

OCLA ACCESS POINT

Quarterly Newsletter

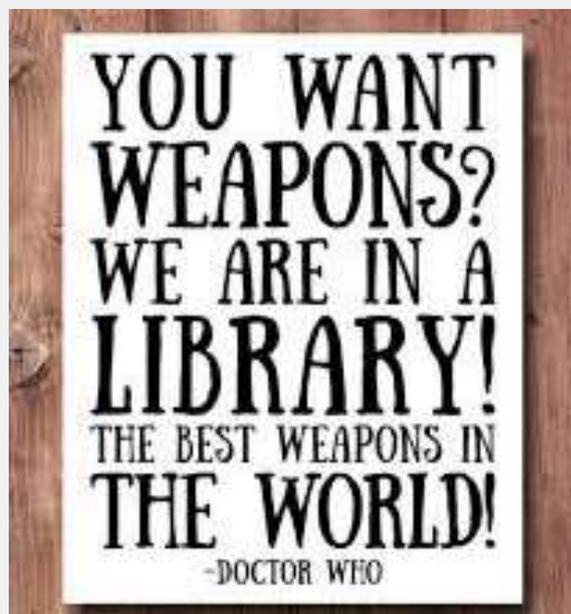
Connecting & Communicating



Welcome...

to the first edition of 2019. We are very excited about this edition--we received so many contributions from OCLA members that we have had to save some for the next issue! This newsletter is designed to allow us to share ideas and helpful tips throughout the year, in addition to our semi-annual meetings at CALL and COLAL. Please keep the valuable contributions coming.

- Betty Dykstra & Janet Marchment, editors



ebookfriendly.com

COMINGS & GOINGS

Long-time librarians Pat Henry (Simcoe) and Diane Lawson (Dufferin) have moved on. Rhea Smith joins Simcoe in March. Gail (Middlesex) will be retiring at the end of March, and Shabira (Oxford) has been hired by Middlesex. Gail has some humorous words of wisdom for us on page 4. Welcome to Tyler Roy (Cochrane).

FROM THE CHAIR...



by Pia Williams

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Together with the Executive of OCLA, I wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

This is my first message as the newly-elected Chair of the Ontario Courthouse Libraries Association. I am privileged to assume the role of Chair of the OCLA. I would like to thank our outgoing Chair, Helen Heerema, for her great work. I am deeply grateful to Helen for her leadership and outstanding contributions to OCLA during her time as Chair. As everyone knows Helen has been on the executive since October 2014, starting as Vice Chair, and then as Chair. She still will be an active board member as Past Chair. Helen has helped me immensely to transition into this position, and I will no doubt continue to lean on her.

In this endeavor, I am joined by my colleagues on the Executive Committee - Laura Dobbie and Janet Marchment: Vice-Chairs, Maria Berezowski: Secretary, Michelle Gerrits: Treasurer and Ciara Ward: Member-at-Large. With their support and dedication, I am confident that we will be steadfast in addressing the pressing challenges, and that we will accomplish many things in the next two years.

2018 ended on a wonderful note for OCLA. OCLA was excited to roll-out its new mobile-device-friendly site. The new website is designed to be a lawyer-centric portal to the County and District Law Libraries in the province. A very special thank you to Chris Wyskiel, Betty Dykstra, Brenda Lauritzen, Jennifer Walker and Jeff Marchment (developer) for all the work they put into making this project such a success!

In addition, in December 2018, the OCLA Executive conducted an Education and Experience Survey. This survey was done to update the 2014 OCLA Education and Experience Report created in response to LibraryCo's 2015-2017 Business Plan. The survey was undertaken in consideration of the impending formation of the new LIRN Board. Additionally with the recent turnover in staff, the Executive believed that this would be a good opportunity to update the report and send it to the new LIRN Board, FOLA and possibly the LSO. This will provide evidence that the staff continue to be a valuable asset to the Practice Resource Centres. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. Survey results should be available soon.

2019 will be a period of change for the Ontario's Courthouse Law Libraries with the impending establishment of the LIRN Board and the hiring of the Executive Director. We will hopefully hear more on the selection of the LIRN Board soon. In the meantime, it has been brought to the attention of the OCLA Executive that many Associations have experienced communication issues recently (regarding 2019 budgets, grants, who to send fourth quarter financials) with the LSO. We have spoken to the LSO; and OCLA Library staff and their Association Presidents can expect to receive a letter shortly from LSO outlining some direction.

I welcome the role of Chair as a tremendous honour and embrace wholeheartedly the opportunity to serve this vibrant organization. Hold on to your hats- it's going to be a great year for OCLA!

