

Legal Research & Writing SIG
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Activities since Conference:

Since the 2019 CALL/ACBD conference in Edmonton, we have heard from Sooin Kim, CALL/ACBD secretary, about whether there is anything we might be able to undertake regarding the poor research skills of law students and new graduates. This has been a recurring theme throughout our annual meetings—at least during our respective tenures as chairs—and we're not sure how our SIG can help. As mentioned at the conference, it is common for faculty members to be reluctant to alter their courses to integrate research skills into their coursework or to have any input from the library at all. We plan to research tactics employed by other law schools and canvass the membership—of the SIG and CALL/ACBD as a whole—to determine how other librarians address this issue. Perhaps, in addition to our materials in the Instructional Resources Bank, we could share information about various research refresher sessions we've held at our respective schools, as well as tips and tricks on getting students to attend (prize draws, free coffee, etc.).

Ongoing Activities/New Projects:

Last year, we partnered with CanLII to form the CALL/CanLII Working Group to create a minimum of eight instructional materials—such as videos, written instructions, and visual aids—per year for CanLII's websites. As of mid-October, the working group has 16 members and 13 items have been made, surpassing the eight-item goal. Creators retain copyright of the materials, and CanLII has the non-exclusive right to publish the content on their websites and social media accounts, with proper attribution to the content creators. In exchange, CanLII will pay CALL/ACBD \$1,000 per year (per eight items), with the potential to pay more for additional content. This project will be ongoing, and we hope to attract more members in the coming year.

Furthermore, we still hope to collect exercises, assignments, and other instructional materials for the Instructional Resources Bank. In addition to requesting items from members of the LRW SIG, we hope to collaborate with the Academic SIG to add more materials to the bank. As outlined in previous reports, the Academic SIG chairs reached out to us in December 2017 about collaborating on a creative commons repository for instructional videos that would be open to all members of CALL/ACBD for use in classroom teaching. The goal is to have everyone who takes from the repository to contribute to it in some form, if possible, to expand the content and keep it fresh (note: the videos and materials created for CanLII could also be added to this repository). Due to time constraints, we have been unable to tackle this project thus far; however, we hope to reconnect with the Academic SIG to discuss next steps.

Any Considerations/Questions for the Executive Board:

We have attempted to reach out to our membership on many occasions and receive few, if any, responses. Does the board have any suggestions as to how to engage members in our projects?