

Report of the Academic SIG to CALL Executive, October 2015

The co-chairs of the Academic Special Interest Group for the 2014/2015 year were Vicki Jay Leung (Reference Librarian at the Paul Martin Law Library, University of Windsor) and Svetlana Kochkina (Librarian, Nahum Gelber Law Library, McGill University).

The Academic SIG sponsored three programs at the CALL/ACBD 2015 conference in Moncton:

- Law Libraries' Response to the Wave of Social Media: Developing Effective Solutions in New Economic Realities (speakers: Svetlana Kochkina; Kim Nayer; Michel-Adrien Sheppard; Susannah Tredwell; moderator: Vicki Jay Leung)
- Collection Issues in Changing Times: Development or Maintenance? (speakers: Louis Mirando; Cyndi Murphy; Jenny Thornhill; moderator: Vicki Jay Leung)
- The Ethos of Guide on the Side: Developing Online Tutorials to Teach Legal Research and Writing (speakers: Sharon Wang; Vicki Jay Leung; moderator: Svetlana Kochkina)

According to registration numbers, we had 108 attendees sign up for the Social media session, the highest number among all proposed concurrent sessions at the Conference. Overall, all three sessions sponsored by Academic SIG ranked in the top four selected by attendees when they registered for the conference.

The Moncton Business Meeting followed the same format that was adopted in the previous years in Montreal and in Winnipeg. We asked library representatives to speak to specific topics of interest and then opened the floor to comments and feedback from other members of the SIG.

We announced at the Business Meeting that Dr. David H. Michels (Public Services Librarian, Sir James Dunn Law Library, Dalhousie University) would succeed Vicki Jay Leung as co-chair with Svetlana Kochkina. We thanked Vicki Jay Leung for her hard work and contribution as outgoing SIG co-chair.

Nadine Hoffman continues to be our contact for the Academic SIG listserv, hosted at the University of Calgary. She also keeps up the registration list of SIG members. 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.

In an effort to increase listserv activity amongst members, we have taken the initiative to communicate more ourselves to prompt sharing of information with like-minded thinkers. The hope is that more members themselves will openly share and keep the conversation flowing on our listserv. We continued to communicate to CALL members at large through CALL's In Session e-newsletter. To be inclusive, we have been trying to submit articles in both English and French. We are also sending informal messages to Academic SIG members on our listserv, to keep them abreast of initiatives and to request feedback.

Two initiatives we are exploring are webinars on Advanced Research and CAPAL and academic law librarians. We envision the first webinar as a panel that would explore the ways that law libraries can support the evolving research initiatives of law schools such as diversity of research methods and research dissemination. Panels would include an Associate Dean of Research and Scholarly Communications Librarians. The second webinar is a panel featuring members of the Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians (CAPAL). Although academic librarians, law librarians' roles might be different than librarians serving other faculties. The webinar will explore these issues and identify how CAPAL can better support their particular needs. We hope to offer these in the next coming months.

We are currently soliciting ideas and submitting the proposals for the Vancouver Conference in 2016.
We will also be conducting our annual SIG Business Meeting at the 2016 conference in Vancouver.

Respectfully submitted,
Academic SIG Co-Chairs

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