

April 2018

## Report to CAUT Council

The Librarians' and Archivists' Committee, represented by Carla Graebner (Simon Fraser University Faculty Association), Chair, Jennifer Dekker (Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa), William Denton (York University Faculty Association), Carol Gordon (University of Victoria Faculty Association), Jeff Lillburn (Mount Allison Faculty Association), Tara Mawhinney (McGill Association of University Teachers), Tim Ribaric (Brock University Faculty Association), and Amanda Wakaruk (Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta) has met twice in person and once via teleconference since last April's Council.

Over the past year, our activities have remained focused on finalizing the Librarians and Archivists Bargaining Advisory with support of the CAUT collective bargaining staff. This will be an important document which will not only provide guidance for associations going into bargaining but also to raise awareness of issues affecting librarians and archivists—some of which are not dissimilar to issues faced by teaching or research faculty (academic freedom, workload, governance and autonomy) and some of which are uniquely ours (precarity and deprofessionalization). Ironically, it is not only our members who are under siege, but those who represent us in administration: University Librarians. Over the past year, several institutions have attempted, or are attempting, to eliminate the position of University Librarian—the library's administrative equivalent to Dean. CAUT is unequivocal on this: the Guidelines for the Appointment and Review of University Chief Librarians and Other Library Administrators Outside the Bargaining Unit indicates that qualifications required MUST INCLUDE

"... recognized credentials in library science, appropriate experience in librarianship and demonstrated competence in library administration. Just as it is recognized that a dean of an academic department must possess considerable education and experience relevant to his/her academic department, so too is it essential that persons qualified to fulfil the role of Chief Librarian must possess considerable education and experience in the discipline of academic librarianship. Administrative experience alone, whether associated with a library, academic institution or any other employment, does not qualify a candidate for consideration or appointment to a Chief Librarian position."

Under the guise of streamlining services (aka austerity measures), institutions moving in this direction will have a profound and negative affect on the ability of all academic staff to undertake research or teach.

In other activities, the Librarians' and Archivists' Committee has drafted an Open Educational Resources discussion paper which we will post to the CAUT website. Other discussion papers currently published will be reviewed for currency and updated or removed.

Finally, it has been my pleasure to serve as Chair of the Librarians' and Archivists' Committee. I have been fortunate to have worked with so many dedicated people on this Committee as well as with the CAUT Executive and staff.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Carla Graebner, Chair**