



## SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

### SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

#### FEATURED SESSION

##### **Board 101 for Saskatchewan Library Directors**

*Presented by Jacq Brasseur, Ivy + Dean Consulting*

Many of us get involved in our local libraries because we're passionate about the role that they play in our communities, but it can be easy to forget that serving on a Saskatchewan Library Board is a significant responsibility! Learn alongside your colleagues in this workshop that will review the responsibilities of volunteer directors as laid out in the Public Libraries Act, how to perform your fiduciary duty, and how to manage and mitigate conflicts of interest (even in rural Saskatchewan!).

In this session, participants will be guided through a relaxed presentation and discussion about library governance, and will talk through potential scenarios that they might encounter while serving on their library board.

*Jacq Brasseur (they/them) has over a decade of experience working directly with non-profit boards. Their love of non-profit governance began when they joined the board of the Fédération de la jeunesse Canadienne-française where they saw first-hand how meaningful quality board development and governance was for an organization.*

*In 2021, Jacq founded Ivy + Dean Consulting after having experienced a decade of difficulties finding consultants who shared their values and approach to non-profit governance, and who understood local realities in the Prairies and Northern Canada. Today, they appreciate being able to share their time between Yellowknife, NT and Regina, SK working with a wide range of clients throughout the country.*

#### 50-MINUTE SESSIONS

##### **Truth and Reconciliation and Metis Identity from a Traditional Michif (Metis) Perspective**

*Presented by Joseph Pelletier*

This session is intended to develop an understanding of truth and reconciliation and Michif (Metis) identity.

***Joseph Pelletier** is a traditional Michif (Métis) man who was born in Balcarres, Saskatchewan in 1961. Joseph is the youngest of 12 children, his father, Jim and mother, Delia, were both Michif people. His family moved to Regina, Saskatchewan, where Joseph attended Catholic schools. He went through the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) at the University of Saskatchewan. Joseph worked for the Regina Catholic School Division and taught Native Studies at Miller Comprehensive High School in Regina for 28 years. In addition to his teaching career, Joseph has been involved in various advisory roles through committee work, curriculum development, departmental exam development and evaluation. Today, Joseph remains guided by his faith, traditional Michif values/beliefs and worldview and is still willing to help and serve his community.*

## **Modern Collection Development: This Ain't Your Granny's Library Anymore!**

***Sponsored by United Library Services***

***Presented by Meghan O'Leary and Lindsay Baker***

Two veteran librarians discuss what they have learned throughout a cumulative 19 years of collections development from both municipal and regional library perspectives. We'll discuss topics such as selections policy, weeding, and time management. As well as current issues such as inclusivity, censorship, and book challenges. Plenty of time for group discussion.

***Meghan O'Leary** graduated from the University of Alberta's School for Library and Information Science with her MLIS degree in 2014 and has been working at Prince Albert Public Library for the past 10 years. While Collections Development is her primary hat she often wear other hats such as the social media and marketing hat, the reader's advisory hat, and the webmaster hat. Her favourite part of her job is being able to order new books and put holds on them before anyone else!*

***Lindsay Baker** received her MLIS from Western University in 2014. She has been with Wapiti Regional Library for 9 years, as the Community Services Librarian. Collections Development is one of the various duties that fall under her job description, along with outreach, programming, and staff training.*

## **Reaching the “Unreachable”: Enhancing Inclusive Communities in Libraries**

***Presented by Phaedra Hitchings***

Libraries play a vital role in creating community, but what if our community is full of the same familiar faces? Are we connecting with everyone we want to reach?

Join us for an interactive session where we will identify challenges and strengths for community participation at your branch. Drawing on her years of experience across diverse settings - from university programming to 'front-line' shelter - Phaedra will guide participants in identifying practical strategies for engaging both regular patrons and people who have yet to discover their community library. Through group discussion, real-life examples, and hands-on activities, participants will leave with concrete ideas for adapting library spaces or programs to build an even more inclusive sense of community.

This session is for staff, especially program staff and coordinators, in publicly-accessible libraries in any part of our province. Activities reference larger and medium urban, and rural and remote examples.

