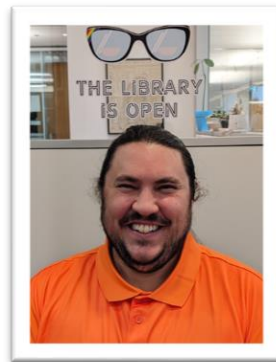


VALL Review

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The President's Desk



Before I was hired at Fasken, the extent of my law library experience included a law library class during my studies and a one month coverage at Lawson Lundell. Suffice to say, I did not have much experience.

When I was hired, I only had two weeks with the previous technician to learn the general ropes of the position. As one can imagine, there was still a lot to

learn afterwards. To say I asked my boss, Marnie, a million and one questions during those first 6 months would be an understatement. One of the things I am most thankful for is that no matter how many questions I had in a day, no matter how busy Marnie was, my questions were always answered with calm, patience, and understanding. This helped me slowly gain the confidence in my role, something I greatly needed. Keep in mind, this was training for the technician role, when I started doing more in depth reference, the confidence was gone and the questions started anew. Law is so different from everything you learn in school, a whole new way of thinking with so many abbreviations it can make your head spin (still does). Bless Marnie's heart, her patience never ebbed, especially since her vacation days would still be bombarded with my fervent questions.

When it comes to student training, as a technician, I do not participate in a lot of the onboarding training sessions. I focus primarily on reference. When a student first asks me a question, I like to breakdown fully how I found what I found and try to highlight what I was looking for. This includes myriad links of where to go, textbook passages with attached cases that were cited (to show them secondary sources are good for finding key cases!), and searches performed to find the material. Admittedly, I have never received feedback on this form of training, so I am not sure if it is beneficial.

In addition to reference, Tori and I host a special "Learning Break" for the students called *Boolean 101*. (continued on page 3)

VALL Review

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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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From the President's Desk continued

A common trend we found with many of our many of our student was the lack of understanding of the various boolean tools used in our main databases, especially how to efficiently search across them all with the same search. So we developed a course with some hands-on learning paired with our Boolean Cheat Sheet, which gives the tools and examples that can be used as a guide no matter where they are in their career. We have received feedback on this session, and it is always positive and grateful, with a heavy emphasis on how it helped them with their research.

Now, 4 years later, I am a lot more settled into my role and mostly confident in my abilities. The one thing I love about what we do, especially reference, is that something new is always around the corner. That out of the blue, impossible, law question given to a student who needs help. My brain engages and the rabbit hole opens as I delve into the textbooks and commentary or creating the best case search possible. The training and learning never really ends.

Be well everyone.
Kurtis Kolthammer
President

From the Editors

Beth Galbraith, Clark Wilson LLP
Suzanne McBeath, Metro Vancouver

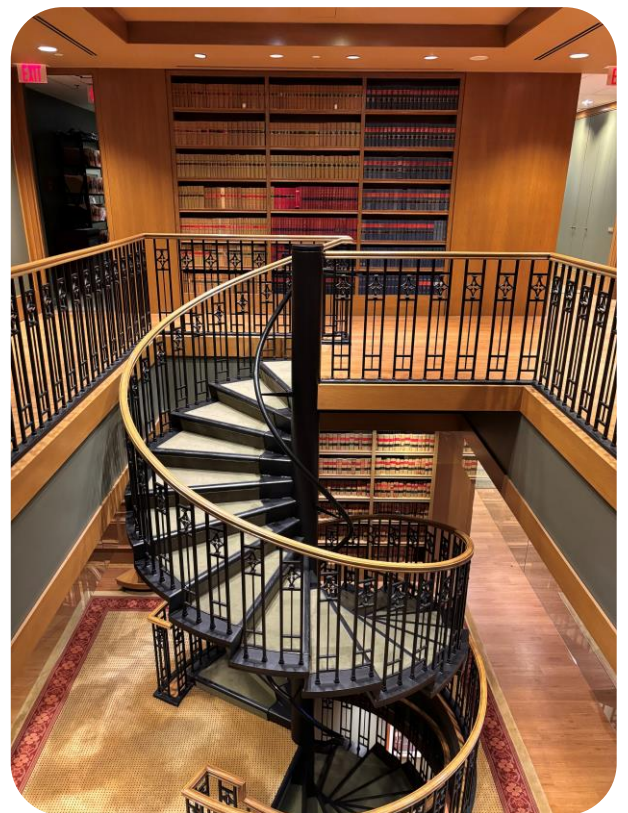
Welcome to the Fall 2024 issue of the VALL Review. It feels like we are a bit late to still call this the Fall issue, however Winter does not actually start until December 21st so we are still well into Fall! Many of us in VALL feel like our work follows the timeline of the school year and the arrival of students is usually a very busy time. We selected a theme of *Training* for this issue, well ahead of summer articling students arriving. We have contributions from Courthouse Libraries BC, Attorney General Law Library, the Diana M. Priestly Law Library at the University of Victoria and Lawson Lundell to discuss all forms of training that they offer in their libraries. Most of us are engaged in training on a regular basis, with summer and articling students, lawyers, staff and/or members of the public. We've tried to gather a variety of training experiences in the hopes that everyone will find something new or an interesting approach to try. We've also included updates from vendors and law libraries, some information on new members, and news from our Program Committee and Web Editor. Grab a cup of your favourite beverage and enjoy reading this issue!

