

ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

STRATEGIC PLAN, 2017-2020

A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR OLA'S KEY STRATEGIES

In the winter of 2016, OLA embarked on a robust strategic planning effort through a process that engaged members, staff, divisional councils, board members, partners, and leading voices in the library field. A Strategic Planning Advisory Committee of the Board provided guidance and oversight into the planning process. The broad consultation culminated in a new mission and vision, as well as new strategic plan to guide OLA's priorities and energies over the next three years.

VISION

Leading and inspiring the growth and innovation of the library and information services sector.

MISSION

We empower our members in the library and information services sector to build informed, participatory, and inclusive communities through:

- Research
- Education
- Advocacy
- Partnerships

The OLA Strategic Plan is illustrated above. The launching pad for our plan includes our mission, our values, and our notable history.



Strategic Priority 1: Focusing member services across diverse career paths.

WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE IN THREE YEARS?

- Our membership reflects the broad range of environments in which library and information specialists are employed.
- Early and new career members are well supported through our career and educational programs.
- Members are able to access more leadership and management programming through OLA and partner organization.
- Vibrant and successful communities of practice stimulate rapid diffusion of innovation and best practices.

Strategic Priority 2: Influencing policy and demonstrating value.

WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE IN THREE YEARS?

- We have specific goals and measures for advocacy work that meets the needs of our members.
- We work collaboratively with multiple partners and share the advocacy agenda.
- We have a broad network of library advocates who are actively engaged in building and implementing our advocacy initiatives.
- Our members have access to a range of content to support their local advocacy work.

Strategic Priority 3: Building evaluation and research capacity.

WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE IN THREE YEARS?

- We have a solid strategy created by our members that includes identifying research priorities annually, meeting intended outcomes, securing research resources and partners, and effectively disseminating research reports.

- Our education and training initiatives in areas of measurement and evaluation are well subscribed.
- OLA has integrated evaluation and research across many of its programs and members services.

Strategic Priority 4: Addressing the unique needs of rural, remote, and indigenous communities.

WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE IN THREE YEARS?

- A rural, remote, and Indigenous communities plan is created and deployed.
- Libraries of all types (public, school, academic, health, special) in small, rural or remote communities have access to services tailored to their unique communities.
- More members from small, rural, and remote communities access educational programs, volunteer and engage in workshops and committees.

Strategic Priority 4: Enablers: People, Technology, and Fundraising.

WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE IN THREE YEARS?

- OLA will have the staff/volunteer expertise and competency and resources and systems in place to continue to provide pro-active programs and services that will continually strengthen the profession and library sector.

2017 - 2020 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PROGRESS SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 - NOVEMBER 30, 2019



REPORT OF RICHARD REID

2019 PRESIDENT, ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Serving as president of the Ontario Library Association this year has been an amazing experience. Working with the Board and members of the organization has been an honour. It has been extremely gratifying to watch our libraries effectively responding to the challenges faced by our community. I've seen first-hand what libraries can do to make the world a better place and their importance on

our futures. I would like to share some high points of the last several months with you.

Government Relations and Library Advocacy have been a high priority for this year's board. Over the past year, OLA Board and Divisional Council representatives partnered with the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries to meet with ministers and ministerial staff. We discussed how libraries are essential to people and families across Ontario. We requested an increased investment in public libraries, and to mandate allocation of school library funding at the local level. The 2019/20 provincial budget revealed reductions across ministries, including reductions to Southern Ontario Library Service and Ontario Library Services North, impacting libraries. Moving forward, OLA will continue to engage and seek a greater investment for libraries.

OLA and the Ontario School Library Association (OSLA) working with **Counsel Public Affairs**, examined with Ministry of Education officials, the value of the school library learning commons. Numerous narratives showcasing the power of school libraries across Ontario have been shared with ministry officials. The OLA and OSLA will continue to dialogue with government and provincial boards of education outlining the distinct landscapes of library service in our schools across Ontario, as well as the positive impact trained library staff have on student achievement and well being.

The new **OLA Advocacy toolkit** launched at Super Conference 2019. It is now available to members for their advocacy needs.

In 2017, the OLA Board created and approved a robust **Strategic Plan** with the goal of promoting growth and innovative practices in Ontario's Libraries. We move closer to its conclusion. Many of the objectives have been successfully completed with mandates to provide our members with the empowerment to build creative and informed library-centric communities that participate in research, education and advocacy. In 2020 our next board will consider revisions, updates and additions to that strategic plan.

We close our year with the Annual General Meeting. Our AGM will bring forward important resolutions that will guide our organization into the future in an innovative, proactive and inclusive manner. I look forward to seeing the membership at the AGM during Super Conference.

The work of the 2019 OLA board will conclude with our annual Ontario Library Association Super Conference. This year's theme is *Dream Here / Rêvez ici*.

Libraries are places where dreams, both small and large, are nurtured. Libraries are dream factories, fuelled by knowledge and powered by creativity. *Dream Here / Rêvez ici* will be a place to explore ideas, learn from others, be inspired and encourage our delegates to take action in shaping library communities today, tomorrow and into the future. Our members, speakers, presenters, convenors, vendors, and attendees are all our dreamers. It's your dreams that will make great things happen. You all play key roles in our annual signature event's success. Please attend and be part of it!

Finally, I must express thanks.

To our current OLA Board - your dedication to Ontario libraries is unwavering. Please continue to advocate for libraries. It's been a joy working with each of you.

A huge thank you to the entire OLA staff. Your tireless efforts keep our organization strong.

Super Conference would not be possible without the dedicated members of our OLA Super Conference Planning Team. This dream team is what makes our annual event so incredible. Thanks so much.

And to our members - Thank You! Please continue to love libraries. It is the collective power, heart and vision of every one of you that will keep our libraries vibrant, dynamic and necessary institutions.



ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES DE L'ONTARIO-FRANCO

FRANCE SÉGUIN, PRÉSIDENTE

ABO-FRANCO

Membres ABO 2019 : 240

L'année a bien commencé avec la **Super Conférence à Toronto** où nous avons eu 7 ateliers présentés encore cette année (même qu'en 2018). Nous avons entre autre été fiers d'accueillir sur le panel Plein feu sur les services en français : Pierrette Dubé, Cathon et Olivier Simard. Nous avons également tenue notre assemblée générale annuelle lors de cette conférence qui nous offre aussi l'occasion de voir et rencontrer les membres.

À la mi-mai, à Toronto, **Le Festival des arbres** a accueilli près de 2000 jeunes lecteurs et élèves francophones qui se sont réunis au Centre Harbourfront pour célébrer les meilleurs auteur(e)s et illustrateurs francophones du Canada.

Près de quelque 25 auteur(e)s et illustrateurs francophones ont assisté au Festival cette année. Le Festival des arbres, **édition francophone**, a pris de l'expansion depuis sa création, le premier événement d'une journée complète avait eu lieu en 2016.

Les visites virtuelles d'auteur(e)s appelées **Mercure-lit** ont débuté le 1er mars pour se tenir tous les mercredis jusqu'au 1er mai 2019. Un total de 8 auteur(e)s ont fait des présentations et un total de 22 sites externes se sont branchés.

C'est le **lundi 27 mai** que nous avons tenu notre toute première **journée congrès de l'Abo-Franco** à la Bibliothèque Morisset. Ce fût un succès avec 25 participants. Nous avons même eu l'honneur d'accueillir **Mme Leslie Weir**, qui le jour-même était officiellement nommé **Bibliothécaire et Archiviste du Canada**. Parmi notre belle brochette de présentations, nous y avons retrouvés Karima Kafif (Biblio publique Ottawa) sur les Avantages de la technologie auprès des ados et enfants, un panel sur la clientèle francophone constitué de Maryse Laflamme (uOttawa), Ariane Bercier (Ottawa), Valérie Pinard-Jain (Viamonde) et Guillaume Brien-Regimbald (Biblio publique Vaughan). De plus, nous avons accueillis Mme Linda Savoie (BAC), M. Pierre-Paul Noreau, Président et Éditeur du journal LeDroit, la compagnie Bibliopresto et pour clôturer la journée, nous avons joué pour la toute première fois en français au Jeu de cartes du droit d'auteur (version canadienne), traduit par Mélanie Brunet (uOttawa) et Marie-Eve Truchon (Laval). Un grand merci à OLA pour leur support avec cette activité et à l'Université d'Ottawa pour son bel accueil.

Projet **AlphaNumérique**
BIBLIOPRESTO, Techno Culture Club et leurs partenaires

lancent le programme de littératie numérique en bibliothèque **AlphaNumérique**. Le projet débute à l'automne avec des formations pilotes dans quelques bibliothèques ciblées en Ontario (qui désert un public francophone), puis déploiera l'ensemble de ses activités à partir de **janvier 2020 jusqu'au printemps 2022**.

L'outil de communication SLACK est toujours actif et on encourage les membres de communiquer avec les groupes de discussion selon leurs intérêts ; on y retrouve entre autres la catégories #bibliosacadémiques, #bibliospubliques, #technologies et tout simplement #placotage. De plus, le **compte Twitter** de l'Abo-Franco continue d'accueillir de nouveaux membres. Un article en français a été publié dans le magazine **OpenShelf** par Hélène Carrier, Directrice intérimaire de l'École des sciences de l'information à l'Université d'Ottawa et vice-présidente de l'ABO-Franco, sur le dixième anniversaire de l'École.

Premier **balado/podcast** en français avec **Ariane Bercier**, conseillère du conseil d'administration de l'ABO et Bibliothécaire à la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa et **Sarah Roberts**, Advocacy & Research Officer (OLA) sur la Célébration de la journée des Franco-ontariens. Vous trouverez le podcast en ligne sur la chaîne **Library Land Loves de l'OLA** : <https://librarylandloves.libsyn.com/abo-franco>

Une chaîne **YouTube** (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpaGOE5Jvcgh_z5NF0UTfUA) préparé par le personnel de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa proposant des chansons en français pour aider la préparation des programmes pour enfants offerts par les bibliothécaires et le personnel de bibliothèque (**1,2,3 on chante!**).

Le **Conseil d'administration de l'ABO-Franco** sera aussi renouvelé l'an prochain avec la fin du terme de certains postes. Demeurer impliqué, c'est notre façon de rester fort, nous sommes nous serons!

Enfin, je tiens à dire un gros merci aux membres du **CA de l'ABO Franco** et tout **le personnel de l'OLA**, plus particulièrement **Sarah Roberts** pour son soutien et appui tout au long de la mise en œuvre de notre journée congrès et son support continue au court de l'année!



ONTARIO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CYNDI SMITH, PRESIDENT

OCULA

2019 OCULA Membership: 653

I have had a great privilege this year to work with the 2019 OCULA council, in a role that I found personally challenging yet distinctly satisfying. For someone in the middle of a career in a college as a library technician, I feel honoured to be a part of this council. Working with the personalities behind the members, learning their approach to problem solving, and the way each approaches challenges has given me insights. I truly liked being on this council. I would say this year for OCULA was one of reflection and of reorganization. 2019 has been a year where we needed to step back and reevaluate what we were doing and how we were doing it, in order to stay current and remain of value. It followed then that this year there were needed reviews and revisions to keep in alignment with our own **Strategic Plan** as well as to mirror those of OLA's.

This year, our **Spring Conference**, "*Bridge Between: Information Literacy Challenges, Needs and Opportunities for Students' Transition from High School to University/College*", was an unqualified success. Led by Sarah Shujah's vision and drive, Samhita Gupta, Kate Johnson-McGregor, Sophie Bury, Christopher Tomasini and OLA's Emily Burns, planned a full, fabulous day that brought attendees from both OCULA and OSLA divisions, as well as the library associations of OTELA (Ontario Teacher Education Library Association) and CIS Ontario (The Conference of Independent Schools of Ontario) together into one grand think tank. It was an eventful day with practical presentations to overcome the challenges to literacy as youths shift into higher education. Keynote speaker Dr. Kara Brisson-Boivin revealed the rationale and framework behind the need for digital literacy for Canada's youth and Richard Reid, the 2019 OLA President, opened the day with an enthusiasm that set the tone for all. It was a brilliant day full of learning and connecting between institutions, associations, sectors and educational backgrounds on how to bridge the very real gap between Ontario secondary and postsecondary students.