***Phaedra Hitchings** has been working in collaboration to combine community and learning for over 17 years. Currently the executive director for the Saskatchewan Literacy Network, her previous work and volunteer experience took her from university to shelter, to provincial literacy programming to correctional facility. Learning from each of these experiences, Phaedra believes that learner-focused, strengths-based, and community-driven approaches help us be more inclusive. Phaedra loves the opportunity to learn and work together in community, honouring all ways of knowing and the strengths we each bring.*

## **Beyond Books: Canva for Engaging Library Experiences**

***Presented by Roseanne Dery***

Dive into the dynamic world of Canva with Roseanne, a seasoned school library worker, and now Teacher-Librarian with the Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System. Roseanne brings a fresh perspective to library promotions and interactive materials. This session is designed for librarians and library staff eager to revamp their promotional strategies and create more visually engaging content.

***Roseanne Dery** is a Teacher-Librarian from northern Saskatchewan working with the Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System. She's all about mixing the classics with the modern vibes, using tools like Canva to give traditional library stuff like bulletin boards and readers advisory displays a fresh twist. Her mission? To grab the attention of today's smartphone crew, finding that sweet spot between tech lovers and those who might go a bit overboard with their gadgets.*

## **Open Educational Resources for All Saskatchewan Learners**

***Presented by Melissa Lander and Kelli Boklaschuk***

The Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre Resource Bank ([resourcebank.ca](http://resourcebank.ca)) is an incredible resource for anyone seeking free, top-quality educational materials. It's a well-organized digital library that offers a wide range of open educational resources (OER) for learners of all ages, including complete lesson plans, courses, project ideas, videos, and websites. Whether you're an educator, a student, or a member of the community, you'll find

valuable resources that can help you achieve your learning goals. This session will provide you with the necessary background knowledge on the Resource Bank and demonstrate how to best utilize this comprehensive collection of resources to help your library's patrons access the latest and greatest educational materials.

***Melissa Lander**, an experienced education consultant with over 20 years of experience in teaching, learning, and coaching, is the consultant for the Resource Bank at the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre. She has held various positions in education, including classroom teacher, principal, gifted education coordinator, reading specialist, and learning consultant. Melissa is committed to promoting accessible education and ensuring that learners of all ages have access to free resources to learn anything they are interested in.*

***Kelli Boklaschuk** has more than two decades of experience in education and leadership and has been at the forefront of numerous educational technology initiatives across Manitoba and Saskatchewan. As the Superintendent of Student Programming at the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre, Kelli remains committed to helping learners discover their unique learning styles and personalize their educational journey for optimal success.*

## **Creating Accessible Library Communities**

***Presented by Riane Lapaire***

Are you interested in building a more accessible library community for people with print disabilities? NNELS can help! This session will provide libraries with an overview of The National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS), and how NNELS can support libraries as they welcome people with print disabilities into their libraries. This information and interactive session will also feature demonstrations about eBook accessibility and the basics of reading platform and website accessibility and how they integrate with programming, readers' advisory, and reference/information services.

***Riane Lapaire** (she/her) has over a decade of working in alternate format materials and accessibility. Her current passion is finding ways to increase timely access to quality braille and tactile graphics for readers. Riane's hobbies include music and gardening.*

## **A Library for Everyone and Nobody: Policy and Ethics in Post-Neutrality Librarianship**

***Presented by Yuri Forbes-Petrovich***

Libraries create and foster the particular communities around them that are open to everyone and accessible to all. However, the idea of a neutral library that serves everyone equally has been severely criticized for doing the very opposite and failing to meet the needs of many communities. Such a situation leaves librarians with an impossible choice: build libraries for all that fail particular communities, or support particular communities

and alienate others? In a world of book bans, storytime protests, political defunding, and communities in desperate need librarians can no longer afford to remain neutral and need practical solutions immediately.

In this session I will address this challenge and provide professional, ethical, social, and political considerations to navigate an increasingly confronted library. Building on my past research, I will demonstrate how the model of a neutral library is no longer sufficient, but challenge the idea of engaged and social libraries as the solution, and instead develop the beginnings of a “morally-responsible librarianship” as a practical path forward for librarians.

