

# VALL Review

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## The President's Desk – Alex Everitt, Harris & Co.

It feels like we blinked and suddenly the Fall weather is upon us; the days are darker, the leaves are off the trees, and I'm wearing my rain coat most days. The change in season is never a bad thing and often provides time for reflection, change and new beginnings. This Fall marks the end of a firm-wide renovation that was ongoing for 1.5 years. Lawyers and staff made the final moves into their offices and workstations; and now slowly but surely the artwork is being hung, the books are on the shelves, and the office is feeling organized and shall I say "normal."



A renovation alongside a pandemic brought a lot of change for a midsize law firm with a track record for loving paper. Lawyers who scoffed at the idea of digital files are now loving the flexibility that remote work and digital records allow. The Library saw a shift in its collection as well. Needing to considerably reduce its physical size we decided to digitize the documents and resources that could be scanned. One of the many highlights was the creation of a new database, over 3000 collective agreements were digitized and a searchable, user friendly historical database tied to our existing DB/Text database was created. Change like the change in seasons can bring good! I'm thrilled this project has been completed.

For VALL, September marked a time of change as well. We said goodbye to executive members and welcomed new ones. Joining us this year on the executive we have Caroline Nevin as Vice President; Tori Shewchuk & Stephanie Karnosh as Program Committee; and Rachel Wertheim as VALL Review Editor. I am looking forward to working with this enthusiastic executive team.

We look forward to a year of programs with our membership as we continue to navigate the often uncertain landscape the pandemic provides. Generally speaking we hope to offer a mixture of hybrid, remote and in-person events for our members. We will continue to host our substantive sessions remotely, allowing our members from across BC to partake in these learning opportunities. Our social and networking events will alternate between remote and in-person. Please stay tuned for an announcement regarding our December Networking Event, as is customary we plan to hold a holiday luncheon for members and are thrilled to be hosting this event for the first time since 2019.



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## From the Editors

**Beth Galbraith, Library Administrator | Clark Wilson LLP**

**Rachel Wertheim, Research Specialist & Librarian | Dentons Canada LLP**

Welcome to the Fall 2022 issue of the VALL Review. Rachel and Beth are both new editors to the VALL Review this year and look forward to creating interesting issues for our VALL members. In this issue, we have a feature article from Sean Sallis-Lyon from Lawson Lundell that takes us through the steps he took in a large digitization project of the BC Gazette. I think we all have done some work on digitization, maybe not on the same scale, but certainly scanning some items for inclusion in our collections. The pandemic and the quick transition to the work from home situation caused many to look at their library collections and wonder how accessible the items were if the office was inaccessible. One of the significant points that Sean's article brings up is how it isn't enough to just scan an item for digitization. The item needs to be saved properly in a catalogue or other database with meaningful and consistent metadata so it can be found again. Sometimes it feels like that phrase "so it can be found" is at the heart of library work. So many times the search for information that we are on, as library professionals, is about the act of finding something. When items are indexed and stored properly that act of finding is quick and painless, but when it is not stored or catalogued well the search becomes a longer and more time-consuming and, in some cases, a bit of a slog.

We hope that the VALL Review will help provide some tips and resources to assist members during those tough research and finding moments and that the value of the VALL membership network will offer support in those moments as well, even if its to share a similar story!

If you have an idea for a feature article for an upcoming issue of VALL, please reach out to Rachel and Beth and we'd be happy to chat about your suggestion!

Happy Fall and Happy Reading!

# VALL Review

## VALL Executive

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Beth Galbraith  
*Clark Wilson LLP*

Rachel Wertheim  
*Dentons Canada*

**Web Editor**

Kurtis Kolthammer  
*Fasken*

The *VALL Review* is the official newsletter of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries. VALL is composed of members of the law library community interested in discussing issues and sharing ideas. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent VALL policy or position. Unsolicited submissions are welcome. VALL reserves the right to edit submissions.

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**Vancouver Association of Law Libraries**

PO Box 48663, Bentall Centre  
Vancouver, BC V7X 1A1



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## Feature article: Making the *BC Gazette* More Searchable

Sean Sallis-Lyon, Reference Librarian | Lawson Lundell LLP

Searching the *BC Gazette* isn't always easy. If you need to find a proclamation from before 2003, you won't find it on BC Laws, and other sources leave a lot to be desired. I put together a simple, searchable *BC Gazette* repository, to make things easier for myself and my fellow librarians.