The OCLA App is Live!

The new app has been tweeted about by the legal community. If you have not checked it out yet you can see it here. Read what others are saying by clicking on the links below (and see a famous somebody in the Lawyer's Daily article):

[Lawyer's Daily](#)

[CALL/ACBD](#)

[FOLA](#)

[Slaw](#)

OCLA 2019 Executive

Michelle	Maria	Laura	Janet	Pia
Treasurer	Secretary	Co-Vice Chair	Co-Vice Chair	Chair
Lambton	Kenora	Peterborough	York Region	Waterloo

Ciara
Member-at-Large
Northumberland



Helen
Past Chair
Thunder Bay

Photos by Maria



LAQ Demo



Brenda Lauritzen
Will Check Talk



Jaye Hooper
FOLA

From OCLA-LINK to Access Point

by Gail Brown

How do you spell comma? Pat puts it to the publishers! Going electronic (a.k.a. crazy)

Newer OCLA members might not realize it, but Access Point is not our first newsletter.

It was May 12, 1987, when eleven library staff members got together in Toronto during that year's CALL Conference and decided to organize an association to be known as the Ontario Courthouse Librarians' Association. This was in the days before LibraryCo, email and toll-free numbers. We were much more loosely associated back then, and much crankier, with numerous shared complaints and unanswered questions. One of the first orders of business was to improve communication among the libraries – and our first newsletter, OCLA-Link, was born. Kelly Elliott and Wendy Header-Moan took responsibility for the first issue, and different individuals would take turns editing subsequent quarterly issues.

It's entertaining to look back on these old hard copies. Because of all the different editors, each issue has its own unique look and design, and every issue has a lot of personality. The issue from March 1990 is typewritten and photocopied on pink paper. The October 1997 issue is a 15-page collection of articles, each one reproduced in its own original font, interspersed with library related cartoons. The cover is the best – a full page sketch of a librarian at her desk, buried in paper work, labelled overworked and underpaid. We could all relate. Issues were faxed or mailed to the libraries until December 1997, when editor Kelly Elliott suggested we start emailing them.

Over the years, the content included everything from cartoons to CALL Conference reports to book reviews. Staff members across the province shared tips, suggestions and anecdotes, with an emphasis on co-operation and a healthy dose of humour. The writing was lively and article titles like the ones above were common.

The newsletter was used for all the things we do now through email or otherwise online: salary surveys, sharing employment policies, circulating membership lists. There was a "Paper parts available" list, for sharing law report soft parts once the bound volume was received, the way we do now with loose-leaf titles. And of course, we complained. Notes from the OCLA meeting at the 1997 CALL Conference in New Brunswick report that "Many of us had concerns about the communication between the LSUC and the local librarians." Plus ça change... Indeed, almost every issue included an article about some aspect of our relationship with the LSUC.

The last issue of OCLA-Link that I know of is from June 1998, although there may be more that I've lost track of. Since then online communication has pretty well taken over. Suzan Hebditch produced a monthly LibraryCo e-Newsletter for several years, some of which can still be found on the LibraryCo website. OCLA has its own website, discussion group and Google Group email list.

cont'd...

From OCLA-LINK to Access Point

by Gail Brown

Now fast forward 31 years to May 27, 2018 in Halifax at that year's CALL Conference. We're less cranky than we used to be, but we still have a lot of complaints and issues to share. Communication is still key, and a new OCLA Newsletter is proposed by Chris Wyskiel. Only this time it would be an e-Newsletter. Happily for OCLA, Betty Dykstra and Janet Marchment volunteered to edit the first inaugural issues, and Access Point was born.

This new online version is a thing of beauty, with engaging graphics, full-colour photos and a spiffy masthead. The content includes everything from cartoons to CALL Conference reports to book reviews. Staff members across the province share tips, suggestions and anecdotes, with an emphasis on co-operation and a healthy dose of humour. Plus ça change... The main thing about OCLA and Access Point is that we support, share and communicate with each other, as we have been doing since at least 1987.

