



BC ELN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes July 8th, 2016

SFU Harbour Centre

10:00am – 2:00pm

In Attendance:

Melody Burton, University of British Columbia
Elaine Fairey, Simon Fraser University (Alternate)
Kim Isaac, University of the Fraser Valley, *Regional Universities*
Shirley Lew, Vancouver Community College, *Urban Colleges*
Scott Marsden, Alexander College, *Associate Members*
Brenda Mathenia, Thompson Rivers University, *Small Universities*
Lisa Petrachenko, University of Victoria (Alternate)
Shahida Rashid, College of the Rockies, *Rural Colleges*
Ross Tyner, Okanagan College (Chair)

Ministry of Advanced Education:

Andrei Bondoreff

BC ELN Staff:

Anita Cocchia
Leigh Anne Palmer
Cristen Polley (Recorder)
Brandon Weigel

Regrets:

Jonathan Bengtson, University of Victoria (Vice Chair)
Gwen Bird, Simon Fraser University
Kate Cotie, Ministry of Advanced Education
Natalie Gick, Simon Fraser University Officer

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

2. Steering Committee Membership – Changes for October 1st, 2016

R. Tyner reported that on October 1st, 2016 his term as Steering Committee Chair ends, and J. Bengtson will take over. A new representative is needed for University of Victoria, since the Chair has no governance affiliation. All current governance category representatives are eligible for a second term, or a new representative may be selected. Each governance category has its own process for deciding who will represent them.

ACTION: In September, the BC ELN Office will send a reminder that by October 1st representatives should confirm that they will continue in their roles or submit the name of a new representative.

3. Steering Committee Terms of Reference – Associate Membership Voting Review

R. Tyner reminded the Steering Committee that in December 2014, the Associate Members category was changed from non-voting to voting, with the recommendation that this change be evaluated in 2016/17. This recommendation is in footnote 2 on page 2 of the Steering Committee Terms of Reference (TOR). The Committee expressed no concerns with Associate Member voting rights.

ACTION: The footnote will be removed from the TOR, and the TOR will be reposted to the BC ELN website.

4. AskAway Report

E. Fairey, Chair of the AskAway Advisory Committee, provided an update on AskAway.

Sustainability

AskAway has been calm and stable since the implementation of flexible support contributions. Usage is steady, funding is sustainable, and expenses are down with streamlined staffing.

10th Anniversary Celebration

On May 13th, alongside the BC Library Conference, BC ELN hosted AskAway's 10th anniversary celebration with food, cake, and AskAway haikus. OCLC, AskAway's longtime partner, contributed \$1,250 to the luncheon. The event was well-attended, with 49 registrants and a few walk-ins.

To include more remote sites in the celebration, the AskAway Advisory Committee sent party packs with a congratulatory letter, 10th anniversary chocolates, an invitation to contribute haikus, balloons, and funds for cake. The response to the party packs has been very positive, and some libraries have shared photos and haikus from their celebrations. A shared photo album is available on Flickr (<http://urls.bcelnapps.ca/askaway10th>) and haikus will be released on Twitter and in BC ELN's Connect newsletter.

M. Burton asked what comes next for AskAway. E. Fairey replied that the service is on a solid foundation and that the AskAway Advisory Committee continues to explore how AskAway

aligns with similar services, work on best practices, and update training. AskAway governance will contribute to BC ELN strategic planning by identifying specific areas where they want to invest resources and determining specific goals for the coming five years.

5. reSearcher Investigation Report

R. Tyner provided background on the reSearcher open source software suite developed and hosted at SFU. reSearcher, and its predecessor OJAC, has been financially supported by BC ELN for all subscribing libraries since its development. It is still used to varying degrees by 17 BC ELN libraries and five BC ELN / COPPUL members.