In keeping with a mandate for quality professional development, **OCULA's free webinars series**, has continued to grow in scope and breadth. When these were instituted last year, it was to ensure free access to current issues and trends in academic libraries and this year value was added with the Virtual Journal Club, a session following each webinar with relevant discussions on carefully curated readings. Thank you to Abeer Siddiqui and Aliya Dalfen for labouring to create the space for this to happen. In February, "Critical Librarianship"

was offered, "Intellectual Freedom" presented in June, and "International Students and the Library: Empowering English Language Learners on Campus" followed in November. I am thrilled to report that these webinars were among the "greatest hits" offered by the Education Institute. Thank you to Kailey Brisbin, Andrew Colgoni and Monique Flaccavento for the diligent and creative work that made each a success.

For a long time now, the **NLRA (New Librarian Resident Award)** has enabled many brand-new librarians to do meaningful and engaging work in academic libraries and build sustainable careers. OCULA has been proud of the value of this award. The last two years, as climates and budgets changed and declined across the sector, there were challenges to fundraising and this year difficulties showed in the restrictions library managers have in applying for it. After much consideration, this year council will offer the NLRA for one final time to conclude this program.

With more work to do and less time to do it in, **InsideOCULA** editors, Rob Makinson and Jennifer Robinson, have felt the push and pull of soliciting, writing, editing and publishing complete issues 5 times a year. This is not unique to OCULA, but in keeping with this year of introspection and evaluation, council has been working with the Editorial team reviewing the process behind this newsletter. Adaptations and revisions to **InsideOCULA** are being deliberated and readers will want to watch to see what exciting changes will evolve from this process.

This year saw **OCULA's Research Advocacy committee** form to follow up on the concerns facing academic librarians that was raised in the previous year. Due to the great interest that came out of the Spring Conference, a 2020 Super Conference session has ensued and a further research inquiry into collaborative possibilities between associations and divisions.

Thank you to outgoing Councilor-at-large, Monique Flaccavento, OCULA's treasurer, who has been a pleasure to work with in every way on council. Lastly, I want to thank the staff at OLA. There couldn't be better people there to support all of us in the divisions with the work we do. All in all, the 2019 council has been very engaged this year and it is with gladness and excitement that I shall cheer on next year's president, Angela Henshilwood.



ONTARIO LIBRARY BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

MARIAM HAMOU & BEN HENDRIKS, CO-PRESIDENTS



2019 OLBA Membership: 997

This year, we decided to do things a little differently. Our elected President, Andrew Porteus, was in an intense second year of his PhD and stepped down to focus more closely on his thesis and coursework. This left a gap that both of us, Ben Hendriks and Mariam Hamou, as Vice-President and Past-President respectively, decided to take on as Co-Presidents (in addition to our roles as your OLBA Super Conference Co-planners!). As you can imagine, this has been an extremely busy and productive year.

Though there are several annual activities that OLBA Council is responsible for, we have been focusing on activities in two areas:

- Being a better representative voice of the Library Boards across the province.
- Doing more to set ourselves up as the go-to resource for Board members in relation to governance questions and support

To fulfil these areas of responsibility you will see that, in addition to making sure we have regional representation on the OLBA Council, we are actively reaching out to library boards through seminars and other events. On the resource front, you will see we are supporting the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) Governance Hub and we will be doing more in that area to connect our members to this space.

Cutbacks

We started our term under a cloud of uncertainty. When the government of the day announced cutbacks to library services, we were very concerned about what that could mean. After learning the severity of the cuts, we connected with our colleagues at both SOLS and Ontario Library Service North (OLS-N). We wanted to ensure that we were there to help them in any way we could. Because of the cuts, SOLS terminated its delivery service which transported books between 153 libraries in Ontario. All parties with a stake in this, including OLA, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) and of course SOLS and OLS-N, sent messages or met with government. After much deliberation and consultation, Interlibrary Loans ended up getting partially funded (through a different model).

SOLS's Governance Hub

The Southern Ontario Library Service has created an online, interactive, Governance Hub that involved input from key organizations who constantly work with Libraries and

their governance structures. FOPL, OLA, OLS-N and OLBA all participated in feedback sessions to create an inclusive and comprehensive Governance Hub that will hopefully be widely used to guide Board Members, Trustees and CEOs on governance issues. The Governance Hub takes you through the full 4-year cycle of a Board Member's term by providing information on many different issues and concepts relevant to library governance. We want to thank all parties involved for the hard work performed creating a one stop shop for all things library board related. In the year ahead you will be seeing more of us (OLBA) partnering with SOLS and OLS-N to bring this to our members!

New Diversity Committee

With an emphasis on hearing from new perspectives and voices, we felt that it was time to create a new committee on OLBA Council, the Diversity Committee. The committee is still in the development phase, but we are looking to put a more concerted effort into understanding the diversity of our members. More than that, it is important that we can then work to be a resource for our membership in terms of understanding and communicating the value of our diversity.

OLBA Bootcamp of Inclusion

The sessions from Bootcamp 2019 were drawn from suggestions from our membership, as well as from an understanding of the needs of our members (considering many had just been appointed). From SOLS presenting on "Being a productive member of your Library Board", through excellent and knowledgeable speakers on "Building a Board that Reflects you Community", library experts on "Economic Impact Study – The Value Proposition of your Library", and our own OLBA Council following up with "What's Keeping Library Boards up at Night", it was a day not to be missed! Speaking of not to be missed, the last session of that day was a wonderful panel speaking about "Municipalities: What Public Libraries need to know." The planning team heard a number of great comments about the sessions, which were appreciated and taken forward into the coming year.