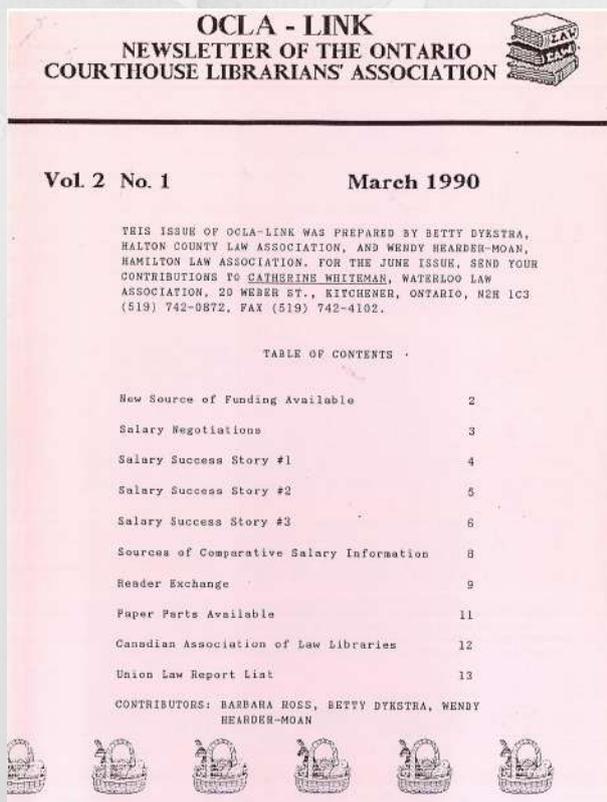
In the Summer 1993 OCLA-Link, Cynthia Simpson wrote "it's over 80 degrees in the library and the sound of leather bindings peeling away from the books is drowning out my thoughts, but... Remember, if you have anything to report, silly or serious, your OCLA-LINK editors will greatly appreciate a submission." Now it's always too cold in the library, but your Access Point editors will still love to hear from you.

My thanks to all of you for your kindness, support, humour and fun over my 33 years at the MLA. It's been great, and I'm going to miss you all. After so many years of CALL Conferences and COLAL, I hope I don't find myself automatically waiting at the VIA station for an early morning train to Toronto at the end of October.

"The Pink Issue"

Note fancy bunny bottom border

Plus ça change...



EDI Moment: *Unconscious Bias*

by Cynthia Simpson

The Law Society has recently mandated an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion component to the required CPD hours that lawyers must complete as part of their licence. The Middlesex Law Association held its First Annual EDI Seminar in November and the first speaker, Annemarie Shrouder, spoke on the topic of Unconscious Bias. I thought OCLA members might be interested in her talk and some resources they can look at to examine the topic further.

Annemarie describes unconscious bias as the soup we are all swimming in. It takes the lens we view the world with and gives it a colour or film through which we see things and people a certain way. The brain works automatically, unconsciously and unintentionally, which is good for things like brushing your teeth or driving your car, but not necessarily as beneficial when it comes to our daily interactions. You can test your own bias through the Harvard Implicit Association Test (<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/canada/takeatest.html>) and Annemarie herself was surprised to discover that although she is biracial she has an unconscious bias that draws her to people who are white. This discovery has taught her to specifically connect with people of colour when she is in a group setting so that she doesn't miss out on valuable experiences. As she stated, inclusion starts in your head, so you first need to be aware of your thoughts in order to act on them. We all gravitate to people we think are like us, and we may miss out on important connections if we don't consciously seek out others.

It is also necessary to remember that the dominant group has privilege both for themselves and when advocating on behalf of someone who belongs to a non-dominant group. She demonstrated this by showing a video called Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity in which a black woman recounts a trip to the grocery store with her cousin who presents as white, and how the cousin was not submitted to the same proof of payment screening that the speaker faced.

She had the attendees take an association test where we had to check off words if they were Insects/Pleasant Words or Flowers/Unpleasant Words and then record how long it took us to complete the test and how many we got wrong. The flip side of the test had us check off words if they were Insects/Unpleasant Words or Flowers/Pleasant Words and record our results again. We then discussed the reasons why the second test was easier/faster to complete and other ways it could be interpreted.

She concluded with the thought that we can never really get rid of unconscious bias as it is ingrained in us. We must be aware of it, though, so we can interrupt our bias and challenge it in others. We should always ask three things: Is it true? How do I know? What if it's not true? Our unconscious mind is selective when it learns what to look for in our lives. Annemarie recommends the book *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*, by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald and the word association test she did with us was recreated from this book. By the way, I gave my husband that book for Christmas and he's been taking notes based on it to apply to his teaching situations. We will be passing it on to our daughters to read also.

You can sign up for Annemarie's weekly Inclusion Insight newsletter at her website:
<http://annemarieshrouder.com/>

Free Stuff: EDI Hours for Lawyers

Are your lawyers stressed about the new EDI requirement? No worries, we have you covered.

Lawyers must complete three EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) hours by the end of 2020, and one EDI hour per year beginning in 2021. EDI hours are Professionalism hours, and are not extra hours; they are included in the Professionalism requirement of three hours per year.

