

WINTER 2022

OCLA ACCESS POINT

The Newsletter of the Ontario Courthouse Libraries Association



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From the Chair

We have all lived through a whirlwind of changes. We ran our libraries through COVID-19 and lockdowns. We adjusted our service model as the courts adjusted and we listened to the less than enthusiastic lawyers complain about, well, everything! Those of us who have been in OCLA for awhile saw LibraryCo dissolved and we waited five years to see what was next. In those five years, we went to work and did our jobs. (And we did them well!) We went to work even though many were unsure that their library would remain funded and open. We did that while listening to rhetoric saying we were redundant. We have worked through Management Board changes, Association Board changes and a global pandemic! OCLA gave us an ability to communicate, share, problem-solve and thrive through it all! *[Continued on next page]*

"The most important asset of any library goes home at night - the library staff."

That quote is by Timothy Healy, Former President, New York Public Library. I love that quote and I believe it to be true. We do ourselves a disfavor by not stopping every once in a while, and remembering our role, our skill sets, our willingness to learn, adapt and excel. We need to realize that in most of our communities, there are only a very few who can do the jobs we do. (How many lawyers do you know who can trace a statute?)

This newsletter (with thanks to Jennifer Walker, George Hawtin & Lee Holstead), is part of our communications effort and our recognition of who we are and what we do well! In this issue, we celebrate Barb Alcock with the Huron Law Association as recipient of the FOLA Luminary Award 2022! We also put a spotlight on the Oxford Law Association and Carlyne Alsop, who is also the OCLA Treasurer, the Algoma District Law Association and Amanda Ward-Pereira, and the Middlesex Law Association with Cynthia Simpson and Shabira Tamachi. We look at 2022 and the LiRN and OCLA professional development sessions we have participated in. And we have a great tech tip!

In 2023 we will see more changes and we will learn new ways of doing, finding and thriving! LiRN and OCLA will be presenting webinars that will help keep us current. And we will continue to network! For the new year, I hope we all learn to value ourselves and the roles we play in a complicated library structure. I hope we are kind to ourselves and to each other. Frankly, we are a remarkable bunch and it will do us well to remember the quote by Timothy Healy.

Kelly Elliott
OCLA Chair
2022-2024

**OCLA Executive
2022-2024**

**Kelly Elliott
Chair**

**George Hawtin
Vice Chair**

**Lee Holstead
Vice Chair**

**Nicole Strandholm
Secretary**

**Carolyne Alsop
Treasurer**

**Sarah Huie
Member-at-Large**

**Jennifer Walker
Past Chair**

About OCLA

Established in 1987, the Ontario Courthouse Libraries Association (OCLA) provides support and a unified voice for all county and district law library staff members across the province.

To ensure that these functions are carried out in an effective manner, OCLA will:

Support and promote the pursuit of continuing education for all OCLA members.

Provide a timely and effective method of communication to all members through the use of email and printed materials.

Provide appropriate OCLA representation to other organizations and administrative bodies.

Maintain positive relationships among all individual OCLA members, and with all appropriate organizations and administrative bodies.

On the move?

Short-cut all the tapping and get the information you need - from robing rooms to the resources available in each County and District Law Library.



Pin the OCLA web app for simplicity on the go!



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oclanet.com

Updates from OCLA

Arrivals & Departures

We have not had any arrivals or departures from the OCLA membership since our October meeting. A reminder that if you have a staffing change, please let Member-at-Large Sarah Huie know.

To the LiRN Board of Directors, we welcome Vicki Whitmell, who replaces Rosalie Fox.



Key Upcoming Events

January 2023: OCLA Membership Renewal Drive

March 2023: OCLA Conference Bursary - Call for Applications

May 2023: CALL/ACBD Conference in Hamilton; OCLA Spring Meeting

LiRN with Learn curriculum sessions are being finalized; watch for email announcements for these sessions.

OCLA Meetings & Initiatives

The OCLA Executive meets monthly, at a date to be determined at each meeting. The next meeting will be on January 17. If you have any concerns you'd like the Executive to discuss, please email any Board member (the list can be found in this newsletter) in advance of the meeting.

The OCLA Professional Development Committee will be meeting on January 19 to discuss programming for 2023. If you have any ideas you'd like to share with the committee, please email Sheri Proulx, Jennifer Walker, Ciara Ward, or Pia Williams.

