MERCI à l’équipe du Conseil 2013 de la division, à la responsable du programme des ateliers de la Super Conférence, aux membres qui ont travaillé au sein des comités de la Forêt de la lecture et qui ont accepté d’agir comme représentant francophone sur certains autres comités de OLA. Des remerciements particuliers au personnel de l’OLA pour leur appui continu et inconditionnel.

MEMBERSHIP
• Le membership de la Division a connu une augmentation exponentielle passant de 133 membres (2012) à 216 membres (2013). Cela n’est certainement pas étranger au fait que la francophonie était à l’honneur à la Superconférence 2013 avec la Foire franco-ontarienne. Aussi, les membres ont démontré un plus grand intérêt à s’impliquer dans les activités et projets de la division et à siéger au sein du Conseil.

DOCUMENTATION EN FRANÇAIS
• Consultation des membres sur les priorités pour la traduction de documents de l’OLA – les valeurs de l’association et le nouveau plan stratégique ont été identifiés comme des priorités de traduction.
• Ajout d’un bouton « FRANÇAIS » sur le site web de OLA qui renvoie à une page où ont été regroupées toutes les ressources en français de OLA.
• Traduction des informations sur le programme de la Forêt de la lecture.
• Sondage du processus de planification stratégique disponible en français.

INFORMATIONS AUX MEMBRES
• Ajout de liens vers des ressources en français sur le site web de la division.
• Partage régulier d’informations avec les membres sur les activités et réunions du Conseil de la Division et du OLA Board et sur des sujets d’intérêts pour les services en français.
• Alimentation du site de discussion et de partage des services francophones sur OLA Community ; certains de nos affichages sont encore parmi les plus consultés.

PARTENARIATS ET PROMOTION DES SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS
• Collaboration avec le Réseau du Patrimoine franco-ontarien afin de favoriser la mise en valeur et une meilleure diffusion de leurs ressources.
• Participation au Collectif de la Communauté du Savoir.
• Appui aux Éditions David dans la promotion de leur concours d’écriture pour adultes.
• Discussions avec l’Association des bibliothèques de la capitale nationale (ABRCN) sur des projets de collaboration possibles.

LIENS AVEC LES COMITÉS DE OLA
• Liens établis avec 2 comités de OLA, le Comité de mentorat et le Comité du droit d’auteur pour améliorer les ressources en français de ces comités et encourager les échanges.

FORMATION DES MEMBRES
• Six ateliers en français offerts à la Superconférence 2014 couvrant des domaines variés avec des services de traduction simultanée disponibles pour 2 des ateliers grâce à une commandite de Archambault inc.

PROMOTION DE LA LITTÉRATURE DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE
• Participation active de nos membres à l’organisation des différents volets du programme de la Forêt de la lecture.
• Démarches pour améliorer l’accessibilité aux livres électroniques français en favorisant la mise sur pied d’un service de prêt de livres électroniques français.

PROMOTION ET DÉVELOPPEMENT DE L’ASSOCIATION ET DE ABO-FRANCO
• Participation à des activités de promotion de l’association et de recrutement de membres auprès des étudiants de l’Université d’Ottawa et des membres de l’ABRCN.
• Participation au Comité de planification stratégique de OLA.

RECONNAISSANCE DE L’EXCELLENCE DU TRAVAIL DE NOS MEMBRES
• Prix Micheline-Persaud remis à Céline Marcoux-Hamade pour sa contribution exceptionnelle à la qualité des services de bibliothèque en français dans la région de Toronto et son grand dévouement auprès de la collectivité francophone de cette grande région urbaine.

RÉUNIONS DU CONSEIL PAR SKYPE
• Le Conseil de la Division s’est réuni à 4 reprises en 2013; trois de ces réunions se sont tenues par Skype ce qui a réduit les coûts alors qu’une réunion a eu lieu à Ottawa.
2013 was another successful year for OCULA, and I am pleased to report on our achievements.

GROWING CAREER PATHS
OCULA has continued to excel in the area of providing professional development for our members. Our regular events—the spring conference, spring dinner, and fall event—were all received very positively by participants, and provided opportunities for our members to engage with and learn from each other. The spring conference, Forward-Facing Library: The Future of Reference and Instruction in Academic Libraries, was focused around poster sessions, and it was one of the most interactive conferences I have ever participated in. In the fall we hosted a one-day Start-Up Library workshop with M.J. D’Elia, and attendees joined us from across the OLA divisions.

