FINAL REPORT
Keeping it ReAL 2018: Add It Up
October 26, 2018, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Digital Scholarship Commons, University of Victoria Libraries

Section 1: Introduction and Overview

Keeping It ReAL 2018: Add it Up was chaired by Christine Walde, UVic Libraries, with support from fellow planning committee members Aditi Gupta, UVic Libraries; Julia Bullard, UBC iSchool; Dean Giustini, UBC Library; Ali Moore, SFU Library; and Ryan Kyle, LaSalle College Vancouver; and Ioana Liuta, UBC iSchool student, as well as Karine St-Onge, a Young Canada Works intern at UVic Libraries. Prior to going on maternity leave in October 2018, Helen Brown of UBC Library was an active member of the ReAL committee.

The planning committee began hosting monthly program development meetings via Skype in January 2018, and one in-person meeting in Vancouver in May. Working collaboratively, we created a program of events based on our collective experiences, observations, and interests in research, and contacted a range of speakers from within, across, and outside our institutions. In budgeting for this event, all projected costs were to be divided equally across all sponsoring institutions of UVic, UBC Library, the UBC iSchool and SFU. For the third year in a row, the committee's goals were to organize a free workshop for academic librarians in British Columbia with the aim of fostering a research culture and creating an open and supportive network for learning, sharing and supporting research among academic librarians in BC.

Keeping It ReAL 2018: Add It Up was held on Friday, October 26, 2018 in the new Digital Scholarship Commons at UVic Libraries. The focus for the day's discussion was devoted to the middle stage of research: the gathering, collection, management and analysis of data. Because the event was limited to 60 people, registration was made available online to all participating institutions on a first-come, first-served basis, and followed up by a call for registrations through the BCLA-Academic Libraries listserv to attract librarians from across Vancouver Island and throughout the Lower Mainland. This year, the event was also shared through a national listserv for Canadian academic librarians devoted to research (LIBRARIAN-RES-CAN-L). Registration on EventBrite filled up quickly, selling out the event, but given unanticipated challenges in travelling to Vancouver Island, there was a reduced final number of attendees.

On the day of the event, librarians from our participating institutions and across the region engaged in the day's program. In addition to professional librarians, students from the SLAIS program at UBC's iSchool also attended, taking notes while getting to know the critical issues facing working librarians and archivists. The structure and format of the day allowed for a variety of sessions, including a keynote, lightning presentations, workshops, and a panel discussion, resulting in a fulfilling and productive day of meeting and engaging with colleagues around research and academic librarianship. A catered lunch and breakfast and afternoon refreshments were served.

Section 2: Workshop Program Description and Content

The Keeping It ReAL 2018 program involved presentations by faculty from the UBC iSchool and academic librarians from University of Victoria (UVic), Simon Fraser University (SFU), LaSalle College Vancouver, UBC and UBC Okanagan, the UBC iSchool, Vancouver Community College (VCC), and the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). UVic Libraries' University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson welcomed all participants before the morning keynote, and the day's program was hosted by ReAL committee members.

Keynote Address (10:15 - 11 a.m.)

The day started with a keynote address by Baharak Yousefi (SFU) and Shirley Lew (VCC), co-editors of *Feminists Among Us: Resistance and Advocacy in Library Leadership* (Library Juice Press, 2017). Divided into two parts, Baharak and Shirley gave a stimulating and provocative keynote on the research journey, and the critical pathways as librarians, settlers, immigrants and feminists they encounter in their daily work and practice. Christine Walde introduced the keynote speakers and moderated the question period.

5x5x5 Lightning Presentations (11:15 a.m. -12 noon)

For 2018, the ReAL committee decided to introduce a new presentation format into the day's program. Riffing off the traditional lightning presentation, we decided to send out a call for proposals for 5 librarians to deliver 5 slides in 5 minutes on a current aspect of their research journey. The proposals were then reviewed and selected by the committee. Fun and fast, the presentations were moderated by Ryan Kyle of LaSalle College Vancouver. The five presentations included:

> **1) Social Working the Social Workers: Journeys using CBL + EBP in a graduate research methods course**
> *Sajni Lacey, Arielle Lomness*
> *UBC Okanagan*

In an attempt to better integrate and scaffold library instruction into a graduate Social Work research methodology class, two librarians and a faculty member began a research project in August 2017 to implement Case Based Learning and Evidence Based Practice into the course to teach research and appraisal skills. Due to a number of factors from ethics approval, getting consent, and follow up consultation, the data obtained was both enlightening and also somewhat useless. As a result, analyzing the data has been challenging and has changed the current iteration of the research project in substantial ways primarily through how the content will be delivered to the students across both years of the program. This project will see another iteration in January 2019, where the hope is to meaningfully modify the delivery and interventions to meet the needs of the students.

