



ONTARIO HEALTH LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

JULIE WADDICK, PRESIDENT

OHLIA

2021 OHLIA Membership: 42

It's been an honour to serve as president for the Ontario Health Library and Information Association (OHLIA). The last couple of years have seen an unprecedented need for high quality health information and health information literacy. We are now entering the third calendar year of a global pandemic. Governments, institutions, and scientists across the world have been doing their best to respond to a complex situation. All of this has had a tremendous impact on health care workers and also the general public. We've all been challenged. In these times and in all, OHLIA aims to be the voice of current and upcoming health information professionals, as well as any information workers who negotiate health information.

This year, I had the pleasure of working with a strong OHLIA executive team. I couldn't have asked for more dedicated, talented and also fun people to work with. In this report I wish to highlight some of the things we accomplished together in 2021.

OHLIA officially joined OLA as its newest division only in 2020. Being fairly new to the table some of this year was spent completing transitional tasks. One project was the transitioning of content from our former website to our new divisional pages on accessola.com/ohlia/. This included shifting our archival material to OLA where we live now. Members of the OHLIA executive also worked with legal counsel and OLA executive members to finalize the process for distribution of funds from the former Ontario Health Libraries Association (OHLA) over to OLA. As part of our gratitude to OHLIA members and also as a gesture of welcoming new members we were able to offer a 50% discount for OHLIA membership in 2022.

Beyond administrative tasks, we also succeeded in producing some excellent content and programming. This includes consumer health emails produced by our Continuing Education Coordinator, Amanda Caputo on the topic of Free Online Reference Texts, and iMD Free Patient Consumer Health. Two webinars were also coordinated including Cognitive Biases and Our Relationship to Information, and The Art & Science of Finding Quality Health Information Online. Content for OLA's publication Open Shelf was also created by our past president Sarah Bonato on Consumer Health and also an OHLIA Council Member Interview.

One of the original motivations for us to join OLA was to broaden our scope. It was the vision of former leaders that joining a large association would strengthen our impact on other library sectors and also our members. As such, OHLIA participated in various outreach and partnership activities this year in addition to serving on the OLA board. For example, members of OHLIA and OPLA met and discussed needs and opportunities of each sector. A couple of areas of focus for potential future collaborations were identified – mental health and health information literacy. OHLIA also began working with representatives of the public library sector including OLA's Community Led Sub-committee to produce a session for 2022 Super Conference, 'Fighting Misinformation: Partnering for Better Consumer Health Information'. Speaking of which, our Conference Coordinators Carolyn Pecoskie and Jo-Anne Petropoulos have been busy at work. Some of the highlights planned for 2022 include Spotlight Speaker Dr. Joe Schwarcz on 'Misinformation and Disinformation in the Age of COVID-19'. They have also worked out sponsored meal coupons, as OHLIA has a wonderful tradition of sponsored meals during the conference in non-pandemic times. Other session topics slated include Open-licensed Information Literacy Modules, Patient Librarian Helping Vaccination in Ontario, Tips for Consumer Health Requests, Knowledge Syntheses in Health Sciences, and Visibility in Libraries in the Time of COVID-19. Also continuing are our annual Career Chats. Stay tuned!

I'd like to say a big thank you to the whole OHLIA executive team. This has been a wonderful few years for me and I wish you all the best going forward. I wish incoming president Kimberley Aslett much success and enjoyment. And a special thank you to outgoing Past president Sarah Bonato for the great adventure! Finally, I'd like to also extend my gratitude to the OHLIA members. Thank you for the opportunity to represent and serve you this past year. Looking forward to many future endeavors with you in the health library community!