Keeping it ReAL (Research in Academic Libraries) 2017
November 3, 2017

Section 1: Introduction and Overview

Keeping It ReAL 2017: Research in Academic Libraries was initiated by the ReAL planning committee co-chaired by Holly Hendrigan, SFU, and Christine Walde, UVIC; with members Dean Giustini, UBC; Jo-Anne Naslund, UBC; BCALS Continuing Education subcommittee members, Ali Moore, SFU and Ryan Kyle, LaSalle College Vancouver. Melissa Smith, UBC iSchool student, and Julia Bullard, UBC iSchool, and Peggy Lunn, Thompson Rivers University (now at UBC) later joined the committee in the summer. The committee's goals were the same as 2016: 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.

As a working group, planning began in January 2017, followed by program development meetings in April, May, July, and August. 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 across and outside our institutions. In budgeting for this event, all projected costs were to be divided equally across all participating institutions.

Keeping It Real 2017: Research in Academic Libraries was held on November 3, 2017 at UBC. 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 Librarians listserv to attract librarians from across the region. A small number of seats were reserved for iSchool students. Registration filled up quickly, selling out the event, and a wait list of interested attendees was created.

On the day of the event, librarians from our participating institutions and across the region engaged in the day's program. In addition to working professionals, students from the SLAIS program at UBC's iSchool also attended, taking notes and live- tweeting 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 roundtables, panel presentations and some hands-on activities, resulting in a fulfilling and productive day of meeting and engaging with colleagues around research and academic librarianship.

Section 2: Workshop Program /Description and Content

The Keeping It REAL 2017 program involved presentations by faculty from the UBC iSchool and academic librarians from Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University, Thompson Rivers University and LaSalle College Vancouver.

Susan Parker, UBC University Librarian welcomed participants.

Keynote Address
The day started with a keynote address by Karen Munro (SFU) Associate Dean Learning and Research Services. She has held many leadership positions within the Association of College and Research Libraries including chair of the Literatures in English section, chair of the ACRL Sections Council, and chair of various conference planning and nominating committees. She has presented and published widely on library instruction, e-learning, and user-centered design. Her 2017 book, *Tactical Urbanism for Librarians* is published by ALA Editions.

Theory and Methodology Presentations
Presentations by UBC School of Library and Information Science faculty followed on theory and methodologies. They included the following: *Tips & Tricks for the Early Stages of Research*, Rick Kopak; *Applications of Exploratory Data Analysis in Libraries*, Sam Dodson; *Tales from the iStories Lab: How to Create and Sustain a Research Group*, Lab Robyn Schafer, Bonnie Tulloch, Michelle Kaczmarek and *Assessment & Evaluation Research Methods*, Luanne Freund.

Roundtables
In this session, five roundtable briefs were shared.

Getting started through partnership: The role of the librarian as expert in Systematic and related reviews
Charlotte Beck UBC
Active partnership on research teams can provide both an introduction to and training in the academic research process. A relatively new research methodology, the Systematic Review, benefits from the librarian's expertise in information retrieval and management and thereby provides opportunities for partnerships between faculty and librarians. In this roundtable, I will describe how being involved in the initial planning, development and execution of systematic type reviews provides proficiency in the research process from grant application to publication. It will also highlight how collaboration with non-librarians enriches engagement with faculty and identify some of the issues and considerations associated with embracing this extended role within existing service models.

The letdown: Finishing your research (Or, Is it ever really over?)
Jennifer Zerkee, SFU
When is a research project "finished"? After publication? After a round of conference presentations? After the next research question that evolves out of your findings? Is it ever really over? It's up to you. You might never want to look at your survey results again, or you might want to wring every possible consideration out of your findings. Or the project might have sparked a number of new ideas you can't wait to get started on. This roundtable discussion will consider the ways in which research might be continued beyond publication, and the factors that will aid a researcher's decision to continue or expand research—or not. This will provide inspiration for those feeling stuck or let down after publishing (or otherwise "completing" a project) and more generally for those at any stage of a project, as well as reassurance for those wanting to just let their research go.

The challenge of methodology: How (not) to move from ideas to action
Ania Dymarz, SFU
In my recent research I have been working on answering this question: what do we know about consultant use in our libraries? This project started off as a small conversation over lunch with my now collaborator and has developed into a three part research project. During this talk I will detail our research plan and share some of the progress that we have to date. I will frame my talk with a reflection on methodology and share some of the methodological challenges that I have faced with moving from ideas to action. This talk will be inspired by my understanding of workplace research as reflective practice, and will be shaped by my intent for this talk itself to be a reflection on my own research practice. My hope is that, in discussing the challenges of methodology and research more generally, we can encourage each other to be vulnerable, curious, and perfectly imperfect as we build our research community.