In 2015, a review of reSearcher was initiated for the following reasons:

- An interest in understanding how reSearcher is used at libraries, especially for non-returnable ILL activity
- Changes in staffing at both SFU and BC ELN
- Budgetary pressures at BC ELN
- An interest in understanding what is on the horizon for the product

A. Cocchia presented the highlights of the review. BC ELN financially supports three of the four reSearcher components at approximately \$40,000/year for BC ELN non-COPPUL libraries. BC ELN libraries that choose to subscribe pay for the A-Z list (CJBD) individually. BC ELN COPPUL members are on the COPPUL licence.

A survey on resource sharing among BC post-secondary libraries came back with highly inconsistent responses with regards to usage of reSearcher. Follow-up phone calls with 10 institutions (of the 17 that use reSearcher) revealed that libraries:

- Highly value reSearcher functionality
- Find support for reSearcher excellent
- Noted a lack of training and promotion
- Are willing to have further conversations about a cost-sharing mechanism

Discussion with COPPUL revealed that COPPUL shared reSearcher fees with subscribing libraries. In 2016, COPPUL decided to discontinue the subsidy over the next two years, after which reSearcher costs would be funded entirely by subscribing libraries. There are a total of seven subscribers at COPPUL but some are already making plans to move to a new product.

Throughout the review, BC ELN has been in contact with SFU to stay current, gather statistics, and learn about the future of reSearcher. Reporting on behalf of SFU, E. Fairey stated that as of August 2017, SFU would no longer support or develop reSearcher. SFU is committed to providing support to libraries making the transition away from reSearcher.

R. Tyner opened a discussion of what BC ELN's next steps might be with regards to reSearcher: Given what the future holds for reSearcher at SFU, and that the investigation showed that reSearcher is valued by a significant number of partner libraries, can – or how can – reSearcher remain viable for partner libraries or should alternatives be pursued?

E. Fairey mentioned that if there is interest in continuing with reSearcher separately from SFU, a direct conversation with the reSearcher operations manager Brian Owen could be illuminating. E. Fairey said that for SFU the costs versus benefits are no longer viable but might be for other institutions and added that reSearcher remains an effective piece of software.

S. Lew said that a systems staff member at VCC has been looking at reSearcher's code and concluded that it would take some time to upgrade to current standards. S. Lew believes it is worth exploring a solution that is community supported. She suggested striking a small committee to explore the viability of moving reSearcher to a new host and volunteered to meet with Brian Owen.

R. Tyner pointed out that there are no other products like reSearcher on the market. Similar products are built into vendors' systems. If BC ELN was interested in something similar, it would be a challenge to put the pieces together. R. Tyner mentioned products such as CORAL; Quali OLE; and GOKb, an open source knowledgebase crowd-sourced by hundreds of libraries worldwide.

R. Tyner asked if anyone was opposed to moving forward with a small committee that would meet and report back. There were no concerns expressed. R. Tyner and S. Lew volunteered to be on the committee.

A. Cocchia added that BC ELN would want to connect with COPPUL subscribers. M. Burton suggested tapping into Canadian institutions that need this software. A. Cocchia suggested an environmental scan and added that the BC ELN office is there to support S. Lew and R. Tyner as they explore options.

ACTION: A subcommittee, currently comprised of R. Tyner and S. Lew, will analyze the market, meet with Brian Owen, and report back to the Steering Committee.

6. Undergraduate Foundation Collection (UFC) – Survey Update

L.A. Palmer provided an update on the UFC Survey.

Since the last Steering Committee meeting, the UFC Review Task Force has met multiple times and has drafted survey questions for the Steering Committee's review. The aim of the survey is to determine whether partner libraries want BC ELN to continue with a common suite approach. Depending on responses, there will be a follow-up survey identifying what libraries want to see in the suite. Results will be integral to a discussion at the November All Partner Meeting (APM).

The Steering Committee read through the survey questions and a discussion followed.

The Committee agreed that understanding whether partner libraries see a benefit to every student at every institution having access to common resources was essential. The challenge is to get respondents to answer this more general question and not give feedback on the current suite.

S. Low suggested looking into a presentation from the British Columbia Council on Admissions & Transfer (BCCAT) about the educational lifecycle of a student, as this data could augment the survey results. It is important to understand the mobility of students between institutions when considering the value of a common suite, and the BCCAT survey gets at the big picture.