***Yuri Forbes-Petrovich** is the Branch Manager for the Yorkton Public Library. Yuri also serves as a sessional lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Lakehead University (Thunder Bay, Ont), where he teaches technology studies and social theory, and is completing his PhD at the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism at the University of Western Ontario (London, Ont), with a dissertation on European philosophy of religion. He has published and presented research on public ethics, environmental sociology, social theory, and the philosophy of phenomenology and religion. He is an avid musician, amateur cook, and is an ordained priest.*

## **Accessibility in the Public Library: How to Create an Action Plan that Removes Barriers**

***Presented by Patti-Lynne McLeod, Mark Black, and Colleen Courtney***

This session will outline how libraries can engage with accessibility stakeholders to create a meaningful action plan that removes barriers to service delivery, programming, and physical spaces. After months of engagement, focus groups, and consultations, Regina Public Library created an accessibility strategy that outlines the roles of RPL staff in implementing accessibility at the library. This plan articulates RPL’s commitment to accessibility and listening to those with disabilities. Our plan takes inspiration from CFLA-FCAB’s Guidelines on Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities, connects to our Strategy Map, and is informed by the Accessible Saskatchewan Act, introduced on November 15, 2022, and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). As accessibility experts in the community Neil Squire Society Regina was instrumental in providing guidance and feedback on our approach and running our stakeholder focus groups. This session will provide a blueprint on how to engage meaningfully with people with disabilities and ensuring their say in accessibility in public libraries.

***Patti-Lynne McLeod** is the Outreach Services Librarian at Regina Public Library and is committed to accessible services for all.*

**Mark Black** is the Branch Manager at Regina Public Library's Central branch and is interested in the areas of barrier-free library service.

**Colleen Courtney** is the Acting Senior Case Manager at the Neil Squire Society's Prairie Region. She has over 30 years of experience in the not-for-profit sector, with 25 of those years spent working with and advocating for people with disabilities.

**Nikki Langdon** is the Prairie Regional Manager for the Neil Squire Society and has worked with people with disabilities for over 30 years in career development. Nikki also has a diagnosed mental illness that she has lived with and battled for well over 50 years and has written and published a book on the same.

## **How Rural Libraries are Encouraging and Working to Advance Indigenous Programs**

**Presented by Catherine Myhr**

Presenting an overview of the challenges and successes that small rural libraries are having with their attempts to diversify community programming to encourage reconciliation discussions.

**Catherine Myhr** has enjoyed working in a variety of library settings: a historical research library at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, a public library in Cochrane, and now a small rural branch library in Eastend, SK.

## **Committing to Accessibility in the Licensing of Digital Resources**

**Sponsored by CVS Midwest Tape**

**Presented by Riane Lapaire and Geoffrey Allen**

Can your articles from ProQuest be read by a screen reader? Does your ebook platform provide the ability to discover books based on accessibility features? Does EBSCO allow you to magnify the text and images? How well do your licensed resources work for people with disabilities? This session will explore the various aspects of accessibility as it relates to licensed digital resources including procurement, model license agreements, accessibility testing, staff and user training, and vendor advocacy and awareness. Areas that will be covered include the accessibility of search and discovery interfaces, accessibility metadata, accessible content, and accessible download options.

Learn about the experiences of those with a disability using licensed resources and how libraries can approach licensing with accessibility in mind. Accessibility must be integral to all the licensed resources of the library to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in our communities. This session is being supported by the PLARC (Public Libraries Accessibility Resource Centre) project, co-led by NNELS and CELA, which seeks to engage with library staff to develop awareness and training in accessibility in all areas of the library.

**Riane Lapaire** (she/her) has over a decade of experience working in alternate format materials and accessibility. Her current passion is finding ways to increase timely access to quality braille and tactile graphics for readers. Riane's hobbies include music and gardening.

**Geoffrey Allen** is Director, Collections at Regina Public Library. He is passionate about systems and knowledge sharing but especially for making these services accessible and inclusive for all people.

## **Engagement with Interactive Displays from Static to Dynamic**

**Presented by Corina van den Berg and Angela Lucas**

This session explores the evolution from static library displays into re-imagined interactive tools that boost community engagement within an academic library space. We apply an alternative method of creating library displays by focusing on providing direct interactive access. This method creates engagement and awareness of targeted media within the library collection.

