

## **CALL/ACBD Vendor Liaison Committee**

**Jacob Ericson and Joan Rataic-Lang**

### **Committee Members:**

Danielle Brosseau, Dominique Garingan, Loïse Hamel, Nadine Hoffman, Yasmin Khan, Amy Kaufman, Michèle LeBlanc, Alexia Loumankis, Josette McEachern, Katherine Melville, , Mary-Jo Mustoe, Judy Singh, Jennifer Walker, Ann Marie Melvie (Executive Liaison)

### **Activities since Conference:**

The letter writing campaign to authors of “loose leafs” did not launch. Everyone was enthusiastic about the idea of getting authors to speak up and push back on publishers who demand unnecessary updates at unreasonable prices. There have been a number of reasons for the failure of the project:

- Work load: collecting the data necessary to send letters, ex. authors addresses, potential contacts in the librarian community, price increases, etc.
- Letters without personal follow-up will probably not be as impactful as those which are followed up by a phone call or contact from a librarian known to the author
- People are hesitant to take that follow-up role because they are worried about burning bridges, harming relationships with authors, confrontation and conflict of interest

Thomson Reuters has presented the VLC with a big project. The committee met on October 24 and has decided to invite TR to a in-person meeting at the Toronto Lawyers Association or Toronto law firm to address our disappointment about how their project has rolled out, but more importantly how things will proceed. We want to couch it in positive terms with suggestions on how to ensure that communication is productive and the relationship successful. We are planning for late November. That will give us time to collect the data we need to have for the meeting. The VLC will be working with the Toronto Association of Law Libraries (TALL) on this project.

TR issues do bleed beyond the scope of their migration to a new back office/accounting system. There are those who still are not on LMA's and are not being approached about them. Why are

some libraries getting benefit of fixed and predictable costs, while others are not. It was suggested that perhaps more frequent calls with TR are in order to serve our members needs.

Jacob has joined as Co-Chair and was able to participate in the call on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The challenge will be to figure out how to work together, without Joan being a bossy pants. (Joan's comment 😊).

**Ongoing activities/new special projects:**

Semi-Annual vendor call with LN will move forward. The plan from above will replace the semi-annual call.

**Any considerations/questions for the executive board:**

An idea that was floated at the CALL conference VLC meeting was a Best Practices for Working With Vendors document. Discussions with TR will inform the development of that document. TALL already has one, albeit rather dated. It was based on the AALL CRIV document on working with vendors. Once we are done with the TR project, it is hoped to up-date that guide.

The committee agreed that the long term plan should be to have a Future of Legal Information summit, bringing the publishers together with us, CBA, the Federation of Law Societies and other interested parties. This would be a solutions driven meeting. It was floated as an idea before and perhaps the time has come to think seriously about this as a goal.