

CLA New Librarians & Information Professionals Interest Group



April 2005 Newsletter

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Hello everyone, I hope the past few months have been good to you, the holidays were enjoyable and your winter was not too unbearable. Christine Bouchier has stepped down as Co-Chair. Our new Co-Chair is Angélique (Angie) Mandeville. Angie is a Librarian at the University of Alberta's Augustana Faculty Library in Camrose, Alberta. Please feel free in contacting either of us regarding the interest group. Also, if you have concerns/comments regarding CLA and would like to voice them through us please do so and we will get your issues addressed to the right people at CLA.

Jason Bird, Chair jbird@reginalibrary.ca Angie Mandeville, Co-Chair angie.mandeville@ualberta.ca

NLIPIG Visit to Library Schools

I had the honour of being a guest speaker, along with CLA President Stephen Abrams and University of Toronto Librarian in Residence Wendy Newman, at the library schools of University of Western Ontario and University of Toronto.

At UWO Stephen got things started with an introduction to what CLA is doing for everyone re advocacy/libraries and funding to the federal government. He also touched on the importance of networking in this profession and then passed the torch on to me. I gave a humorous anecdote of the worst interview anyone could have straight out of school and how you can build on each interview and learn from each. If an interview does not go well, think of what you can improve on; even ask the employer why you did not receive the position. They may not tell you, but if they do, take note, this might hurt but will only help you the next time.

At U of T we discussed the same information but also touched on the importance of association membership and how it will help you in your career.

Conference Watch 2005 → CLA early bird deadline: April 15th!
Students: \$90 CLA Member: \$435 → if you register by April 15th
- to register call 613-232-9625 or go to the [CLA 2005 Conference Site](#)

To start off the conference you can't miss the [First Timers Breakfast](#). As a librarian new to conferences you'll learn from the best, those that have been to many and those just starting out in the profession. You will be in the company of giants in the field (and get a great breakfast) and be at one of the hottest networking functions at the conference – don't be the one not there!

[The Pub Crawl](#) has become a CLA tradition where young and old alike check out the finest of drinking and eating establishments with our colleagues. Come out and reconnect with friends and make some new ones!

There are many other conferences coming up in the next few months (weeks for some) in your provinces and regions. In addition to attending the CLA conference in June, you might want to check these out, too:

[From Scrolls to eBooks: The Story Continues – BC Library Association](#) Apr 21-23 - Burnaby BC

[Linking Communities: The Next 100 Years – Sask Libraries Conference](#) Apr 21-23 - Saskatoon SK

[Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future – Library Association of Alberta](#) Apr 28-May 1- Jasper AB

[Information in Action - Manitoba Library Association](#) May 2-4 - Winnipeg MB

[Workshop on Instruction in Library Use \(WILU\)](#) May 18-20 - University of Guelph - Guelph ON

[Our Libraries, Our Communities - Atlantic Provinces Library Association](#) May 25-29 - Halifax NS

Please note-NLIPIG Interest Group Breakfast Networking Meeting will be held on Friday, June 17 between 7:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. at the Telus Convention Centre in Calgary (Room TBA). Please email [Jason Bird](mailto:jbird@reginalibrary.ca) by May 18 if you are interested in attending. It would be nice to meet many of you in person so I hope to see a lot of you there, but you have to let me know (as there will be food and CLA need to know how much to order, so in other words-FREE breakfast if you come!!!)

Helpful tips for those getting public and academic librarian jobs!

Applying for a public and an academic librarian post are very different positions and you must treat them this way in your application and your interview. Although the employer is asking for a librarian they are asking for a very different animal at each institution. A public library serves everyone and must keep up on everything from historical events within the community to popular culture to readers' advisory for fiction. At an academic library you are expected to publish/be professionally active as part of your condition of tenure or continuing appointment (in most academic positions). Also, although in a public library you are often expected to oversee a collection area if you are in reference, in an academic library the responsibility may be much greater as the students rely on that collection to complete their studies and some programs rely on it to maintain their accreditation status. You may also liaise with a member of said faculty to keep abreast of current trends and requests. Below is a day in the life of a public librarian and an academic librarian.