Read about EDI by clicking anywhere on this article. Access free programs produced by the LSO and other associations at the bottom of the same web page.

Pat Henry's Retirement Party at Donaleighs in Barrie

A good time was had by all...



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 26 through Wednesday, May 29, 2019
CALL/ACBD in Edmonton AB

****Register by April 4, 2019 for Early Bird Rates**

Registration is Now Open!



LibraryCo Bursary Application - It was emailed to you March 1st & should be posted on their website soon. [Click here for link.](#)

OCLA Bursary Application - The criteria & form were emailed to you on Feb. 28th. It will also be posted on the OCLA website soon. [Click here to access.](#)

Library Hack - Use Infographics!

by Chris Wyskiel

Our AGM is fast approaching, and it's at this time I turn my mind to my librarian's report. I focus on library issues, changes in technology, initiatives undertaken, and have even been known to throw a tidbit about Marcel Duchamp (librarian & artist) or super hero librarians, knowledge is our power - 

My report always includes a successful communication, brand promotion tool, the infographic.

Why an Infographic?

Most of us have a short attention span, making any visual you include in a report an essential way to capture a person's attention. Information packaged in an accessible graphic format makes it easier to process, understand, and remember. An image beats out reading large amounts of text!

Below are some tips to creating a great infographic:

- Before starting an infographic think about the story you want to tell about your library. My last library infographic focused on trends that were beginning to emerge.
- Collect the information that you want to include in the graphic i.e. statistics, a quote, a user tip, services being offered.
- Add some structure by organizing the information alphabetically if you think it will help the user understand the information being presented.
- Explain concepts by comparing or contrasting your ideas.
- Include facts and numbers. A mix of both leads to a more visually interesting graphic.
- Keep the infographic as simple as possible.
- Limit your colour palette to two or three colours, and use contrast.
- Don't use too many font styles. Chose two or three fonts, too many and you risk having the infographic look busy.
- Use headings, and sub-headings to pick out the body of your content.
- Symbols communicate content at a glance, but don't overdo it.
- Share your infographic through social media: Twitter, Facebook etc.

There are lots of free tools to create info graphics such as Canva, PowerPoint, Piktochart, Google Chart, and Easel.ly, to name a few. Creating an infographic takes time but it can showcase thought leadership - your breadth of knowledge, and expertise.

Check out the *Brant Law Association 2017 Trends* infographic on the next page.

Library Hack - Use Infographics!



BRANT LAW ASSOCIATION LIBRARY

2017 Trends

"You win cases in the library, not in the courtroom." The Honourable Marshall Rothstein, Q.C.

108

BOOKS PROCESSED IN 2017



WE ANSWERED 253 REFERENCE QUESTIONS TOTTALLING 91.63 HOURS. A 6.3% INCREASE | 51% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2016



20 ILLOS REQUESTED. A 53% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2016

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN REQUEST AN INTERLIBRARY LOAN ON ALMOST ANY TITLE IN THE ADVOCAT CATALOGUE?

THAT'S ACCESS TO OVER 416,000 ITEMS



BRANT LAW ASSOCIATION WEBSITE
WWW.BRANTLAW.CA

2859 SESSIONS. A 4.5% INCREASE

2447 USERS. A 3.9% INCREASE

8853 PAGEVIEWS. A 10.4% INCREASE

1031 RETURNING VISITORS. A 8.1% INCREASE

POPULAR PAGES

LAWYER DIRECTORY, EVENTS, COURT INFORMATION, LIBRARY



REFERENCE POINT BLOG
[HTTP://BLAREFERENCEPOINT.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://BLAREFERENCEPOINT.BLOGSPOT.COM)

972 PAGE VIEWS SINCE APRIL 2017

MOST POPULAR POSTS

THE LIBRARY FILES - HEINONLINE
MMP - WHICH WAY IS UP?
THIS JUST IN
RECENT BRANTFORD DECISIONS

NCLA's First Female President: Alpha Isabella Hodgins



by Ciara Ward

In 1919, only two years after the Conservative government voted to pass women's suffrage, and one year after the conclusion of the First World War, Alpha Isabella Hodgins was called to the Bar. She was the first woman in Ontario to earn top marks in her class, and she would also become the Northumberland County Law Association's (NCLA) first female President.

Alpha was born on 24 November 1892, in Lucan, Middlesex County, a small town north of London, Ontario. Her parents were Adam Hodgins and Sarah McDougall. She attended law school at the University of Toronto and was called to the Bar in 1919. Alpha was the first female law student in Ontario to earn top marks for commercial law.

