



**SLA**

SASKATCHEWAN LIBR  
ASSOCIATION

**2018 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference Report  
“Libraries! Convergence Under Living Skies”  
Evaluations: Delegates, Presenters, Exhibitors**

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## General Information

### Committee Members:

#### CPC Executive:

Chair - Conference Committee - Jeff Barber

Chair - Canadian Federation of Library Associations - Alix-Rae Stefanko

President - Michael Shires

Program Chair – Nancy MacKenzie

Communications Chair – Judy Nicholson

2019 Conference Committee Chair – Tasha Maddison

Executive Director - SLA - Dorothea Warren

Executive Director - CFLA – Katherine McColgan

#### Committee Chairs and Members:

Volunteer Chair – Fabian Harrison

Program Committee – Tasha Maddison, Brett Waytuck, Gwen Fisher, Nancy Kennedy, Alix-Rae Stefanko, Kimberley Hintz, Dorothea Warren, Judy Nicholson

Conference App. Developer – Kimberley Hintz, Calvin Chiang

SLA Office – Dorothea Warren, Anne Pennylegion, Calvin Chiang

Graphic Artist for Program Design, Posters, and Signage – Tania Wolk (Go Giraffe Go)

#### CPC Handbook: <http://saskla.ca/about/articles-and-bylaws>

The 2018 Conference Planning Committee Handbook updated the conference planning process from the 2009 handbook. The Executive team attempted to merge the descriptions of the committee members, the input from the board, and the work of the staff into a comprehensive document. It is expected that this handbook will be adjusted to address the unique circumstances that emerge with each conference.

### Executive Summary and Recommendations for Future Conferences

All the comments should be reviewed and used to inform planning for future conferences. This summary consists of comments highlighted primarily based on the frequency that the comment appeared. Overall comments were very positive.

#### Delegates and Presenters

Include a map of the conference layout either as a handout or in the conference program.

Quality and quantity of food is important as is the facility and responsiveness of facility staff.

Exhibitor and presenters should be on the same floor. If lunches are used to draw delegates to the exhibitor area then adequate, comfortable seating is necessary.

Larger name tags are required so print is legible (at least first name bolded).

Consider reducing number of concurrent sessions,

Free parking is popular.

Use signage and announcements to convey that session rooms have changed.

Consider speakers outside of the library community (concurrent sessions).

Don't split panels on the same topic if possible because it can cause a disjoint session.

Only one session on the last day (following awards lunch) or not 2 lengthy sessions.

Continue to include Indigenous content (e.g. blanket exercise) and add more.

Insufficient opportunity for Q& A following Indigenization of Libraries and Fake News panels.

Continue social activities; networking opportunity is appreciated. President's Reception, trivia and drink tickets well received.

Repeatedly encourage delegates to engage with exhibitors.

Consider further efforts to draw in the general public (e.g. Mary Donaldson lecture).

More speakers from outside Saskatchewan would bring new ideas.

Engage delegates in the sessions rather than lecture followed by Q and A. Promote mutual sharing.

Include more regional libraries in lightning rounds.

Capture library user experience.

Tighten timelines for awards lunch, start during lunch, and reduce time for prizes draws.

CFLA format of panel speakers followed by table discussions was well received.

Clearly announce locations of sessions and exhibitors displays.

Follow up directly with the list that offered to volunteer next year.

### Exhibitor Feedback

Increase traffic in exhibitor area (repeatedly stated). No traffic during sessions.

More central location for exhibitors - not 2 rooms.

Are 8 foot tables needed?

Work to attract decision makers to the conference who would benefit from vendor access.

Have small tables in exhibit hall where delegates can sit and eat.

Should conference be held every second year?

### AGM Related

More prominently post AGM agenda and minutes from previous year on website so they can be read in advance.

Explore remote access for AGM.

Tighten up AGM flow of business.

## Statistics from the 2018 Conference:

Category	Data	Notes
<b>Stats On Conference</b>		
Delegates	CFLA - 49 CFLA/SLA - 101 SLA - 69	Evaluation for these categories was done as one survey – many presenters were also delegates, while a few were also exhibitors.
Presenters	47	
Exhibitors	27	
Sponsors	15	
Prizes	22	
Banquet Attendees	130	
AGM Attendees	53	
MD Lecture Attendees	100	
Volunteers	32	
<b>Stats on the Sched App</b>		
App Users	30	
Personal Schedules Created	21	
Avg # of Sessions attendees	17.76	

added		
Avg session rating	8.6	
Feedback Collected.	75	

## Feedback from the Evaluation Survey of Delegates and Presenters

### Total Responses 63

Indicate to which organization you belong?

- SLA - 48
- SLTA - 1
- SSLA - 1
- SALT - 1
- SHLA - 4
- SCAA - 0
- LASSP - 1
- CALS - 2
- MLB - 1
- CFLA - 6
- CARL - 1
- CULC - 4
- Other - 16

### If you are a member of SLA, how long have you been a member?

- Less than a year - 4
- 1-4 years - 17
- 5-9 years - 8
- 10-14 years - 9
- 15-19 years - 4
- More than 20 years - 5
- I am not an SLA member - 16

### Which role describes your involvement in the conference?

- Delegate - 45
- Presenter - 10
- Delegate & Presenter - 9
- Exhibitor & Presenter - 1

Feedback on conference components:					
	No comment	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Call for presenters & arrangements	35	0	5	14	9
Registration Process	10	0	7	28	18

Communications	7	0	7	29	20
Arrangements – local	1	1	5	18	38
Conference info	2	0	14	25	22
Conference app	26	0	2	20	15