**Corina van den Berg**, MSc (Andragogy), BLISc (Library and Information Studies) born and educated in the Netherlands, fosters information literacy by empowering learners and recognizing the importance of self-directed learning and practical application. Modular origami and nature photography are Corina's creative outlets, that enable imaginative applications in an academic library.

**Angela Lucas**, MFA, is a Traditional and Digital artist specializing in interactive media and creative technologies with a special interest in gamification. Angela's traditional and digital art has been shown in solo and group exhibitions and she has produced interactive digital work for commercial, government and non-profit organizations.

## **Métis Content and Perspectives in Library Initiatives: Working Together Toward Truth and Reconciliation**

**Presented by Deborah Pelletier**

This session is intended to reflect upon your libraries' journey toward truth and reconciliation. Métis specific content and perspectives is the focus of the workshop in support of the development of library initiatives.

**Deborah Pelletier** is a descendant of the Red River Métis Nation. Her family moved from the Red River Settlement area to live in the Qu'Appelle Valley region with other Métis communities in the early to late 1800's. Her family left the Lebret coulee/Metisse farm in the 1960's to access employment opportunities and formal education in Regina. Deborah obtained a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Regina through Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and subsequently, completed a Master of Library and Information Studies Degree from the University of

*Alberta. She has worked primarily as an educator and as a librarian. After retiring from Library and Archives Canada she returned to her community in Saskatchewan. Deborah continues to research and write about her family history, volunteer in the community, and provide advisory and research services on Michif (Métis) matters.*

## **Our Copyright World: Continuing the Conversation**

*Sponsored by University of Regina*

***Presented by Christina Winter and Kate Langrell***

This presentation will build on the fall 2023 SLA webinar presentation titled “Understanding our Changing Copyright Landscape.” This presentation will provide the Saskatchewan library community with an update on recent and proposed changes to the Copyright Act including the copyright term extension, proposed Right to Repair legislation, and federal consultations on the Artist's Resale Right and Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and copyright. There will be a discussion of copyright considerations for AI, and we will highlight copyright advocacy efforts from the Canadian library community.

***Christina Winter*** is the Copyright and Scholarly Communications at the University of Regina.

***Kate Langrell*** is the Copyright Coordinator at the University of Saskatchewan.

## **All for One and One for All: Fostering a Mindful, Compassionate, and Communicative Workspace in Public Libraries**

***Presented by Kiran Ghag and Laura Weisgarber***

Public libraries are some of the most inclusive and accessible public spaces for all individuals; however, these spaces also have significant exposure to conflict and traumatic events. Front-facing library staff may be exposed to instances of verbal abuse, aggression, and hostility that leave them wondering: do I matter? Does anyone care? What could I do? Having a basic toolkit with evidence-based communication techniques and compassion strategies will aid library staff in supporting each other and themselves. This session will introduce strategies that can be used to cultivate resilience in a library setting for staff, who can then continue providing excellent service to their community. Because you do matter and we do care! During this session, there will be both a lecture and interactive component, including a mindfulness activity.

***Kiran Ghag*** is a second year PhD student in the CPA-accredited Counselling Psychology program at the University of Alberta. Prior to this, Kiran obtained a BSc (Honours) in Psychology and MEd in Counselling from the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). She is a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) in the province of British Columbia and has been a practicing therapist for about five years. Her passion for libraries started during her employment at the Prince George Public Library (PGPL), where she held various front-facing roles for nine years. As Kiran progresses in her career, she aims to include



topics related to the relationship between mental health and libraries in her research program. Her goal is to bring additional awareness to these pieces and continue contributing to the organizational culture of libraries.

**Laura Weisgarber** is a Collections Librarian at the Prince George Public Library, specializing in all things youth and teen. She has been with that library for over eight years, and has worked primarily as a Library Assistant providing frontline service and programming to patrons. She is invested in supporting her coworkers, and serves as a Shop Steward in the Union and also as the Unit Chair for the Prince George Public Library. When Laura is not working she enjoys playing D&D, caring for her houseplants, and taking long walks along the river.

## **20-MINUTE SESSIONS**

### **Climate Action and Literacy at the Library**

***Presented by Shevaun Ruby***

From November 4-10, 2023, the Moose Jaw Public Library participated in Climate Action Week. Climate Action Week is a BCLA-led initiative with the goal of raising awareness, answering our communities' growing needs, and articulating clearly that libraries are places to connect people and access resources on climate change. Although this initiative started in BC, it has now spread across Canada, with libraries from Alberta, Ontario and now Saskatchewan also participating.