Hidden in Plain Sight: Embracing the Potential Action Research in Committee Work
Julie Jones, Jenna Thomson, Alison Moore, SFU
Librarians are researcher-practitioners, but the synergy of these two roles often gets lost. We will share how we recently were able to do things differently by using committee work that we were engaged with in 2017 as a launchpad for a small research project. We used the framework of action research to facilitate this jump from practice to research and we will share this research methodology in detail to kick off this roundtable discussion. With its emphasis on solving problems, improving practice, empowering stakeholders, and generating knowledge from the context of practice, action research is particularly applicable and helpful when examining our committee

work for potential research projects. We will also discuss best practices and ethical considerations when turning committee work into research.

Report from the 2017 CARL Librarians' Research Institute
Sarah Parker, UBC
Abstract: This roundtable will provide an overview of the 2017 LRI, a four-day workshop for academic librarians on conducting research. Discussion will include the LRI's goals and objectives and this participant's assessment. Past participants of the LRI are especially welcome to reflect on its long term effects!

At the lunch break, some participants met as part of a focus group with Kathleen DeLong, UofA, and Christine Walde, to discuss the CARL core competencies document.

Making Time for Research:What's CAUT Got to Do With It?
After lunch, Carla Graebner, SFU, presented about CAUT and what it has to do with librarians and research.

Research Rewind
Panelists Kathleen Reed, VIU; Aditi Gupta, UVIC; and Jing Liu, UBC talked about their respective research projects, how they got started and what they learned.

Pitch-lib: Research Pitch Activity
Ryan Kyle, LaSalle College Vancouver; Peggy Lunn, Thompson Rivers University
In this interactive, collaborative activity librarians were engaged in thinking about how to craft a persuasive research proposal. Librarians were introduced to some of the key points that they should consider addressing in selling a research idea, they read some examples, and then practiced writing their own research "pitch". A research pitch-writing template was provided.

Closing Remarks
Holly Hendrigan, Simon Fraser University

Section 3: Feedback/Survey

The REAL organizing team collected feedback via Survey Monkey and received 28 responses. Overall, the feedback was very positive: 75% felt the workshop was very to extremely helpful. The top three sessions were:
1) Roundtable Sessions; 2) Research Rewind; and tied for 3) was Karen Munro's keynote and Getting Time for Research with Carla Graebner. The top three sessions that participants wanted to explore in further depth included 1) Roundtable Sessions and tied for 2) and 3) was Theory and Methodologies and Getting Time for Research. Of our participants, 79% felt the sessions were about right in terms of length. 96% were very happy with both the catering (morning and afternoon coffee and snacks, plus lunch) and 88% were rated the venue as very good to excellent. As an opportunity to network, 29% found it extremely valuable and 36% very valuable. And when asked if they would be likely to attend a future workshop if held at the University of Victoria 35% were very to extremely likely to attend and 46% somewhat likely to attend. 19% indicated that they would be interested in volunteering for the REAL committee.

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.

Section 4: Recommendations

In conclusion, based on the feedback from participants and our experience in collaboratively planning and implementing our second *Keeping It ReAL 2017: Research in Academic Libraries* 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 in the area BC academic librarians and research. These recommendations include the following:

1. Recommend distributing a copy of the *Keeping It REAL 2017: Research in Academic Libraries Workshop* 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, UBC iSchool Director; Ali de Haan, BCALS Chair; Anne Olsen, 2017-2018 BCLA President; Katherine McColgan, Manager, Administration and Programs, Canadian Association of Research Libraries; Selinda Berg and Tony Horava, 2018 Program Co-Chairs, 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 participating partners for this workshop be continued and be flexible to anticipate future extensions of support. Each participating institution contributed $500.00, which went mainly towards catering. All other costs were donated or in-kind. Moving forward, we feel that we need a maximum budget of $750.00 from each institution 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 the possibility of 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 perhaps UVIC or SFU would take the lead for 2018. It would be the preference of the committee for 2018 if academic librarians at the partnership institutions rotate and share responsibilities for delivering the program and organizing the event.

4. Recommend that a one-day workshop for 2018 focus on "conducting research." We opted for focusing on "getting started" in this year's workshop with ideas and methodologies and approaches for getting started. We have discovered that participants are interested in exploring greater "depths" in a subsequent workshop and we need to collaborate with the UBC iSchool to draw on their expertise in this area.

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, BCALS, 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.

Respectfully submitted March 22, 2018 by:
Holly Hendrigan, Christine Walde, Dean Giustini, Jo-Anne Naslund, Julia Ballard, Ali Moore, Ryan Kyle, Melissa Smith, and Peggy Lunn.