



Mount Sinai Hospital

Sinai Health System
Joseph & Wolf Lebovic
Health Complex

2016 OHLA Report On the OLA Super Conference

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2015 Conference Attendee Award Winner

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The 2016 OLA SuperConference took place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from Wednesday January 27 to Friday January 29 2016.

This year's theme was **Library Lab: the Idea incubator**

This is the first time I have been able to attend the full-conference, and possible because I was the recipient of the 2015 OHLA Conference Attendee Award Winner. This OHLA award covers the registration cost for the full-conference I would recommend applying for it when the call for nominations comes out in Fall 2016.

The SuperConference had so many multi-track sessions, including poster sessions, which I wish I could have attended more of but there just wasn't enough time – maybe next year!

I went to numerous fabulous sessions but I will highlight but a few.

I attended Bill Irwin's session on *Communicating for Success: the Art of Stakeholder* persuasion. I certainly felt that building effective community partnerships and creating better understanding with administrators and funders was a timely topic for us all.

The presentation by Humber College staff, *Adventures in e-Learning Development at Humber*, was quite inspiring. The presentation was really well done and gave me a few ideas for my library's services.

Keynote speaker Wab Kinew provided some deeper insights to the Indigenous experience in Canada, and that I thank him for. His key message was cultural superiority is over.

OHLA's own Spotlight speaker, Dr. Kalina Kamenova, presented on the topic of "celebrity medicine" -- this was really the best session. She was very engaging and informative while entertaining. I was thrilled with our spotlight speaker.

A new feature at this year's Conference was the presence of a 'real-time' artist at the Keynote and Spotlight presentations. As a speaker spoke the artist created

illustrations of their presentation. OHLA will put a photo of the artistic interpretation of Dr. Kamenova's presentation on the web site, for sure.

The Trade Show provided other highlights to this year's conference. It was great to see Login Canada and renew our commitment to ship books to Ethiopia. Another new vendor is creating visual language translation that I would be interested in following up with regarding how to use this resource in our patient library.

New to the exhibit hall were a couple of booths that were professional and informative. First, there was the 'get a make-over and get a professional headshot taken by a professional photographer' - ask Gurvinder Batra 2015 Past-President to show you her headshot – very nice and professional. The second was the SPCA's booth promoting their animal kindness instruction materials for school- children -- exactly what my partners are looking for at the Ethiopian Donkey Sanctuary and College of Veterinary Sciences.

The OHLA 2016 AGM (Annual General Meeting) took place on Thursday and was well attended. There were no surprises when the OHLA Award winners were announced because all were well deserving members of the Health Sciences Community. This year there were three Awards handed out to four recipients: Kim Aslett for Outstanding Achievement; Miriam Ticoll and Penka Stoyanova for Lifetime Achievement; and Mary McDiarmid for Solo Librarian. Immediately after the meeting, OHLA members and guests gathered at Joe Badali's for a fabulous dinner (sponsored by OVID) to celebrate another year well-done and OHLA's 30th Anniversary (there was cake!).

A big thank you to the vendors that sponsored many of the OHLA sessions and events: EBSCO, OVID and McGraw Hill.

Fall 2016, when the call comes for nominations for the OHLA Awards and Executive Committee positions, consider putting forward the name of a colleague. The Awards are a wonderful way of honoring a fellow Health Sciences Librarian for a job well done and/or a lifelong commitment to Health Librarianship.

Being a member of the Executive is a wonderful opportunity to learn about, and to network with others in, Health Sciences Libraries.

Everyone should really try to attend this conference so look for ways to make it happen (i.e. Conference Awards and join Executive Committees). Conferences are a great opportunity to see lots of friends and colleagues we never seem to have enough time to simply visit.

One last thing... there was the OLA Shop where I bought a pair of redacted OLA socks (see my socks below). They are cool and comfy, and they attracted a lot of attention!



Thank you to the OHLA Executive Committee and members of the OHLA for making this experience possible.

Respectfully,

Sandra Kendall