The Centre for Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (C-EBLIP) Director’s Report to the Dean on 2016/17

August 23, 2017

Virginia Wilson, Director
From the Director

2016/17 saw a continuation of the work begun the previous year. The C-EBLIP Research Network (CRN) was formed. The CRN was an affiliation of international institutions interested in librarians as researchers and/or evidence based practice. Great strides were made in recruiting member institutions from around the world. As of April 2017, members included the following affiliates:

- University of Windsor Library, Windsor, ON, Canada
- Concordia Library, Montreal, PQ, Canada
- University of Victoria Library, Victoria, BC, Canada
- University of Alberta Libraries, Edmonton, AB, Canada
- Carleton Library, Ottawa, ON, Canada
- University of Northampton Library, Northampton, UK
- LARK Library Applied Research Kollektive (ALIA group), Australia
- University of Toronto Libraries, Toronto, ON, Canada
- Mount Royal University Library, Calgary, ON, Canada
- Cambridge University Library and Office of Scholarly Communication, Cambridge, UK
- Western Libraries, London, ON, Canada
- UBC Okanagan Library, Kelowna, BC, Canada
- Flinders University Library, Adelaide, Australia
- University of Regina Library, Regina, SK, Canada
- University Library, University of Saskatchewan
- Hong Kong Baptist University Library
- University of Southern Queensland Library, Australia
- Public Health England Knowledge & Library Services, Bristol, UK
- Loyola Marymount University Library, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- Health Research Board, Dublin, Ireland

This work aligned with the internationalization efforts of the University of Saskatchewan, and further enhanced the University Library’s reputation as an institution strong in librarian researchers. I travelled to Toronto in February of 2017 to give a poster presentation at the Ontario Library Association’s Super Conference about the Research Network. Momentum was really picking up after a year of recruitment and promotion. Unfortunately, due to the poor provincial budget and concerns from new library leadership about return on investment and sustainability, the C-EBLIP Research Network was dismantled in April 2017. While C-EBLIP is still focused on supporting librarians as researchers and promoting evidence based library and information practice, the opportunity for expansion and further developments in this area outside of the University Library has been curtailed.
Introduction
The Centre for Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (C-EBLIP) is a Type A centre under the auspices of the University Library, University of Saskatchewan that was approved by University Council on December 20, 2012 and officially opened on July 15, 2013. C-EBLIP’s mandate is to support librarians as researchers and to promote evidence based library and information practice. To that end, the vision and mission are as follows:

Vision: The Centre for Evidence Based Library and Information Practice will be the nexus for research and evidence based library and information practice at the University Library. C-EBLIP is devoted to the idea that practitioner-researchers make a vital contribution to the University Library, the University of Saskatchewan, and the field and discipline of librarianship.

Mission:
• Supporting the University Library librarians as researchers and evidence based practitioners
• Raising the profile of librarians as researchers on campus and beyond
• Enhancing the University Library’s national and international reputation as a research organization
• Developing peer mentoring relationships to augment research and evidence based library and information practice
• Sustaining established activities such as the Dean's Research Lecture Series and the Researcher-in-Residence Program.

Membership
Membership in the Centre for Evidence Based Library and Information Practice is open to all University Library librarians. Associate members include those who provide support for evidence based practice and research activities undertaken by the librarians in the University Library. Adjunct members are members external to the University Library who are contributors to Brain-Work, the C-EBLIP blog.

Membership Benefits
• An enhanced research profile locally, nationally, and internationally
• Potential for collaboration locally, nationally and internationally
• Research support
• Support for evidence based library and information practice
• Peer mentorship

Membership Responsibilities

Members will be expected to take an active part in C-EBLIP activities to further the goals of the Centre.

2016/17 C-EBLIP Members

In 2016/17, C-EBLIP had 15 members and 2 associate members. Members met to discuss administrative issues and planning, and to participate in focused conversation on a variety of topics pertinent to the group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Wilson</td>
<td>Director, C-EBLIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vicki Williamson</td>
<td>On administrative leave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlene Sorensen</td>
<td>Interim Dean, University Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diane (DeDe) Dawson</td>
<td>Librarian, Science Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maha Kumaran</td>
<td>Librarian, Leslie and Irene Dubé Health Sciences Library</td>
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<td>Ken Ladd</td>
<td>Interim Associate Dean, Services to Libraries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins</td>
<td>Associate Dean, Client Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolyn Doi</td>
<td>Librarian, Education &amp; Music Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crystal Hampson</td>
<td>Librarian, Collection Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karim Tharani</td>
<td>Head, Library Systems &amp; Information Technology</td>
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<td>Shannon Lucky</td>
<td>Information Technology Librarian, Library Systems &amp; IT</td>
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<td>Donna Frederick</td>
<td>Metadata and Cataloguing Librarian, Services to Libraries</td>
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<td>Kristin Bogdan</td>
<td>Science Librarian, Engineering Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaclyn McLean</td>
<td>Librarian, Collection Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Stregger</td>
<td>Librarian, Library Systems &amp; Information Technology</td>
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C-EBLIP also had 20 adjunct members. These members are librarians from outside of the University Library who contributed blog posts to Brain Work, the C-EBLIP blog. The blog will be described in more detail below. The adjunct members were as follows:
Activities

Scholarly Activity

Supporting librarians as researchers involves developing and maintaining platforms from which librarians can showcase and highlight their research and scholarly activity.