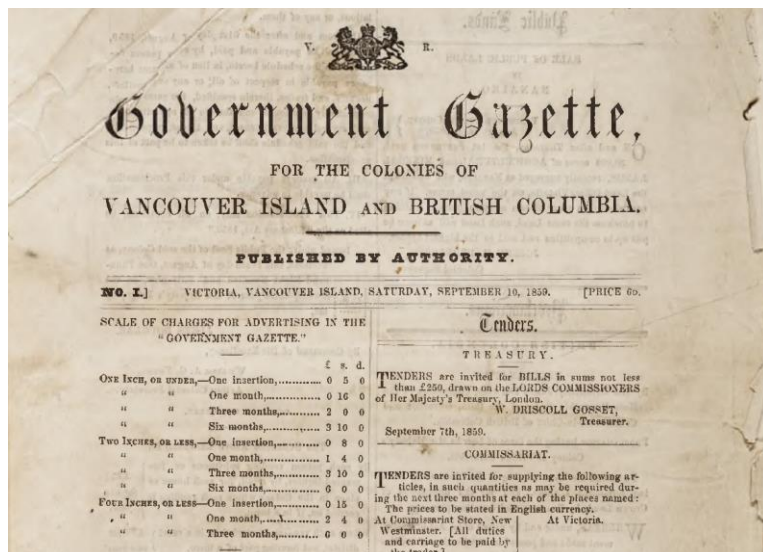
It all started when I was researching old municipal bylaws. I didn't want to use the physical *BC Gazette* volumes from the library, as that would take too long. I discovered that for most volumes, the only digital source available was on Archive.org, but text-searching on their website was broken. This meant that every time I wanted to narrow my search, I had to download all the volumes for a given period, then do a multi-pdf text search. The volumes available on Archive.org were also incomplete, with many early volumes missing entirely, and nothing available from 1985-2003. This frustrated me, so I decided to create my own repository that would not only be searchable, but more complete.

I started by bulk downloading PDFs from Archive.org using the Archive Downloader Chrome extension. However, the PDFs were out of order. Each one had a "year" prefix, which was good, but there were usually over 50 PDFs in a given year. I scoured the metadata to find chapter numbers, page numbers, or anything that would allow me to automatically bulk-rename them, but without any luck. This meant I had to manually open around 7000 PDFs, locate their chapter numbers, and re-name them accordingly.

After finishing up with Archive.org, the next step was to fill in the gaps. I found some missing volumes available as PDFs in the University of British Columbia archives. The University of Victoria archives had additional volumes that weren't anywhere else, but most of these were individual JPEGs, which meant I had to create my own PDFs manually.

At this point I realized there was a publication gap: when the *BC Gazette* first began in 1859, it only managed to get through 51 releases before going out of business, only lasting until 1860. Between 1860 and 1863, government proclamations, bylaws and such were published in four different newspapers: *The British Colonist*, *The New Westminster Times*, *The British Columbian*, and *The Daily Press*. They would publish in one newspaper, that newspaper would fold, and they'd switch to another, before they finally re-started the *BC Gazette* as we know it in 1863! Most of these newspapers were available online, except for *The Daily Press*, which is only available in the microfilm holdings of the British Columbia Archives. I was able to assemble all these sources thanks to the 1943 publication of the *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*. In this issue they chronicled the complete history of the early BC government gazettes, including the *Vancouver Island Gazette*, which ran from 1864-1866.

Finally, I needed to fill in the gap from 1985-2003 (everything from 2003 onwards is available on BC Laws). The Vancouver Courthouse Library had the physical volumes, but it would have been too much work to scan them in their entirety, so instead I scanned the yearly indexes. To save time, I used an automatic document scanner app on my phone, mounted to a \$20 flexible arm. This setup proved significantly faster than using a flatbed scanner, and generated high-quality PDFs.



*Image of the first issue of the Gazette September 10, 1859*

The end result of all of the above is a BC Gazette directory spanning 1859-2002, with each year having its own subfolder of PDFs. All PDFs are fully text-searchable, and arranged chronologically. The total file size is around 80 gigabytes. To search through multiple PDFs, I recommend using the advanced search tool in Adobe Reader; the results are accurate, and the search can be narrowed or broadened as needed.

This project is not complete. There are still newspapers that need to be digitized, and the actual legislative postings within the newspapers need to be located. Additionally, BC Gazette

numbers 10, 21, 30, 38-42, 46, and 49 from 1859-1860 are missing, though it's possible they may never be found. Finally, the 1985-2003 volumes should be entirely digitized, so we don't have to rely on the yearly indexes.

If you would like to help fill in these gaps, please let me know! Putting together this repository was a lot of work, and I want to make sure it's accessible. I've shared it with a number of law libraries, including the Vancouver Courthouse Library, but as-is, it's just a decentralized collection of PDFs. Long-term, I would like to figure out a way to make the whole thing more broadly available, as the BC Gazette is meant to be public. Suggestions are welcome.

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## Column: From the Web Editor's Screen

**Kurtis Kolthammer, Technician, Knowledge Services | Fasken**

By consumerism standards, it is now the Holidays. A rather annoying meme at this point but such an occurrence does come with some perks. For instance, holiday drinks like eggnog come early as well as delectable holiday scents (anyone up for Winter Candy Apple hand sanitizer? I know I was). For the law community, as November turns to December and Christmas grows ever closer, this usually means we all get a bit of a much needed break as our firms and lawyers take their much needed time off (and throw incredible parties!). Honestly, the days worked between Christmas and New Year are always some of my favourite. Music can be played without headphones, projects that have been thrown to the wayside can finally be caught up on, and everyone can just take a deep breath. So just remember to enjoy the slow times while you can, the New Year is right around the corner and then the business busyness starts anew.

I suppose I should actually talk about the website a little, being that the website is my domain. We have started a new system where current and upcoming events will be posted using a separate tag on the VALL Blog. After the event has concluded, the post will be moved to an archived page. I am hoping this will allow non-members and members alike to be able to more easily differentiate between future and past events.