## Comments:

- Conference location was great. They had really good food and service was prompt. The one room was very cold and another was hot. Not sure if anything can be done but I thought I would mention it. FYI, on the organization list (question 4) I checked other as I am a member of CALL. You might want to add it.
- The SLA website seemed to be down at the most inopportune times.
- The food and location were good, but I didn't like having to stand up to eat at lunchtime on the first day. I would visit the vendors after eating lunch if it were set up differently.
- The Doubletree is a great facility for the conference!
- The food and facilities were outstanding, but I did not like that the only option for two of the lunches (Wednesday and Thursday) was to stand to eat. One concern is that there were only 5 or so standing tables, which wasn't sufficient for the number of attendees. More importantly, though, I felt like it wasn't fair to people who have mobility challenges and may need a seat. (Personally, I'm very pregnant, so standing for a lunch break wasn't ideal, and when I finally found a seat out of the way, it was very high up and difficult for me to get in and out of; but I'm thinking it would be even worse for people with back or knee issues, or an older delegate.) Overall, though, it was great food and I would definitely recommend using the Doubletree again for future conferences.
- Extremely well organized. Applicable sessions, reaching a broad range of interests. Hats off to the planning committee!
- A map of the layout of the conference space would be nice for first time delegates.
- Regina wasn't ideal from an air travel perspective, but didn't create a major problem.
- Not enough spaces to stand/sit at lunch on Thursday.
- Location was great, especially with the free parking. Venue was pleasant, with exception of the cold temperature in Capital A.
- Food was amazing. Appreciated the free parking. Registration was a little confusing.
- The food for this conference was great. Excellent venue choice.
- The lunch on Thursday was set up a little awkwardly. There didn't seem to be enough of the standing tables, and it would have been nice to have a certain amount of seating for people who really needed it. Overall the food was great and things seem to run fairly smoothly.
- Hotel food service and staff were excellent.
- In thinking about next year, I wonder if we should better post the AGM minutes from previous year and agenda front and centre on the website so that people can easily get to it on their devices at the meeting. Then we don't have to worry about printing out many hard copies.
- The lunches were excellent however the lunch with the exhibitors was a little bit awkward standing around trying to eat sandwiches. Too bad all the exhibitors and presenters weren't on the same floor. The presentations in the second floor were not as well attended
- Please make the names on the name tags bigger next time! The food at this conference was fantastic. I have allergies and I have never attended a conference before this one that there weren't problems with finding something to eat. At the SLA conference in 2016, two meals had to be made separately for me after I realized I couldn't eat what was provided (which meant I was eating after everyone else), and I basically ate cheese at the awards dinner. I really

appreciate the effort the hotel and the planning committee made to accommodate food restrictions.

- Great venue, but I found the chairs impossible to sit on all day. However, I have found that to be quite common. It was nice to have the cushy furniture in the lobby for a break.
- Wireless was very spotty or not in all areas and needed to be signed in each time you left an area. I didn't use the app.
- The facility was great!!! The rooms for the sessions were a good size.
- Food was very good. Good choice of hotel/conference space.
- Some rooms were hard to find and there signage was not visible. There were too many concurrent sessions going on at the same time which made it difficult to attend sessions.
- The only complaints I have regarding organizational/venue components of the conference are the highly variable room temperatures (either tropical or Arctic, depending on the room), and the standing-only lunch on Thursday. It was challenging to balance coats, conference packages, a beverage, and a plate of food while trying to engage in meaningful interaction with other delegates. There were some standing tables available, but not enough, and when I tried to find a place to sit on the first floor, I was chased out by conference organizers who said we were not allowed to be there during lunch. Please arrange for somewhere to sit in future. Otherwise, everything else was well done.
- I thought the location was really good. There was lots of parking, and it was free (yay!) The rooms were spacious, and the food was excellent. The larger room was cold, but that always happens at a conference.
- Overall, the experience was good, but there were a few small glitches, just to note for future planning: my presentation time changed between the time I was initially asked, and when the draft program was sent out, and if I hadn't looked closely at the draft program, I may not have caught that (i.e. no one contacted me directly to notify me of the change); the program apparently listed two different presentations in the same room (so we "lost" half our audience when they realized they were in the wrong room, which was a little discouraging, if we'd let it get to us -- which we didn't); and one of the exhibitor tables in the other exhibit room (Moose Jaw room; I was in Swift Current room) was not cleared before the room was needed for another group/renter (I happened to be around, so I helped move it into the Swift Current Room, and then passed this info on to Simon(?), Anne and Dorothea, and she left the President's Reception to go pack it up on Michael's behalf -- it turned out it was his Archer Library display, which was really neat! Loved the archival photos and other items!) -- did the hotel not let SLA know what time everything had to be out of that room, ahead of time?
- I think Doubletree is a very good venue. LOVED the food! I felt like I had all the information leading up to the conference I needed to have a successful time.
- Sometimes the venue for a certain program was changed, but there was no way to find out except by word of mouth and wandering around. It would have been good to announce the changes just before the breakout sessions occurred (to be fair, if the changes were announced at the beginning of the day, I probably missed it). I actually wound up missing a session because the sign outside (probably from a previous session) had not been removed so I wound up wandering throughout the two levels looking for where my session had been moved to. In the end, I discovered it had not been moved, the signage was just not correct. So just make a note re: signage and announcements. It is also good to put up a sign saying "x session has been moved to Y" outside of the room that it was originally planned for.
- It would have been most helpful to have a map of the hotel rooms locations in advance of the event, and in the program at the event, either as part of the program or as a handout sheet.

The conference organizers were very accommodating with regard to our presentation. The person introducing us at the presentation did so very well. It would have been good to have a technical person there for the first five minutes of our presentation - the sound and picture worked well but we have trouble playing our film clips that were embedded in our PowerPoint (solved by switching back and forth between PowerPoint and MovieMaker, which was a little more time-consuming). Appreciated that there were the mini-pizzas at coffee, not just donuts and sweets.