The Moose Jaw Public Library participated in Climate Action Week 2023 by delivering programming, story-times, book and media displays, reading lists, games, and social media information, with the goal of sharing information, connecting people, and creating climate literate citizens. In this session Shevaun Ruby will discuss what sorts of programs were organized and how they were delivered, what the results of the events were, as well as information about the creation of a library Sustainability Team, and some ideas for how to get started with climate action at your own library!

**Shevaun Ruby** is the Assistant Head Librarian at the Moose Jaw Public Library. Her interests, within the library and without, are library leadership, community-building (including urban planning and placemaking), and sustainability/climate action (including cities, walkability and urban design). Shevaun feels strongly that libraries are well-suited to participate and lead in climate action, in order to create climate literate communities that act in the best interest of long-term global health.

## **Saskatchewan Indigenous Subject Headings**

***Presented by Holly Adamson, Catherine Hana, and Sarah Roussel-Lewis***

The results of the work of the Saskatchewan Indigenous Subject Headings Project have been available for use in all Saskatchewan libraries since October 2023. This project, conducted under the leadership of the Multitype Library Board, provided an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples in Saskatchewan to share what terms they preferred and for that shared learning to be translated into subject headings.

Join members of the project team as they share examples of records where subject headings have been updated, as well as considerations for implementation.

***Holly Adamson*** is the Library Systems Administrator at Saskatchewan Polytechnic based out of the Regina campus. She graduated from the Library and Information Technology program in 2014 and since then has been employed at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in a number of different library roles. Outside of work, Holly loves spending time with her family and playing with her dog named Sherman.

***Catherine Hana*** is the Support Services Librarian at the Saskatchewan Legislative Library and a Continuing Education Instructor in the Library and Information Technology Program at Red River College Polytechnic.

***Sarah Roussel-Lewis*** got her Library and Information Technology Diploma in 2012 and has been working in libraries since. She has worked at the Law Society Library, the Provincial Library and Literacy Office and currently is the Technical Services Supervisor at Regina Public Library.

## **AI, Bias, and Libraries**

***Presented by Veronica Ramshaw***

Since ChatGPT jumped onto the stage and into our collective consciousness, AI has emerged as the latest marketing buzzword. We've even seen library vendors incorporating AI into their roadmaps. Come learn about the AI landscape and the difference between Machine Learning, generative AI, and Artificial Intelligence writ large and their limits. However, this technological advancement has not been without its pitfalls. Biases in AI threaten to harm the marginalized in our communities and must also be discussed.

***Veronica Ramshaw*** (they/them) is the Digital Services and Liaison Librarian at the Archer Library at the University of Regina. They have a BFA in Film Production from York University in Toronto, and an MLIS from McGill University in Montreal. They have lived in Regina with their partner (and dog) since 2019, after spending 5 years in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. They enjoy birds and video games.

## **Greening Your Tech: Measuring, Describing and Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Libraries and Archives**

***Presented by Caitlin Bakker***

Information technology accounts for between 2% and 4% of greenhouse gas emissions globally. As technology-rich spaces, libraries and archives have to balance the need to be environmentally conscious with the needs of their communities to have access to technology and digital resources. This presentation will describe practical strategies for libraries and archives of all types and sizes to measure their current carbon footprint, and to identify ways to reduce that carbon footprint both immediately and over time without diminishing the patron experience.

***Caitlin Bakker*** is the Discovery Technologies Librarian at the University of Regina, where she oversees library systems and technology for the U of R and its federated colleges. Her interests include open science, research integrity, and sustainability in libraries and archives.