That is all for this edition! Enjoy your leftover Halloween candy and the upcoming Holidays!

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## Member Announcements

Please welcome some new VALL members!

**Ro Diamant** graduated with their MLIS from the University of Toronto in 2017. They have experience working and volunteering in a variety of libraries including academic libraries, media libraries, tool libraries, and zine libraries. In 2018, they had the privilege of founding a non-profit community comics library based in Toronto. In January, they began working as a Librarian at the Victoria Courthouse Library and have since been in constant awe at the depth of legal research and its challenges. Outside of the library, they like to draw, try out different mediums for arts and crafts, and explore Victoria with their muppet dog, Willow.

**Emily Sugerman** joined Pryke Lambert Leathley Russell LLP as Law Librarian in September 2022. Emily received her MLIS from the University of British Columbia in 2019. Her UBC coursework included “Legal Sources and Services,” so she is familiar with the law library context. Despite this, she feels like a newbie. To remedy this, she looks forward to learning and connecting with the VALL community. In her spare time, she enjoys developing her green thumb with a burgeoning assortment of house plants.

**Sylvia Ranspach** has a wide array of work experience in corporate, academic and government settings. Her previous law library experience includes work at the Law Library of Congress, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Headquarters Library, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Executive Library, Alexandria Courthouse Library, U.S. Department of Energy's Office of General Counsel Library, and General Motors R&D Library. For the past few years, she has worked in the UBC library system, but is now eagerly returning to law librarianship, where she feels her work is most meaningful. In her new position as a Librarian for the BC Public Service, she will be directing the operations of the BC Supreme and Appeals Court Judges' library in Vancouver and other branches across the province. In her free time, she enjoys sailing, swimming, and spending time with her family.

**Kate LeBere** is currently Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) student at the University of British Columbia's iSchool. Before starting graduate school, she studied History and English at the University of Victoria. Alongside her studies, Kate works as a Library Assistant at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP. In her free time, she likes to dance, explore Vancouver's beaches, and read. Her favourite book is Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

### Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary

The Peter Bark Professional Development Bursary was established by VALL to commemorate Peter Bark and his contribution to VALL and law librarianship. The Bursary assists VALL members in attending meetings or conferences of library associations such as CALL. The deadline for applications to the Peter Bark Bursary is March 2023. Please check the [VALL website's Peter Bark page](#) for more information on how to apply.

## News from InfoAction

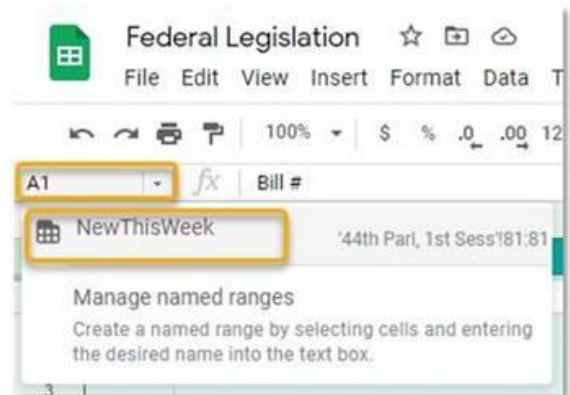
Ronit Landon, Manager, InfoAction | Vancouver Public Library

As Parliament resumed on September 19th and the Legislative Assembly of BC resumed on October 3rd, we thought we'd remind you that InfoAction has created provincial and federal legislation tables that list and link to First and Royal Assent readings, as well as amended acts, in-force information, and proclamation information. We also include links to related news articles.

For quick access to newly added bills, select the cell name box and go to **NewThisWeek** - it'll take you right to the row of new legislation posted that week.

We also post regular legislative, business, case law, and current events updates impacting businesses across British Columbia and Canada on our social media – check us out on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Got any legislative, case law, or other research questions? Email us at [InfoAction@vpl.ca](mailto:InfoAction@vpl.ca) and we'd gladly assist any way we can!



## News from King's Printer (formerly Queen's Printer)

Kate Cole, Graphic Designer | King's Printer

In recognition of the ascension of King Charles III following the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen's Printer for British Columbia has been renamed King's Printer.

The King's Printer (known as Queen's Printer from 1952-2022) has been the official source of British Columbia government laws, and publications since 1859. In addition to statutes and regulations, the King's Printer also publishes the official British Columbia Gazette, Orders in Council, Ministerial Orders, and other publications such as BC Codes & Construction Publications, BC Trades, and BC Public Legal Education & Information. The King's Printer is also responsible for printing all government branded materials and signage.

We appreciate your patience during this time of transition. We encourage you to update the contact information that you may have for the King's Printer. If you have further questions, please contact [crownpub@gov.bc.ca](mailto:crownpub@gov.bc.ca).



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## News from LexisNexis

Eric Wai | LexisNexis

LexisNexis Canada remains committed to our customers, to innovation and to the rule of law. Here are some recent events, resources and new products we have developed to support Canadian lawyers, law libraries, and legal organizations.