- Program descriptions were not included in the Conference Program. This information would have been helpful deciding which programs to attend. For example: "Removing barriers to accessibility in public libraries: what libraries across Canada are doing well" it wasn't clear that this session would only be about NNELS and only focused on accessible materials. "Really, how safe is your library?" this could have been interpreted as safe from being closed, funds being safe or security. A couple of the sessions were fairly weak and didn't offer new information. They also didn't provide enough information to make it interesting to the delegates outside of SK.
- Liked the venue this year. I didn't download the app. I probably never will download an app. Someone registered for me so I have no comment about the process. Some of the rooms were really cold and there didn't seem to be a way to control for that. More snacks, please!

<b>Feedback on content of conference:</b>					
	<b>Did not attend</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Social Activities	21	1	4	27	10
MD Lecture and Reception	28	1	6	18	10
Keynote (Thurs)	31	0	0	10	22
Concurrent	14	0	4	30	15
Keynote (Fri)	22	0	4	20	17
Awards Presentations	15	2	11	28	7
Indigenization in SK Libraries	16	0	5	33	9

### Comments:

- I only attended one day of the conference.
- The "good problem" of concurrent sessions competing with each other (can't go to everything)!
- The Awards Lunch was very long. I appreciated the President's Reception and the Trivia event. Also, the free drink ticket was much appreciated as well as the free parking at the venue. Well done and kudos to the organizers!
- Seating for lunch would have helped and locating delegates closer to exhibitors might also improve interaction between them.
- I am not into alcohol, so socials if did not go to. It would have been nice to have a social without alcohol.
- Awards lunch was too long



- Sessions I attended were all very informative and good presentations.
- The indigenization sessions would have benefit from having more indigenous voices present in expressing their interpretations and views.
- It was too things got a bit behind schedule with no time for questions after the Indigenization and fake news panels. The awards presentations probably could have started during lunch to allow for more time. It would be nice if the Creative Collaborations session was a bit longer so presenters didn't have to be quite as rushed. They did well doing a short presentation, but it seemed like some might have been better if they had an extra minute or two. That being said I did like that they were fairly compact.
- I really enjoyed the session on ILL - very informative!!
- I couldn't hear the MC at the awards luncheon.
- Bruce Walsh was described as a 'keynote' speaker on Friday. This was not a keynote, and the content of his talk was very disappointing. He talked about what libraries are, what they do, why they are important, but he was speaking to room full of librarians. We know all this - it's why we do what we do. When I give my time to listen to a speaker, I want it to be worthwhile. I don't want a scripted regurgitation of our values from someone I've never heard of before.
- Some disorganization during the awards presentation, which led to going over time. SLA tried to organize social activities like the dine-arounds, but participants didn't show as much enthusiasm as hoped. Trivia competition was a great idea, but not promoted as much as could have been.
- I thought that the keynote speaker on Wednesday and the Fake News session on Friday were outstanding! Really, really great. Although I wish we would have taken time to ask questions of the Fake News panel. I did not enjoy the Mary Donaldson lecture. Partly because I was disappointed about Mohammed Fahmy, but David Chalk left me a bit skeptical. The awards presentations at the lunch on Friday should have started earlier, and been shorter.
- I really enjoyed the trivia hosted by Tasha and Regan and the concurrent sessions seem to be improving with each year I attend!
- It was great having speakers outside of the library sharing their opinions.
- The panels were an excellent idea and addition to the conference. Especially the fake news one and pulling in media experts
- Part one of Indigenization was very weak. Part 2 was excellent.
- The audio was not very good for those of us sitting at the back. (end note plenary and indigenization). There could of been one indigenization session.
- I found it confusing that there were two different panels that seemed to be focused on Indigenization in SK libraries (one on Thursday morning, one on Friday afternoon). I think that this is a very important topic, but it could have been one larger panel instead, perhaps? Just a thought for future years.
- The Wednesday Evening presentation by David Clark was awesome.
- Loved Bruce Walsh as Weds' keynote. I wish we could have had more time for questions for both indigenization in Sask. Libraries as well as the Fake News plenary. I know we were running behind that afternoon. Excellent and impressive speakers all around. Some of these sessions were downright riveting.
- Some of the concurrent sessions were excellent (e.g. Blanket Exercise) and some were very poor (e.g. low-cost makerspace ideas). We really need to start to bring in speakers from outside instead of calling for free speakers from Saskatchewan. We need to bring up the quality of the sessions.
- My only problem was that you had two back to back lengthy sessions on Friday after a big lunch. Everyone is usually so tired by the last afternoon that it is hard to absorb two sessions back to

back where you are just sitting. It is lucky the room was so cold as warmth usually encourages nodding off. But it was uncomfortably cold for those of us who had not brought jackets. I am usually overly warm and was wearing long sleeves and still found it very unpleasant to sit there so long in a cold room. I find it is better to have interactive/shorter presentations in the afternoons and then a shorter ending presentation.

- I was very happy to see increased Indigenous content (in concurrent sessions and panels) in this year's conference (it has been noticeably lacking in previous conferences I have attended). I hope this trend continues in future conferences.
- Very well organized conference. Thanks to the SLA executive and organizing committee.
- The awards lunch was too long. The social activities this year were great! Loved the free drink tickets.
- Awards presentation itself was good, however, prizes could have been presented earlier while people were eating lunch rather than going overtime and impacting the afternoon schedule. Meal was good.

### Please use this space if you wish to comment specifically on the CFLA-FCAB National Forum. What should be continued? Are there changes that could improve the event?