The next OCLA Access Point newsletter will be published in the Summer of 2023. Submissions can be made at any time, but a formal call for submissions will be made in the Spring.

Law Library Profile

Local



Association: Oxford Law Association
Library Staff: Carolyne Alsop, MLIS

Tell us a bit about your association and library!

The Oxford Law Library, located in Woodstock, was built between 1889 and 1892. It is a small library located on the third floor of the courthouse, but it is rich with old wooden floors, heavy wooden doors, and beautiful wooden window treatments that surround four large windows that overlook rooftops and tree branches.

You've had some significant changes to your library recently. Tell us about it!

When I first arrived at the Oxford Law Library in 2019, the walls were painted four different shades of green ranging from dark hunter green (remember that colour from the 90's?) to a bright almost fluorescent green (I'm not sure when that colour was popular, perhaps the 80's?). Ah yes, the library was in need of a make-over. I finally completed the make-over this year, a project I began just before COVID.

When I decided to tackle the space, paint was not my only concern. The library felt crowded and tight and I wanted to open up the space and make it more welcoming. I began with a huge purge including getting rid of unneeded office supplies, weeding the collection, and removing furniture, such as filing cabinets, tables and book shelves that were no longer needed. I also positioned my desk so that I was able to greet lawyers entering the space instead of having my back to them. These few steps improved the library space immensely and I was eager to begin painting.

Painting the library proved very challenging with many obstacles. The first obstacle was finding a painter. MAG had requested any renovations occurring in the library happen on the weekend as court was not to be disturbed. It is very difficult to find a professional painter that was willing to have a police check (another one of MAG's requirements) and give up two full weekends. Luckily, one of the lawyers came to my rescue by giving me the contact of a painter she uses.

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The second challenge was removing all of the books, shelves, and office supplies but keeping in mind the lawyers still needed to use the space and the painter needed to do his job safely. I spoke with the executive and association many times regarding my intentions, how this would impact them, and what to expect leading up to the project. A brief outline looked like this:

- Begin packing up library books three weeks prior and contents were stored off site.
- Move shelves two days before painter was to arrive and place photocopier in lounge so it is still accessible to lawyers.
- Computers would not be accessible from Friday night at close until the following Monday morning.

Lastly, the third challenge was hiring a security guard to overlook the painter while he was here. This was only challenging because I was not aware that I needed security and, therefore, I did not properly budget this extra expense. Oops! Fortunately, I was able to work with the OLA Executive and arrange our budget to cover this unexpected cost.

The library was technically completed prior to 2020. However, with 2020 came COVID and I packed up my belongings thinking I would return to the library in a few weeks only to work from home for 2 years! When I returned to the library, I noticed some of the library books had major sun damage. I had rearranged the library and some of the shelves were closer to the window leaving the books exposed to direct sunlight. I ordered blinds and they were installed in May of this year. I can now say this project is complete, whew!



Law Library Profile

Area



Association: Algoma District Law Association

Library Staff: Amanda Ward-Pereira, MLIS

Tell us a bit about your association and city!

The Algoma District Law Association is located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Sault Ste. Marie is a city of 75,000 people located on the St. Mary's River. With access to the Great Lakes, the Canadian Shield and the pristine outdoors, Sault Ste. Marie is a great place to visit for a wilderness adventure!

The Algoma District Law Association is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The ADLA has around 100 members. While most of our members practice in Sault Ste. Marie, we do have members who practice in Elliot Lake, Blind River and Wawa.

What can you share about your library clients?

With a smaller membership, it is great how after 10 years of working at the ADLA I feel like I know all of the lawyers! In the past few years there has been many new young lawyers joining the ADLA! The Criminal Lawyers and the Family Law Lawyers are my most frequent library clients.

What is the coolest, best, or most unique feature of your library?

The Algoma District Law Library is located beside the Sault Ste. Marie Courthouse in a small historical building. The building is over 100 years old and housed the Red Cross in the past. During the holidays the Courthouse grounds are decorated beautifully with the City of Sault Sainte Marie Christmas tree being front and centre.

Which resources at your library could you not live without?

Having access to secondary sources on LexisNexis Quicklaw has been amazing through out the pandemic and now that I get many more questions by email. It is wonderful to be able to send an article or section of a book to a library client by email.

