

OCULA Annual General Meeting Reports, 2017

The following reports will be delivered or referred to at the OCULA 2017 Annual General Meeting on Thursday February 1, 2018.

Thank you to the 2017 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 2017. As of December 31, 2017, we had 640 OCULA members.

2017 Council:

Sarah Shujah (President)
Melanie Parlette-Stewart (VP/President Elect)
Denise Smith (Past President)
Jennifer Browning (Councillor-at-Large)
Andrew Colgoni (Councillor-at-Large)
Monique Flaccavento (Councillor-at-Large)
Fiona Inglis (Councillor-at-Large)
Jack Young (Councillor-at-Large)

Super Conference Co-Planners:

Courtney Lundrigan
Stephen Spong

Editorial Team:

Graeme Campbell (Editor-in-Chief)
Thomas Guignard (Junior Editor)
Rob Makinson (Junior Editor)
Jennifer Robinson (Junior Editor)

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 28, 2017)

This year, the [OCULA Spring Conference](#) moved away from the bucolic beauty of Jordan and into the urban grit of Hamilton. This made the event much easier to get to for many people, and enabled us to enjoy all that [Mill's Hardware](#) had to offer (including the option of enjoying a beer with your lightning talk). Our theme of *Storytime! Using narrative to represent ourselves, our work, and our libraries*, allowed us to explore the, sometimes unexpected, role that stories play in an academic library. The event started with a highly engaging demonstration of storytelling from our keynote speaker [Sage Tyrtle](#). This was followed by an activity that asked participants to use visual cues (and the tips they had just learned from Sage) to share their own career stories. A delicious lunch was provided by [Nellie James](#), and then we reconvened for the Lightning Talks. These 11 short talks covered a range of topics including games, podcasts, marketing, and a materials library. We wrapped up with some hands-on data visualization, because it isn't a real OCULA event if you haven't had to use pencils crayons. Thank you to the conference planning team (Fiona Inglis, Jack Young, and Juliene McLaughlin), our generous sponsors (Intel and Gobi), and Mary-Rose O'Connor from OLA.

OCULA Spring Social (June 8, 2017)

The OCULA Spring Social, in its inaugural year as a social, instead of a formal dinner encouraged attendees to "Eat, Meet, and Compete". The event was a 'pre-game' to OLITA's Digital Odyssey, and saw participants from the academic and public sector that joined us for board games like Codenames and Bananagrams plus a digital game, [Jackbox](#). Rob Makinson InsideOCULA editor helped us to highlight [Centennial College's board game collection](#) in which attendees had acquisition questions. Centennial also shared their [board game simple rules](#) (CC-0) with participants. We had volunteers from OLITA helping us guide participants with games. Also, our special guest [Scott Nicholson](#), Professor and Director of the Game Design and Development Program at Wilfrid Laurier University lead us through an invigorating trivia game where everyone left a winner. We'd like to thank Sarah Shujah, Andrew Colgoni, and Rob Makinson for organizing the social, and thank Mita Williams, and John Fink for kindly volunteering during the event. As ever, event planning was greatly supported by Michelle Arbuckle and Mary-Rose O'Connor from the OLA Office.

OCULA Fall Event (November 15, 2017)

This year, the [OCULA Fall Conference](#) was a virtual event. This made the event broadly accessible to attendees across the province. Our theme of "Overcoming Fears" featured an opening and closing keynote, lightning talks and an interactive workshop. The event began with an Anita Boey, PhD Candidate from the School of Human Resources Management at York University, providing the opening keynote entitled "Sharing Experiences of Failure and Learning From It." This was followed by our 5 lightning talk presentations which featured current students, new grads and current professionals discussing topics such as professional fulfilment, living up to expectations in contract roles and collaborating with faculty in the classroom. Next, users participated in an interactive workshop about

“Practicing Intelligence Failure” which included an Intelligence Failure Assessment and an activity on Double Loop Learning. We concluded our event with a closing keynote presented by Hamza Khan, a multi-award winning marketer & entrepreneur, on “The Fear Factor: How to Harness the Impulse of the Human Spirit.” Thank you to the conference planning team (Kailey Brisbin, Jennifer Browning, Juliene McLaughlin, Melanie Parlette-Stewart and Stephanie Quail) and Michael Rogowski from OLA.