- I appreciated the panel discussions and the expertise that was brought to the table. The table discussions allowed me the opportunity to present viewpoints from the K-12 education sector, which I also felt was valuable. I thought the format was very effective.
- I found the slides from the two academic presenters on the Intellectual Freedom confusing.
- A big thank you to SLA for hosting the CFLA-FCAB Policy Forum - it was definitely the reason I also registered for the SLA Conference (which was excellent).
- As an exhibitor, I was unable to attend the forum, but it was nice to meet some of those who did, and make some connections beyond SK. I overheard other exhibitors appreciating that aspect, as well.
- It was a great forum - the information provided was great and timely. There was great participation from various places.
- Panel presentations followed by discussions - forum paper
- It was excellent!
- Forum was great. Panel presentations plus table discussions were a great format.
- Great first event.....this is exactly the type of library leadership we need. Thanks so much
- The topics presented were interesting, but I thought the Intellectual Freedom session suffered a bit from a lack of direction. Interesting points were raised, but a stronger guiding question would have helped things be more organized.
- I liked how it was done. There was good conversation at the tables. Yes, I think it should be continued.
- Really enjoyed this. Good Discussion.
- I found the format to be excellent, that is, a keynote to inspire and get us started, then the two panel discussions with accompanying table discussions following. The topics were very important and the presentations and discussion were excellent. The keynote that started the day was fabulous and inspirational. I wasn't sure what to expect from CFLA-FCAB National Forum, but was very pleased that I participated!

- It was such an honour to host this event and our Canadian peers in Regina. We had access to excellent discussions and a really well designed day. Nothing but kudos and thanks about this and how it was all managed.
- I really enjoyed the keynote speaker, and found the panel speakers and subsequent discussions very interesting, informative, and helpful.
- This is probably the only time I'll have to participate in CFLA's forum (will not be able to travel for this in future years). I found the forum extremely helpful and far more applicable than I expected. I was happy to contribute to future framework and policy.
- This was amazing!! Loved it. Good topics, good conversations, nice mix of people. Do it again, tacked onto another regional conference. Great networking all 3-4 days.
- Was not able to attend the CFLA-FCAB.
- Panels were very good.

### Which sessions were most beneficial or valuable?

- These two sessions were stellar: It takes a province to save a library system - excellent to analyze what happened! Embedding Information Literacy for Student Engagement
- The blanket exercise was very interesting and worthwhile.
- Again, as an exhibitor, I was unable to attend most of the sessions (other than the Spotlight On one at which I also presented), so I can't really comment on this, but from the program, there were several that sounded good, and I would've liked to hear them.
- It takes a province to save a library KAIROS blanket exercise
- The Creative Collaborations on Friday. I did not attend sessions on Thursday so cannot comment.
- Fake news. The 7 five minute talks on collaborations in Saskatchewan. Interesting talk: Espresso Book Machine at Windsor Public Library.
- Presenting the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, with my facilitation team, to a group of interested and engaged delegates was a powerful experience.
- Interlibrary loan (updated information)/ PNLs (though I know a lot of it but wanted to see James do the presentation) CELA was very informative for those who are non-users.
- I most enjoyed David Chalk and Exhibitor's Social. Was good to talk with some of our exhibitors and let them know they are appreciated (Great encouragement from Michael to make connection with them - thank you)
- Creative collaborations
- Kitty Pope - Keeping libraries safe. How Do You Even Say That - PNLs Mini Maker Fair. It Takes a Province to Save a Library
- It takes a province to save a library system RPL's evidence based decision making presentation
- Creative Collaborations in Saskatchewan and "Really, how safe is your library?" were the most interesting to me.
- I really enjoyed the fake news session on Friday afternoon!!! Although I appreciate the conference ending on time, it is too bad that there was no time for questions or discussion with the panelists (who were great, by the way).
- Rge one on publishing was great
- Great sessions - instructional value using reference statistics, outcomes based library planning and the fake news gave a lot to think about.

- Blanket exercise PNLs presentation Harriet Roy's SAS presentation ILLS presentation Indigenization in Sask. libraries I guess every session I attended was beneficial and valuable!
- Children's Programming - very good session, and a very engaging speaker. Highly relevant topic. Blanket activity - what a great model for learning - information and emotion together. We need to use this model more to 'indigenize' our methods of learning.
- All related to programming.
- I was only at SLA on Friday, but I went to the Artistic Collaborations session and the Banned Books survey session. Both were very good. I liked that we did a few more sessions with the whole group as well as concurrent sessions this year.
- The blanket exercise was very well done and really important to have.
- The KAIROS Blanket Exercise is one presentation that would be highly beneficial to all provincial organizations!
- On Thursday, Tasha Maddison and Meghan McDonald's session about nursing students and reference stats. On Friday, the lightning session with various speakers from various institutions speaking about partnerships (I can't recall the title).
- Mini-maker fair with Lindsay Baker and James Richards on Thursday
- Fake news and indigenizing the second panel.
- CELA, Fake News
- It can really depend on the topics one needs in one's work at the moment. For me: Bookshare/CELA Blanket exercise Outcome-based planning I wanted to attend the session on banned books, but it was concurrent with outcome-based planning.
- The Copyright session was excellent. I want them to both keep this discussion going in SLA and others stated the same. Went to the CELA session on Friday; left with many questions. The Banned Books session was really about the survey. Given the afternoon at CFLA on intellectual freedom, this was a big letdown and it wasn't nearly robust enough to warrant time on the program.
- Creative collaboration in Saskatchewan 2nd edition. (you got to hear about many initiatives in a short time.)
- Concurrent sessions on Thursday
- I appreciated the Creative Collaborations session, since it gave me lots of good inspiration for future projects.
- Workshops
- Spotlight Sessions: What I did Last Winter & A First-Timer's Fearless Guide to OLA Really, how Safe is your Library? Embedding Information Literacy for Student Engagement Indigenization in Saskatchewan Libraries Fake News in the Post Truth Era
- Blanket exercise
- I was mostly attending maker presentations. I enjoyed and learned from them all. The more interactive, the more fun was had by the attendees, and the easier to remember what you have learned. I would really have loved to have attended the interlibrary loan presentation and the one about the northern system but they were back to back with children's programming, which was also really good.
- Indigenization in Saskatchewan Libraries panels, Embedding Info Lit for Student Engagement, Creative Collaborations.
- The Blanket Exercise
- Creative cooperation session was well planned and delivered, although room wasn't large enough for the number of people who attended. Blanket exercise was awesome!