Our Super Conference planners, Jaclyn Chambers-Page and Jane Schmidt, were both new to planning and they have done an excellent job of gathering input from Council, planning the OCULA sessions, and coordinating session conveners.

The New Librarian Resident program was on hold this year as we created a Funding Task Force to investigate alternate funding sources for this initiative. The New Librarian Resident program was created in part for OCULA to contribute to the development of recent graduates. We hope to be able to share more news about the Task Force’s recommendations in the spring of 2014, and we anticipate that this will be another chance for our members to give back to librarianship.

COLLABORATING TO EXTEND LIBRARIES’ STRATEGIC VOICE
We worked with OLITA this year on several advocacy issues. Following up on the resolutions from last year’s AGMs in opposition to the current Access Copyright license agreements, we sent a copy of the resolution to those universities who had licenses with Access Copyright. In the fall, we worked together to write responses to the Tri-Agencies’ consultations on their Draft Open Access Policy and their initiatives with respect to big data.

OCULA also submitted a statement to the Ontario Ministry of Education emphasizing the value of school libraries for lifelong learning and the ways in which school libraries can help students succeed in post-secondary education.

This fall, we spoke with representatives from the new Canadian Association for Professional Academic Librarians and extended an open invitation to collaborate on areas of mutual interest.

STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATION
This was the first year for our new online InsideOCULA newsletter. Our editorial team—Martha Attridge-Bufton, Carey Toane, Jenaya Webb, and Elizabeth Yates—has done a wonderful job of re-imagining the newsletter to make it even more engaging and informative.

This was also the inaugural year for our OCULA Ambassadors initiative. We now have an Ambassador in every Ontario college and university library who can help us communicate more effectively with everyone who works in Ontario’s academic libraries.

Finally, I am pleased to report that OCULA’s membership for 2013 numbered 720 individuals, a significant increase from 548 in 2012.

All of this could only have been achieved with hard work from OCULA’s many volunteers. Thank you to everyone on OCULA Council for your commitment, creativity, and enthusiasm; thank you to the OLA staff for your ongoing support; and thank you to all our members for your participation in OCULA.
As a member-driven Association, the OLBA strived to reach and engage current members, and recruit and encourage new membership throughout 2013. Representing public library boards across the province, the OLBA works to stay in tune with advances, challenges, current trends, and best practices in public library services, and also works to respond by providing high quality, trusted resources, and information that support strong library boards and sound library governance. The Association has representation from all corners of the province, small and large, urban and rural public libraries.

As a team, we have provided solid communications to our membership through website presence; emails using the membership listserv; formal report to Trustee Councils under the lead of Southern Ontario Library Services; collaboration and presentations with Ontario Library Services - North; the sponsorship of five Super Conference bursaries, and through distribution of our recently revamped and very informative InsideOLBA publications.

Moving to the electronic format of our long-standing publication has not been without challenge, but we are confident that going forward, this is one of the best ways to communicate with our membership.

Overall, membership with OLBA has increased over the past year from 716 at the end of 2012, to 1,110 members at December 31, 2013. This is a 55 percent increase over the year before and reassuring that the efforts made to connect with the population with whom we serve are gaining ground and proving positive.

The OLBA issued an electronic membership survey with the hopes of further assessing the work of Council and to ensure that we are meeting the needs of members. The OLBA membership fees are dedicated to enhancing existing resources and developing new tactics to assist members in their roles as library board members. Valued feedback and input has been used to steer the work of the OLBA and help the OLA to meet strategic goals and initiatives.

In order to epitomize sound governance practices as it works towards the fulfilment of its Mission Statement, the OLBA took an inward look earlier in 2013 and implemented its own Governance Committee. Council has sanctioned the work of the Committee and has adopted and embraced the proposed terms of reference, working guidelines and code of conduct. Members of the Governance Committee will advise OLBA Council on matters relating to the Division’s governance structure and processes and will ensure that the OLBA continues to operate in accordance with OLA’s bylaws, policies, and procedures.

The OLBA engaged the assistance of Randee Loucks for ongoing updates to the Association’s flagship resource, Leadership By Design. Links and referrals continue to be tested ensuring that sites are valid and reliable and information is up-to-date. This will be an on-going task of the OLBA in the days ahead and opportunities to develop further partnership in the successful redevelopment will be explored.

The OLBA continues to value and foster its ongoing partnership with the Ontario Public Library Association. Sharing common interest in the delivery of high quality library services, the two divisions continue to exchange articles in regular publications and meet annually to discuss and explore collaborations. The shared discussions and presentations allow a global understanding of the governance and leadership of public libraries.