> **2) Hidden Variables: Researching While Precarious**
> *Adena Brons, Ean Henninger, Chloe Riley, Crystal Yin*

SFU Library

Our research study on precarity in libraries aims to provide new information on the extent and effects of precarious work in library settings in Canada. It will gather evidence for the effects of precarity on library service and work culture, explore how precarity connects to libraries' professed values of equality, diversity, and inclusion, and measure trends in precarious positions in the Canadian library employment landscape.

We are nearing one year of collecting and coding job advertisements from the Partnership Job Board and have completed qualitative analysis of 13 semi-structured interviews with BC library workers. In this presentation, we will reflect on how our team of precariously employed new professionals navigated these stages of our research project and on how both the challenges we face as precariously employed librarians and the privileges our contract positions afford us shaped the design, collection, and analysis of our research.

3) Inquiry into plastic pellets pollution: [good] Questions beget [good] questions
David Boudinot, daniel Brendle-Moczuk
UVic Libraries

Pollution from plastics is a growing problem in marine environments worldwide. Plastics do not readily break down, they are known to soak up contaminants, and marine animals sometimes mistake them as food, causing plastics to move up the food chain.

Our research examines which beaches of SW-BC have nurdles (pre-consumer pellets used to make plastic products) and what quantities, what plastic polymer are the nurdles made of, whether the locally found nurdles have any toxins associated with them and where the nurdles are potentially coming from. Good questions and research raise even more questions as we have found this far.

4) Card-sorting and user scenarios: Usability testing of SFU's Scholarly Publishing and Open Access webpages
Kate Shuttleworth
SFU Library

Academic libraries are leading changes in the scholarly publishing ecosystem, and librarians are responsible for clearly communicating with researchers about this developing area. The purpose of this research project was to update SFU's Scholarly Publishing and Open Access webpages to make the structure, language and content accessible and discoverable for a wide-range of users. We were investigating the question: Can users find what they need on the Scholarly Publishing and Open Access webpages?

Our research was based on commonly adopted usability and information architecture principles, such as those described by usability.gov, Rosenfeld, Morville, & Arango (2015), and Nielsen (2012).

We conducted two phases of qualitative data collection: An open, moderated, paper card-sorting activity to collect initial data about the structure of the pages; and a usability-lab study with scenarios to test the resulting content. Data was manually coded into thematic groups, and webpage edits were prioritized based on respondent feedback. We anticipate conducting similar usability testing on an

iterative basis to keep the webpages current, and our experience will inform our approach for future studies.

> **5) Test, build, grow: How do entrepreneurs inform their business decisions?**
> *Irena Trebic*
> *UBC Library*

Entrepreneurs rely on accurate, current and specific industry, competitor and consumer data to grow their businesses from idea to reality. Launching enterprises spanning industries from fashion design to medical devices, entrepreneurs are highly diverse and increasing in numbers. However, navigating the vast range of sources and choosing credible market research on which to base key decisions can be perceived as overwhelming for community-based entrepreneurs and academic researchers alike. To gain insight on how the library could improve instruction and access for its interdisciplinary campus- and community-based entrepreneurs, in 2017 UBC Librarians created a study of British Columbia entrepreneurs' research needs and habits. This talk presents our research motives, results of our literature review and 20 question survey, and planned next steps.