## What does SLA need to do better in future conferences?

- Lower registration fees and don't feed people.
- Hm... I think you're doing great, especially with a relatively small "army"... I so appreciate how caring and helpful everyone was with whom I spoke and interacted.
- Have a practical orientation session for first time attendees.
- Move breakfast from 8:00-9:00am - do not have two social events back to back - any social event needs a defined purpose - many people were confused by the exhibitor social because nothing happened until the prize draw during the last 20 minutes of the social -schedule a longer break for the awards lunch or start the awards much sooner. They should not run overtime again into a presenter session
- Perhaps increasing the number of attendees.
- Indigenous content.
- I think it is was great - lots of people to ask if you wanted information. There was a comment on the name tags to Make the first NAME very large and then regular for the other information - I found it hard in the beginning to have people come up that close to read the name and where I was from.
- I wish there was some way to draw in the general public more - to see the good things that are being done in libraries around the province. Mary Donaldson lecture is free and has good speakers, but it is on a non-library topic. Also - was there any media coverage of the event? Have a report back from the SLTA AGM and the SLA conference to the general session - what are some of the key things that will be acted on going forward? Actual discussions with the government Ministers (people could submit questions previously) rather than just canned remarks.
- Consider set up time when assigning time slots and rooms. The mini-maker fair only had 10 minutes in-between sessions to set up which was not enough time (we had to do the set up over the lunch hour)
- During the passport draw when so many of the winners weren't there, I wonder if some people thought the draw was taking place downstairs. Quite a few people seemed to be gathered downstairs. Making sure all the events (not just sessions) have a location, or that a location is clearly announced would be a good thing. Generally things are run very timely, and that is an important aspect to continue to do well.
- Have only one session/end-note after the Friday lunch -- too many people have to leave for it to be worthwhile to have 2 or more sessions.
- Keep doing the great work you are already doing
- It's a bit of a struggle to get to the booths in just the one day. I wasn't there for CFLA. Not sure of a solution though.
- This conference was so much better than the last one I attended which was in Saskatoon. I don't know why but it was so much friendlier - I met many more people and the whole thing just seemed more relaxed and interactive - maybe it was the casual Thursday night? Maybe it was the whole budget crisis in 2017 making us all feel a little closer and more of a "team"? Anyway, I enjoyed it and learned things and made connections.
- Reduce the amount of ceremony. What I mean is, less talking at us and more engage with us. Let's indigenize the conference format and turn it into an experience of sharing, feeling, experiencing, and authentic learning. Listening to someone talk is not an effective mode of learning. How do you change it? I don't know. These are just thoughts; I don't know how to make it happen :)
- The awards lunch needs to be better organized and faster-paced.

- Ensuring more seating is available for lunches would be good; the standing tables were not particularly effective.
- I would have benefited from more information on what the sessions were about.
- I'd like to see more quick sessions - like the lightning round-type on Friday. Less paperwork, no delegate bags -- the app is enough and I don't like dragging a bag around.
- External presenters and speakers to share what is happening outside of SK to help provide inspiration.
- Some support and coaching for some presentations. Guidelines maybe? Tech support to help presenters set up and make sure the presentation is how they want it.
- Larger printing on name tags.
- My only frustration was when several sessions that interested me were running concurrent with each other, but I'm not sure how this can be addressed, except perhaps to not run so many sessions concurrently (e.g. run 3 concurrent, but not 5).
- Super conference really. Suggestions: Tighten up timelines at AGM and awards event. Consider cancelling and rescheduling the Mary Donaldson lecture if the speaker is so much less than we'd all expect.
- Re-organize concurrent sessions
- Better communication with presenters: my location was different on the app vs the printed program I was given, and my time was different than what I was told originally via email.
- Maybe find a better balance of public/academic library content? I felt like there were a lot more sessions geared toward public audiences this year (though I know that's tricky, since it depends on who applies to present!).
- Can't think of anything! Well done!
- Bring in more outside ideas.

## Overall Opinion of 2018 Conference?

Best I ever attended - 8

Excellent - 28

Good - 25

Fair - 0

Could have been a lot better - 0

Don't have an opinion - 2

## Suggestions for speakers, concurrents, lectures for the next conference

- Relationship between schools and libraries - public libraries in schools - how well do they work?
- Loved the Creative Collaborations presentation and would have liked to see more!
- more ways for fostering student engagement in academic libraries
- Panel talk on statistics in different libraries - what do you keep, how do you keep them, how do you share them, what do you use them for, etc.
- LSSAP presentation to include sample of Indigenous Storytelling - Terrance Littletent (hoop dance storytelling), etc.
- Maybe lightening rounds on the regional libraries - one or two a year so that other people will get an idea of what exciting things are happening in the other regions.
- A Sharing Session -all 10 Public Library Systems each sharing a couple of best practices.