Law Library Profile

Regional



Association: Middlesex Law Association

Library Staff: Cynthia Simpson, MLIS, Librarian; Shabira Tamachi, LIT, Library Technician; Tracy Fawdry, Executive Director

Tell us a bit about your association and city!

The Middlesex Law Association in London was one of the first to be established in the county and district system and dates back to 1879. Until 1974, the courthouse was located on a property across the street in various buildings, the last being the charming courthouse and jail designed after Malahide Castle in Dublin, Ireland, the ancestral home of Colonel Talbot (*below left*). However, by the 1960's, that building was woefully inadequate, and in 1967 the Middlesex Law Association instituted an action against both the City of London and the County of Middlesex to demand they construct a new building. The order dismissing the suit after the new courthouse was built, and the editorial cartoon by famed London cartoonist Merle "Ting" Tingley about it, are framed and displayed on the wall here (*below right*). The current day courthouse sadly holds none of the architectural charm of the former courthouse and appears to have been modeled after a grain elevator.



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As a result, our library saw increased traffic as it was much more accessible to our members, and this greatly contributed to the collegial nature of our local Bar. The library, lounge and locker rooms were originally spread over three separate floors until 2006 when the Ministry of the Attorney General's need for more courtrooms and judicial office space necessitated our move to the ground floor to a single location that includes the library, locker rooms and lounge in space specifically designed for us.

What can you share about your library clients?

The MLA has the traditional base of criminal, family and estates practitioners, but is also known for its personal injury litigators along with employment and insurance law. London is where London Life, later Great-West Life and Canada Life, originated after all. The association has a robust and expanding continuing professional development program, with its personal injury, estates and civil litigation conferences forming the foundation.

Our library users have always been keen to adopt new research technology and have traditionally been one of the heaviest users of the centrally-provided legal databases such as Lexis Advance Quicklaw and Westlaw. The original chat reference pilot program that the system set up was another example of where MLA members were active and enthusiastic users, which resulted in the association setting up its own chat reference service when the pilot project ended, and it continues to this day.

What's it like post-pandemic in your library?

The pandemic has certainly affected library usage everywhere, but while we are seeing significantly fewer individuals in the library, our research statistics as we respond to emailed or chat-based questions has risen, and we love that kind of work! We recently converted some of our looseleaf resources to online only access to provide better access to information when these questions arrive in our inbox. So, when someone jokingly asks "who uses books anymore?" our response is "define what you mean by a book" because our members still need case law, commentary and precedents, plus trained staff to find those for them.

Tech Tip

On the Outside Working In: External Hard Drives

By Lee Holstead, Durham Region Law Association



Maybe this has happened to you: one day, the hard drive in your computer starts really slowing down. You start to get error messages when saving files. Data you save becomes corrupted. You experience the Blue Screen of Death, that tells you Windows is closing. When you open a program or save files, a noise comes from your computer you've never heard before and it doesn't sound good. These are all signs of imminent hard drive failure; when that happens, your data on the drive could be lost.

Hard drive failure is not a pretty thing. All your hard work, photos, etc. are on that thing. The data can sometimes be recovered, but it is an expensive process when possible. It's always, always best to have a backup of your data, and that's where an external hard drive enters the scene.

An external hard drive is pretty much identical to the hard drive inside your computer, but it's in a case and can be connected to any computer by its USB cable. There are many benefits to using one:

- Your data is portable, meaning you can access it from anywhere there is a computer you can plug it into
- Space on the internal hard drive is opened up, which means it can run more efficiently
- Most importantly, you can have a backup of all or any of your files

These days there are two kinds of hard drive on the market: hard disk drives (HDD) and solid-state drives (SSD). HDD drives are like the hard drives we've been using for years, with at least one spinning platter inside that stores data. SSD drives are basically massive USB or jump drives. These are still a bit more expensive than HDD drives, but the prices are coming down all the time.

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There are benefits to using an SSD drive over an HDD drive. First and foremost there are no moving parts, so it is more or less shockproof. One of the most common ways an HDD drive will fail is after being dropped or banged excessively hard. This is even more important when the drive is external. This is something to consider when shopping for a drive. SSD drives are also a lot faster in reading and writing data, which you will immediately notice.