There was a discussion on the use of the term 'core' versus 'common' suite. Different institutions may have different views on which resources are 'core' to their programs. What the UFC provides is access to a common suite of bundled resources for all post-secondary learners.

S. Marsden felt the survey might cause concerns for institutions that rely on the content of the current UFC. Institutions should be reassured that current products licensed through the UFC would still be available as opt-in options should the common suite be discontinued. He expressed appreciation for the common suite approach and hopes that the suite could be expanded.

K. Isaac expressed support for the survey and asked what would give BC ELN a mandate to move forward when survey results are returned and analyzed. R. Tyner replied that the Steering Committee will make the final decision and determine if and how to proceed with a common suite. K. Isaac said it would be helpful to clarify in the survey that responses do not constitute a binding agreement.

L.A. Palmer reiterated that the foundational questions to answer are: Which institutions value a common suite approach and which institutions do not? And, what do institutions perceive as the benefits and drawbacks of a common suite?

B. Mathenia acknowledged the challenges of creating this survey and raised concerns with two of the questions since they were not pertinent to the core philosophical question the survey aims to answer.

L.A. Palmer reminded the Committee that the option exists for a third year renewal of the current common suite, and if the decision is made to move forward with a common suite, BC ELN could make use of that third year.

After the lunch break, L.A. Palmer summarized the discussion and proposed a multi-phased plan of action.

It was agreed that:

- A survey is a useful tool to gather the information required to go forward
- The survey should focus on whether partner libraries want to continue with a common suite of resources
- The draft survey will include enhancements to the preamble, include only the core philosophical questions, and be issued in late August with a three week response time
- If necessary, a Steering Committee teleconference will be set up for early to mid October to discuss the survey results and work through next steps
- An environmental scan and analysis will be prepared for the APM
- There will be a facilitated discussion at the APM based on the survey responses

The committee was invited to send further feedback and ideas by email to the BC ELN Office.

7. Ministry Report

A. Bondoreff provided an update from the Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED).

International Education Strategy Refresh

The International Education Strategy was released under the BC Jobs Plan in 2012. The main goals of the strategy were to increase the stature of BC's educational system internationally and to attract more international students to the province. The BC Jobs Plan has ended and AVED is working on an International Education Strategy refresh, in consultation with stakeholders. The new plan is expected to be released between fall 2016 and winter 2017.

Education Planner BC

ApplyBC and Education Planner were integrated under a single service that was launched in June. AVED continues to work towards developing a consolidated online resource that improves post-secondary planning and enables a common online application platform for learners.

Board Orientation Manual

A Board Orientation Manual was released publicly and to post-secondary board chairs, with a copy to all Presidents. The manual is a resource on government best practices intended to supplement materials that board members receive at their institutions. The manual is posted on AVED's website under Post-Secondary Funding and Accountability.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act

Bill 23: *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act* is new legislation that requires all post-secondary institutions to establish sexual assault policies to make campuses safer and more responsive to the needs of victims. Post-secondary institutions are required to establish these policies within a year. The legislation provides latitude for institutions to set policies that meet

the needs of their students. Some institutions are well on their way to developing policies and others are at the beginning stages.

Private Training Act

The Private Training Act (PTA) replaced the Private Career Training Institutions Act (PCTIA). The PTA will come into force September 1st, 2016, when the new Private Training Institutions Branch of AVED will assume full regulatory responsibility. The PTA will create higher quality standards for institutions, streamlined administrative processes, a broader range of enforcement mechanisms, and new incentives for good performance. The office will remain in Vancouver.

Provincial Digital Library

The government is aware of BC ELN's important work with the Provincial Digital Library, including collaboration across sectors, and is keen on hearing the outcomes of discussions.

8. BC ELN Staffing Update and Progress Report

Staffing Update - A. Cocchia

Jennifer Bancroft will be on leave from August to December 2016, and during that time Cristen Polley will continue with her four days per week. Leah Hopton is expected to return from maternity leave in January 2017.