- Another round of creative collaborations would be nice. Looking at the physical accessibility of a library space/layout would be interesting.
- Fundraising/Marketing topics (particularly with low-budget focus), hands-on sessions (the two maker-space ones which involved hands-off involvement were very popular), OTC or diversity speakers for lectures or spotlights.
- I think it would be great to hear Bruce Walsh speak again, this time at SLA. He was so engaging and inspiring.
- I would be happy to exhibit and/or present Kids Matter (STOPS to Violence) and MCoS' Intercultural Facilitation materials and info again in future.
- Information trends in society.
- more creative collaborations
- I enjoyed James' talk about PNLS - perhaps other regional libraries might give an overview of their system?
- Theme: Sustainability Speaker: Charlie Clark (Saskatoon Mayor)
- User experience. User design. Accessibility.
- Intellectual freedom. Focused discussion tables on the TRC Copyright - update on the review and consultation results Outcomes assessment in Saskatchewan libraries. SLA Board's strategic plan and progress
- I would love to see the Indigenization panel become

Would you be interested in attending a one day pre-conference workshop on Wednesday May 1, 2019 preceding the Mary Donaldson Lecture in the evening?  
This will be dependent on the topic of course.

Yes - 46

No - 17

Can you suggest some topics that could be of interest for a pre-conference workshop on Wednesday, May 1, 2019?

- Update from all regions on provincial standing in relations to library operations? (i.e. The library directors have or will have had meetings with the province by this time, quick overview of the outcomes of these meetings?)
- Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, UNDRIP and your library, OTC Strategic Alliance led by the Saskatchewan Committee on Indigenous Library Services (SCILS, formerly known as CALS).
- Advocacy- maybe presentations from other provinces?
- Library safety and security fund raising better marking of the library
- Indigenization/decolonization, diversification.
- A really thorough rundown of NNELS and CELA, how it works, how people are registered, how they access the materials, what's available, how the copyright works for these types of materials, the difference between NNELS and CELA, etc.
- Libraries as venues for community development and education, even social work/human services/health and wellness... Linking with other agencies to strengthen our communities...
- Training techniques -introduction to preparing and publishing a research paper
- Measuring the usefulness of academic library print and electronic collections.

- public speaking and media training
- John Lagimodiere (Eagle Feather News) has a wonderful indigenous awareness session that everyone can benefit from. Also, the Blanket Exercise should be required by every Saskatchewan citizen and particularly us.
- Service design
- Copyright Intellectual freedom Library values and the real challenges.

If you are interested in hosting the 2020 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference in your community, please leave your name and email, and someone from the SLA office will contact you about this.

- Would be nice to have it in La Ronge but the spaces are limited. Would love to see one in the Parkland region? Or Lakeland?

If you are interested in volunteering for the 2019 Conference in Saskatoon on May 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Please indicate your name, and email. You will be contacted in a month or so once the committees have been defined. Also indicated if you wish to take a role as Program Chair, or Local Arrangements Chair.

- Alan Kilpatrick [alan.kilpatrick@lawsociety.sk.ca](mailto:alan.kilpatrick@lawsociety.sk.ca)
- Yes, I would be very interested in volunteering as Saskatoon is my home town so I could potentially make it work (not stay in hotel, etc) Tawney Johnson [eptljohn1@outlook.com](mailto:eptljohn1@outlook.com) or [lampman@southeastlibrary.ca](mailto:lampman@southeastlibrary.ca)
- Amber Daigneault, 787-4472 (work), 331-4229 (cell)
- Yes i would like to volunteer maybe sitting at the registration desk/information booth. Harriet Roy (PNLS) [hroy@pnls.lib.sk.ca](mailto:hroy@pnls.lib.sk.ca)
- Lukas Miller - [lukas.miller@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:lukas.miller@saskhealthauthority.ca)
- Carol Buffin - Edquist [caroledquist@nlsd113.ca](mailto:caroledquist@nlsd113.ca)
- I'd be interested in volunteering, but not acting as a chair. Lindsay Baker, [commservices@wapitilibrary.ca](mailto:commservices@wapitilibrary.ca)
- Hm...maybe. Will depend whether or not my work schedule allows me to attend, and whether or not I'm busy being an exhibitor and/or presenter at the 2019 conference ;) THANK YOU for all you do! :)
- I could continue being volunteer coordinator if this helps. Janell Ranae Rempel - [jranaerempel@gmail.com](mailto:jranaerempel@gmail.com)
- Ann Liang [Ann.Liang@saskpolytech.ca](mailto:Ann.Liang@saskpolytech.ca)



# Feedback from the Evaluation Survey of Exhibitors

## Total Responses 13

### For which organization do you work?

- Gabriel Dumont Institute
- Whitehots Inc.
- CELA (Centre for Equitable Library Access)
- Publications Saskatchewan
- Library Services Centre
- United Library Services
- CVS Midwest Tape
- SaskBooks
- Visual Education Centre
- Britannica Digital Learning
- Preservation Technologies and The MediaPreserve
- Regina Public Library
- JerBear books

### Has your organization participated in past conferences?

- First Time - 2
- 2 to 4 years - 4
- 5 or more years - 7

### Did the Exhibitor & Sponsorship Prospectus provide enough information?

- Yes - 13
- No - 0

### Was communication with the conference planners sufficient for your needs?

- Too much information - 0
- Enough information - 13
- Not enough information - 0

Exhibitor Experience at the Conference				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Booth well-placed	5	4	4	0
Hall well-located	2	5	5	1
Set up / take down convenient	8	5	0	0

Access to power/internet acceptable	7	5	1	0
Open long enough	5	5	2	1
Sufficient opportunities to meet delegates	2	3	6	2
Good focus on exhibitors as part of conference	3	6	3	1
Lightning rounds well-organized	5	6	2	0

