LTAIG Annual Report: 2011-2012

By Tamarack Hockin & Vaunda Dumont

The past year has been an exciting time of change in LTAIG. We have redefined our mission and vision, expanded our committee structure, and redesigned our logo to compliment this new growth. This past fall LTAIG published the biennial Salary Survey for library technicians and assistants. LTAIG Mentoring has provided the foundation for a new association-wide program (BCLA Mentorship) to launch at this year's conference. Most excitingly, LTAIG's petition for section status has gathered enough support to move forward and a resolution for the creation of a new Library Technicians' and Assistants' Section (LTAS) will be presented at the BCLA AGM. *(Editor's Note: the resolution was successful.)*

The LTAIG Dialogue (May-June 2011)

Through the late spring of 2011, LTAIG organized a province-wide dialogue to discuss our mission, vision and strategy over the next one to five years. An online questionnaire was circulated in May to ascertain what themes and issues were most important to membership. Responses to the questionnaire emphasized professional development, community, advocacy, and the relationship between BCLA and LTAIG. Read the full Pre-Dialogue Questionnaire Report [PDF] at the LTAIG website.

The dialogue meeting was held on June 8th, 2011. Local chapter meetings were held in Prince George, Kelowna, Vancouver and Abbotsford, with all chapters meeting online. LTAIG members discussed the value they receive from LTAIG, and what services and benefits members need from LTAIG in the coming few years. Read the full Report on the LTAIG Dialogue of June 8, 2011 [PDF] at the LTAIG website.

Based on input from membership during the dialogue and pre-dialogue questionnaire, LTAIG's renewed mandate from membership is to provide relevant professional development, networking opportunities, and advocacy for library technicians and assistants (LTAs) in B.C. LTAIG has since redoubled our efforts to create a stable and viable association for LTAs in BCLA through stronger internal organization and advocacy.

LTAIG 2011 AGM (21 October 2011)

LTAIG's Annual General Meeting of 2011 was held at Surrey's new City Centre Library on October 21st,

2011, Canadian Library Support Staff Day. The AGM was co-hosted in Prince George by the local chapter (co-chaired by Vaunda Dumont and Liz Tait), and connected by online meeting to the main Surrey location. Members from Victoria, Campbell River and Grand Forks were also able to join the meeting remotely. Positions on the 2011-2012 LTAIG Board [PDF] and minutes from the AGM [PDF] are available on the LTAIG website.

The AGM provided a unique opportunity for members to connect with colleagues from around the province. A Closing Report on the 2011 AGM [PDF] and Recommended Work Plan for the 2012 AGM [PDF] are available on the website.

LTAIG Biennial Salary Survey (2011)

In November 2011 LTAIG completed our sixth salary survey. The survey opened on October 13th and closed on November 30th. We used Google Docs to create and compile the survey data, and Microsoft Excel to analyze the results. There were a total of 224 respondents, with 182 from British Columbia. The number of responses decreased from previous years: the 2009 salary survey had 309 responses (201 from BC), and the 2007 survey had 322 responses (261 from BC). We received some great feedback that will help us create some guidelines for future Salary Survey volunteers. The complete results are published on the LTAIG website [PDF]. Thanks again to those who took the time to complete the survey!

Mentoring Program

After two successful years of the LTAIG Mentoring Program, our final session closed on March 12th, 2012. Mentoring will again be available to members through BCLA Mentorship: A new association-wide program which was launched at this year's B.C. Library Conference. BCLA Mentorship has built on LTAIG Mentoring's successes, and much of the format will be familiar to past participants of the program.

The report on LTAIG Mentoring's Winter 2011-12 session is available on request by emailing ltaig.mentoring@gmail.com.

Satellite events complementing the launch of the new BCLA Mentorship Program are being held through the spring. A speed-mentoring session for

Library & Information Technology students and alumni from the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), delivered by LTAIG in partnership with the UFV Alumni Association, took place on March 17th at the university's Abbotsford campus. Photos and summary are up on the LTAIG blog. Langara College's 2012 homecoming event for Library & Information Technology alumni featured a mentoring theme and LTAIG Mentoring Coordinators presented on the benefits of mentorship and professional association.

LTAIG Communications

On par with our increased activity and growth, LTAIG's communications have expanded. Online presence was highlighted by members during our dialogue (June 2011), and LTAIG has seen a flourish of online activity since. The LTAIG blog, *LibTech Soup*, has had 65 posts and more than 6500 visitors since May of 2011. *LibTech Soup* now has five regular bloggers, as well as additional guest contributors. The LTAIG Facebook Group now has approximately 115 members, and provides a lively forum for discussion and notification of events. LTAIG also maintains a Twitter feed, discussion forum, and a new YouTube channel. New members and others interested in

LTAIG are invited to connect with us online through any of these avenues.

Petition for Section Status

Following a two year campaign petitioning for section status, LTAIG has exceeded the requisite number of signatures on our petition for section status, and a resolution to create the Library Technicians' and Assistants' Section (LTAS) was presented at the BCLA AGM on May 12th, 2012.

The LTAS petition has garnered widespread support in the association, and we are very thankful to all who have signed. Our hope is that by such time as this report is published, LTAS will be the newest section of the B.C. Library Association.

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