We would like to thank the members of OLBA Council for their time and efforts this year, and we welcome all of our new councilors. Ben will be assuming full duties of President in 2020, but he already knows he's got a great group committed to listening to, and representing, the interests of Library Board member/trustees province-wide!



ONTARIO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

SUSANNA GALBRAITH, PRESIDENT

OLITA

2019 OLITA Membership: 1,074

I had the privilege of leading OLITA in 2019. It has been rewarding to work with such an inspiring team of councillors. Together, with the wonderful staff at the OLA Office, OLITA had a great year.

OLITA council spent time this year updating our **strategic plan** to reflect the strategic priorities of OLA, for 2019-2020. Building on momentum from previous years we agreed to launch a free webinar series. Our hope in launching the series is to increase value to OLITA's members. The first webinars will be in the winter of 2020 through OLA's Education Institute. The vision for our webinars is to continue as an extension of our annual Digital Odyssey conference, providing more in-depth sessions on the conference theme. In this way, we hope to provide education on technology topics to those who can't attend the conference in person and in so doing reach members in rural and remote communities. Many thanks to councillors Sarah Macintyre and Eva Stepanian for their work on this.

Our annual conference **Digital Odyssey** was well attended with 82 participants across all library sectors; public, academic and school libraries. The theme was Digital Literacy, and the program included an inspiring keynote on navigating equitable digital futures by Nasma Ahmed, a panel on city-building and digital literacy, and a variety of breakout and lightning talk sessions that focused on subjects such as digital andragogy, mentoring, github, micro:bits, data visualization, how to recycle 3D printer waste, and digital literacy skills for library staff. Many thanks to the Toronto Public Library, North York Central Library branch who allowed us to use their space and provided support throughout the day. A special thank you to OLITA councillor Alex Carruthers for her support with Digital Odyssey this year.

Further to our conference and webinar series, OLITA is working towards an additional education event in the form of an **OLITA Library Carpentry workshop** in the upcoming year, stay tuned for more details.

OLITA's Technology Lending Library has been growing its collection over the years, with newer purchases of Muse headbands and Lego WeDo. This year our lending library received an exciting donation, with the help of councillor Pam Saliba, of micro:Bits from Kids Code Jeunesse, who also provided a break-out session at Digital Odyssey.

OLITA has made concerted efforts this year with a view towards supporting OLA's strategic priority of "influencing policy" with our topical **Open Shelf** articles and **tweets**. *Buy, Borrow, Bypass: The Current Landscape of eBooks in Libraries* was the 2nd most viewed article in the issue. Thank you to councillor Laura Warner for her tireless efforts as OLITA's *Open Shelf* contributor, including the always popular "Library IT crowd" column. Thank you as well to councillor Eva Stepanian for her guidance in developing a Twitter content calendar for OLITA.

Building on our strategic goal to integrate evaluation and research of library technology, OLITA council, in collaboration with OPLA's Research and Evaluation Committee, has begun the initial stages of an exciting research project on **makerspace policy and pricing**.

I would like to thank OLITA's conference planners Matt Rowheder and Lee Puddephatt who have done tremendous work with this year's spotlight speaker Justin Ling, along with our ever popular OLITA Tech Talks and the many great technology sessions present at this year's conference. All of this wouldn't be possible without the hard-work and dedication of an incredible OLITA council. Many thanks to our councillors and a special thank you to our outgoing councillors John Fink, Rebecca Laroque, and Laura Warner. It has been a great pleasure to serve as OLITA President this past year, and I wish all the best of luck to our incoming 2020 President Sarah Macintyre!

ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ELIZABETH MALAK, PRESIDENT



OPLA

2019 OPLA Membership: 1,650

It has been a privilege serving OPLA Council as President this year. With the dedicated support of OLA staff, I have had the opportunity to engage and collaborate with an incredible group of library leaders from across the province. OPLA Council and Committees have had a busy 2019 with many member-engagement endeavours and professional development events. Here is a snapshot of Council's activities this year.

Nicole Zummach's first year as **HoOPLA** editor has done a tremendous job soliciting content from libraries across the province. Nicole's work on *HoOPLA* highlights the tremendous impact Ontario public libraries have in their communities.

The **Reader's Advisory Committee** planned this year's RA in a Day, "Out of the Shadows: Taking the 'Scary' out of Horror Reader's Advisory." Sessions included author Nick Cutter, film expert Alexandra West, and the Dewey Divas & Dudes. Plans are underway for 2020, which will have the theme "Past, Present and Future."

The **Best Bets Committee** has been working hard reading over 250 titles to award the 2019 Top Ten best in Canadian fiction and non-fiction for children and teens. The committee is also working on a webinar for the New Year, so keep an eye out for it on the Education Institute.

The **Community-Led Libraries Committee** planned the Community-Led Think Tank. "Mindful Communities" took place at London Public Library with a keynote from Oakville Public Library's Marcus Logan, entitled "It's Not Just Drag Queen Storytime." Attendees participated in roundtable sessions on decolonizing collections, ageing populations, customer service for homeless patrons, bibliotherapy, measuring impact, and embedding mental health services.

The **Child and Youth Committee** planned the Child & Youth Expo, which took place at Thunder Bay Public Library. The program featured a variety of local talent including a keynote from Jean Pendziwol, a puppetry session from RECE Don McMahon, a grant writing session offered by Ontario Arts Council, and a Drag Queen Storytime.

The **Research and Evaluation Committee** supported the Patron Registration Survey administered in July and completed by 122 library systems. Results will be presented at a Super

Conference 2020 session led by Douglas Davey and Gillian Byrne.

Lisa Worobec's **Kickstart to Participation** project focused on the service needs of migrant workers. Lisa's work included an extensive environmental scan, presentations to OPLA Council and stakeholder engagement with greenbelt libraries and agencies. Lisa's project served as the impetus for important conversations on who to best serve this underserved population and will inform future OPLA work.