### Launch of Lexis+ Canada

LexisNexis Canada has announced the launch of our latest innovative product, Lexis+™ Canada. Lexis+ integrates advanced research, practical guidance, A.I. driven brief analysis and enhanced tools with a modern user experience to deliver data-driven insights, greater efficiency and better outcomes. A dramatic new display sets a precedent in simplicity with virtually no learning curve. Users benefit from fast, accurate results, delivered by leading tools, working all together to drive greater insight and confidence.

Lexis+ Canada includes access to the comprehensive collection of LexisNexis primary law information, including the most complete collection of courts and administrative decisions, Quantums, Case Digests, Case Citators and current awareness sources. Also accessible is Halsbury's Laws of Canada, the only up-to-date national legal encyclopedia. Additionally, Lexis+ Canada features the LexisNexis Online Research Service, with over 490 full-text textbooks and looseleaf publications in more than 30 different areas of law - unmatched in the Canadian market. To learn more, please contact your LexisNexis Canada representative or visit [www.lexisnexis.ca](http://www.lexisnexis.ca)

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## Program Committee Report

Stephanie Karnosh, Reference Librarian | Cassels, Brock & Blackwell LLP

Tori Shewchuk, Knowledge Services Technician | Fasken

### September Session – Lightning Talks: “Current Library Projects”

VALL's first substantive session of the 2022-23 season, Lightning Talks – “Current Library Projects,” was held on Zoom on Thursday, September 29, 2022. VALL members Marnie Bailey, Ronit Landon, Sean Sallis-Lyon, and Tracy McLean (speaking for Alex McNeur), chatted about the triumphs and challenges they encountered during recent projects. Marnie Bailey, Manager of Library Services at Fasken, launched the session by taking us through the process of transitioning to a new catalogue. She talked about selecting a catalogue vendor, working with colleagues nationally to decide on a coherent look and feel, and pointed out some things that she wished she had thought of or known at the time. Marnie also showed everyone the user interface Fasken has implemented using software called Presto. As an added perk, Marnie informed everyone about a very handy budgeting tool call Power BI.



Next, Ronit Landon, Manager of InfoAction at the Vancouver Public Library, regaled listeners with her talk on the challenges of renovating a small library space within a union environment, during a pandemic, and during supply-chain shortages that made ordering furniture an exercise in patience. Ronit discussed her priorities, which changed along the way, and what she learned about managing time, budgets, and expectations.

Then Sean Sallis-Lyon, Reference Librarian at Lawson Lundell, gave members a whirlwind tour of his experience tracking down historical copies of the BC Gazette, scanning them in some instances with a handy phone gadget, uploading them, and making them searchable. Sean also told us that he is happy to share the link to the Gazettes with anyone who is interested.

Finally, Tracy McLean, Manager of Information Services at Courthouse Libraries, presented Alex McNeur's project to revamp new-librarian legislative history research training. During the pandemic, legislative history training for CLBC librarians necessarily went online, but later it was decided that a combination of in-person and online training would be ideal going forward. Tracy indicated that once the training program had been streamlined, they may consider offering it to librarians outside of CLBC as well.

A lively chat with intriguing questions ensued after the presentations. Approximately 30 members, not including the presenters, attended the talks. Thanks to everyone who participated!



## VALL Review Newsletter Article Content Submission Guidelines

Please take a look at the guidelines below and contact the *VALL Review* Editors if you have any further questions. You do not have to be a VALL member to write for us. Anyone is welcome to contribute to the *VALL Review* as long as you meet the guidelines below. Thanks for your support and interest!

### **Purpose of VALL Review**

- To provide short news and articles on library information and knowledge management developments of interest to VALL members with a priority focus on legal information and related issues concerning the legal sector.
- To highlight resources of interest to VALL which would be useful to the legal community and for professional library staff development.

**Authors** are advised to submit their draft articles that meet the minimal criteria:

- 1) In Microsoft Word, plain text or RTF.
- 2) Maximum of up to 800 words for full articles.
- 3) Single spaced with paragraphs.
- 4) Functional URLs and corresponding footnote bibliographic information for further reading.
- 5) Identification of author, their official position title and parent organization.

**Publishers and vendors** should only highlight for submission any new product developments that the vendor has not yet publicly released or that the vendor would like feedback from its customers. (Note: If a vendor has already released public marketing information to all customers on its corporate web site, *VALL Review* editors will exercise rights to determine if there is sufficient space to include the submitted information, in light of other VALL content publishing priorities.)

## VALL Statement of Income and Expenses July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Operating Account				
Operating Account Balance as of June 30, 2021				\$ 13,274.34
INCOME		Estimated	Actual	Difference
	Membership fees 2021/2022	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$300
	Bank interest & dividends	\$1.14	\$366.90	\$365.76
	Sponsorship	TBD	\$970.40	\$970.40
	Seminar Registrations	TBD	\$10	\$10
EXPENSES		Estimated	Actual	Difference
	Post Office box	\$210	\$214.20	\$4.20
	Honoured Member attendance	\$250	\$0	\$250
	Speaker/Exec Member Gifts	\$300	\$451.30	\$151.30
	Seminars (speakers, venue, etc.)	TBD	\$4,468.75	\$4,468.75
	PBMF Bursary 2019/2020 hold over	\$872	\$0	\$872
	PBMF Bursary 2021/2022	\$1,500	\$337.50	\$1,162.50
	Website (\$100 paid for 2 years)	\$100	\$101.92	\$1.92
	Steve Matthews gift	\$100	\$0	\$100
	Zoom account	\$200	\$224	\$24
<b>NET INCOME</b>		\$1,501.14	\$3,147.30	\$1,646.16
<b>NET EXPENSES</b>		\$3,532	\$5,797.67	\$2,265.67
Member. shares		\$144.13	\$151.30	\$7.17
<b>Operating total including member shares</b>				<b>\$10,623.97</b>