Theory and Methodology Workshops (1:00-2:30 p.m.)
Following a lunch in the staff lounge of the 4th floor of the Mearns Centre for Learning-McPherson Library, there were four presentations by UBC iSchool faculty on four different methodologies. These four 90-minute workshops were held in various meeting and breakout rooms in the library, and included the following topics and presenters:

- **Autoethnography w/ Jennifer Douglas**
- **Design Thinking w/Rick Kopak**
- **Phenomenography w/ Eric Meyers**
- **Participatory Design w/Lisa Nathan**

Indigenous Research Methods Panel (2:45-4:20 p.m.)
After a final refreshment break, all attendees gathered back in the DSC to attend the final panel, which was exclusively devoted to questions around the practice, methods and ethics of doing indigenous research, and best practices for conducting indigenous research methods using indigenous ways of knowing. The panel was moderated by Julia Bullard of the UBC iSchool and included librarians, archivists, researchers, and faculty, including:

- **Sarah Dupont (UBC)**
- **Kim Lawson (UBC)**
- **Erica Hernandez-Read (UNBC)**
- **Jacqueline Quinless (UVic)**
- **Pia Russell (UVic)**
- **Christine Sy (UVic)**

Section 3: Budget

In budgeting for ReAL 2018, our goal was to be as expansive and inclusive as possible, knowing that we wanted to keep it free and balancing our need to bring people from the mainland to Vancouver Island. Therefore, each sponsoring institution (UVic, UBC Library, UBC iSchool and SFU) was asked to allocate up to $1000 each to cover all travel and expenses for the day's workshop. As the host institution, UVic agreed to pay for all the expenses up front, and once all the expenses had been finalized, the amount was split equally by all four sponsoring institutions, with the remaining three sponsoring institutions reimbursing UVic.

We are pleased to report that our event was under-budget: spent less than the original $4K that was anticipated, which means that each sponsoring institution spent $805 which is ~ $200 less than the $1000 they each promised. Given that we flew in colleagues from Vancouver and Prince George, as well as paid for food and refreshments for 65 people, and helped cover travel for iSchool students, we feel that the monies from each sponsoring institution was well spent and squarely justified.

As a committee, we would like to sincerely thank the continuing generosity and support of our sponsoring institutions and our ULs for their commitment to academic librarians' research in BC.

ITEM	AMOUNT
Erica Hernandez-Read's Flights	$436.66
Shirley Lew's Flights	$289.66
Shirley's Travel Incidentals	$73.42
Baharak Yousefi's Flights	$289.66
Baharak's Travel Incidentals	$63.50
Kai Geddes Travel Incidentals (iSchool student)	$106.08
Man Yin Ng Travel Incidentals (iSchool student)	$34.40
Alicia Urquidi Diaz Travel Incidentals (iSchool student)	$34.40
Sarah Dupont Travel Incidentals	$183.80
Matthew Kaufhold (iSchool student)	$34.40
Catering	$1,544.88
Salads	$72.27
AV	$56.50

Total	$3,219.63

Section 4: Feedback/Survey

The ReAL organizing team collected feedback via Survey Monkey and received fourteen response. Although it was a low response rate compared to previous years, the feedback was very positive. Some important takeaways:

- A total of 92% felt the workshop was very to extremely helpful
- The top three sessions were:
    - UBC iSchool Workshops;
    - Morning Keynote with Baharak Yousefi and Shirley Lew;
    - Indigenous Research Methods panel.
- The top three sessions that participants wanted to explore in further depth included:
    - Indigenous Research Methods panel;
    - UBC iSchool workshops;
    - Morning Keynote with Baharak Yousefi and Shirley Lew
- A total of 79% felt the sessions were about right in terms of length
- In terms of career development, 79% felt the workshop was very to extremely helpful
- 64% were very to extremely satisfied with the catering and 85% rated the venue as very good to excellent.

Overall, the organizing committee was pleased with the event and felt confident that the day's session provides evidence of an increasing number of academic librarians who are interested in developing research programs in concert with their professional practice. As next year's workshop is planned for the downtown SFU location, the ReAL committee will take any responses very seriously in the planning and preparation of ReAL 2019.

