Nikolina Likarevic began a practicum placement at OLA, working with Communications and Project Officer Annesha Hutchinson on two projects related to *InsideOCULA* and *OpenShelf*:

1. Migrating six past editions of *InsideOCULA* to the *OpenShelf* website

2. Conducting a qualitative analysis of all *OpenShelf* articles to create a standardized tagging system for magazine content

Thank you Nikolina for dedicating many hours to this important work. Thank you also to InsideOCULA's Editor-in-Chief, Elizabeth Yates and to Annesha Hutchinson at OLA for facilitating the recruitment of a practicum student.

Strategic Initiative: Collaborating to Extend Libraries' Strategic Voice

Our goal is to contribute to the view that libraries are essential contributors to the economy, education, lifestyle, and culture of a community. Our ultimate goal is to be an influential voice for libraries and the information sector.

OCULA Strategic Voice Committee
The Strategic Voice Committee coordinates responses to various advocacy issues that arise or are submitted by our members. Issues can be submitted to OCULA council through our "Call for Action" form located on the OCULA website.

Transforming Ideas into Solutions

Our goal is to foster innovative thinking throughout the library sector that is translated into solutions that keep library services growing and meaningful within the changing Ontario culture and environment.

OCULA Super Conference Planning
We would like to thank Courtney Lundrigan and Jennifer Peters for their amazing work as our OCULA Super Conference Planners. Please refer to their report below for more information. We would also like to welcome Stephen Spong, Copyright Services Librarian for Centennial College, who will be joining us as an incoming Super Conference Planner for SuperConference 2017/2018.

OCULA Super Conference Report
The theme of OLA Super Conference 2017 is "All in." A number of potential Spotlight Speakers were proposed by OCULA Council and the Super Conference Planners. We are very pleased that Dr. Rosie Redfield, Professor in the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia, agreed to be our Spotlight Speaker. From Redfield's bio:

> "In 2011 she achieved her 15 minutes of fame by critiquing (on RRResearch) the NASA-sponsored paper claiming that bacteria could construct DNA using arsenic instead of phosphorus, and in 2012 she led a team that showed this work to not be reproducible. Lately she's been criticizing the current teaching of genetics, and putting her money where her mouth is by developing and teaching the Useful Genetics MOOC on Coursera."

There are thirty OCULA sessions in the final program, including the popular Lightning Strikes Student Award session and the Spotlight Speaker. New this year is "Fail Stories," quick seven minute talks about something that didn't quite work out the way that was intended, and, of course, what we can learn from the experience. OCULA's Annual General Meeting is also in the program. OCULA received

over 80 session proposals, which made for some tough choices. Several strong proposals were traded to other divisions or forwarded to the Poster Committee for consideration.

The OCULA sessions presented at the 2017 conference included: creative approaches to instruction, metrics, tenure, neoliberalism, accessibility, digital humanities, and scholarly piracy, among many others.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Peters and Courtney Lundrigan, OCULA Super Conference Planners, 2016/17

Strengthening the Organization

Our goal is that OCULA/OLA has the near-term and long-term strengths in terms of people, finances, and infrastructure to fulfill our mission and realize our vision.

OCULA Communications Committee

This year we expanded OCULA Communications & Volunteer Coordination to develop a standing Communications Committee. We would like to thank Andrew Colgoni and Jack Young for all of their efforts in getting this committee off to a running start.

OCULA started a new twitter account @OCULA_OLA, giving us an additional mechanism to communicate directly to OCULA members. Please join our 110 current followers for updates on upcoming OCULA events and initiatives.

We currently have an Ambassador at 18 Ontario Universities and 8 Ontario Colleges with communications being sent directly to the Library Director or Chief Librarian for the other Ontario Colleges without Ambassadors. We are looking for a new Ambassador for the following libraries. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Andrew Cologni from OCULA Council.

Nipissing University and Canadore College
Wilfrid Laurier University
Algonquin College
Cambrian College
Canadore College
College Boreal
Conestoga College
Fanshawe College
Fleming College
George Brown College
LaCite College
Lambton College
Loyalist College
Northern College
St.Clair College
St.Lawrence College

Sault College

OLA Governance Review Committee

A key strategic initiative for the OLA Governance Review Committee in 2015 was to review OLA's governance structure, including its Terms of Reference. As a result, OCULA has drafted a terms of reference for our new Communications Committee that has streamlined our marketing and communication processes to make them sustainable and easily transferred to future councils.

OLA Committees

We would like to thank all of our OCULA Council members and Members-at-Large who represent OCULA on several OLA Committees, including:

- OLA Mentoring Committee (Jennifer Peters)
- OLA Advocacy Committee (Angela Henshilwood)
- OLA Governance Review Committee (Sophia Apostol)
- OLA Finance Committee (Fiona Inglis)
- OLA Revenue Development Committee (Sarah Shujah)
- OLA Board (Denise Smith, Sarah Shujah)

President-Elect Report

This past year has been an amazing opportunity to work alongside an incredible group of highly motivated people on the OCULA Council, and OLA Board and office. I look forward to serving the best interests of OCULA members with the incoming Council where we'll engage with advocacy, outreach, and continue to develop meaningful professional development and networking opportunities for new and experienced librarians.

Also, I'd like to thank Denise Smith, the 2016 President, who has mentored and prepared me for the sometimes seemingly daunting, however, very rewarding position as President in 2017. Denise helped to answer my questions in an informed manner, provided words of encouragement when needed that really shows to me her breadth of experience and knowledge as not just a professional librarian but as a leader. This year, Denise's biggest accomplishment is developing a sustainable funding plan for the New Librarian Residency Award that really exemplifies her tireless leadership and commitment to serve library professionals and the library community. I know that with her as Past-President, I will have the expertise and knowledge to continue to advocate and serve the library community effectively.

Last, I'd like to thank those that voted and helped me be a successful candidate for the OCULA President position in 2017. I am very much excited about the many great initiatives OCULA has lined up for 2017!

Sincerely,
Sarah Shujah

Introduction of the 2016 OCULA Council
Sarah Shujah (President)