



The Progressive Librarian Bulletin

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New Head Office for the PLG

After many years of truly generous, diligent, and deeply appreciated service from colleagues at Rider University, NJ under the guidance of long-time *Progressive Librarian* editorial board member, John Buschman, the management of the PLG is moving to St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota under the auspices of the PLG chapter there with the guidance of PLG Coordinating Committee member, David Lesniaski.

This means that the St. Kate's PLG branch will be managing the day-to-day administrative duties of the organization such

as processing dues and membership forms. The new address for official contact and membership forms is:

Progressive Librarians Guild
MLIS Program
St. Catherine University
2004 Randolph Avenue #4125
St. Paul, MN 55105

Thanks to the good folks at Rider University for all of their hard work and thanks to the St. Kate's PLG branch for stepping up to this essential task and ensuring that the PLG can continue to function regularly.

To submit information to the bulletin, please send an email to Braden Cannon (PLG Edmonton and Coordinating Committee member) at:

**bradenkcannon
@gmail.com**

St. Catherine's University PLG Update

The St. Kate's PLG branch sponsored a panel talk on April 23rd at St. Kate's on Alternative Press and Collection Development and are also in the process of planning a St. Kate's MLIS group for the upcoming Minnesota Aids Walk on May 20th. More details about these events will be provided in the next bulletin.

Reported by Emilie Hanson

London (Ontario) PLG Update

PLG London, a chapter composed of students and librarians from the London community and University of Western Ontario community, has been busy and active over this past term in hosting a range of roundtables and discussions.

The history, origins, and background of the PLG were investigated at a round table hosted by PLG London in February entitled “The History and Origins of the Progressive Librarians Guild.” Exploring the development of progressive librarianship in North America, the intention of the round table was to and to reach out to the wider library community present at the University of Western Ontario.

The role of professional library association’s was explored by PLG London in a blog post entitled “The Canadian Library Association’s Failure to Advocate for Librarians and Libraries”. Sparking discussion across Canada, PLG London explored CLA’s Code of Ethics and Mission Statement and addressed the idea of a national professional organization to advocate on behalf of the profession.

PLG London took a strong stance against a copyright agreement the University of Western Ontario signed with Access Copyright in January. Writing letters to make Western’s student body more aware of the agreement, PLG London called on the university administration to

cancel the agreement.

A round table discussion entitled “Getting Out of the Stacks” was held in March. Bring together youth librarians from the London Public Library and community partners from the Middlesex London Health unit, this talk explored the value of the getting outside of the library and developing strong relationships with fellow community groups.

This coming summer, PLG London is planning on participating in a student led conference at the University of Western Ontario and hosting a discussion panel exploring changing demographics in Canada and the future of the library in 25 years.

PLG London is enthusiastic about collaborating with fellow PLG chapters and looks forward to future cooperation and activities. The PLG Bulletin is a great opportunity to highlight our activities and efforts to each other and begin a discussion.

Please learn more about PLG London at our blog: <http://plglondon.wordpress.com/>. You can also find out more about us at our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/PLGlondonON/>

Reported by Alan Kilpatrick

Remember, the Bulletin needs updates from the PLG membership so we can spread the word about all of the good work that we are collectively doing! Got an update? Send it to
bradenkcannon@gmail.com

Edmonton PLG Update

On March 28, we held an Organizer Training session with the Edmonton branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The IWW offers Organizer Training that focuses on a grassroots, worker-controlled union model based on solidarity and direct action. We wanted to provide this training for PLG members as a way to equip ourselves with the skills necessary to organize at our workplace against potential attacks on the non-profit information sector such as budget cuts, privatization, and de-professionalization. The training session was attended by five members of the PLG branch and further training sessions are in the works.

We also hosted a panel discussion on April 25 entitled *Common Space: Creating Community in Public Places*. The panel featured PLG member Amanda Wakaruk (Government Information Librarian at the University of Alberta), PLG member Sam Popowich (Discovery Systems Librarian at the University of Alberta), and Bridget Stirling (MA Candidate, Intercultural and International Communication at the University of Alberta).

Amanda's talk, *Chasing the Eye of the Storm: Libraries as Refuge*, explored how library space is created and re-created to support both solitary and collaborative environments for reflection and learning.

Sam's talk, *Hackerspaces: The Cathedral vs. The Bazaar*, focused on "hackerspaces," or places where people with an interest primarily in information technology can get together to socialize and share resources and expertise. They have been called "commons-based peer production" locations in contrast to spaces of traditional production. As such, they provide an interesting example of traditional spaces used to resist capitalist alienation.

Bridget's talk, *Occupy: Reclaiming Public Space*, focused on the Occupy movement and how it was realized in the streets and parks of our cities. Through its return to face-to-face interaction, the movement reclaimed and reinvented public places as spaces for radically democratic discourse and action and challenging the ownership of public and publicly-accessed private land.

University of Missouri PLG Update

Over the past semester, the University of Missouri PLG branch has been quite active. In acknowledgement of Banned Books Week, the chapter set up a table in Speakers Circle for the third consecutive year to raise awareness on campus of the banning of books and our first amendment rights.

This year was the first year that the group held a book drive for Better World Books. The group selected the cause, Books for Africa, and were fortunate enough to collect books that were left over from various faculty members who had donated their books to students. Textbooks were sent in to Better World Books, all of the other books were saved and will be

repurposed later to make notebooks, book markers, and notecards to raise money for different library related causes.

With funds from MU's StudentOrg foundation on campus, the group was able to bring speaker Jessamyn West to speak on the digital divide. Jessamyn was a great speaker and was kind enough to join us at our local pizza place for a few slices and an informal meet and greet with SISLT students, PLG members, librarians, and others from on campus.

Excerpted from the University of Missouri PLG blog: <http://mizzou.orgsync.com/org/plg/home>