<b>Peter Bark Memorial Fund Account</b>		
	<b>As of June 30, 2021</b>	<b>As of June 24, 2022</b>
Escalating Term Deposit 3Y <i>Matures: Sept. 9, 2022</i>	\$1,000	\$1,000
Non-Redeemable Annual Term Deposit 19 Month <i>Matures: Sept. 4, 2021</i>	\$11,730.63	Redeemed!
<b>NEW!</b> Non-Redeemable Annual Term Deposit <i>Matures: September 7, 2022</i>		\$3,000
<b>NEW!</b> Escalating 3-year Term Deposit <i>Matures: September 7, 2024</i>		\$8,500
T-Bill Savings Account	\$1,314.17	\$1,701.08
NET	\$14,044.80	\$ 14,201.08
Member. shares	\$179.42	\$188.34
<b>PBMF Total including member shares</b>	<b>\$14,224.22</b>	<b>\$14,389.42</b>

## 2021-2022 PROGRAMMING FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS SURVEY REPORT

Prepared by Rachel Carlson, Programs Committee Co-Chair, 2021-2022

### INTRODUCTION

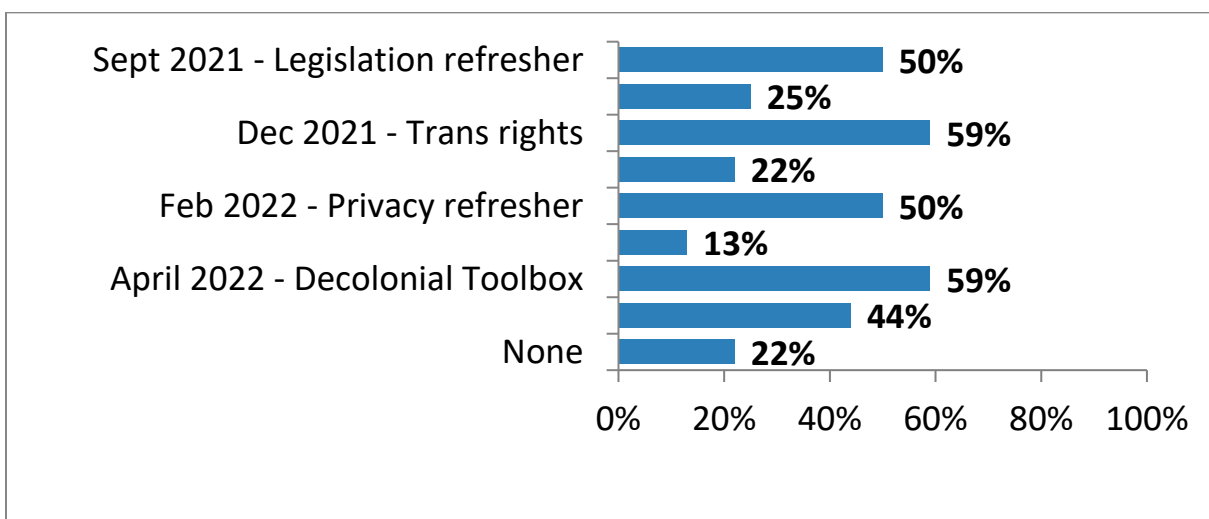
The Vancouver Association of Law Libraries Executive is pleased to present the annual results for the Programming Feedback & Suggestions survey for the years 2021 - 2022. This survey captured event attendance by the VALL membership, and collected data for upcoming 2022 - 2023 events. Data was captured between July 18 and July 29, 2022 using the online survey service, SoGo Survey.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

