

SuperConference 2015: the Conference Report from the 2014 recipient of the OHLA Conference Registration Award

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SuperConference 2015 was a whirlwind of activity. Winning the OHLA Conference Registration Award enabled me to attend this conference even though the hospital I work for is in the midst of waves of severe budget cuts. It is especially worthwhile for Librarians from outside the GTA to apply for this award since winning it will mean their only expenses are travel and food/accommodation.

It is always good to have a chance to network with other Librarians and there are some very inspiring OHLA members. Here are some of the highlights from the two days I attended:

OHLA sponsored session – Transforming Instruction with the Flipped Classroom. Presenters: see the URL below, <http://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/OLAflipped> This is done in academic settings and I am not sure this would translate to a hospital setting. The basic idea seems to be to assign quite a lot of work to be done before the students take the class so that in the class there will be less time spent lecturing and more time spent practicing. With the flipped format the Librarian finds out in advance both what students already know and what they think they know. In an academic setting students can be motivated to do the pre-work by needing to receive a mark for the course. The speakers made the following recommendations:

- setting a clear deadline for completing the pre-class work
- choosing this format when students **need** the information – e.g. time it for when they need to complete a term paper and already have chosen a topic.
- Using the pre-class feedback to influence what you teach. For example the pre-class feedback highlighted a need to know about grey literature. This went into the class although this had not been the plan

OHLA Spotlight speaker – Creative Thinking: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Success Skill. Presenter: Gerard Puccio of The International Center for Studies in Creativity <http://creativity.buffalostate.edu/> This was a really fun session that emphasized that creativity can indeed be learned and that because of the pace of change, creativity is now crucial for professional success. The number one barrier to creativity is a risk averse culture. One in class exercise had us divide into small groups to brainstorm on how to improve a bathtub. My group came up with a host of wacky ideas. What is creativity and why is it important?

- To solve problems that need solutions and drive improvements
- To do more with less
- To discard ideas of what we think is necessary
- To adapt to changing environments
- To bring about change/social change
- To increase our sense of fun and joy

Here are more interesting sessions I attended:

- Altmetrics in action: documenting cuts to federal government science presented by John Dupuis of York University. His blog post which became famous is “The Canadian War on Science” <http://scienceblogs.com/confessions/2013/05/20/the-canadian-war-on-science-a-long-unexaggerated-devastating-chronological-indictment/> John conducted “altmetrics” to determine the impact of his own blog post.
- “The future of libraries: the critical issues” My favourite quote from Presenter Ken Haycock is “Customer satisfaction is not enough to keep us in business. His remarks were aimed at public and academic librarians but generally he emphasized the need to define what our “brand” is and knowing how to differentiate ourselves from the competition whether that be Google Help or what is essentially a reference service now offered by the Globe & Mail!
- The Lightning Rounds for Health Libraries were all about interesting projects or initiatives. I was especially struck by the re-branding and marketing efforts of the Librarians from St. Michael’s Hospital.
- Check out <http://thehealthline.ca> – a website for the public to find health and community services across Ontario.

Finally – the great food must be mentioned –a wonderful lunch sponsored by McGraw Hill and supper sponsored by Ovid. Kudos to the OHLA Executive and Conference organizers for their great contributions to the OLA SuperConference 2015. To see the above presentations go to the APP [bit.ly/olasc](http://bit.ly/olasc)

Bonnie Brownstein was the recipient of the 2014 SuperConference Registration Award. This award reimburses the registration fees for the following year of the OLA Super Conference and is intended to support an OHLA member’s educational potential and help expand their professional growth by participating at the OLA Super Conference.