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# Navigating the Reorganization CAUT Librarians' & Archivists' Conference 2019

Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26, 2019  
Delta Ottawa

## Conference Overview

Academic libraries and archives across Canada face reorganization and restructuring, initiatives that can threaten the positions and work of librarians and archivists, and undermine traditions of collegial governance. This trend is the focus of the 2019 CAUT Librarians' & Archivists' Conference. Participants and panellists will examine how librarians and archivists can resist the devaluation, deskilling and reassignment of traditional work, and ensure a strong place in new organizational models for the core values of community service, openness, collegial governance, and social justice. Please join your peers from across Canada at this bilingual event.

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## Agenda

### Friday, October 25

- 8:15            **Registration**
- 9:00            **Territorial acknowledgement, welcome and opening comments**
- 9:15            **Session I – Keynote - The future of academic librarians and archivists**  
Workplace reorganizations are nothing new, but the quickening pace and depth of restructuring at academic libraries and archives suggests more radical changes are afoot. What is driving this agenda and what are the possible outcomes? How best can academic librarians and archivists assert their interests in the process?
- 10:15          **Break**
- 10:30          **Session II – The neoliberal context**  
Academic libraries and archives aren't alone in facing pressure to "modernize". Colleges and universities themselves are being reconfigured to meet corporate commercial expectations of efficiency and hierarchal control.

This session examines the social forces underlying this agenda and the prospects for resisting it.

12:00 **Lunch** *(provided)*

13:30 **Session III – Particular cases and the big picture**

As library and archives reorganizations are implemented, what patterns are apparent? Panellists report on the changes at their institutions, successes in influencing the reorganization process, and the link between their circumstances and a bigger picture.

15:00 **Session IV – Breakout discussions**

Conference participants break into small groups to share their own experiences with library and archive reorganization.

16:00 **Break**

16:15 **Session V – Tools of resistance**

Employers face legal and contractual constraints as they embark on reorganization projects. Through collective bargaining, grievance arbitration and various governance structures, academic librarians and archivists can exert control over the process. Panellists review the range of tools available to defend the work of librarians and archivists.

17:30 **Reception**

An opportunity to network with fellow participants from across the country.

## Saturday, October 26

9:00 **Session VI – Reorganization now - exercise**

The Great Library at the Great Northern University faces reorganization. Concerned librarians and archivists rally to ensure their voices are heard, and academic interests are protected.

10:15 **Break**

10:30 **Session VI Continued**

11:15 **Session VII – The library council - exercise**

Library councils are an important venue through which academic librarians and archivists can shape their work environment. But not all institutions have them, and where they do exist they aren't always used to full potential. This hands-on, institution-building exercise is directed at realizing the full potential of library councils.

12:00 **Lunch** *(provided)*

13:30 **Session VII Continued**

15:00 **Break**

15:30

**Session VIII — Bringing it all together – mobilizing to defend and advance our work**

In the face of significant challenges, the best hope for academic librarians and archivists is active engagement with their associations in the struggle to defend and advance their profession and the critical role of their work in the post-secondary education sector.

17:00

**Adjournment**