As well, the OLBA continues to collaborate and support the work of Dr. Bill Irwin, Professor at the University of Western Ontario, as he researches and develops a qualitative set of program evaluation performance metrics for public libraries.

I am grateful for the dedication of the 2013 OLBA Council Members who repeatedly and enthusiastically responded to the need of public library boards. This is a council rich in knowledge of libraries, governance, responsibility, accountability, and effectiveness of boards; one that understands and embraces the value that public libraries afford all communities and one that remains evermore focussed on supporting the volunteer work of Library Board Members across the province.
Looking back at 2013, I have to say, it’s been an exciting year for libraries and for OLITA.

We started the year off with a bang! The resolutions that OLITA and OCULA unanimously passed at the January AGM, taking a stand against the Access Copyright licenses signed by the University of Toronto and Western University, led to a day-long summit between the Access Copyright Board of Directors and the OLA Board. It was a great opportunity for both organizations to clear the air and to help each other understand their respective concerns. While the question of Access Copyright’s role is still being worked out, we are happy to have been part of the conversation.

We also held a successful Digital Odyssey in 2013. Our theme was “Big Data, Small World,” and our range of speakers highlighted both the possibilities and the dangers of our society’s ever-increasing ability to access and process large amounts of unstructured data. In addition to providing attendees with a background in Big Data, OLA members from across the province came to demonstrate new and novel ways that they are using data to understand how to meet their patrons’ needs. For the technically inclined, we ran a separate day-long workshop on the Big Data analysis tool Hadoop.

Coming out of Digital Odyssey, we have also been working with the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner’s office to draft a report on the OIPC’s Privacy by Design principles, and how they apply to library systems. Work on this report has proceeded in fits and starts, but we think when it’s done, it’s going to be a great resource for the OLA community.

We were also happy to get an opportunity to speak for our membership on the topics of data infrastructure and access to publicly-funded research. In October, the Canadian research funding councils (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, and CFI) released two draft reports as part of a Request For Comments. The first was on open access to research funded by the Councils, and the second was on the construction of a Canadian infrastructure to help facilitate data research nationally. We worked with OCULA to draft a response to both reports, and are very happy with how they turned out.

Finally, we were very happy to present the OLITA Award for Technological Innovation to the Ontario Legislative Library, for their work on the Government and Legislative Libraries Online Publications (GALLOP) Portal. This repository was developed to help preserve and keep organized citations to electronic legislative and government publications held in government libraries across the country. In an era where transparent access to information about the actions of the government is increasingly obfuscated and difficult to come by, this initiative represents an important effort by our profession to help ensure equitable and reasonable access to information important in nurturing an informed citizenry. It was our pleasure to honor this important effort.

Finally, I just wanted to say it’s been my absolute pleasure to serve as the president of OLITA. I’ve had the opportunity to meet so many people, and hear lots and lots of viewpoints and concerns from people who clearly care a lot about the association and its role in our profession. To be even a small part of such an important part of our profession has been a truly humbling and rewarding experience.
STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATION

OPLA membership grew in 2013 to 1,510, up 30 percent from 2012. Our growing numbers reflect our goal to be relevant to our members.

A focus in 2013 was “governance” and as a result, the Terms of Reference for our Committees have been reviewed and revised. This will ensure we are working efficiently and providing you, our members, with the services, education, and events you want.

We established a five-year term for the editor of our newsletter HoOPLA. The first and last year of that term will overlap with the outgoing/incoming editor. We are thankful and appreciative that Rudi Denham, who has been editor for over ten years, is going to work with Vanessa Holm, our new editor in 2014.

The Readers’ Advisory Committee held another successful RA in a Day event in November, with 150 people attending. The theme was “The Many Faces of our Readers” and was applied broadly and included presentations about serving immigrants, older adults, people with health issues, Aboriginal people, and the LGBTQ community.

The Children’s and Youth Service Committee held an Expo at Super Conference, and plans are afoot to move the Expo to a stand-alone event in 2014. This Committee launched its Teen Survey Report in 2013, and a webinar on using the data was presented.

The Community Led Libraries Committee was established this past year. It grew from the work of Laura Lukasik (Hamilton PL) and the Community Led Network (CLN). This is a member-driven initiative reflecting the new realities in public libraries.

TRANSFORMING IDEAS INTO SOLUTIONS

Your council has discussed regional networking events, in an effort to provide more connectivity between members. We plan to make these a reality in 2015.