Day in the Life of a Public Librarian

By [Jason Bird](mailto:jbird@reginalibrary.ca), MLIS - Business Reference Librarian - ph: 306-777-6200 e: jbird@reginalibrary.ca
[Regina Public Library](http://reginalibrary.ca), Regina, SK

Today, my day begins with an outreach activity, the Breakfast Club, to be exact, it is a club the library belongs to which enables me to promote our business collection, among our other resources and services. My position as Business Reference Librarian at Regina Public Library encompasses a great deal of outreach to the local business community. This involves attending breakfasts, lunches, and other events where local business leaders are in attendance and I can inform them of the incredible array of resources available at their public library. Once I arrive at my office at the library I must check my email, as I am like every librarian - addicted to checking my email. Once it is checked and I realize there is nothing pertinent, I go over what I have planned for the day and check any voicemails I might have. As business librarian, I get asked all of the questions related to business information (and also government documents questions as I am the Gov. Docs Librarian too). An average day consists of at least one patron dropping in for reference assistance without notice, this is fine, as that is why I am here, though it does often quash projects that I may be working on, but patrons come first. I will often be working on a project, within our reference department, or one within my own business unit, an example of this would be weeding my collection. I just completed weeding my business reference collection, which happens to be right in front of my office and thus enables me to assist patrons if they need help (as I can see them through my office window). I also spend some time every day going through the piles of library literature I must read, although I say 'must' this is a good thing, RPL collects in the right areas for our library and I don't need to remind you how important it is to keep up to date on the latest trends and pubs. But believe me, I have had business leaders ask questions about in-depth library issues such as e-books, the degradation of the printed word and why their clerical workforce is virtually illiterate! Thus, I am rarely bored in my position. I also get the opportunity to delve into other areas of librarianship I have an interest in, an example of this is how this winter (and this coming spring) I ran a boys book club called Reading Rules! for boys ages 9-12. The public library is an active place with incredibly reference questions. I'm privileged to work with Librarians who have an ongoing curiosity in current trends in the profession. If you are still in library school and think the public library is the career path for you, please don't hesitate to give me a call or email with questions or concerns; I would be pleased to chat. See you in Calgary!!

A Day in the Life of an Academic Librarian

By [Angie Mandeville](#), Reference Librarian, [Augustana Faculty Library](#), [University of Alberta](#)

What's a typical day like for an academic librarian? Short answer - there is no typical day; that's one of the great things about this job! I am a relatively new academic librarian (MLIS '03) and I pleased to report that I actually love my work. Every day brings a new set of intellectually stimulating challenges and the opportunity to work with interesting people and ideas.

My role at Augustana Faculty Library has a fairly distinctive component in that the librarians (there are three of us) teach credit discipline-specific information literacy courses to undergraduate students. So a typical day for me during the academic term will generally include some work related to my course: lecture preparation, design and review of assessment tools, grading assignments and tests as well as meeting with students to discuss any issues relating to coursework. I taught a combined information literacy course for Sociology/Political Studies/Crime & Community last fall and an English literature studies information literacy course this winter. Teaching a course is such a great professional experience and vastly different than the number of "one-shot" sessions that I've taught in past.

I also teach a number of course-integrated sessions on library research so a typical day may find me researching and preparing for instruction in one of several disciplines taught at Augustana: Sociology, Psychology, Political Studies, Scandinavian Studies, and Music (just to name a few!). Part of the planning process involves meeting with faculty to review research assignments or to discuss their objectives for a library instruction session.

Of course, in keeping with my job title, I provide reference service - via email, chat reference, and my favourite way - in person! I truly enjoy working with our students and I take great satisfaction in connecting them to the information they need for their research. There's a poster hanging in my office that includes a quote from an ancient Chinese proverb "Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember. Involve me, I understand." This aptly describes my approach to reference service - I endeavour to engage students with the research tools and the information they discover. I approach every reference question not as a transaction but as an opportunity to learn more - about the student's approach to research and information-seeking as well as about their course of study.

What else falls within that elusive "typical" day? Of course, there's email to draft and reply to, meetings to attend, projects to plan, awareness to keep current, and colleagues to chat with. So it's a busy day; busy but good.

If you're interested in pursuing a career in this area of librarianship, I encourage you to meet and speak with an academic librarian. We're a pretty friendly bunch! I welcome your questions and comments. Feel free to email me at angie.mandeville@ualberta.ca or call at 780.679.1591. Or better yet, register for the First-timers Breakfast and the Pub Crawl at the CLA 2005 conference and speak with me in person. I'll see you in Calgary!

So, remember to register for CLA by calling 613-232-9625 or going to the [CLA 2005 Conference Site](#) by Friday April 15th, the Early Bird deadline, which is even cheaper if you are a CLA student member! I know this is hard when you are in school, I went to Halifax from London, ON when I had virtually nothing but it was the best professional decision. I made so many contacts and was able to have mock interviews and everyone was just so open to students, the new librarians for the future. Don't pass up the opportunity to meet your future employer. Remember to bring your business cards as there will be library directors and managers from the public and academic community from across Canada. If you have any question regarding going to CLA and if it's worth it (IT IS!) contact myself, Jason Bird, or my Co-Chair, Angie (contact above).

Sincerely, Jason Bird, Chair NLIPIG

