

OLA Super Conference 2021 Topics & Priorities

March 2020

Public Libraries (OPLA)

- Challenges to Core Principles & Values of Librarianship - finding ways and spaces to have difficult conversations as a profession
- Moving to online services in a pinch
- Finding uses for technology to serve a diverse range of populations.
- COVID-19 collective debrief / lessons
- Emergency preparedness
- How to have tough conversations with management
- Deprofessionalization & job precarity
- Finding ways to grow as an organization with remote workers
- Balancing responsiveness/resilience with sustainability
- Staff and patron wellness
- Engaging those who may not currently use the library
- How to transform the mindset of what the library is to both the community and to staff
- Fines, fines, fines... should we keep them, should we get rid of them?
- Rebuilding relationships with populations that rely on us / relied on us before we closed
- Sustainability: how can the library help to mitigate the environmental crisis?
- Narcan training

University & College Libraries (OCULA)

- Rising cost of information; declining economy to support it
- Supporting Open meaningfully; moving beyond advocacy to action
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility in Higher Ed. Libraries
- Deprofessionalization and Precarity
- Rapidly changing skillsets & need for deep and meaningful training
- Digital archives
- Research Data Management
- Community Engagement
- Intellectual & Academic Freedom Issues
- Copyright
- Reorganization

School Libraries (OSLA)

- Inquiry/Project Based Learning
- Participatory learning
- Play-based learning/loose parts
- Inclusivity and diversity in the library, social justice
- Reconciliation

- annual reports as advocacy - research - action research - school libraries
- 3 - 5 year planning in school libraries
- Summer Lending / I Read Canadian
- Book Love - how do we inspire the next generation of readers
- Community outreach
- Building library users: school/academic/public library partnerships? How do we support one another?

Library Technicians (LT)

- Technical services (workflow, maintaining authorities, cataloguing, processing, repair, etc.)
- Managing workload
- Doing more with less
- Copyright and online storytimes
- Reader's Advisory
- Cataloguing in a language you don't speak
- System migrations
- Weeding projects
- Intro to ASL for front line workers
- Metadata
- Building a professional community
- "Ask a Library Technician": New library tech/library tech student q&a with a diverse panel of library technicians.

Indigenous

- Workshop-based sessions with tangible outcomes.
- Follow-up from the Indigenous Advisory session - Q: Have you started the Indigenous Advisory Committee? Workshop to get you started.
- New building projects - how to strategically establish partnerships & respond to funding cycles to complete a large renovation or new building project.
- Safe Spaces - best practises to maintain a safe space for patrons & staff.
- Recognizing unique community needs and responding appropriately.
- Succession Planning without a budget
- Outreach Work
- Collaborative funding solutions for programs & collections.
- Being overworked / "wearing too many hats" ie. understaffed
- Adapting to institutional or financial changes.

Information Technology (OLITA)

- Online services - including online learning
- Podcasting in Libraries
- Technology & Consortiums
- Gaming in Libraries

- Accessibility & Technology (e.g. Print materials, Accessible websites, Making resources accessible etc.)
- How are libraries preparing for Accessible 2021 with technology (WAG 2.0)
- Copyright
- Open Source Software - what are libraries doing/using?
- Digital Archiving
- The Open Movement (open source, open access, open educational resources aka OER)
- Technology and training in Libraries
- In an environment where libraries and educational institutions continue to be closed, due to COVID or other reasons, how will libraries face issues around providing access to technology for lower income communities/families?

French Services (ABO-Franco)

- How to do e-licensing with vendors
- Moving to online services in a pinch
- How to stay current in this field when things are moving so quickly
- Provincial access to online resources / Digital equity across the province
- Finding ways to grow as an organization with remote workers
- Homelessness in the library
- Ensuring staff safety
- Opioid crisis and libraries
- Balancing priorities: realities of available resources
- COVID-19 collective debrief, lessons learned
- Pandemic and other disaster emergency planning
- Building and rebuilding relationships with the community in times of crisis
- Intro to Basic ASL (sign language) for front line library workers
- Library community gardens
- Teen services: How can the Teen spaces be more than just any other space in your library
- Ecology, sustainability, environment
- Inclusion, Equity, Diversity
- Accessibility - user needs vs technological resources vs. budgetary resources
- How to include francophones in the programming, collection and online resources when people are not showing up as much.
- Marketing for libraries / social media marketing / library branding
- How to get Teens more involved in the planning of their own programs

Special Libraries

- Special libraries' roles in the community: how can a special library respond in times of crisis
- Disaster planning
- Providing digital services

- Digital resource management
- Workshop-based sessions
- Social justice and equity
- Creating and maintaining safe spaces
- Succession planning for small staff & solo-librarian workplaces
- Community outreach
- Advocating for the library within our organizations
- Work-from-home challenges and opportunities
- Non-traditional collections and organization

Health Libraries (OHLA)

- Supporting healthcare workers' mental health
- Cleanliness in hospital/health libraries (physical spaces)
- Balancing user needs with staff safety
- Rebuilding relationships after a library closure
- Methods/best practices/recommendations for learning about new and emerging health topics
- Pivoting, organizational flexibility and responsiveness
- Redefining library workers' roles to meet current needs/provide new services/changing policies
- Moving to online/offsite services in a pinch
- Online customer service
- Managing volunteers in your library
- Succession planning, especially for smaller teams/solo library workers
- Working from home and collaboration at a distance
- Balancing responsiveness/resilience with sustainability/staff and patron wellness/realities of available resources
- Workflows for e-resources management/technical services
- Systems migrations - challenges, experiences, especially for smaller teams/solo librarians and library technicians
- Advocating for more funding, your staff, limits of what you can provide based on the resources you have
- Recognizing your limits, at what point you cannot do any more with less
- Professional development and staff supports for when someone has to transition to a new role, take on new job duties
- Marketing campaigns - emails, newsletters, Intranet pages, word of mouth, or other methods?
- Assessment and metrics, especially cheap and free metrics
- Data visualization and storytelling (linking assessment and advocacy)