Councillors created email lists for CEOs of libraries in their regions. OPLA Council is region-based, to ensure representation from across the Province. It has been challenging for Regional Councillors to communicate with members in their region, and we hope this helps.

COLLABORATING TO EXTEND LIBRARIES’ STRATEGIC VOICE

OPLA plays well with others, as demonstrated by our various partnerships:

• We have strengthened our partnership with OLBA and now regularly write articles for each other’s newsletters, and look for opportunities to advocate together for Ontario’s public libraries. We have a joint meeting with OLBA annually, and this past year co-produced a list of our favourite books, which you can find online in the OLA Community.

• A relationship with the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has been established through the Global Experience Ontario initiative.

• OPLA continues to support Prof. Bill Irwin’s research project “Constructing a Sociological Performance Framework for Public Libraries: Moving Beyond Quantitative Metrics.”

• We contributed to OLA’s response to the Royal Society of Canada’s Expert Panel on the Status and Future of Canada’s Libraries and Archives.

• Joanna Aegard and Lisa Moran participated in the Provincial Inter-Ministerial Public Library Discussion Forum, which was organized by AMPLO and held at Super Conference.

GROWING CAREER PATHS AND POTENTIAL

One of the most interesting things about being on OPLA Council is being involved in the Awards process. Every year we get to learn about the incredible contributions being made to public libraries in Ontario. This year’s awards were presented at the Public Library Awards Gala during Super Conference.

An organization is as strong as its members. The more you engage, volunteer and participate, the more satisfaction, growth and enrichment you will receive. I’m excited for the future of OPLA and look forward to watching it grow under the leadership of incoming President Lisa Moran in 2014 and beyond!
My term as President began last year at Super Conference with the launch of the Together For Learning (T4L) website, which was a huge success! It was also an opportunity to display exemplars of T4L Principles from schools around the province.

OSLA has had an opportunity to contribute to the Canadian Library Association’s new Standards document. The project began under the leadership of Elizabeth Gordon, our 2012 President, and will conclude under the leadership of Deb Kitchener, our 2014 President. A team from OSLA Council formed a committee of stakeholders (library technicians, teacher-librarians, library consultants, teachers, administrators, and parents) that provided Ontario’s submission to this national document. The new National Standards document was launched at Treasure Mountain during the CLA Conference in May.

This has been a year of Advocacy for OSLA Council, with several initiatives begun.

First, a huge thank you to the OLA Board and the other OLA Divisions for their support of OSLA Advocacy. In September, the Board gave unanimous approval to provide both financial and personnel support to our Advocacy efforts. Our proposal included the creation of an Advocacy Toolkit, continued assistance with Government Relations, assistance with connecting with Faculties of Education and Teacher Training programs and help with raising awareness of OSLA issues with other OLA Divisions.

An Advocacy subcommittee was formed and they began work on the Toolkit, tying it into both T4L and the Great to Excellent document.

In October, members of OSLA Council and our advocacy group had an opportunity to meet with Vass Bednar, Policy Advisor for the Ministry of Education. This gave us an opportunity to discuss the important role that school libraries play in the education of students in Ontario. It was a very positive meeting and we were asked to submit a brief, outlining the facts that we had provided in the meeting. This then led to the Minister of Education’s visit during the OSLA Awards and AGM at Super Conference. Hopefully this will lead to further communication between OSLA and the Ministry.

In the fall, we asked all members of OLA to help us by responding to the Ministry of Education’s Public Consultations that occurred in October and November. We wanted to ensure that, as the Ministry consulted with the public regarding the creation of a new education policy document, they would receive feedback from a variety of sources highlighting the importance of school libraries. We wish to thank all those who responded, both with individual and group submissions.

This fall, a letter was sent to all library staff in school libraries in Ontario. Included in the letter was information regarding Together For Learning, the benefits of membership in OSLA, and a link to a survey. We hope that the survey results will provide us with a more accurate picture of how school libraries in all of Ontario are staffed and budgeted for, as well as providing us with contact information. All school administrators in Ontario also received an email version of the letter, providing them with an overview of Together For Learning and what OSLA can offer the library staff in their school.

OSLA Council has committed to the creation of short videos which will provide some professional development around the use of Together For Learning. As well, Council has begun sending out T4L Tips through the OSLA listserv, sharing great ideas and resources that can be found on the Together For Learning website.

It was a very busy and productive year and wouldn’t have been possible without the support we have received from the other OLA Divisions and the OLA Staff. Thank you.