## **Dying to Read: Arsenical 19<sup>th</sup> Century Books**

***Presented by Robin Canham and Kim Bell***

***Robin Canham*** holds a Bachelor of Arts (English) from the University of Regina and went on to complete a Master of Information Studies, specializing in Library Studies, from the University of Toronto. She worked as an Academic Librarian for several years, before returning to post-secondary studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario where she completed a Master of Art Conservation, specializing in paper, photographs, and new media. Robin has previously worked in the conservation labs at the Queen's University Archives, the Provincial Archives of Alberta, and was the Kress Conservation Fellow at Queen's University Library, W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections, where she focused in book conservation. Robin now works as the Conservator at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

***Kim Bell*** is the Coordinator of W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections at Queen's University Library. She has earned a Master's degree in Library and Information Studies from San José State University and a Master's degree in History with a specialization in book history from Queen's University. In addition to arsenical books, her research, particularly focused on publishers' bindings, explores the intricate relationship between design genres and Canadian intellectual culture in the late 19th century. Kim's contributions have been featured in publications such as *Book Arts Canada | Arts due Livre Canada*, a publication of the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild.

## **Is That a Lizard? Developing a Library from the Savannah Up**

***Presented by Michelle Giese***

West of the Ngong Hills, in the grasslands of Kenya, you can now find one of the few libraries in the area. The Lutheran School of Theology Library is constructed from local stone, stocked with donated books, and set up by volunteers. In the fall of 2023 Michelle volunteered for two weeks sorting, cataloguing, counting, and moving the collection of 7000 items to its permanent space. Attend this session to hear more about the work and how the library will enhance and empower its community of African students and staff.

***Michelle Giese** has a B.A. and M.L.I.S. from the University of Alberta, and has been a librarian for 20 years. She has worked in libraries in both Alberta and Saskatchewan, including public, academic, and special libraries. For the last 15 years she has been the Reference & Electronic Resources Librarian at the Saskatchewan Legislative Library. She loves to travel, and has been to Germany, Austria, Cuba, Israel, and Jordan. She recently returned from spending a month in Kenya. Jambo!*

## **Supporting Complex Search Behaviour in Public Library Search Interfaces: A Research Partnership between University of Regina, Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium and Regina Public Library**

*Sponsored by University of Regina*

*Presented by Dale Storie, Veronica Ramshaw, Miriam Boon, and Orland Hoeber*

As the pandemic has demonstrated, the digital search interface to a public library collection is essential to the success of library patrons finding the resources they need. However, these search interfaces are often heavily influenced by design patterns that have been successful for web search, even though the complexity of searching within a public library is often far greater than general web search.

This presentation will give an overview of a multi-year research partnership between the University of Regina, Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium (SILS) and the Regina Public Library (RPL), which focuses on how to better support digital library search behaviours exhibited by public library patrons. The goals of this research partnership are to 1) develop a deeper understanding of information search behaviours of public library patrons through qualitative research methods, and 2) to design, develop, and study new approaches for digital library search interfaces for both stationary computer and mobile device use.

***Dale Storie** is Associate Dean (Research) at Dr. John Archer Library and Archives, University of Regina, where he oversees discovery technologies, data services, research and scholarly communication, and the Archives. He has a background in digital humanities and has worked in the academic and public library sector.*

***Veronica Ramshaw** (they/them) is the Digital Services and Liaison Librarian at the Archer Library at the University of Regina. They have a BFA in Film Production from York University*

*in Toronto, and an MLIS from McGill University in Montreal. They have lived in Regina with their partner (and dog) since 2019, after spending 5 years in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. They enjoy birds and video games.*

**Dr. Miriam Boon** *is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Computer Science at the University of Regina, with research interests in computational journalism and developing experimental prototypes for improving the quality of public discourse and information.*

**Dr. Orland Hoeber** *is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Regina. His primary research interest is at the intersection of interactive information retrieval and information visualization, where his work focuses on the design, development, and study of novel search interfaces that support complex search tasks.*

## **Roles of Public Libraries in Supporting Integration of Refugee Families Migrating to Canada**

**Presented by Shela Hirani**

Refugee families arriving in a new country often present with language difficulties and may not have access to services that are culturally and gender-sensitive. They are vulnerable to cultural stereotyping and socioeconomic hardships when they migrate to a new country. Public libraries are often the first point of contact for newcomers where they can access information and education services. Public libraries can play an essential role in providing safe spaces to refugees by reducing social isolation, promoting integration services, and providing a conducive environment where equity, diversity and inclusion are valued. Unfortunately, not everyone has equal access to vital information, due to various linguistic, socio-cultural, economic, geographic, or regulatory barriers.