## Comments:

- Although I appreciated the concept of having food available in the Exhibit Hall, the lack of sitting areas was somewhat awkward. People would come into the Hall to get their food, and take it elsewhere, so we didn't capture much in the way of traffic over lunch, unfortunately.
- The conference planners and organizers were paramount, and were most accommodating. The hotel and facilities were excellent, as well as the food. Since there were so many exhibitors, we understand why the two rooms were needed. The only issue was that we had very little traffic, and didn't see any representatives from a few of the big library systems at all? I also had one customer walk by and said that they didn't need to talk to us because they already have Britannica...? Our intent was to offer training and help with promotional material wherever needed....we want to help train the help desk personnel, at no cost to the libraries, where applicable. Maybe something can be said to the delegates at the start of the conference indicating that that we rely on their comments and suggestions, so it is imperative that they talk to us.
- When the conference was in Regina a few years ago, the conference was excellent. This year, we seemed to far from the other events. I would say going forward that a one day display is all I would need. Thanks so much. I look forward to Saskatoon.
- We did not find the splitting up of the exhibitor exhibits into two rooms, placement of exhibitor area and conference schedule conducive to driving delegate traffic to the exhibitor tables. We ended up having some delegate traffic for 10-15 minute stretches at a time, followed by very long (1-2 hours) of nobody in the exhibitor areas at all.
- I don't think you needed two rooms for exhibits nor did vendors need an 8 foot table. People just did not seem to want to come in our room, food was placed at the front and then they would leave. I don't know how the other hall was visited.
- There wasn't a lot of traffic in the exhibitor halls. We didn't have a lot of people come to talk with us.
- I would like to preface my comments by saying that while LSC has participated in conferences across the country for many years, this is my first year with the company and I am only able to compare my experience in Saskatchewan with ALC, OLA, and OLS-North. I did like that there was an outlet right beside my table, although I am not sure of those who had middle tables or other locations throughout the rooms, maybe I just got lucky. I did feel that while the setup of the conference was good, the tables were large, the hotel was lovely, and the rooms themselves were nice, there was very little traffic. I was surprised to see that many vendors chose not to be in the halls at all except for during the designated break times, and I have to think it was due to there being so few people coming through. Even during the longer lunch breaks it looked like people came in to get food and left immediately for the most part. Although I did have some good conversations over the two days of the conference I was somewhat disappointed that there were such lengthy periods throughout both days with nobody coming into the hall at all.

- The conference and exhibitor booths should be on the same floor. Coffee times should be extended 5 - 10 minutes to enable more interaction.
- I appreciate the genuine effort made by the delegates to visit each and every one of the booths. It would have been nice to have everyone on the same floor but that may not have been possible at the double tree.
- It felt like the organizers tried to encourage delegates to visit vendor areas as much as they could. Having lunches/coffee breaks in the vendor area definitely helped increase traffic. SLA staffs were always pleasant and helpful with any questions we had.

### What is your overall opinion of the 2018 conference?

- Best ever - 0
- Excellent - 4
- Good - 6
- Fair - 1
- Could have been better - 2

### What does SLA need to do better in future conference?

- As mentioned above, a one day event for displayers is good. Also, placement closer to the action would be much appreciated.
- It would be preferable if there were more time devoted to delegates visiting the exhibitor area and/or the exhibitor area being in a more central location to the rest of the conference. VEC has to consider very closely which conferences to attend to get the most "bang for our buck" out of our marketing budget. Due to the low foot traffic at the SLA conference this year it will be difficult for us to justify returning in 2019. We will have a look at the conference again in 2020.
- Personally I think the conference should be every other year. It seems as if traffic is dropping and if it was to go every other year the spark may come back to delegates. The committee I think did a great job, but couldn't drag people in.
- We were at a conference where a main decision maker came by the booth and introduced himself and told us that we had 2 mins to explain....what we do, and what we have to offer that is New. We know these same decision makers will be at the table when new ideas and needs are discussed...so it is imperative that they also be aware of what is NEW that is being offered by the vendors....and also how existing products have been improved and new features added.
- I would like to see more traffic through the hall throughout the day. One idea may be to revise the lunch menus to include food that is more conducive to walking/standing while eating; I think many delegates left the hall to find somewhere to sit and simply never came back when they finished. Perhaps there might be a way to spread some small tables throughout the exhibit hall where people could eat and wouldn't feel like they had to leave the hall to enjoy their meals. I am also not sure of the way sessions are run at this conference, but it seemed to me that during the sessions there was absolutely nobody walking around, if there were not opportunities for delegates to 'sit out' presentations that were not of interest or did not pertain to them, perhaps this would increase traffic to the vendor hall as well.

Conference 2019 will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Saskatoon, SK on May 1-3, 2019. Exhibitors will be invited for May 2, 2019. Do you think you will be attending? Check All That Apply.

- Saskatoon on Thursday – May 2, 2019 - 10
- I am not sure but keep me on the list - 2
- I won't be participating again - 0
- I am interested in the 2020 Conference. (no details yet) - 8

I would be interested in participating in a future CFLA-FCAB National Forum. Please let me know when this has been determined.

- Saskatoon on Thursday – May 2, 2019 - 4
- I am not sure but keep me on the list - 6
- I won't be participating again - 0
- I am interested in the 2020 Conference. (no details yet) - 6

## Schedule App

### Event Stats

**30** Attendees  
**21** Personal Schedules Created  
**17.76** Average number of Sessions Attendees Added  
**8.6** Average Session Rating  
**75** Feedbacks Collected

### Most Popular

Based on what attendees added to their schedule most often.