Website Update - C. Polley

The website was launched on June 21st. The office received positive feedback and some minor corrections. Overall, the website is running smoothly and content continues to be migrated, with the aim of decommissioning the old website within a year or so. The office welcomes any feedback on the website.

Arca Update - B. Weigel

Two new sites are preparing to join Arca, Capilano University and Northwest Community College, bringing the number of Arca participants to 12. The Arca Administrative Centre is in contact with other sites that are interested in joining in the near future. The Arca/COPPUL agreement discussed at the last Steering Committee meeting may bring even more participants. At the Pacific Northwest IR User Group meeting, B. Weigel will present on Arca's consortial approach and will learn how other sites across North America are implementing IRs. He will deliver a more in-depth presentation on Arca at Access 2016, Canada's premier library technology conference.

The Arca Admin Centre approached the Islandora Foundation with the idea of providing Islandora virtual machines and educational tools to Library and Information Science educators. This initiative will give students experience with open source software that is in use and growing throughout Canada, give educators supported free software for teaching, and provide libraries with graduates who are adept with Islandora. The Foundation is receiving interested responses from instructors at UBC's iSchool.

The Admin Centre also proposed that the Islandora Foundation act as the vehicle for crowdfunding projects. Currently, there is no simple mechanism for members of the Islandora community to come together and pay a developer to work on a common goal. The proposal, which the Islandora Foundation will discuss at its next AGM, would create a way for institutions to crowdfund to accomplish projects of shared interest.

Arca organized and supported the first in-person BC Islandora User Group last week. This is the first regional Islandora user group and provides the opportunity to share knowledge and collaborate across sectors within BC. Arca will be hosting the Islandora Camp (iCamp) in two weeks. 42 attendees have registered, coming from public and post-secondary libraries both in and outside of BC and Canada.

A. Cocchia noted that Sunni Nishimura was at Open Repositories in Dublin and learned that no one at the meeting was participating in the same shared repository work as Arca, which speaks to the healthy collaboration of BC post-secondary libraries.

Strategic Planning - L.A. Palmer

The BC ELN office will move forward with strategic planning over the summer, with the aim of putting forward a strategic plan endorsement at the November APM.

eBook Bonanza - L.A. Palmer

Currently, eBooks are a small part of BC ELN's licensing portfolio. Most BC ELN eBook offers are *subscriptions* to large collections (Ebrary, EBSCO, etc.), which have offered the best value for the majority of partners. Historically, eBook *purchasing* has been confined to the end of the fiscal year when funds available could be committed to one time purchases.

Based on reduced availability of end of year monies and feedback from partner libraries that monograph purchasing happens in the fall, BC ELN will pilot a new way to provide eBooks to members: the eBook Bonanza. For this pilot, BC ELN will coordinate multiple eBook purchase offers simultaneously in the fall to coincide with a period of intense monographic buying at partner libraries. Putting out offers from multiple vendors at the same time creates a competitive environment that will encourage vendors to aggressively discount pricing. Different options will be available (à la carte, small collection, and large purchases as well as Demand Driven Acquisition deposits) so that the needs of BC ELN's diverse membership can be met.

By aligning consortial eBook purchase offers with members' institutional monographic spending calendar, BC ELN aims to leverage institutional monographic purchasing happening in the fall in order to secure greater discounts for all partner libraries.

Provincial Digital Library (PDL) Update - A. Cocchia

The May 10th PDL Symposium report is now available. The PDL Planning Committee will meet July 14th to work on next steps, most importantly finding an approach for dedicated staffing to move the initiative forward. On July 13th, the BC ELN PDL Resource Group will have a

teleconference. This group came out of the Steering Committee and exists to provide insights and ideas around post-secondary involvement in the PDL.

R. Tyner thanked BC ELN staff and said the updates exemplify how many people are involved in the work at the office.

9. New Business

No new business arose during the meeting.

10. Next Meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting will take place November 21st at the All Partner Meeting and focus on the UFC and strategic planning.

A teleconference to discuss the UFC will tentatively be scheduled for October, not to overlap with CKRN and CPSLD.