Prices for hard drives have fallen considerably; I remember the first 1 terabyte hard drive costing about \$3,000.00 around 1998. Here are ballpark figures for external drives, as seen on Amazon (the cheapest source):

- A 1 terabyte HDD drive can be had for around \$70.00
- A 1 terabyte SSD drive will cost around \$130.00

The type of drive you choose is really up to you; an SSD drive is lighter, shockproof, and considerably faster than an HDD drive, but currently you still pay a premium for this. Brands that have a reputation for reliability include Seagate, Western Digital, Samsung, Toshiba, and Crucial. The latter brand is more reasonably priced and have an excellent reputation. Most external drives come with software that lets you back up your data automatically, adding to the convenience.

Personally, my current external drive is an HDD. I have it plugged in all day, and all of my work files and folders are stored on it. For the time being if funds are an issue, an HDD external drive will suffice for most users. However, a hard-shell zippered case for the drive will cost less than \$10.00 and is money well spent in my opinion, whatever external drive you own; trust me, it will be dropped at least once no matter how careful you are!

Of Interest

Of An Ancient Sort: The Library of Hadrian

By **Nicole Strandholm, Hamilton Law Association**

Being a Librarian is not at the core of my personality, but I can't help but go somewhere and seek out the architectural splendor that are libraries throughout the world while I travel. As a historical meeting place for aristocrats, I find that libraries are housed in some of the most grand, and breathtaking spaces one will ever see. Having said that, I would like to take this opportunity to spotlight a library of an ancient sort. This May, I had the opportunity to travel to Athens, Greece and tour the ruins of one of Greece's oldest libraries called Hadrian's Library.

Built for the Roman Emperor Hadrian in 132 C.E., (yes, the same Emperor that built the Wall through Britain!), the ruins of Hadrian's Library sit at the base of the Acropolis of Athens, surrounded by modern homes and buildings.



Photo © Nicole Strandholm, 2022

Literacy rates in Ancient Greece and Rome were not something that was found to be widely recorded, but most sources indicate that only 8 - 30% of the people of Greece during this time were literate. Ancient civilizations depended heavily on oral tradition and education. Because of this, Hadrian's Library was mainly constructed to be the pinnacle of the new city center and would accommodate a large garden courtyard, lecture halls, and study rooms. The portion of the library that housed actual literary works was quite small. This portion was essentially along a single wall built with niches to hold the rolls of papyrus used solely by the scholars and educators of the time.

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Though literacy was not common, education was at the forefront of these civilizations, and the city library was where higher learning took place. Essentially, these libraries were the precursor to modern-day universities, where men would walk about the garden and discuss new philosophies and political standpoints.

Hadrian's Library has a tumultuous history. The original purpose of the space was only utilized for just over 100 years until it was heavily damaged by invading forces in 277 C.E. In 407 C.E., Hadrian's Library was rebuilt, and a Christian Church was built in the garden courtyard. For the next 1000 years, the courtyard of Hadrian's Library housed multiple churches and basilicas, each built on the ruins of its previous iteration, but the Eastern wall consistently remained a library.

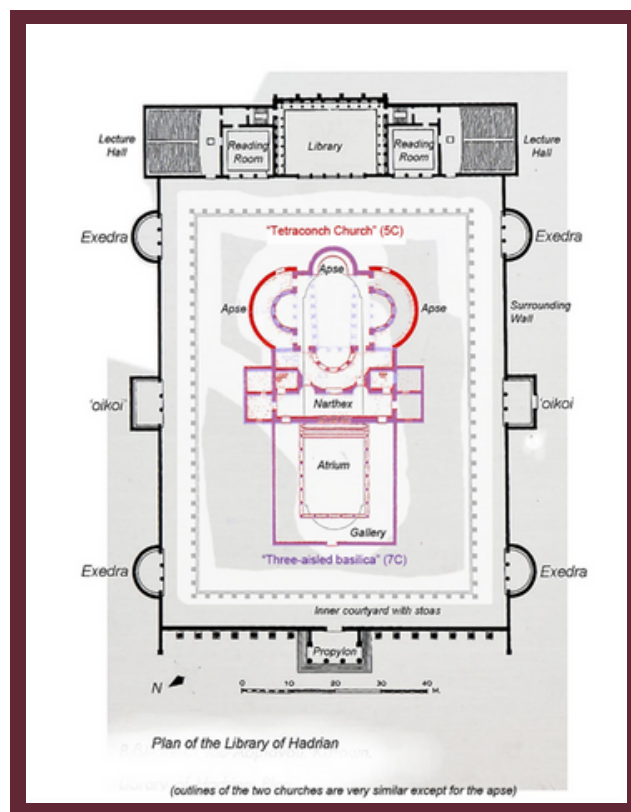


Photo ©World History Retrieved 2022 at:
<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/839/the-library-of-hadrian-athens/>