Northern Outreach and Engagement has been an ongoing OPLA focus area. Dayna DeBenedet conducted a survey of to identify needs such as funding, staffing and professional development. The survey led to a Northern Outreach Teleconference where participants discussed barriers to engagement, including costs when attending OLA events and management support to attend. Participants also discussed ways in which OLA can support smaller regional events. Teleconferences will continue and a meetup will take place onsite during Super Conference.

OPLA libraries supported OLA with **Ontario Public Library Week** by hosting "Library Day in Your Riding" with local MPPs. The meetings communicated the impact of library service in their communities.

OPLA has supported OLA and FOPL in meetings with **ServiceOntario**, who are exploring their future service delivery. Super Conference Roundtables will give public libraries attending the opportunity to give their input.

This year's **Super Conference** theme, *Dream Here / Rêvez ici*, truly describes my time on council. I have learned, on a completely different level, the various ways one can engage colleagues, partners and funders. I look forward to continued dreaming with incoming OPLA President Erika Heeson. Thank-you to OPLA Super Conference Planners, Hamid Printer and Megan Paquette for their tireless efforts in working with the OLA staff and Super Conference Team in building a program that balances the professional development needs of all Ontario libraries and beyond.

Have a great Super Conference!



ONTARIO SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

JENNIFER BROWN, PRESIDENT

OSLA

2019 OSLA Membership: 1,057

2019 has been a year full of challenges for many OSLA members. OSLA Council continues to seek opportunities to best serve members and to connect with community partners and organizations to promote the importance of the school library learning commons.

Following the OLA AGM held at the 2019 Super Conference, much time and effort has gone into drafting an updated motion for the membership to consider at the 2020 OLA AGM. The importance of creating an inclusive and detailed description of the OSLA mandate required members to come together. Council appreciates the work of the Striking Committee and By-law 2 Committee, in collaboration with the Rotman I Think facilitator and OLA staff, to bring an updated motion for the AGM.

Some highlights of 2019 include:

- The formation of the Member Outreach committee who promote OLA programs and initiatives including the Forest of Reading, OSLA Book Club, and other networking and communication opportunities
- OSLA's participation in the OCULA Spring Conference, where former OSLA President and current Super Conference planner Kate Johnson-MacGregor worked closely with OCULA to plan an incredibly well-received one-day conference where attendees learned about the importance of libraries in the transition from secondary school to post-secondary learning.
- A session from Caroline Freibauer, Maureen McGrath, and council member Melanie Mulcaster, at the Bring It, Together (BIT) Conference, fall 2019, about the role of school library professionals and how they impact student achievement through inquiry design, problem-based learning, and STEAM/STEM initiatives.
- With former *Teaching Librarian* editor, Diana Maliszewski, we facilitated three days of professional learning for over 40 elementary and secondary teacher-librarians at the ETFO Summer Academy. Our session was entitled "How to Develop Your Library Super Powers."
- Working in partnership with Canadian School Libraries and TALCO to offer Treasure Mountain Canada 6, a biennial symposium dedicated to the sharing and discussion of the school library learning commons current practices and research (offered in conjunction with the OLA Super Conference).

- Work on updating *Together for Learning* being done by Caroline Freibauer, editor, *The Teaching Librarian* and Maureen McGrath, OSLA Vice-President.

Advocacy for the future of school library learning commons is an ongoing concern. The decades-long work of the OLA and OSLA to encourage the Ministry of Education to hold boards accountable for the spending of the funding allotted for school libraries remains the priority. OSLA continues to partner with ETFO to take a stand on the importance of specialty teachers in the school library learning commons. We hope to broaden this work to additional education worker unions. Council member Johanna Lawler has been at the forefront of this advocacy partnership and is an invaluable resource for those who would like to work with their union to do the same.

The fall edition of *The Teaching Librarian* magazine focused on this advocacy by documenting "The State of School Libraries." Council is grateful to the editor, Caroline Freibauer, for her insightful leadership and vision in bringing this incredible resource to fruition.

OSLA has a long history of working with the Ministry of Education to promote new and innovative instructional practices in our schools. Information literacy, technology, literacy instruction, and cutting-edge equity initiatives have been part of this advocacy. As a subject association with the OTF, OSLA values this commitment to support student success. The recent cuts to education funding have had a direct impact on many school library learning commons. It became essential for OSLA Council to speak out about the importance of school libraries and the impact of 2019 funding cuts on our members and the students we serve. In November 2019, we shared a letter to Minister Stephen Lecce with our members that expressed deep concern for the future of the school library learning commons. We sent the Minister a copy of "The State of School Libraries" edition of *The Teaching Librarian*.

As we wrap this year, the OSLA Council extends our thanks to our divisional planners, Diana Maliszewski and Kate Johnson-MacGregor for their tireless efforts and creative vision in coordinating an exceptional school library program for Super Conference. I am also tremendously grateful for the support of the Council and members who offered ideas, time and perspectives to help me adjust to the role of president.

REPORT OF SHELAGH PATERSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



OLA has just completed year two of the strategic plan. Some accomplishments and highlights:

Focusing member services across diverse career paths: This priority is all about ensuring that OLA engages with anyone interested in being part of the association, in giving back to the library sector and for those would like to expand their professional competencies by

participating with OLA.

Kudos to Martha Attridge Bufton, *Open Shelf* editor-in-chief, and the editorial team for embracing this priority by implementing guidelines and columns to ensure authors and topics reflect different perspectives and diversity.

Influencing policy and demonstrating value: Thanks to the OLA Advocacy Committee, with support from Sarah Roberts, Advocacy and Research Officer we launched the Advocacy Toolkit, a living document that will help all of our members, regardless of type of library, strategize and make the case for more support.

On the government relations front, we had a very intense year with the spring provincial budget announcing a budget cut to the provincial public library funding envelope and added pressure on school libraries due to the government directive of e-learning and increased classroom size. Members did an exceptional job in making their voices heard to MPP's and ministry staff. OLA continues to engage with the various ministries and with members connecting locally with government representatives.