Section 5: Recommendations

In conclusion, based on the feedback from participants and our experience in collaboratively planning and implementing our third annual *Keeping It ReAL 2018* workshop, the ReAL organizing team recommends five short and long-term actions that could be pursued in order to develop and sustain future professional learning for BC academic librarians and their research. These recommendations include the following:

1. **Recommend distributing a copy of the *Keeping It ReAL 2018: Add It Up* final report** to: Jonathan Bengtson, University Librarian, UVic; Susan Parker, University Librarian, UBC; Gwen Bird, University Librarian, SFU; as well as to Lea Starr, AUL Research, UBC; Gordon Yusko, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC; Luanne Freund, Director, UBC iSchool; Alli Sullivan, BCALS Chair; Shirley Lew, 2017 BCLA President; Katherine McColgan, Manager, Administration and Programs, CARL;

Selinda Berg and Tony Horava, Co-Chairs, 2018 CARL Librarians' Research Institute; and the executive of the BC Research Libraries Group for consideration and feedback.

2. **Recommend that the model of funding and contributions from sponsoring institutions for this workshop continue to be flexible to anticipate future extensions of support.** Each participating institution should contribute up to $1K annually towards travel and expenses to run a successful event, especially if an honoraria may be required for a keynote speaker. We would like to recommend that the partner institutions commit to this increase for future iterations of *Keeping it Real*, with the understanding that the committee would communicate any budget changes to library administration leaders.

3. **Recommend that this provincial research in academic libraries event be continue to be held annually.** Hosting the program should rotate between BC academic libraries; and while SFU has agreed to take the lead for 2019, we would like to extend our reach to other partners on the island and on the mainland, including Vancouver Island University, Royal Roads, University of Northern British Columbia, Kwantlen University and others. It would be the preference of the committee if academic librarians at the partnership institutions rotate and share responsibilities for delivering the program and organizing the event; this would avoid burnout among chairs and members and keep the committee's mandate and values for growing a research culture in BC fresh and vibrant.

4. **Recommend that a one day workshop for 2019 focus on the final stage of the research journey and disseminating research**. In 2017, Keeping it ReAL asked participants to move from Ideas to Action - to think about the research questions that pertain to their areas of practice and consider how they might lay the groundwork for a research project. For 2018, we focused on the middle stage of research, with ideas and methodologies and approaches for getting the gathering, collection, management and analysis of research data. Naturally, it follows that ReAL 2019 closes the loop, to host a discussion about publishing and sharing research findings. This topic is of special relevance given the importance of Open Access to libraries, and the increasing relevance of OER.

5. **Recommend the development of a sustainable model and necessary infrastructure to continue the professional learning of BC academic librarians regarding research.** This could involve the establishment of a provincial working and/or planning group consisting of individuals from the UBC iSchool and/or library associations such as BCLA, ALS, CAPAL and CARL and/or BC Research Libraries Group. It would also involve contacting BC alumni of the CARL Librarians' Research Institute to seek out their ideas, recommendations and help. There may even be an opportunity to branch out with ReAL as a national one-day workshop, which could be presented at OLA conference, or other larger Canadian library conferences.

6. **Recommend that terms of reference be created for the committee,** including a

description of duties for members and length of term (2-3 years minimum/maximum); along with establishing a list of priorities for outreach and outreach strategies to other BC post-secondary institutions.

Section 6: ReAL Committee Changes

In 2018, Chair Christine Walde (UVic) announced that she would be stepping down from the ReAL Committee after serving for 3 years (2015-2018). Ali Moore (SFU) also announced that she would be stepping down after 2 years (2016-2018) and Aditi Gupta (UVic) announced that she would be unable to serve another year due to her taking a study leave in late 2019. Happily, Shahira Khair, Data Curation Librarian at UVic Libraries, has agreed to serve on the committee. Ali Moore is currently seeking a replacement at SFU for her role and to lead the 2019 workshop. We will continue to update the leaders of our library administrations as future changes become known.

Submitted by the ReAL 2018 Organizing Committee:

- Julia Bullard (UBC iSchool)
- Dean Giustini (University of British Columbia Library)
- Aditi Gupta (University of Victoria)
- Ryan Kyle (LaSalle College Vancouver)
- Ioana Liuta (UBC iSchool; Simon Fraser University)
- Alison Moore (Simon Fraser University)
- Christine Walde (University of Victoria)

http://ocs.sfu.ca/real/index.php/Conference/real2018