I find it fascinating that even in ancient times, entire cities were built around libraries, and that in 2000 years, not a lot has changed. Public libraries remain accessible to its community, and our very own libraries serve a similar purpose. I hope that you take the time so seek out your own local law library, and whether the space is new or old, take the time to appreciate the space that holds the historical value of justice.

2022 Year in Review

Electronic Resources

This past year may be remembered as the year where our libraries received a much-needed boost of electronic resources. With the launch of the eLiRN suite of resources in all of the county and district libraries, we have a large range of materials to offer library users this year and to enhance the legal research possible both within our individual libraries and consistently across the province.

LexisNexis Practical Guidance

Practical Guidance quickly became a favourite resource this year among OCLA members and library users alike. With a familiar and clean interface (it's very similar to sister product Lexis Advance Quicklaw), and a robust suite of practical documents such as checklists, practice notes, and precedents, Practical Guidance is an invaluable tool for researchers. It has been especially popular with articling students, newer calls, and those delving into an unfamiliar practice area.

WestlawCanada - FamilySource, CriminalSource, Estates&TrustsSource

At long last, Westlaw has come back to Ontario courthouse libraries! Many years ago, access to Westlaw within our libraries was cut due to budget. The loss of the product was deeply felt - there is no complete source of the law in Canada, so the only way to be thorough is to check multiple resources, and Westlaw is one of the biggest. We were very happy to once again have access to three of the "Source" products within Westlaw - Family, Criminal, and Estates and Trusts. These modules provide caselaw and secondary materials in these topic areas, without question three of the most popular areas in courthouse libraries.

vLex Canada

AI has come to the Ontario courthouse libraries! vLex Canada, which contains a wide collection of case law and secondary materials, also includes Vincent, an AI legal research assistant who can read your documents and provide valuable insight into the contents. This is a first for our libraries, and definitely something worth checking out and promoting with our lawyers. We are

also thrilled with the inclusion of the Irwin Law series of books contained in our subscription. The ever-popular "burgundy books" are now fully available - all of the titles! - and searchable within vLex.



Returning Old Favourites

The new products this year complement the excellent resources already in place in courthouse libraries.

- **Lexis Advance Quicklaw**
 - Quicklaw has been the go-to legal research database for Ontario courthouse libraries for years. The collection of case law (Canadian and foreign), secondary materials, and precedents inside has been serving Ontario lawyers faithfully, and the company, Lexis, was very generous with remote access during the Pandemic.
- **HeinOnline**
 - Available to all Ontario lawyers via the Law Society of Ontario's Great Library, HeinOnline is an outstanding resource for carrying out Canadian legislative research. The database also provides a wealth of journals (including The Advocates' Quarterly) and reprints of the English Reports.

Outside of eLiRN

Outside of the products made available from LiRN's electronic suite, there are several other products subscribed to within the courthouse library system. OCLA members continue to monitor the utility and popularity of these products with their library users.

- **Westlaw LawSource, EmploymentSource, and LabourSource**
 - Additional Source products within Westlaw. LawSource is the original product, and includes the entire C.E.D. and Canadian Abridgment.
- **ProView**
 - An online platform for Thomson Reuters looseleaf and text titles.
- **DivorceMate**
 - A popular resource with family law practitioners.
- **Rangefindr**
 - A sentencing product for criminal law practitioners.
- **Canadian Red Book Online**
 - The used-car valuation guide, now available online only.
- **ICLR.4**
 - A UK database with a large collection of foreign caselaw.



2022 Year in Review

FOLA Luminary Award 2022: Barb Alcock

FOLA's Luminary Award is meant to recognize the "outstanding work among Library Staff"; this award is given to someone who has demonstrated leadership, creativity, competence, commitment to professional growth, and to improving the operations of the library. This year's recipient was Barb Alcock, who exemplifies all of these qualities and more.

