

Report of the Academic SIG to CALL Executive, October 2013

The co-chairs of the Academic Special Interest Group for the 2012/2013 year were Nadine Hoffman (Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law Librarian at the Bennett Jones Law Library, University of Calgary) and Elizabeth Bruton (Collections Librarian at the John & Dotsa Bitove Family Law Library, Western University).

The Academic SIG co-sponsored, along with the Courthouse Library and Private Law Library SIGs, one program at the CALL/ACBD 2013 conference in Montréal: *The Future of Articling in Canada*. We have not received any feedback on the session but it was well attended. One of our panellists, Joanne Clarfield Schaefer, had to drop out at the last minute but Nadine was able to find a replacement: Catherine Bleau from Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP.

The Montréal Business Meeting took on a new format this year. We asked library representatives to speak to specific topics of interest and then opened the floor to comments from other libraries. This replaced the usual library reports being read out by each library but with little time for comments. The feedback was positive so we will attempt this format once again in Winnipeg. We were also able to announce at the Business Meeting that Vicki Jay Leung from the University of Windsor would take over as co-chair with Elizabeth Bruton. We thanked Nadine for her participation as outgoing SIG co-chair.

We continued to hear from our SIG members that there is an interest in our creating a repository for legal research guides and instructional materials. Academic institutions rely on different learning management systems to post course materials. We would like to look into some sort of storage area that could be accessible by all our CALL members.

Nadine Hoffman has agreed to remain our contact for the Academic SIG listserv, hosted at the University of Calgary. She also keeps up the registration list of SIG members. So far there have been a few discussions about newspapers and paywalls, and learning management platforms at Canadian Law Schools. We appreciate receiving from the CALL/ACBD Office any updates to our membership in order to keep the list current and to welcome new members.

The Academic SIG Newsletter continued through 2012/2013 with two issues. We plan to send out one or two issues this year as well as offering submissions to the new CALL/ACBD Newsletter. We wish to hear from our SIG members about items of interest for a conference session as well as for discussion topics for the Business Meeting in Winnipeg.

We are currently working on a submission for a proposal for the Winnipeg conference. We will also be conducting our annual SIG Business Meeting at the 2014 conference in Winnipeg.

Respectfully submitted,

Academic SIG Co-Chairs

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Collections Librarian
John & Dotsa Bitove Family Law Library
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