

# Spring 2012 Conference

Bring it On! Shaping the Future of Academic Libraries  
Friday, April 27, 2012

8:30 am -  
9:15 am **Registration and Breakfast**

9:15 am -  
9:30 am **Welcome**

9:30 am -  
10:15 am **Keynote**  
*The Crisis in Academic Librarianship, and Why This is Such a Good Thing*  
Michael Ridley, University of Guelph

**Pecha Kuchas**

- *Mentoring New Librarians for Teaching Success*  
Allison Bell, University of Toronto
- *Adapt for the Future: Applying Discovery Layers in Academic Libraries*  
Courtney Lundrigan and Kevin Manuel, Ryerson University
- *Occupy the Stacks: What Academic Libraries Can Learn from The People's Library*  
Carey Toane, MLIS candidate - Western University
- *The Library is the Cloud*  
Pamela Jacobs, Brock University
- *Learning Environment Architect ... Moving from Lecture to Experience*  
Mara Bordignon, Seneca College
- *Five Librarians Walk into a Bar...*  
Lise Doucette, Marni Harrington, Courtney Waugh, University of Western Ontario

10:15 am -  
11:00am

11:00 am -  
11:15 am **Break**

**Birds of a Feather**  
The idea of birds of a feather (BoF) is to give people a chance to get together and discuss topics of mutual interest. Ideas for discussion are all up to participants. You will have a chance to contribute your idea or sign up for a session. Each of the discussion topics will be assigned a table and during the BoF hour time slot...groups can take the discussion wherever it will go! (modified from: <http://wilu2010.blog.lib.mcmaster.ca>)

11:15 am -  
12:00 pm

12:00 pm -  
1:00 pm **Lunch**

**Interactive Session**  
*Finding Your Voice and Defining Your Message*  
Bhupesh Shah and Kimeiko Hotta-Dover, Seneca College

1:00 pm -  
4:00 pm

4:00pm -  
4:15 pm **Conference wrap-up**  
*Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner at the [Jordan House](#) at 5:00pm*

# Keynote

## *The Crisis in Academic Librarianship, and Why This is Such a Good Thing*

**Michael Ridley, University of Guelph**

Is there a crisis in academic librarianship? Yes. And not a moment too soon. While there are some significant challenges in our field, the real looming crisis is that we might not grasp the tremendous opportunity before us.

It's time to escape the echo chamber and break out of the filter bubble.

Our universities and colleges are at a critical stage of transformation. The challenges they face are exactly the issues academic librarians can respond to: learning outcomes, learning objectives, research productivity, self-directed learning, research accountability, critical thinking, technology leadership, and more.

Let's forego the orthodoxies; let's call a truce in the turf wars. Instead let's reaffirm the values that guide us, the expertise we have, and the strategies necessary to lead organizational transformation. There has never been a more exciting time to be an academic librarian.

And then there is another completely different possibility. Perhaps, just perhaps, academic librarians don't belong in the library at all. Hmmm.

# Pecha Kuchas

## *Mentoring New Librarians for Teaching Success*

**Allison Bell, University of Toronto**

Teaching is often a daunting task for those fresh out of Library School who may not have had the opportunity to lead instruction for diverse groups of students before beginning their professional practice. My presentation will describe a variety of informal mentoring opportunities for new librarians at the University of Toronto Libraries (UTL), put in place to help them to develop their skills in the areas of teaching and liaison.

In 2009 an initiative called FLISA (Faculty Liaison: Inspire, Support, Activate!) began for liaison librarians at UTL. This group mentoring system allows experienced librarians to pass along their tips to newbies, and also encourages reverse mentoring as new librarians are able to share their ideas gained through library school with those who have been working as liaisons at UTL for many years.