Building evaluation and research capacity: OLA members have embraced this strategy with enthusiasm by launching the following initiatives: Ontario School Library Impact Project (OSLIP), School Library Inventory Survey, Public Library Card survey, College library staffing research project, New Graduate Employment survey and the OPLA Research and Evaluations Committee.

Addressing the unique needs of rural, remote and indigenous communities: When OLA consulted with the membership to create the current strategic plan, this priority was identified by members across all sizes and types of libraries. Members in these communities have unique challenges and opportunities and it is important that they determine how they can best participate with the association. With leadership from

OPLA and OLBA Councils, OLA Indigenous Task Group, and our Northern members, we have begun to implement a number of changes to reduce barriers to participation including complimentary EI webinars and Forest of Reading registration for all First Nation Public Libraries, a reduced Super Conference registration rate for public libraries serving populations under 7,000, planning at least one OLA event in the north, and regularly scheduled open Northern Outreach teleconferences coordinated by Melissa Macks, Member Engagement Officer.

Enablers: People, Technology, and Fundraising: Lauren Hummel, Manager, Marketing and Communications, secured pro-bono rebranding of the Forest of Reading from Brandvan, which included a more engaging look and feel for the program, and a refreshing of some of the reading categories. The Forest program, supported by hundreds of OLA volunteers, continues to engage thousands of young readers and has earned the support and appreciation of Canadian authors, illustrators and publishers. Watch out for national [#ReadCanadian](#) day February 19.

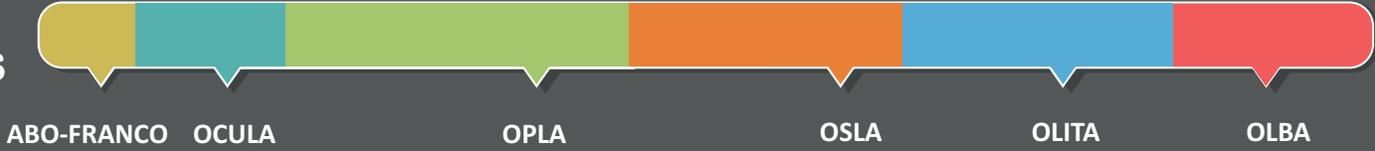
OLA continues to both fund-raise, and to disburse funds to important initiatives such as the Larry Moore Challenge (a Dragon's Den style of awarding funds for innovative projects), I Read Canadian (funding for kid's books and author visits to smaller and more remote communities) and supporting the Spirit of Reconciliation program to connect a member from a First Nation community with a mentor at Super Conference.

We could not do all we do without the leadership of volunteers and staff – we are truly "Powered by the People" (#OLASC 2019 theme) It has been a pleasure working with the 2019 board lead by the kind and energetic Richard Reid who provided wise oversight and navigated a few challenges (and who invites us to "Dream Here" at #OLASC 2020!).

Some staff departed to embark on new stages of their career: Rachele DesRochers moved to work in libraries on the west coast, Emily Bradley and Phil Grozdanovski to publishing and tutoring, and Michelle Arbuckle took a leave to pursue an opportunity at Ryerson University. We borrowed Emily Burns from Oakville Public Library (thanks OPL!) to lead Super Conference and event planning, welcomed Destiny Laldeo to coordinate EI and events, Keith Dozois to coordinate fund-raising and operations and Praan Misir to project manage our AMS implementation. It is an ongoing privilege to work with such a dedicated, smart and diplomatic team.

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) consists of six divisions: L'Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Franco (ABO-FRANCO), Ontario College and University Library Association (OCULA), Ontario Library and Information Technology Association (OLITA), Ontario Library Boards' Association (OLBA), Ontario Public Library Association (OPLA), and Ontario School Library Association (OSLA).

4,702
MEMBERS



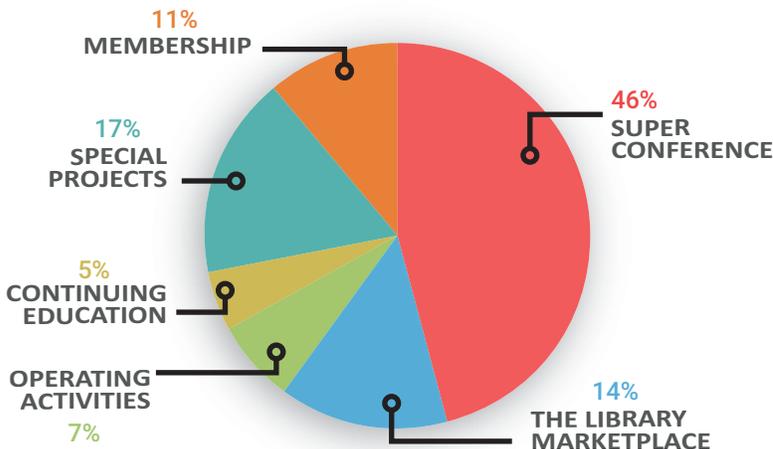
The LIBRARY MARKETPLACE

25K
items sold

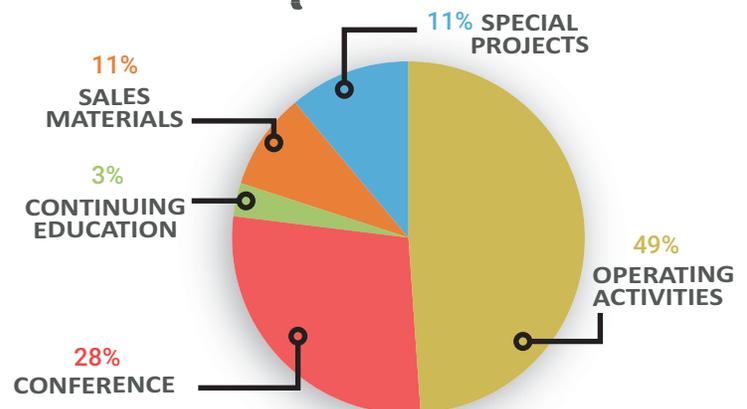
In 2019, The Library Marketplace had approximately 2,300 titles available in print. The most sought after items were: I Read Canadian Stickers, Cut to the Chase, *The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness* book, I Read Canadian t-shirt, and socks.