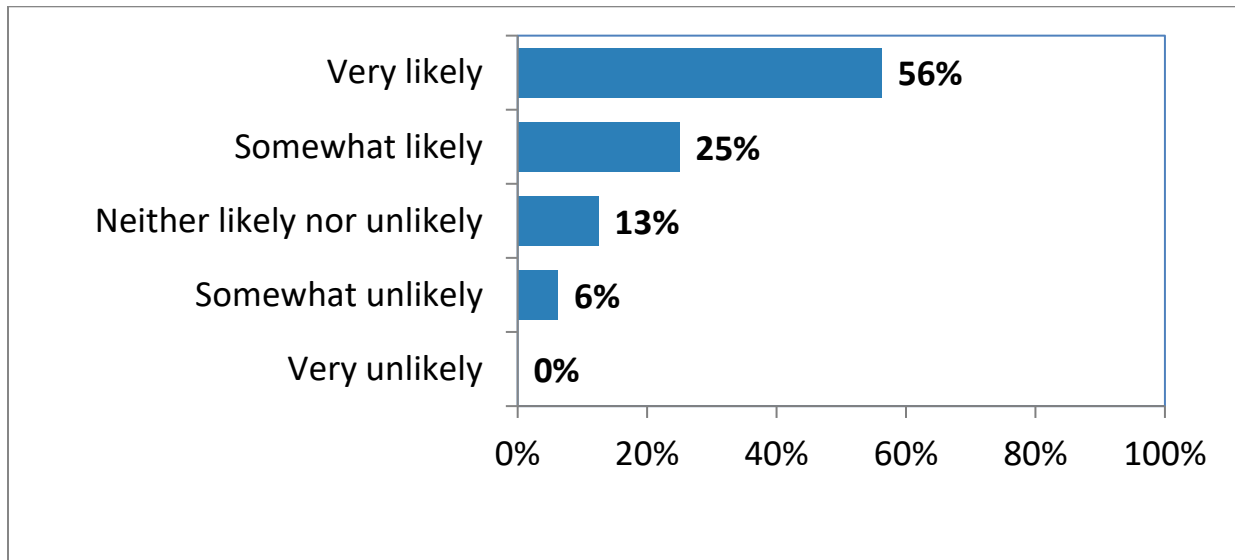
- 32 members responded to this 2021-2022 survey, up from 27 respondents for the last year's survey
- We asked a number of questions this year related to preferences for online, hybrid, and in-person event programming, with interest in hybrid online and in-person events being high.
- The majority of respondents indicated equal interest in sessions on substantive legal topics and sessions specifically related to the library profession and workplace.
- Of the suggested potential session topics, Intranets and Managing Other Digital Projects and topics concerning library management such as budgeting and collection development were of most interest to the respondents.

### The Survey Results – Event attendance and format

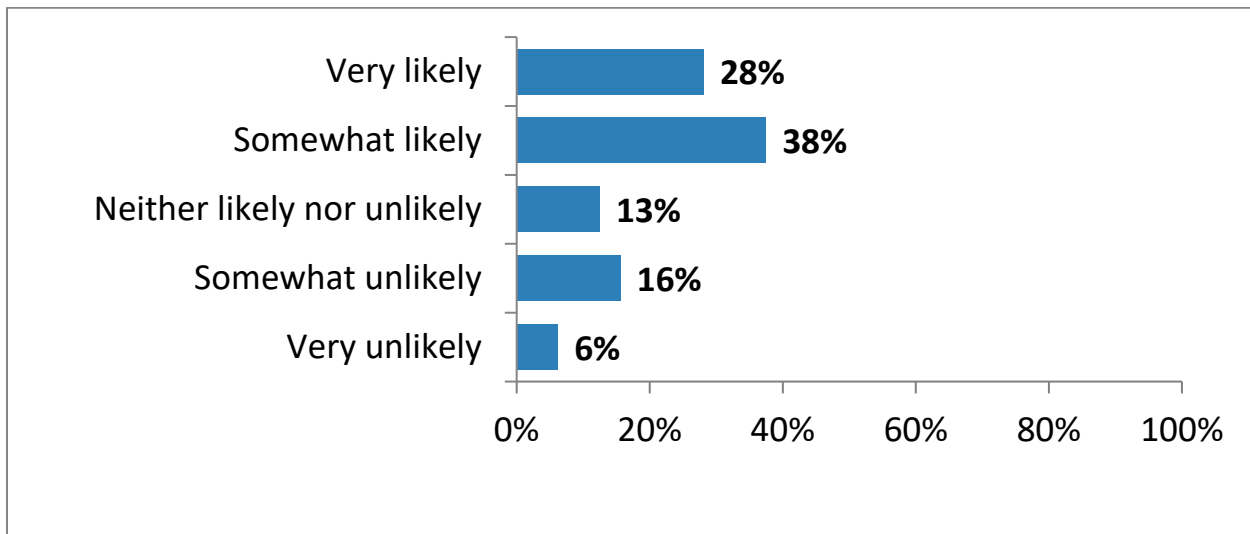
Which of the following VALL Events did you attend last season?



