



ONTARIO HEALTH LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

KIMBERLEY ASLETT, PRESIDENT

OHLIA

2022 OHLIA Membership: 120

I am honoured to have been part of the team that has led the Ontario Health Libraries and Information Association into our second year as a Division of OLA. As we all experience the transition from pandemic to “less pandemic” we do so with an awareness of the critical importance of health information in our world and in our professions. As a team, the council has moved into a more active role in this impactful organization.

One of the reasons that Past-president Julie Waddick identified for our move to OLA was to “increase our scope”, and increase we did, with membership going from 45 to more than 120 in 2022. The functional tasks of our Division were guided by the OLA team, even as they managed their own significant changes. We managed our history and documentation by collecting and organizing OHLA archives in the OLA Google drive. OLA also provides strengths in advocacy, and we have identified a need to work toward identification of issues and opportunities relating to provincial licensing and post-pandemic issues for consumer libraries in health care facilities. The very useful Revised Guide to Copyright for Canadian Hospitals, was updated and posted on the OLA website for reference.

Three areas of the OLA Strategic Plan gave us a focus for our work for this year, and a way to align our work. These were to incorporate equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work, to engage membership; and to develop a strategic approach to recruiting councilors.

To forward these goals the council has

- Established a representative on NIKLA, the National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance, and participated in a stakeholder strategy session for the “Committee on Respectful Terminology: creating the Framework”.

- Collaborated on a presentation for the OCULA Conference (19 May 2022), “Neurodiversity in the Library”.
- Attended and reported back on a Zoom meeting regarding the ALA accreditation and revisions of the MLIS programs.
- Established council member representation on the OLA Mentoring Committee
- Attended an MLA meeting regarding demographic descriptors in MeSH, responding to a 700+ member petition for changes in how these are curated for equity and representation.
- Held discussions with the Ontario Public Libraries Association leadership on Health literacy collaborations.

These activities will inform an effort to establish a repository for EDI resources including collection development, guides and other content relating to EDI, provide a foundation for membership continuing education, and more engagement activities. To this end, we will develop a strategy for recruitment using social media and will explore the use of Twitter and LinkedIn for education content.

I must give my heartfelt and respectful thanks to the OHLIA Council. The key to this organization is the innovative team I’ve had the pleasure to work with. I would like to thank Secretary Iveta Lewis, President-elect David Lightfoot, Sarit Glaizer for the Communications and Social Media portfolio, Carolyn Pekoskie and Jo-Anne Petropoulos as our Conference Planning team, Past-president Julie Waddick, and Amanda Caputo (emeritus) who brought strong foundations to Continuing Education. Their varied and valued contributions have created a dynamic working group.

I wish David Lightfoot, incoming President, a year of positive action and engagement with the health information community.