In the award video announcing her win, Huron Law Association President Virginia Schenk talks about the tornado that ripped through Goderich in August 2011 and flattened the courthouse. She mentions how Barb showed remarkable leadership when she leapt into action to mitigate the damages and help rebuild the collection. Barb is also dedicated to personal growth and learning (important skills for a librarian!). This year she attended her first American Association of Law Libraries conference, and proved once again she is not only a life long learner, but a fantastic travel companion and friend. Barb's endlessly kind heart and supportive nature make her the very best of us in OCLA, and we are all so proud she was chosen as this year's Luminary.

Putting her personal shyness aside, Barb agreed to answer three questions:

What made you decide to work in a courthouse library?

I had not intended to work in library, as I had always been in the health care system. Back in 1998-1999, I had a friend who was at the time, looking after the HLA library, which was in the courthouse where she worked full time as a court reporter. In her spare time and weekends, she subsidized her income filing in the library and looking after the library account accounting. At the

In Our Next Issue

Check out the Summer 2023 edition of OCLA Access Point, where we'll spotlight 2020 and 2021 FOLA Luminary Award Winners Chris Wyskiel and Jennie Clarke!



time, her daughter, who was in high school, assisted her with the filing. When she went off to university, that left Gail, my friend, with no one to help keep caught up with filing inserts, so I volunteered to help her, as we could visit and work together. This was a win/win situation for both of us. Fast forward, to the beginning of LibraryCo.

I was still helping out in the library, when my friend decided to move out west, and then the library was going to hire a library assistant, and my friend recommended me to the president of HLA. I had no intention of doing more than filing and the small amount of accounting that was involved.

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The person who was the head of libraries at the LSO, Janine Miller, spoke with myself and Gail, and it was agreed that I could probably take on this new position, even without any knowledge of how libraries functioned. I still had no desire to change vocations, but I decided to take the trip to Toronto, and meet with Janine. She was very encouraging, and told me that she would assist me, in this new endeavor.

That is how it all started, and as the years went by, I actually have loved the job, the members, and all that is expected of me. I took a course at Mohawk College, and with the assistance of a few others, including our roving librarian, Wendy Hearder-Moan, I very quickly fell into my role, as librarian assistant, and have to date, enjoyed all aspects.

What is something about your job that you're really proud of?

In regards to my job, and what I am most proud of...I find it to be a very difficult question. I am most proud of the fact that I was able to take on the challenge of changing careers, which was a totally new role for me. I am proud of my ability and desire to work very hard towards earning the title of a law librarian. This accomplishment, I can assure you did not happen overnight, or months, and not without the support of many others.

My role then and now still has moving targets, and the challenge is to try and work through one hurdle at a time. When I reflect back over the many years, nothing in the job description has really changed in regards to challenges. We are all still trying to meet mandates, jump through hoops, and land on our feet.

As I am nearing the end of this most rewarding career, I know for certain, that I made the right decision back in 1998- the true test for me being, the continual support of my HLA members, our amazing OCLA group, and last but not least, the many warm and sincere friendships, that I have been fortunate to have experienced over the years.

I would be remiss, if I did not mention, that I am proud of the fact, that I have been successful in providing my HLA members with a great library.

What is the best advice you've been given during your career?

The best advice I have been given over the years, would have to be, take on one challenge at a time, and not to overwhelm myself by looking further than what I can accomplish today.

In closing, I thank each and everyone of my colleagues for your congratulatory wishes and support.

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We asked a few of Barb's colleagues to share their own comments; here's what they had to say.

Lena Witzel - Norfolk County & Haldimand County Law Associations

"If I'm working an odd hour (evenings or weekends) and I have a question/problem, I know I can call Huron law library and there's a good chance Barb will be there to answer the phone! Even though she's trying to get caught up on work, she always has time to help others. She's too kind!!!

Barb is always thinking of others and she remembers what's going on in their lives. She asks about their children, their grandchildren, their health, etc.

When covid first hit and we were forced to stay in our homes... Barb still baked a birthday cake for her neighbour and took it over to her. Risking her own health and a chance that the police would be knocking on her door."

