

Executive Director Annual Report: 2012-13

By Annette DeFaveri.

The BC Library Conference is certainly the largest project that the BCLA office engages in on a yearly basis. Our objective is never to be satisfied with one year's success and to always look for ways to provide relevant, collaborative and productive experiences for conference attendees. This means seriously examining the work we do one year intending to improve the conference the following year. We want to learn from our mistakes, take chances with new ideas, and provide both innovative and traditional formats for delegates. This said, the feedback from the 2013 conference was overwhelmingly positive. At the same time people provided constructive and interesting suggestions for change that build on a strong conference foundation. BCLA members are a diverse group with diverse needs and wants so the ongoing challenge for the BCLA Conference Planning Committee will always be to find ways to integrate a traditional conference approach with innovative ideas and formats. The hoped for result is a hybrid conference that meets the diverse needs of BCLA members.

Those of you who attended this year's AGM know that 2013 has been a time for building and strengthening the Association. June Stockdale, BCLA outgoing President, talked about the challenges and success of finishing a Strategic Plan this year. With the plan in place we are better able to make decisions about future projects, better able to guide the ongoing work of the Association, and better able to support BCLA members. Building a Strategic Plan is often a costly undertaking, but not in this case. BCLA relied on the experience and generosity of the membership and the Board who contributed their time and knowledge to develop the new three-year Strategic Plan. The Plan was completed with no costs to the Association.

At the same time BCLA launched a website redesign project. This project is ongoing and our hope is to have a new website with relevant functionality ready for user by the end of 2013. I know it's always a bit dangerous to make a promise that includes at date so I will say that our *profound hope* is that all goes smoothly and the new website is in place for the New Year.

As the Executive Director of BCLA part of my responsibility is to ensure a solid financial base for the Association and ensure transparent daily financial activities. For me this meant investigating and understanding the current financial landscape. It quickly became evident that to understand the present situation I needed to understand past practices. Some of my time this year has focused on BCLA finances. My hope is that in the coming year, and with more experience and knowledge behind me, I will be able to make suggestions for streamlining financial practices and building a clear and easily understandable model for future BCLA budgets. Looking after the financial health of an association is not work one does off the side of one's desk but hopefully much of the early learning is complete. The overall goal is to ensure BCLA's financial sustain ability in order to ensure continued service to the membership and the library community.

It's been a productive and interesting year. Thanks to all of you who were, and continue to be, patient as I learn the details of the Association. And especially thank you to those people who are continually answering my questions and who have been incredibly supportive of BCLA throughout this year.