

Report of the Academic SIG to CALL Executive, October 2014

The co-chairs of the Academic Special Interest Group for the 2013/2014 year were Elizabeth Bruton (Collections Librarian at the John & Dotsa Bitove Family Law Library, Western University) and Vicki Jay Leung (Reference Librarian at the Paul Martin Law Library, University of Windsor).

The Academic SIG sponsored one program at the CALL/ACBD 2014 conference in Winnipeg: *Legal Research Instruction: A Whole Different Classroom*. According to registration numbers, we had 86 attendees sign up for this session – a testament to the value law librarians place on connecting to our customer base – legal researchers, by providing valuable service – teaching legal research. This session was presented by Eunice Friesen (Associate Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at the University of Manitoba).

The Winnipeg Business Meeting took the same format that was followed the year before in Montreal. We asked library representatives to speak to specific topics of interest and then opened the floor to comments and feedback from other libraries. We were also able to announce at the Business Meeting that Svetlana Kochkina from McGill University would take over as co-chair with Elizabeth Bruton. We thanked Elizabeth for her participation 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. With the coming into force of Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) on July 1, 2014, we attained the assistance of Rosemary Chapman (CALL's National Officer) to ensure that we received consent from members listed on the Academic SIG listserv, in order to meet compliance of this law.

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 continue to communicate to CALL members at large through CALL's In Session e-newsletter. To be inclusive, we have started 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, for example we solicited program suggestions and comments from our SIG members for the upcoming conference in Moncton, NB in May 2015.

We are currently working on three proposals for the Moncton conference. We will also be conducting our annual SIG Business Meeting at the 2015 conference in Moncton.

Respectfully submitted,
Academic SIG Co-Chairs

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