2019 OLA Revenues



2019 OLA Expenditures



powered by the people

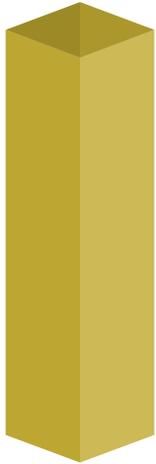
MENÉ PAR NOUS TOUS

Over 260 sessions were attended by almost 5,000 delegates from around the country.

OLA SUPER CONFERENCE



FOREST OF READING® registrants



4,500 registered sites in 2019



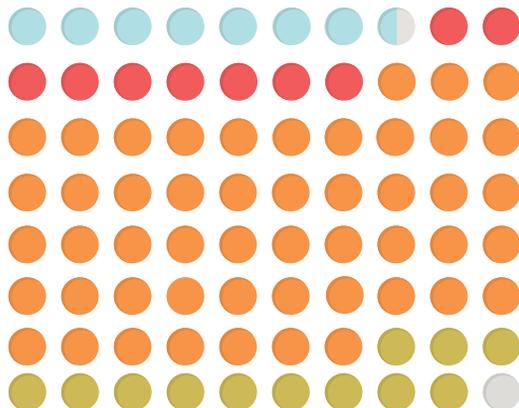
Forest Of Reading



Forest Of Reading Festival

New brand of the Forest of Reading, including the Festival and the award programs courtesy of the Brandvan Initiative.

FESTIVAL OF TREES™ ticket sales



Each circle represents approximately 200 Festival attendees.

- Waterloo Region** 1,516 tickets sold
- TORONTO** 10,044 tickets sold
- LONDON** 1,769 tickets sold
- FRENCH** 2,147 tickets sold

Other OLA Signature Events include the **Library as Place** (98 registrants), **RA in a Day** (96 registrants), and the **Marketing Libraries Think Tank** (94 registrants)

QUICK FACTS

MOST watched WEBINARS

- Exploring Critical Librarianship
- Copyright for Health Information Professionals
- International Students and the Library: Empowering English Language Learners on Campus
- Intellectual Freedom
- Things Nobody Taught Me: Influences that Shape a Researcher



196K	FOREST OF READING® program participants
110	nominated titles in the program
146K	books sold by the official program wholesaler
170K	registered voters
1481	INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS for OLA and 389 for The Library Marketplace as of Jan. 12, 2020
8670	TWITTER FOLLOWERS as of January 12, 2020
3413	FACEBOOK FANS as of January 12, 2020
982	WEBINAR (INDIVIDUAL) REGISTRANTS for 77 Education Institute webinars
59K	WEBSITE VISITS exclusively to the OLA homepage
300+	STUDENT VOLUNTEERS who volunteered over 1,500 hours collectively

OLA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, 2019

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS (GENERAL FUND)

	Audited 2019	Restated Audited 2018
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31		
REVENUES (\$)	12 months	12 months
Membership	315,113	335,423
Conference	1,423,083	1,379,141
Continuing Education	139,830	154,105
The Library Marketplace	289,101	337,339
Contract Administration (YI)	11,101	-
Programs and Projects	561,439	506,266
Government Grants	38,621	40,300
Contributions	1,338	30,997
Investment Income	8,344	7,444
Special Project	-	-
Other Income	165,310	156,656
	\$ 2,953,280	\$ 2,947,671

EXPENSES (\$)		
Salaries and Benefits	1,020,659	976,506
Conference	700,336	681,529
Continuing Education	71,317	88,295
The Library Marketplace	199,937	218,574
Programs and Projects	398,250	393,680
Provision for Doubtful Accounts (recovery)	(232)	744
Honoraria and Awards	23,268	8,228
Catering	20,653	15,296
Purchased Services & Materials	119,160	107,656
Travel, Lodging and Meals	57,177	56,460
Occupancy Costs	164,597	152,537

EXPENSES continued in next column...

	Audited 2019	Restated Audited 2018
EXPENSES (\$) continued from previous column...		
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	25,643	36,563
Supplies, Printing Delivery, etc.	19,563	16,446
Telephone	13,277	15,131
Professional Fees	32,936	34,019
Amortization & Intangible assets	24,943	6,249
Depreciation	7,968	9,029
Bank Fees	23,747	13,665
Foreign Exchange	24,360	29,582
	\$ 2,947,559	\$ 2,860,189

Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	5,721	87,482
Transfer from internally restricted funds	4,711	(714)
Net assets - general fund - at beginning of year	\$ 1,248,533	\$ 1,161,765
Net assets - general fund - at end of year	\$ 1,258,965	\$ 1,248,533

The Statement of Operations & Changes in Net Assets (General Fund) and the Statement of Financial Position are drawn from the audited statements for the year ended August 31, 2019, with the audited comparative figures for the year, which ended August 31, 2018. Complete audited statements for the year ended August 31, 2019, as prepared by the accounting firm of Hillborn, LLP, and approved by the Board of Directors on January 17, 2020, are available on the OLA website at www.accessola.com.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Audited 2019	Restated Audited 2018
ASSETS (\$)		
Current assets		
Cash	610,214	921,677
Short-term investments	442,277	256,059
Accounts receivable	178,500	140,326
Inventory	70,696	75,374
Prepaid expenses - conference	19,244	5,556
- other	76,467	59,256
	\$ 1,397,398	\$ 1,458,248
Long-term assets		
Investments	140,167	237,137
Loan Receivable	9,905	13,038
Capital assets	21,977	24,927
Intangible assets	125,899	98,585
Assets under capital lease	7,271	9,088
	305,219	382,775
TOTAL	\$1,702,617	\$ 1,841,023

	Audited 2019	Restated Audited 2018
LIABILITIES (\$)		
Current liabilities	167,403	223,990
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,364	2,297
Deferred revenue	66,781	147,439
	\$ 236,548	\$ 373,726
Long-term liabilities		
Capital lease obligations	6,215	8,579
NET ASSETS (\$)		
General fund	1,258,964	1,248,533
Internally Restricted fund	106,411	116,298
Externally Restricted fund	94,479	93,887
	\$ 1,459,854	\$ 1,458,718
TOTAL	\$1,702,617	\$1,841,023

REPORT OF JANNEKA GUISE OLA TREASURER



It has been a pleasure to assume the position of OLA Treasurer, to meet and work more closely with the OLA Board to get to know first-hand all the wonderful initiatives this association is undertaking. I am grateful for the support (and patience!) of the incredible staff team in the OLA office as I learn the role.