Other opportunities for teaching improvement through mentoring at UTL include: a Mentoring Interest Group, which seeks to establish informal mentoring wherever possible; a staff development committee which organizes training sessions on Blackboard, the course management system, as well as other learning technologies; and librarian-led group instruction sessions covering teaching aids such as Libguides and Prezi. Through informal mentoring we seek to promote best practices to new librarians and encourage them to try new technologies. Librarians at UTL also have the opportunity to refine their teaching skills through shadowing, as well as a videotaping and critique service. Through these various opportunities, we aim to support our newest librarians with their instruction and liaison responsibilities, to help them to best connect with faculty and students, and promote information literacy across campus.

## *Adapt for the Future: Applying Discovery Layers in Academic Libraries*

**Courtney Lundrigan and Kevin Manuel, Ryerson University**

Web Scale discovery services have become the holy grail for libraries to stay relevant to a generation that 'Googles' its way through research in the digital age. Does finding information faster equate to finding the most appropriate research? Follow the adventures of three librarians who evaluate user satisfaction with a web scale discovery tool. "but we had planned to discuss our assessment of Ryerson's web scale discovery service, in the context of how it is impacting the librarian's job: shift in instruction and the nature of reference questions, in addition to greater outreach and marketing strategies to ensure we are reaching our users and that they understand that libraries and librarians are still relevant, despite the existence of these tools."

### ***Occupy the Stacks: What Academic Libraries Can Learn from The People's Library***

***Carey Toane, MLIS candidate - Western University***

Tents, placards, human microphones...and books? That Occupy Wall Street had a library at all is something that all librarians should take note of – and find hope in. This presentation by an MLIS student and former New Yorker will incorporate the experiences of librarians who went down to lend a hand at Liberty Square --including the woman who started it all--to pinpoint some takeaways for academic librarians (hint: no more Ms. Nice Guy), slay a stereotype or two, and possibly even find a cure for that pesky apathy.

### ***The Library is the Cloud***

***Pamela Jacobs, Brock University***

What will library collections look like 10 years from now? Will all the books be replaced by study carrels? Who will select library materials: librarians or patrons? How do massive digitization projects like Google and Hathi trust fit in? This presentation will look at current trends and summarize what library futurists are saying about the fate of library collections.

### ***Learning Environment Architect ... Moving from Lecture to Experience***

***Mara Bordignon, Seneca College***

How are teaching librarians transforming the role libraries play in higher education? As the nature of information has changed with the Internet and social media, librarians have taken on a more prevalent role as guide rather than gatekeeper.

Teaching Information literacy has traditionally been at the core of library teaching programs. In response to a changing information landscape, and hence changing needs and abilities of students, Information literacy skills need to adapt and change. New ideas such as transliteracy and threshold concepts are redefining these skills so that they are more meaningful and relevant to students. Our teaching approach and technique also needs to evolve to include more educational pedagogy and practice. Our approach should be more student-centered as opposed to resource-centered ... we need to place the student at the centre, not the library. Student-centered learning can be employed through techniques such as problem based learning. Applying these new ideas and techniques can make retention and uptake of information literacy skills more successful. My session will be an exploration of theory coupled with real-life examples used in the classroom.

### ***Five Librarians Walk into a Bar...***

***Lise Doucette, Marni Harrington, Courtney Waugh, University of Western Ontario***

Often, the most important discussions are not the ones you have in scheduled meetings. In this session we will talk about informal ways to keep librarianship vital, especially in a large multi-library university setting. Take an active approach to shaping the future of our profession, by debating the issues facing librarianship, having uninhibited discussions, and being willing to disagree with colleagues.

## **Interactive Session**

### ***Finding Your Voice and Defining Your Message***

***Bhupesh Shah and Kimeiko Hotta-Dover, Seneca College***

Academic libraries are facing many issues – budget cuts, staff challenges, and stakeholders who are less than supportive. Why? It's partially because many people don't know about the important and valuable work we do.

The session will help us examine our purpose and passions. Who are our supporters? Who are our opponents? We will learn how to speak up and out in support of our academic libraries!