If you have a suggestion for a feature article, news to share with the membership like a new hire, retirement, published article or conference presentation or other milestones, please contact us! We want to celebrate our members and provide content that you would like to see. Contact us at: Beth Galbraith (bgalbraith@cwilson.com) or Suzanne McBeath (suzanne.mcbeath@metrovancouver.org)

Unique Items in My Library

Katherine Melville & Julie Wettstein, Farris LLP

Farris' iconic spiral staircase not only connects three of the firm's four floors at 700 West Georgia Street, but actually serves as the heart of the Farris Library's archival collection. Passing through old English case law reporters on the 26th and 25th floors, and arriving at early British Columbia labour and employment decisions on the 24th, before a right hand turn lands you at the Supreme Court of Canada Reports and the main library collection.



Feature article

Training for Success: The Vital Role of Library Instruction in Law Libraries

Training and instruction is an important part of the work we do in all types of law libraries. We have collected a series of articles from different types of libraries, Courthouse Libraries, Attorney General Law Library, University of Victoria Libraries and Law Lundell, to share their training and instruction stories. We hope you find the articles inspiring and insightful. If you want to keep the conversation going and share ideas about library instruction, let's chat on the VALL Members Forum on Lawbster!

Wearing Many Hats: The Facets of Training at Courthouse Libraries BC

By Clare Asquith Finegan, Courthouse Libraries BC

As the BC Courthouse Library is a generalist sort of place, so is our training and our training methods. Many of you might be familiar with our Legal Training program, usually conducted via webinar and for CPD credit, that has been part of our library services for over 14 years. These sessions are done in partnership with a variety of organizations, on a multitude of topics, that weaves in our collections and values - a holistic and wide net of legal subject areas, tailored for practicing legal professionals. We offer to our partners a well-oiled machine, a platform that includes reaching a large audience, sustainable archival access for CPD credit, organizing presenters and responding to participants, and all the admin of video editing, captioning, and hosting. Pre-COVID this was done by just one person, then two, and now post-COVID we have a team of four that works closely with each step of the process, with outreach to legal communities being key to gaining the range of topics we strive to showcase.

While we don't do direct training with the public, all the webinars created through the Legal Training program are openly available through Vimeo. For the public we also have the LawMatters program, that partners with public libraries across the province aiding in the curation of relevant and current legal reference collections, and training and reference resources for library staff to more be confident helping patrons navigating their legal issues. While we have no direct training for our public clients, our frontline librarians conduct in-the-moment training everyday for self-reps looking to learn more about searching for caselaw, using our databases or understanding how our library services work. Another training that we conduct yearly is for the BC Supreme Court and Court of Appeal Clerks. These training sessions cover in-depth historical legislative research and international caselaw resources. We provide these sessions both in-person in Vancouver, and remotely, for those placed across the province. As we all know legislation training is a more complex beast when provided

remotely so we try our hardest to keep everyone engaged by using fun example acts (the Bee Act!), practice questions that can be done with online resources and keeping the sessions to an hour. There is further training that we provide, usually more of an orientation to our services, website and collections, and we give these upon request to articling students usually in community-based advocacy organizations that don't have fully funded libraries. The quantity of these can vary depending on the organization and student need or how comfortable they are with the resources they have at hand.

While we have a set presentation guide and slide deck for nearly all the different types of training sessions, like family recipes, this material gets handed down to the next generation of Courthouse librarians when they are ready to embark on the training journey. And like any good chef, we all create personalized variations on the classics, which means that the material stays updated and engaging for clients.

Instruction at an Academic Law Library

By Jessie Lampreau, Sarah Miller and Emily Nickerson, University of Victoria Libraries

Our experiences as academic law librarians are shaped by our specific law faculty and library context. In this context, we typically use the term instruction, rather than training. Our instruction primarily supports the students and faculty of the University of Victoria (UVic) Faculty of Law. The UVic Law School programs include the JD, the joint [JD/JID](#), LLM, and PhD programs. The bulk of our instruction is in the areas of legal research, legal citation, and citation management. These are one-off instruction sessions, usually connected to specific courses or hosted in the library. In many other academic law libraries, the law librarians are the primary instructors for legal research and writing courses, however this is not the case in our library.

We are most embedded in the first-year legal research and writing courses (LRW), as well as the upper year advanced legal research and writing courses (ALRW), providing multiple sessions to support specific assignments and topics. In ALRW, we also branch out into teaching about academic focused topics, such as scholarly paper writing and research topic selection. In addition to course-based instruction, we also provide instruction for the legal clinics and centers associated with the Faculty of Law, as well as providing sessions specific to faculty interests such as open publishing or legal AI. An advantage of being part of an academic institution is partnering with library colleagues who specialize in other subjects. We have collaborated with colleagues on AI literacy sessions and sessions involving Special Collections and University Archives. Finally, we invite vendors to provide

database specific training as needed.