New Librarian Residency Award & New Librarian Residency Award Fundraising Committee

In response to the OLA Board’s recommendation to fund the New Librarian Residency Award independently as a division, the New Librarian Residency Award Fundraising Committee continued its crowdsource fundraising campaign with the support of OLA’s Fund Development committee.

This year we updated the [website](#) with an FAQ section, updated the NLRA terms of reference to include a research component, launched an incentive program for contributing, developed a campaign that includes a hashtag, sought funding from the Peter Gilgan Foundation, created a video about the NLRA that includes testimonials from past winners that will be launched at OLA SC 2018, and are hoping to host a panel with past winners at OLA SC 2018.

We are happy to report that we have raised \$4611.00 through the New Librarian Residency Award crowdsource 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](#). We hope to achieve our goal of \$20 000 by OLA SC 2018, that includes the OLA Board match of every contribution made to the award up to a maximum of \$10,000. Learn more at: <http://nlra.accessola.com>.

A gracious thank you to the OLA Fund Development committee, Stephanie Pimentel, Shelagh Paterson, Rachelle DesRochers, and Robert Nishimura at the OLA office for their tireless efforts, and sharing of their expertise to support OCULA with this task that they too recognize as an important strategic priority. Thank you also to Sarah Shujah, Melanie Parlette-Stewart, and Monique Flaccavento of the OCULA NLRA Fundraising Committee for your knowledge, motivation, and commitment to fund this very special award.

OCULA Lightning Strikes Student Award (OLA SC)

Students from Ontario library programs will amaze you with their 10-minute lightning talks. Cast your ballots to select the best presentation for the 2018 OCULA Lightning Student Award. This year we had 5 Candidates for this award:

1. Danica Pawlick-Potts, Western University: "Do We Know What AI is Thinking?"
2. Emily Carlisle + Madison Patterson, Western University: "Taking the Stress out of Studying: The Library as Partner in Student Mental Health Support"
3. Ciara O'Kelly, University of Toronto: "Librarians Embed with Student Groups"
4. Jordan Pedersen, University of Toronto: "Indigenous Materials: the Role of Knowledge Bases in Virtual Repatriation"
5. Glyneva Bradley-Ridout, University of Toronto: "Hashtags, Emojis, and Longevity: The Importance of Preserving Your Library’s Social Media Content"

The winning student, which will be announced at the AGM, will receive the 2018 OCULA Student Award which brings an honorarium and complimentary one-year OLA membership.

OCULA Award for Special Achievement

The OCULA Award for Special Achievement was presented to an open source online learning tool, [The Learning Portal](#) (HLLR/OCLS), that serves as an academic skills hub for students and faculty in Ontario Colleges. This special initiative was crafted collaboratively across the 27 Ontario Colleges by librarians, learning strategists, faculty, and more.

OCULA Award for Lifetime Achievement

The OCULA Award for Lifetime Achievement went to Gladys Watson, former Director of Libraries at Centennial College. This award recognizes Gladys' significant contributions to the profession as a longstanding member of OLA, and to college libraries across Ontario. She has affected the lives and careers of librarians and library technicians, and has made impacts evidenced by her strong record of publications and presentations.

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 published a new brief of Researcher Identifiers and completed the translation of existing briefs to a Google Docs template to make for easy updating.

In 2018 we will examine ways to increase the visibility of the Information Briefs and explore their role in advocacy for college and university libraries.

InsideOCULA

InsideOCULA is the official publication of the Ontario College and University Library Association. We aim to foster an engaged academic library community by showcasing the programs, activities, and research happening in university and college libraries across Ontario. *InsideOCULA* is normally published five times a year via *Open Shelf*.

Our 2017 articles highlighted a variety of projects, research, events and issues from college and university libraries and library organizations across Ontario, and from collaborations stretching outside of our province. *InsideOCULA* helped to strengthen communications between the OCULA Council and the membership through articles promoting participation in the OCULA Spring and Fall Conferences and OLA Mentor Match; highlighting the work of OCULA award winners and "lightning strikes" participants at the OLA Super Conference; and reintroducing members to the OCULA Information Briefs. Other events and issues relevant to our membership were also featured as part of our regular OCULA President's Column.

This year, *InsideOCULA* published issues in February, April, July and November. Our normally scheduled October and December issues were merged into a single November issue to accommodate a significant

upgrade made to the *Open Shelf* platform in the fall of 2017. *InsideOCULA* provided feedback and helped to troubleshoot problems during the *Open Shelf* migration process, and while some technical issues are still present, we are optimistic that they will be resolved in 2018.

Lastly, there were significant changes to the *InsideOCULA* editorial team in 2017. We welcomed three new editors: Jennifer Robinson from Western Libraries, Thomas Guignard from the Ontario Colleges Library Service, and Rob Makinson, originally at Centennial College, but more recently he has agreed to continue on with us remotely from UBC Okanagan. This year also saw the departure of two long-time members of the *InsideOCULA* editorial team: Elizabeth Yates, who joined the team in 2012, and Michel Castagné, who joined in 2015. We thank them for their contributions over the years, and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Graeme Campbell
Editor-in-chief, *InsideOCULA*

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. This past year, OCULA was saddened and extremely disappointed to learn that Saint Lawrence College has eliminated Jill Baker’s position - currently the only professional librarian to serve 100% of their time towards Saint Lawrence College’s Brockville, Cornwall, and Kingston campus libraries. We have written a [letter of support for Jill Baker](#) to Saint Lawrence College to express our concern regarding the negative impact this will have on student services and faculty support. We are concerned that the loss of a librarian at this Ontario College is a growing trend. With this in mind, OCULA will work towards developing a longer term advocacy plan and research plan over the next three years.

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 Stephen Spong 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 Zack McDonald, Librarian for St. Jerome’s University, who will be joining us as an incoming Super Conference Planner for Super Conference 2018/2019.

OCULA Super Conference Report

The theme of OLA Super Conference 2018 is “Fearless by Design.” A number of potential Spotlight Speakers were proposed by OCULA Council and the Super Conference Planners. We are very pleased

that Desmond Cole will be our Spotlight Speaker. Cole is an activist and journalist based in Toronto and is currently working on his first book, which will focus on the experience of Black Canadians. He was awarded the 2017 PEN Canada/Ken Filkow Prize for freedom of expression in Canada.

There are twenty-eight OCULA sessions in the final program, including the popular Lightning Strikes Student Award session and the Spotlight Speaker. Returning 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 120 session proposals, which made for some difficult choices. Several strong proposals were traded to other divisions or forwarded to the Poster Committee for consideration. The OCULA sessions presented at the 2018 conference included: resilience and precarity, social justice, altmetrics, academic integrity, open education, and 3D printing, among many others.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Spong and Courtney Lundrigan, OCULA Super Conference Planners, 2017/18

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

The OCULA Communications Committee facilitates communication between OCULA council and our membership by distributing relevant information about events, initiatives, and volunteer opportunities through the OCULA Ambassador network and the OCULA Twitter account (@OCULA_OLA).

In 2017, our Twitter account grew to 198 followers (up from 110 at this time last year). Our OCULA Ambassador network remains strong with dedicated Ambassadors at 17 Ontario Universities and 8 Ontario Colleges. We are currently seeking Ambassadors for the following institutions. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Andrew Colgoni from OCULA Council:

Algonquin College	George Brown College	St. Lawrence College
Cambrian College	La Cité collégiale	Sault College
Canadore College	Lambton College	University of Ontario Institute of
Collège Boréal	Loyalist College	Technology
Durham College	Mohawk College	University of Ottawa
Fanshawe College	Northern College	University of Guelph-Humber
Fleming College	St. Clair College	

In the interest of not overwhelming our Ambassadors with emails to send to their colleagues, we have decided to move to a digest-style approach to communications. We will be asking Council to consider if multiple updates will need to go out in a given period and, if not time-sensitive, waiting to bundle multiple communications together.