In this presentation, Dr. Hirani will share an insight into the role of public libraries in offering need-based and culturally sensitive services that can contribute towards the successful integration of refugees who often struggle with a variety of personal, linguistic, sociocultural, and economic barriers in the host country."

**Dr. Shela Hirani** *is an Associate Professor at the University of Regina, Canada. She is a neonatal and child health nursing professional, academician, researcher, lactation consultant and an advocate of baby-friendly initiatives. She earned her PhD in nursing in 2019 from the University of Alberta, Canada. Her professional goal is to make a difference in the lives of marginalized women and children through her research work, leadership and community services. She is actively involved in health promotion of vulnerable women and young children who are refugees, immigrants, internally displaced and homeless. She is involved in work surrounding the improvement of health equity, health systems, programs and policies that often negatively affect the health and well-being of marginalized and vulnerable groups of women and young children, especially those affected by disaster and displacement.*

## **Bringing Communities Together Through Culture Days: The Power of Libraries**

***Presented by Busayo Osobade***

Culture Days is an annual national celebration that encourages the public to explore and engage with arts and culture in their communities. Since its launch in 2010, Culture Days has helped strengthen community bonds, celebrate cultural diversity, and promote lifelong learning in communities across Canada, including Saskatchewan. As community institutions, libraries play a crucial role in achieving these objectives, serving as hubs for education, culture, and information.

This presentation aims to showcase the myriad of benefits for libraries participating in Culture Days celebrations, emphasizing how these can foster unity, promote diversity and inclusivity, encourage community engagement, and enhance community well-being. This presentation will also share the contributions of some SK libraries during Culture Days in Saskatchewan, showcasing the immense value that these libraries bring to Culture Days celebrations and the community they serve."

***Busayo Osobade*** is a communications professional with over nine years of experience in the field. She is currently the Communications Consultant at SaskCulture and is responsible for the delivery of Culture Days in Saskatchewan. She graduated with her Master's degree in Journalism from the University of Regina and completed a bachelor's degree in English and Literature from Ekiti State University in Nigeria. Throughout her career, she has honed her skills in crafting compelling messages, as well as creating and implementing effective communication strategies that make an impact. She is driven by a commitment to creating meaningful connections and believes in the power of arts and culture to unite and inspire communities.

## **RCMP Learning Resource Centre and the Community We Serve**

***Presented by Amy Rankin and Marika Hunter***

This presentation will first provide an overview of what the RCMP Learning Resource Center does, including its mandate, operation, clients, and history. We will then discuss how the LRC has evolved over the years in terms of its programming, services, collections, spaces, and partnerships, in order to better serve the needs of an increasingly diverse population of staff and cadets at Depot and support a 21st century model of policing. As two of four library workers in the RCMP, our mission is to directly serve the community at Depot effectively and appropriately, but to also indirectly contribute to safer, happier communities across Canada through our role in the Cadet Training Program and as an information hub for the entire federal police service. Come hear about how we are working to achieve that.

**Amy Rankin** has been working in libraries for 25 years – both in Ontario at Library and Archives Canada and in Saskatchewan at Provincial Library and Literacy Office and the RCMP Learning Resource Centre. Her roles have included policy development, curriculum development, training delivery, cataloguing, and much more. Amy's volunteer experience has included a couple of stints as President on the SLA Board and as a Chair on a number of SLA committees.

**Marika Hunter** has been working in libraries for seven years. Prior to beginning at the LRC in 2020, she worked at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital Library and at a law firm specializing in Aboriginal Law. Marika is the founder and Chair of SLA's Prison Library Sub-Committee.

## **TD Summer Reading Club: New Website!**

**Presented by Jessica Roy**

The TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC) team are excited to launch a new website this summer. The new site will modernize processes for library registration and provide online participation data at a local level. It will also make things easier for parents and caregivers by allowing them to link their kids accounts through a parent account and will increase interactivity for kids by allowing them to comment on each other's posts. Join us for a sneak peek at the new TDSRC website!

**Jessica Roy** is the Toronto Public Library Manager of the TD Summer Reading Club national program. She works in partnership with Library and Archives Canada, and the 2000+ participating libraries, to keep kids across Canada reading all summer long.