Mary-Jo Petsche - Welland County Law Association

"Barb has a heart of gold! She is always available to offer practical advice and is a supportive colleague. She has gone above and beyond for her members and she has made a valuable contribution to OCLA over the years. Barb has been a "den mother" at all of our library conferences, sharing her stash of snacks and keeping us entertained. Barb has boundless energy and an adventurous spirit - whether it be hiding in oversized flowerpots or playing the spoons to East Coast music at our annual national conference, Barb is an inspiration to us all. Barb has a willingness to continue to learn and grow her professional development and recently attended the American Association of Law Libraries conference for the first time. I'm so pleased that Barb received the Luminary Award this year as it is well deserved. Congratulations my dear friend."

FOLA Luminary Award

The FOLA Luminary Award honours Library and Law Association staff who demonstrate leadership, creativity, competence and commitment to the professional growth of their association members, who improve the operations of their association and library, who spearhead large communications or programming initiative, or who have assisted on a major successful local fundraising campaign.



Nominations for 2023 are now being accepted; more details can be found on FOLA's website.

2022 Year in Review

Continuing Professional Development

Continuing professional development for library staff is fundamental to professional growth and performance. This past year saw a variety of virtual and in-person learning opportunities that spoke to our educational needs and concerns, in areas such as library management, legal research, mental health and well being. Here are some of the highlights.

CALL/ACBD Annual Conference

From May 30 to June 3, the 2022 Canadian Association of Law Libraries annual conference was once again held virtually. This conference has traditionally been the largest conference for legal information professionals in Canada, offering opportunities to meet colleagues from across the country and across types of legal libraries. The value of building a network of friendly colleagues cannot be understated in law librarianship, so this conference's return to in-person in 2023 is eagerly awaited!



This year saw sessions on the intersection of access to information and access to justice, returning to "normalcy" after the Pandemic, and reconciliation in Canada, in addition to presentations by leading legal vendors on new products and enhancements.

OCLA member Brenda Lauritzen (Carleton) is the Programming Chair for the 2023 conference in Hamilton, and she would love to see excellent program submissions. Topics are to be submitted by January 15, 2023.

AALL Annual Meeting & Conference

The American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting and Conference is the biggest law libraries conference in the world, and attendees to this conference are always guaranteed a wide range of programming to choose from - often too many sessions happening at the same time!



The 2022 conference was held in-person in Denver, Colorado, and some OCLA members were able to attend this event. Sessions at this conference included teaching legal research without a law degree, access to justice using remote services [...]

and the legal research reference interview. A particularly popular session from this conference was "Coping with Vicarious Trauma: Tips for Law Librarians on the Front Lines." The usefulness of this session was so great that the Learn with LiRN conference provided a session on this topic as well.

Our American colleagues always provide a top-notch conference, and it can be a very rewarding and enriching experience for OCLA members who have the support of their Associations to make the trip.

Learn with LiRN Conference

Our very own Learn with LiRN Conference was held this year in a hybrid format in October. In addition to being the first chance OCLA members have had to meet the LiRN staff and board in person, there were excellent sessions on current awareness tools, marketing library services, and social media management. Learn with LiRN has the opportunity to cater directly to the professional development needs of OCLA, so we look forward to the 2023 program!



Webinars

Throughout the year, OCLA members had access to a wide variety of professional development webinars. LiRN has provided several sessions, including updates on research tools, change management, and specific legal research tasks such as precedents and forms. Other organizations, such as CALL/ACBD, have also provided free-for-members webinars of great interest to the OCLA membership.



Upcoming PD Opportunities in 2023

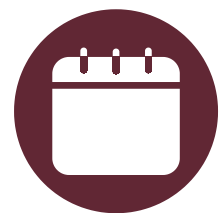
February 1 - 4: Ontario Library Association Super Conference (Toronto)

May 19 - 16: Special Libraries Association Annual Conference (Detroit)

May 28 - 31: Canadian Association of Law Libraries Conference (Hamilton)

July 15 - 18: American Association of Law Libraries Conference (Boston)

October 19 - 20: Learn with LiRN (Toronto)



Ask OCLA

What is your favourite legal research-related website?

"The Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations. I use it almost every week. It's essential!"

legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk

"Queen's Legislative Concordances!"

guides.library.queensu.ca/legislative-concordances

"Google Scholar. It's great for American case law."

scholar.google.com

"Globalex is a terrific first stop for foreign and international law research. High quality and free."

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