**1** Saskatchewan Libraries Conference Opening  
**2** Indigenization in Saskatchewan Libraries  
**3** Fake News in the Post Truth Era: the decline of media literacy  
**4** Conference Closing and Final Draws  
**5** Indigenization in Saskatchewan Libraries

### Highest Rated

**10** Mini-Maker Fair  
**10** Really, how safe is your library?

- 10 Breakfast for Delegates and Exhibitors
- 10 Coffee / Nutrition Break
- 10 CFLA-FCAB: Banquet (ticketed)

### Lowest Rated

- 6.7 SAS Project - Bringing Storytelling to Saskatchewan
- 6.7 Removing barriers to accessibility in public libraries: what libraries across Canada are doing well
- 6.7 Coffee/Nutrition Break
- 5.8 Lunch with Delegates and Exhibitors
- 3.3 SLA AGM

### Feedback

AGM Breakfast and DRAWS, AGM Registration and Resolutions Table

- Very informative AGM which served to further enlighten me personally to know what the SLA encompasses.

Awards Lunch

- Lovely event. Knew we couldn't get through all of that in the time set. Didn't anyone else anticipate?
- I can't believe how fast over this event ran. All of those SLA board members in attendance and they couldn't speed it up a bit? Over half an hour late for an awards ceremony is crazy when that makes all the sessions late too. Plus it was not the most interesting awards ceremony I've ever been to.

Ban it From All Our Libraries! Results of the 2016 and 2017 Annual Surveys of Challenges to Materials and Policies in Canadian Libraries

- I liked the second half with the results, but going through the survey questions seemed unnecessary (it wasn't clear in the presentation description that was going to be such a big focus).

Blanket Exercise

- Extremely emotional but necessary training that every Canadian, regardless of ethnicity, should take in order to fulfill one Truth and Reconciliation Call To Action. It becomes a catalyst in launching one to want to take on a "what can I do" approach. Amber and her team were amazing in leading the group and I applaud them on a very good job, as well as to the participants.

Breakfast for Delegates and Exhibitors

- Excellent selection.

Canadian Public Library Programming for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

- Great presentation — well done!

CFLA – FCAB: Keynote: Bruce Walsh, University of Regina Press

- Excellent! I was very inspired!

CFLA-FCAB: Artificial Intelligence – Seize the Opportunity

- So relevant! Thank you!

CFLA-FCAB: Banquet (ticketed)

- Excellent food for the Banquet! Very organized and plentiful seating.

CFLA-FCAB: Intellectual Freedom – Sustaining a Core Value

- The discussion was provoking and important. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the CFLA direction. However, I found some of the slide presentations unclear because certain slides, although bilingual, had information that was solely in French. I felt like I missed important information and would have appreciated translations of all information in both languages.

CFLA-FCAB: Key Outcomes of the CFLA-FCAB National Forum 2018

- Can't remember this session and what was accomplished.

Coffee / Nutrition Break

- Vegan selections were easy to make, however from buffet; there were dishes on a tray beside the sweets tray. Two had gluten free signs and one has no notes in it. Was that my breakfast?

Creative Collaborations in Saskatchewan - 2nd edition

- Kudos to the presenters that all came across as extremely succinct and tremendously well organized!
- One of the best sessions I went to!

Disruptive Innovation: The Truth about Man Vs Machines is Overdue!

- Astounded by Dr.Chalk's presentation as he is extremely personable and the information is relevant to our industry.
- David's keynote was interesting and provocative. There were parts that were inspiring and completely relevant. However, there were a few moments that were a bit "doomsdayish"

Exhibitor Lightning Rounds

- Quick concise taste of different vendors in attendance.

Fake News in the Post Truth Era: the decline of media literacy

- Excellent panel and closer for the conference. Well done!
- This topic is overdone (for a recent grad school graduate).
- Fantastic panelists. Lots of really useful items and good things to think about

Indigenization in Saskatchewan Libraries

- Michael - our space? Their space? So disappointed.
- Fantastic information and insight about what is happening. So much better than part 1.
- Very encouraging to hear the concrete measures being taken in the different systems, but realized how much more work is needed!
- Excellent mix of panelists enjoyed hearing the many different ideas/programs that have been launched.
- Ran too long, but was a good topic.

#### Inventing the Wheel Together: Idea Sharing and Organization in Children's Programming

- This was the highlight session of my day, as the knowledge and resources shared from both the presenter and the participants were EXACTLY the match to fulfill my needs!

#### It takes a province to save a library system

- Very informative

#### Lunch with Delegates and Exhibitors

- Was not enough seating
- Not enough tables—hard to network while standing to eat.
- Lunch was delicious but there was no seating at all. We tried to sit down in the lobby but were told that wasn't allowed. We asked hotel staff where we could sit down to eat and they said there wasn't anywhere. The lunch was not finger food so we ended up sitting on the floor — very unprofessional I think.

#### Mini-Maker Fair

- Fantastic presentation! We appreciate the time to explore the technology and ask questions in an informal way. Excellent!

#### Passport Draw for Exhibitor Door Prizes

- James - you are awesome!

#### Really, how safe is your library?

- Lots of good information thank you

#### Removing barriers to accessibility in public libraries: what libraries across Canada are doing well

- Good info but presenter was hard to hear (didn't stick to using the mic)

#### Saskatchewan Libraries Conference Opening

- Good quick overview and welcome.

#### SLA AGM

- Slowest moving AGM in history. Surely we can streamline this. And, how could we move to making the opportunity to participate available to remote members? Manitoba and others have been doing this.
- So boring, way too long, really needs someone leading it who is faster and more entertaining. I've been to few AGM's as painful as this one. I desperately wanted to leave during it.

#### SLA President's Reception

- Entertainment was wonderful!
- Good time to network