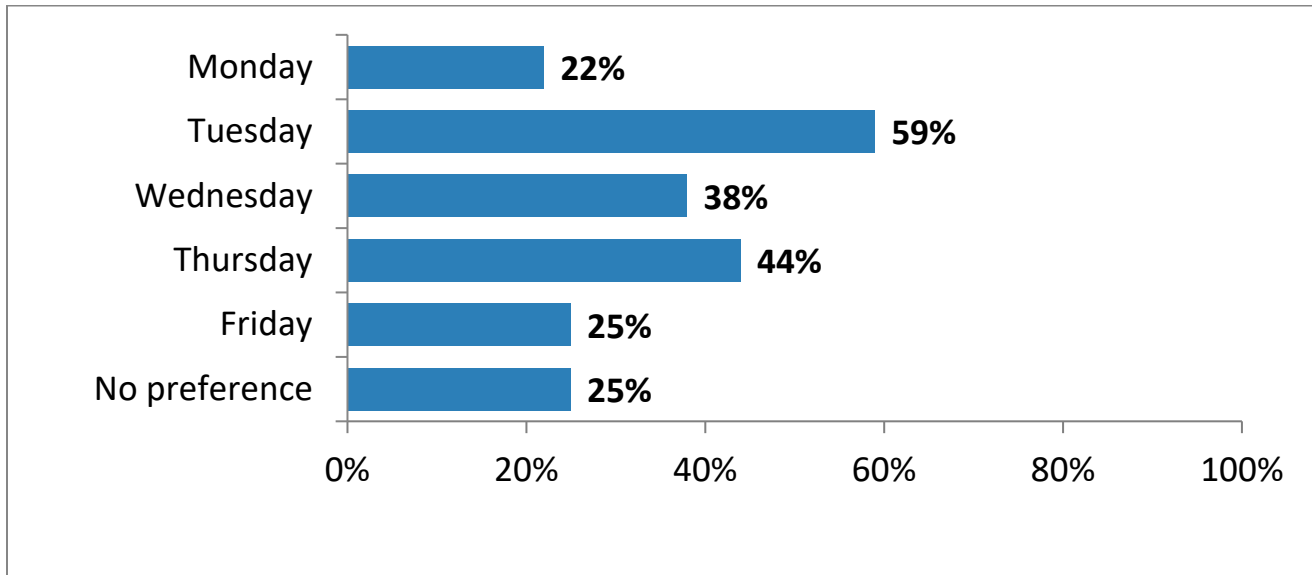
How likely are you to attend hybrid virtual and in-person events? Hybrid events would allow people to attend the same event both in-person and remotely via a live-stream.



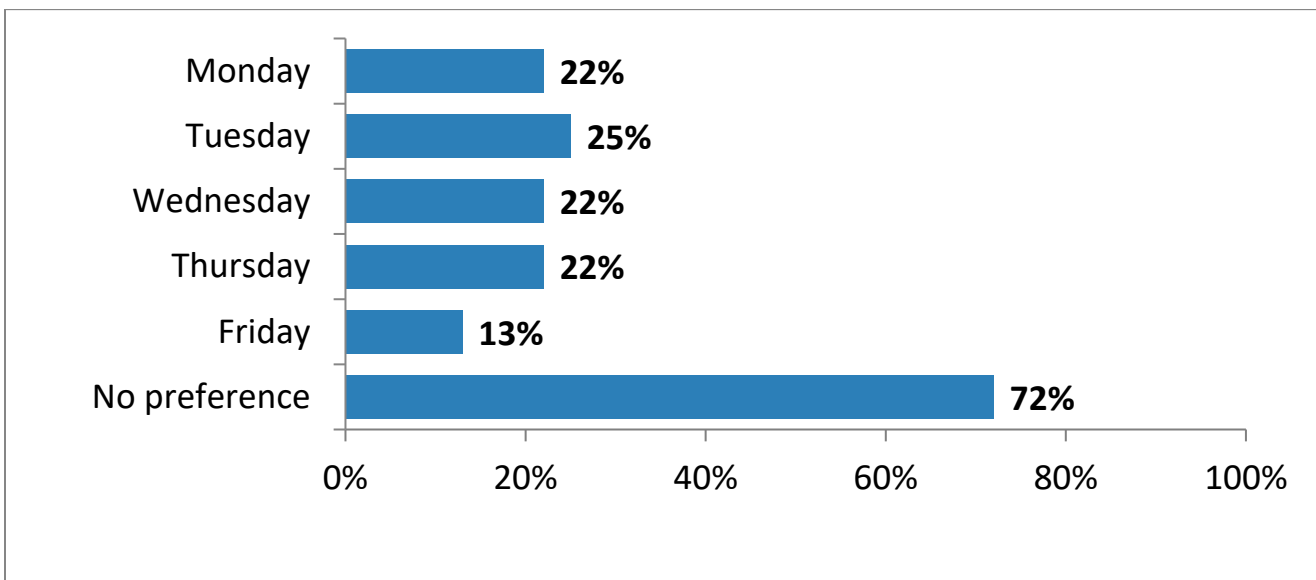
How Likely Are you to attend in-person events?



What days of the week would work for you to attend in-person events?