We ended 2019 with a net income of \$5,721 and operating surplus of \$10,432. This was the second full year of our new fiscal cycle, which spans September 1, 2018, to August 31, 2019.

Revenues remained strong compared with last year. Registrations for Super Conference and Forest of Reading rose again this year, indicating the high level of excitement and engagement across all library sectors in Ontario. Several office staff departed to pursue important career opportunities, and this turnover contributed to both the Library Marketplace and the Education Institute not meeting budget targets. The hiring of several key individuals to the team leaves us optimistic for both of these portfolios in the coming year. Senior staff initiated a salary and benefit benchmarking project as well implemented an Incentive program to foster staff retention. The Fund Development Committee is working hard to increase awareness and contributions to other OLA funds, including the exciting launch of the I Read Canadian campaign with a fundraising goal of \$30,000.

It has been a year of many challenges to the library sector's values, and I have had the privilege to be part of this visionary and robust organization from the inside as it listens to members and advocates to government officials. I look forward to an exciting year ahead with the new OLA Board, OLA staff, and our amazing membership.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 DONORS

OLA is a charitable and non-profit organization that accepts donations for several funds. Each fund supports the library and information sector in a unique way; from getting books into the hands of children across Ontario, to Mentorship, tuition scholarships, event travel bursaries and more!

AARON BADGLEY

ANDREA WESSON

ANGELA HENSHILWOOD

ANITA KIRKLAND

ANN MARIE STASIUK

ANNE MARIE MADZIAK

JANICE MADZIAK

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DAVID MACKENZIE

DAYNA DEBENEDET

DIANA MALISZEWSKI

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MELANIE MULCASTER

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PAMELA SWEET

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TOM BENNER

UNITED WAY CENTRAIDE

VERONIQUE LABONTE

VIKKI VANSICKLE



Help Us Connect Young Readers to Great Canadian Books

Reading for fun increases literacy skills, builds empathy, and leads to improved academic achievement.

The **I Read Canadian Fund** donates thousands of new, Canadian books to rural, priority, and Indigenous communities.

This year, we're raising **\$30,000**, and we need your help to reach our goal.

We all know how powerful one book can be to a young reader. Imagine the impact we can make if we sent thousands of books to young readers who need them the most?

Donate at ireadcanadian.com/fund

Read a Canadian Book for 15 Minutes on February 19

On February 19, participate in the first-ever, nationwide **I Read Canadian Day** by taking 15 minutes to read a Canadian book — wherever you are!

Celebrate the richness, diversity, and breadth of literature in Canada. Our authors and illustrators are telling our stories.

Parent and teachers, you can join in the fun, too. Sign up your kids, school, or library through the I Read Canadian website.

Find tips, tricks, and book lists to help you celebrate and share your excitement about Canadian books.

Sign up at ireadcanadian.com/day



I Read Canadian Day is supported by:



CONGRATS TO OUR 2019 AWARD WINNERS!

OLA ARCHIVAL AND PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Local History Room, Oshawa Public
Library

OLA PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT:

JP and Kaleb - Fay and Fluffy

OLA CHAMPION AWARD:

The Brandvan Initiative

OLA MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS AWARD:

Stephen Hurley, VoicEd Radio

OPLA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Sheri Mishibinijima, Wikwemikong Public
Library First Nation

OLBA WJ ROBERTSON (LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR):

Steven Kraus, Ontario Library Service
- North / Service des bibliothèques de
l'Ontario - Nord

OLBA JOYCE CUNNINGHAM AWARD (LIBRARY BOARD OF THE YEAR):

Guelph Public Library Board

ABO-FRANCO PRIX MICHELINE- PERSAUD:

Monique Desormeaux, Bibliothèque
publique d'Ottawa

OCULA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Joan Sweeney Marsh, Sheridan College
Institute of Technology and Advanced
Learning

OSLA TEACHER LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR:

Heather Stoness, Halton District School
Board

OSLA ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR:

Tim Pedersen, Peel District School Board

OLITA TECHNOLOGY ADVANCING LIBRARIES AWARD:

Tim Boudreau (Loughheed Reads
Podcast), Peel District School Board

THANKS TO OUR 2019 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Events have been financially assisted by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, the Ministry of Francophone Affairs, Access Copyright, and Toronto Arts Council.

CHAMPIONS

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Tinlids

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AND THE SUPPORT OF

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Durham District School Board

Vice President

Andrea Cecchetto

Markham Public Library

Past President

Kerry Badgley

North Grenville Public Library Board

Treasurer

Janneka Guise

University of Toronto

In addition to the board executive, the OLA Board of Directors is comprised of the President & Vice President of each division.

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Bibliothèque publique du canton de Russell

Vice-Présidente

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Vaughan Public Library

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Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

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(Northeastern Region)

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OLA STAFF 2019



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Esteban Dorado-Troughton, Member Relations Coordinator; Keith Dozois, Operations Officer; Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director; Stephanie Pimentel, Director, Operations; Praan Misir, Project Officer; Meredith Tutching, Director, Forest of Reading®. **FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Melissa Macks, Member Engagement Officer; Meagan Anderi, Marketing and Administrative Coordinator; Destiny Laldeo, Training and Education Specialist; Emily Burns, Education and Conference Manager; Lauren Hummel, Manager, Marketing and Communications; Sarah Roberts, Advocacy and Research Officer; Kenrick Oliver, IT Assistant; Shannon Tinning, The Library Marketplace Coordinator; Robert Nishimura, Manager of Technology