For our sessions we usually create PowerPoints that are supplemented with live research demos. Depending on the topic, we sometimes teach from course specific research guides. We have also created asynchronous teaching tools, such as recorded sessions or skills specific instruction videos that may be followed by drop-in sessions or student appointments. In ALRW we have co-created mini-research assignments with the instructor including a legislative scavenger hunt.

Prior to the pandemic the majority of our instruction sessions were in-person. Post pandemic we moved to a combination of in-person and online. After a class, we will share our slides or handouts with the class. We often provide a lot of information in our instruction sessions and sharing the resources allows students to refer to the presentation when they are working on their assignment. Students also learn in a variety of ways and therefore we try to provide the information in different modes.

Course connected instruction sessions are created in discussion and collaboration with the instructors. When we update sessions to fit a specific assignment or tailor a general session to a specific class and subject, we review the course syllabus, as well as discuss the specific content and approach with the instructors. From there we update our slides and demonstrations to match the content or any changes in resources or technology.

For asynchronous instruction such as our legislative research videos, we review them annually to update for database or technology changes. Emerging technologies, like the roll out of Lexis+AI, also triggers the need to review and update content. It can sometimes be a challenge to find the time to update sessions and to include more interactive components. We are looking for ways to make our materials more sustainable and evergreen.

Our ways of staying up to date on training techniques involve learning informally from our colleagues through conversations, article and resource sharing, and library wide peer sharing events. Attending relevant conferences such as WILU (Workshop for Instruction in Library Use) or CALL and staying on relevant listservs also helps us to expand our knowledge.

Our advice for someone starting to add instruction would be to start with one session and branch out from there. Start with learning objectives that are tied to an assignment or concrete task to help guide the session. Be open to learning from the first session on what went well and areas to improve, and don't be too hard on yourself! We've found that less is more, and timing is really key! Instruction

sessions delivered at the point of need and with only the relevant information have the best engagement.

The Attorney General Law Library's Role in Training

By Samantha Snodgrass, Law Librarian & Fiona Chiu, Senior Law Librarian

Background

The Attorney General (AG) Law Library serves the Ministry of Attorney General's Legal Services Branch (LSB), which is comprised of around 700 employees. The library is most similar to a law firm library. You can think of LSB as the BC Government's in-house law firm, and the AG Law Library as LSB's in-house law library.

Our mission is to provide responsive, skillful and comprehensive library and legal research services within a diverse and inclusive environment. A key aspect of our services involves the monthly planning and delivery of webinars, in-person workshops, one-on-one training and orientations. The library makes up half of the Knowledge Services team. The other half is comprised of the Knowledge Sharing team, who oversee the operations of LSB's in-house knowledge management system and work on innovation projects.

Audience

Our orientations and trainings are open to all staff within LSB. These include articling students, legal counsel, paralegals, legal support staff, other professional staff, etc. Within LSB, there are 8 practice groups, each focusing on different areas of law.

Collaboration

LSB's continuing legal education is managed by the Learning Team and the Professional Development Committee. We work closely with them to exchange ideas and explore new training opportunities.

Our latest pilot project involves collaborating with staff who support the articling students' program to provide monthly research skills sessions to the students. These sessions are 10-minute presentations on a research tool or skill.

Training Topics and Formats

We offer 1-hour orientation sessions to new hires and shorter 10–15-minute versions of the orientation to different practice groups. The bite-sized sessions are tailored and focus on services/resources that are of interest to the respective practice areas. We have had very positive feedback from these sessions, and they have resulted in an uptick of requests following each.

Training topics mainly focus on legal research skills using the library's digital and print collections/resources. These have included: vendor training on how to use subscription databases, citation training on how to use the McGill guide, and legal research primer training for articling students.

The library exclusively ran training in person prior to the pandemic. In March of 2020, we ran our first virtual training session and have run all sessions since then online except for training offered to articling students, which is sometimes in person. We find online training works better for our clients,

as we are distributed across five buildings in two cities and now also have employees who are full time remote workers.

Webinars are hosted on MS Teams. We create an interactive learning environment by asking attendees to respond to questions via chat or using polls. For example, we include anonymous multiple-choice quizzes in our presentations to give attendees a chance to test their skills in a low-stakes way.

Future Planning

We have just conducted a survey of our clients to better understand library usage and client needs. As part of this, we asked about what training topics clients would be interested in. We are excited to review those results and see what ideas we can incorporate into our training for next year.

An Inside Look at Training Offered at a Law Firm Library

By Debbie Millward, Lawson Lundell

At Lawson Lundell, the librarians provide scheduled training for articling students, both the full-year cohorts and the summer articles, for all four of the offices (Vancouver, Kelowna, Calgary, and Yellowknife). