

April 2017

Report to CAUT Council

The Librarians' and Archivists' Committee (Jennifer Adams, Dalhousie University (to October 2016) Laura Banfield from McMaster University, William Denton from York University, Carol Gordon from the University of Victoria, Carla Graebner from Simon Fraser University, Jeff Lilburn from Mount Allison University, Tim Ribaric from Brock University, Bronwen Sprout from the University of British Columbia and Michael White from Queen's University) has met once in person and twice via teleconference since last April's Council.

Time flies. A year ago, the mandatory long-form census was being reinstated and a few months after that, we learned that, thanks to CAUT's concerted efforts, the University and College Academic Staff System (UCASS) survey was going to be reinstated and broadened. While these are significant and positive actions, there is room for improvement. The Copyright Act is scheduled for review this year. While significant gains were made during the last review cycle, specifically around fair dealing, there is room for improvement especially around digital locks provisions. CAUT continues to demonstrate leadership regarding copyright reform and the Committee will be actively contributing to this file. In addition to copyright, the government has pledged to reform Access to Information (ATI) legislation. This is significant because as content continues to disappear from Government of Canada websites, ATI remains in many cases the only chance of obtaining information including policy documents, statistics and other resources. This, unfortunately, remains a work in progress since the government recently announced it was delaying ATI reform.

A significant highlight of this past year was the Librarians' and Archivists' Conference on collective bargaining. Of those in attendance, 50% hadn't attended a CAUT Librarians' and Archivists' conference previously and most had no prior bargaining experience. The conference provided an opportunity for colleagues from across the country to engage in collective bargaining issues and to learn how to bargain effectively. I would like to thank the CAUT staff for their participation in and help with organizing this conference. As the conference moves into a three year cycle, the Committee will be exploring other avenues for engagement such as webinars or townhalls.

The conference's focus both informed and was informed by the Committee's continued work on a bargaining advisory. Librarians and archivists at academic institutions are entitled to academic status, but at many institutions they are denied the full rights of their academic colleagues. The

following issues have particular resonance for librarians and archivists and form the basis of the bargaining advisory:

- Parity
- Academic freedom
- Collegial governance
- Workload
- Autonomy
- Union service
- Restructuring and job security

The Academic Librarians' and Archivists' Distinguished Service Award is awarded to deserving members who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to advancing the status and/or working conditions of academic librarians and archivists at Canadian universities and colleges. I am pleased to recognize the significant contributions of Ms. Francesca Holyoke from the University of New Brunswick who is this year's CAUT Academic Librarians' and Archivists' Distinguished Service Award winner. Ms. Holyoke will be well known to you from her substantive contributions to CAUT as well as to the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers.

Finally, it has been my pleasure to continue serving as Chair of the Librarians' and Archivists' Committee. My involvement with CAUT continues to be immensely rewarding and has informed my own academic and association practice. I look forward to continue contributing to CAUT as Chair of this Committee and in supporting activities such as the New Activists Workshop.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Graebner, Chair