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 (Melanie Parlette-Stewart)
- OLA Advocacy Committee (Jesse Carliner and Jason Bird)
- OLA Finance Committee (Fiona Inglis)
- OLA Revenue Development Committee (Melanie Parlette-Stewart)
- OLA Board (Sarah Shujah and Melanie Parlette-Stewart)

OCULA Treasurer Report

Financial report based on an 8-month budget from Jan 1, 2017 – Aug 31, 2017

Expenses for OCULA Council

Expense	Budget	Actual	Difference (\$)
Telephone	90	122	(32)
Catering	400	199	201
Travel, etc. OLA	1200	415	785
Awards	575	351	224
Printing	100	87	13
Supplies	0	0	0
Special Projects	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSE	2365	1175	1190

Expenses for OCULA Education

Revenue	Budget	Actual	Difference (\$)
Revenue: Registration	5800	4380	(1420)
Revenue: Sponsorship	750	1425	675
TOTAL REVENUE	6550	5805	(745)

Expense	Budget	Actual	Difference (\$)
Space Rental	1000	832	168

Catering	3600	2695	905
Travel, etc. OLA	200	0	200
Travel, etc. non-OLA	300	64	236
Awards	200	121	79
Printing	25	0	25
Supplies	250	108	142
TOTAL EXPENSE	5575	3819	1756
NET INCOME	975	1986	(1011)

DIVISION TOTAL	(1390)	811	
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President-Elect Report

Reflecting on 2017, I am so grateful for the opportunities to meet and work with OCULA, the OLA Board and office. Over this past year, I've been continuously amazed at the dedication, professionalism and creativity that these groups demonstrate. I am looking forward to 2018 as an exciting opportunity to serve OCULA in the role of President. Over the next year, we'll be engaging with the strategic goals of OLA as we seek to develop meaningful professional development opportunities and tools while being advocates for academic library faculty and staff in Ontario.

I'd like to thank Sarah Shujah, the 2017 President, who has tirelessly provided me with guidance and advice. Her dedication to OCULA has certainly helped me feel more prepared for taking on the role of President in 2018. Sarah's engagement with current issues in librarianship and higher education and ability to answer my questions and keep us focused in our tasks have inspired me as I take on this role. This year, Sarah's biggest accomplishments include continuing the development of a sustainable funding plan for the New Librarian Residency Award through the crowd-funding initiative and developing a marketing plan for this in coordination with OLA. In addition, Sarah has broadened the board and council's engagement with current advocacy needs in academic libraries, striving to share her insights and engage with tough issues. I know that having Sarah as Past-President, I will be able to draw upon her knowledge and expertise as we move forward.

I'd like to thank everyone that has supported me in this journey. I'm very excited about what 2018 has in store for OCULA!

Sincerely,

Melanie Parlette-Stewart

Introduction of the 2018 OCULA Council

Melanie Parlette-Stewart (President)
Cyndi Smith (VP/President Elect)
Sarah Shujah (Past President)
Jennifer Browning (Councillor-at-Large)
Andrew Colgoni (Councillor-at-Large)
Monique Flaccavento (Councillor-at-Large)
Aliya Dalfen (Councillor-at-Large)
Abeer Siddiqui (Councillor-at-Large)

Super Conference Co-Planners:

Stephen Spong (2017/2018)
Zack McDonald (2018/2019)

Editorial Team:

Graeme Campbell (Editor-in-Chief)
Thomas Guignard (Editor)
Rob Makinson (Editor)
Jennifer Robinson (Editor)