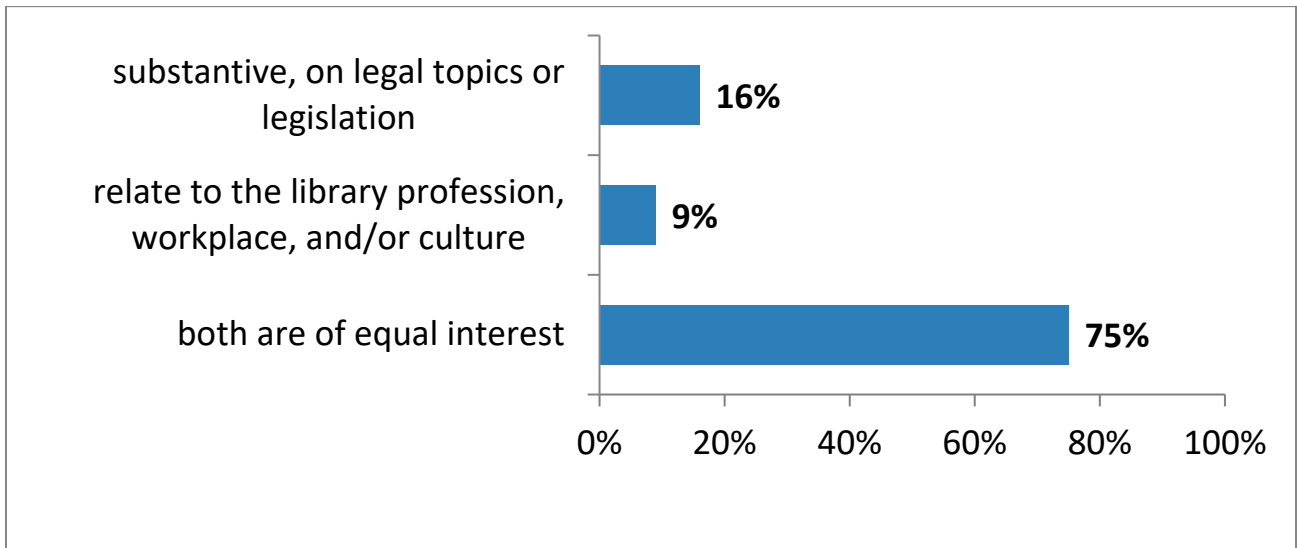


What days of the week would work best for you to attend virtual events?



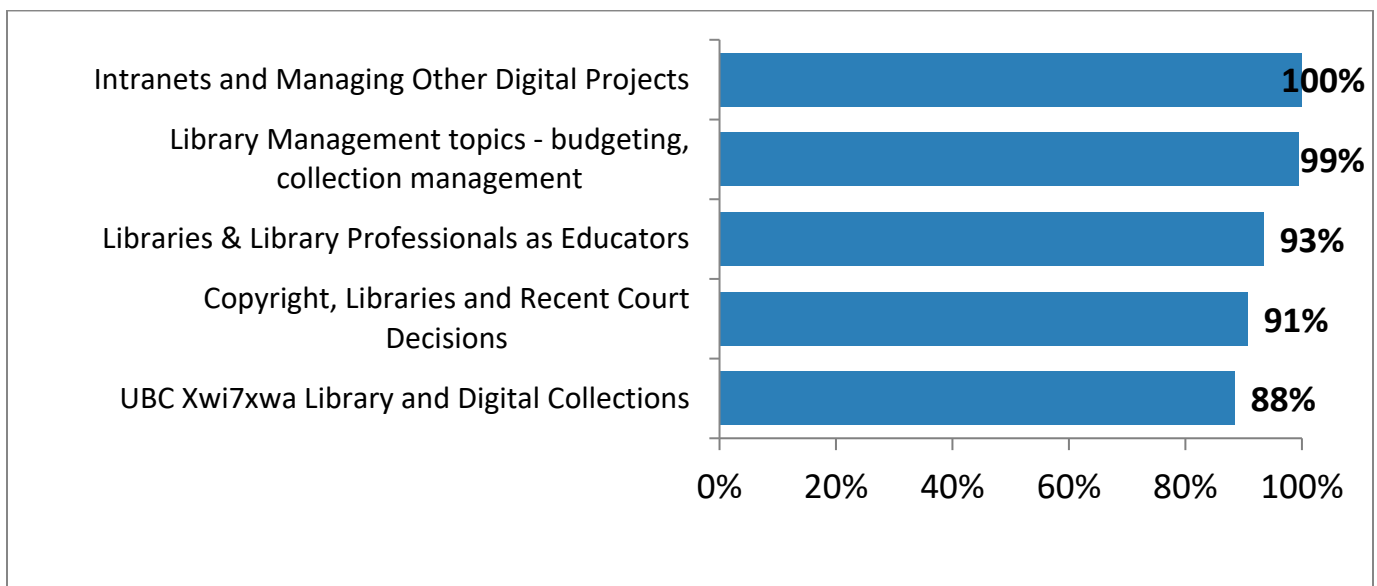
## Survey Results – Program Types & Topics

When thinking about topics that most interest you, do you lean towards those that are:



VALL aims to provide a variety of programming on different topics and in different formats. Substantive, educational and brown bag style sessions are a chance to provide professional development and educational opportunities.

From the list of suggested topics below, please rank your level of interest in each.





Is there an event topic that you'd like to suggest for the next programming year?

Response No.	Answer text
5	Lightning talks
14	Rate better than rank ...some have equal value
23	Substantive law - Force Majeure; ESG review/ highlights; Climate Toolkit; Publisher updates
25	Conflict resolution
26	US litigation process, the documents that are filed, dif between Can &US, State vs Fed
30	Tips and pitfalls for moving a library collection and adapting to a new space
31	Anything to do with online resources - as so many of us work remotely now.

Other comments

Response No.	Answer text
5	Loved the programming this year!
8	Thanks so much for all the great programs this past year! Looking forward to what's next.
14	Unless attended CALL, would not know what "Critical Perspectives" is about
18	I didn't attend many sessions this year, but only because of scheduling conflicts.

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. Your participation helps the programming committee to continue offering great sessions for VALL!