She began practicing law in Toronto working with the legal firm of Glen M. Wilton in Toronto, mainly in the area of wills and insurance trust agreements for insurance agencies. Later, in the 1930s she worked for a firm specializing in mining law. During this time she was also an active member of the Women's Law Association of Ontario, and served as President of that association from 1933-1935. In 1944 she relocated to Bowmanville where she took over the legal practice of M.G.V. Gould (who had been forced to retire due to ill health) on Temperance Street, in Bowmanville. While living in Bowmanville, Alpha was actively involved in community life, including community theatre groups, professional groups, and women's rights groups. In the late 1950s she was asked to speak to the local Rotary Club about being a female professional and what challenges and opportunities she saw in the future for woman joining the professional workforce. Through her hard work and involvement within her community she gained a very favourable reputation, as a community member said of her: "it would be difficult to find anyone more considerate and helpful."

During her speech Alpha revealed that when she arrived in Bowmanville there had been only 110 female law graduates in Ontario, and of this number only 60 had continued to practice law. She stated that while many women have attained high professional positions in Canada, they were still facing many challenges and inequalities in the areas of politics and government. Alpha also took the opportunity to speak specifically about woman who were working in the legal profession, stating that "today, the legal profession does not have the high standing it once had in Canada"; she believed that was a sentiment shared across other professions as well, and it was the duty of professionals to raise their profiles within their own communities. She concluded her speech with a quote from the final verse of a poem by Oliver Goldsmith: "How small of all that human hearts endure the part that kings or laws can cause or cure."

Alpha Hodgins died on 21 December 1983.

Collection Corner

by Betty Dykstra



Historical Criminal Codes

There has been a lot of publicity and press regarding Marie Kondo. She is the perky, pint-sized Japanese organizer who has written four books about the KonMari method and now has a new series on Netflix. The premise is: only keep things/books that "spark joy" in you. Her popularity has resulted in thrift stores everywhere receiving an abundance of donations and books.

How, you may ask, does this relate to a law library? The only books that we have that are close to sparking joy are the new books on Cannabis. However, rather than talking about weed, I would like to talk about weeding.

The law is ever changing and treatise of the law are often updated. I have been to libraries where I have witnessed numerous subsequent editions of a textbook. This can prove to be confusing to Lawyers who don't always look for the most recent edition. In some cases, it is important to ensure that only the latest edition of the text is available. This can be especially important if the law has changed significantly (as in Jordan or Antic). In other cases, keeping an earlier edition of a text is better than having nothing on the subject.

As shelf space is at a premium and in order to ensure that the most up to date and relevant materials are on our shelves, we weed. I would be misleading you if I said that we do it faithfully and completely, but rather we try to do it as time (and summer) permits. The LSO publications that are available on AccessCLE find homes with many of our lawyers as we only retain the current 3 years or so. Looseleaves that are available on our electronic products or have contents replaced are adorned with neon stickers that indicate their currency or electronic availability and we keep a shelf of historical criminal codes with a big H sticker. We are in the process of labelling our superseded textbooks that we keep with a similar S sticker to note that there is a subsequent edition.

There are some things that we will always keep. They have an historical purpose or have never been updated (i.e. "How Do You Plead?"). We do carry outdated materials on our shelves, but as indicated they have warnings on them as to the date of currency and we strive to keep AdvoCAT updated.

So, undertake to do some weeding. As with the principles set out in KonMari, feel free to acknowledge your outdated texts for their service, thank them for being useful, then let them go (to good homes) and know that you are providing your lawyers with relevant, up-to-date or caution-labelled materials. This should spark some joy.

Always:

Remember to spark joy in your own life. Every day we absorb the stress from our lawyers.

Hobbies are important and an easy way to combat the stress and soothe the soul. Amongst our members we have knitters, photographers, travellers, musicians, bakers, readers, artists, volunteers and more.

The next issue

Look for a library circulation system comparison in the next issue, which will include Michelle Gerrits' COLAL 2018 presentation on LTB. If you have an automated circulation system, please share with us--you have 3 months to write your article.

An incredible number of people contributed articles to this edition of the OCLA Access Point. Let's keep that going. As with any newsletter, content is key. This is our newsletter, for us and by us. It is an opportunity to showcase the wonderful things our Associations are doing and what we are doing for our Associations. By sharing little ideas, we can make a big difference in solving an irksome problem and can make your life just that much easier. Please consider submitting something for the next newsletter to oclaaccesspoint@gmail.com.