- **C-EBLIP Fall Symposium: Librarians as Researchers**: The one-day symposium was held on October 12, 2016. Fifty librarians from across Canada attended. The symposium consisted of a single-track program of 12 sessions, including the opening keynote address by Margaret Henderson from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. Margaret also delivered a pre-symposium workshop the day prior. The verbal feedback on this iteration of the symposium was good and it seems to be serving a need for librarians across the country. Participants appreciate the one-day format, the fact that registration is free for them, and the single track sessions.

- **Brain-Work, the C-EBLIP Blog**: 2016/17 was the third year of Brain-Work publication, broadly covering topics related to research, evidence based library and information practice, and librarianship. This blog gives librarians a forum to explore and share ideas publically. The blog is written by and for C-EBLIP members – librarians from the University Library – and is also contributed to by guests from other areas and other institutions (C-EBLIP Adjunct Members). In 2016/17, Brain-Work had 28 authors: 8 U of S librarians and 20 Adjunct Members. Each contributed 2 posts during the year. [http://words.usask.ca/ceblipblog/](http://words.usask.ca/ceblipblog/)
Research and EBLIP Support

C-EBLIP’s mission is to support librarians as researchers and to promote evidence based library and information practice (EBLIP). Many of the activities undertaken by the Centre cover both parts of this mission, as conducting research has deep links to EBLIP and many of the activities can support both areas.

- **C-EBLIP Writing Circle**: The Circle continued in 2016/17 led by research facilitator, Carolyn Pytlyk. Attendees participated in the bi-weekly writing time which included 45 minutes to an hour to share, set goals, offer and receive feedback, and talk about the writing process, and two hours to write.

- **C-EBLIP Journal Club**: Year three of the journal club continued to be managed by rotating convenors that chose the articles and booked the space for the meeting. The convenors are responsible for contributing a blog post about the meeting to Brain-Work, the C-EBLIP blog after their journal club meeting. Articles, convenors, and blog post links can be found here: [http://library.usask.ca/ceblip/activities/c-eblip-journal-club.php](http://library.usask.ca/ceblip/activities/c-eblip-journal-club.php)

- **Research Facilitator**: 2016/17 was Carolyn Pytlyk’s second year as full-time library Research Facilitator (RF). The RF provides assistance and support for grant applications, sabbatical applications, and ethics applications; coordinates the Research Mentorship Team Program; provides effective advice and assistance to librarians in many areas of the research enterprise including but not limited to: articulating and developing a program of scholarship; research project design; managing research projects; developing C.V.s; publishing and disseminating research. The RF position in general, and Carolyn Pytlyk in particular, have contributed significantly to the progress made by librarians in the area of research.

- **Research Mentorship Team Program**: For several years, the University of Saskatchewan has coordinated a Research Mentorship Team Program (RMTP) with the aim of supporting new and newer scholars in academic research endeavors. The institutional program has been expanded to include teaching mentorship as well, and is now referred to as the Academic Mentorship Team Program. As teaching is not ubiquitous among librarians, we have kept research as focus of the teams. The RMTP has long been something that C-EBLIP had wanted to implement. With the arrival of the full time Research Facilitator, there was finally capacity to roll this program out. This past year saw three teams function successfully, coordinated by the Research Facilitator and chaired by the C-EBLIP Director.

Infrastructure

C-EBLIP needs a certain level of infrastructure maintenance to remain current and relevant. The C-EBLIP member meetings combined with the Centre’s online presence ensure that a mechanism for dialogue is in place which allows the Centre to be responsive to changing needs.
- **C-EBLIP member meetings** – held on an as-needed basis. Meetings dealt with administrative issues, planning, and focused discussion on a variety of topics pertinent to the group.


- **Twitter account**: @CEBLIP - This Twitter account, in conjunction with the Centre Director’s Twitter account, is a mechanism to promote Centre activities, Brain-Work blog posts, and member activities and accolades, as well as a way to share information such as conference calls for proposals, journal article calls, workshops, and other activities and occurrences pertinent to C-EBLIP members and librarians in general. The C-EBLIP Twitter account has 460 followers mainly from the following countries: Canada, United States, Australia, United Kingdom, and Ireland. There are a minor number of followers from Hong Kong, New Zealand, France, Brazil and Indonesia.

**Continuing Themes for the Year Ahead**
- A review of the Researcher-in-Residence program
- C-EBLIP succession planning
- C-EBLIP Journal Club (continuing)
- C-EBLIP Writing Group (continuing)
- Research Mentorship Teams (continuing)
- Support and encouragement for research grants including President’s SSHRC and SSHRC (continuing)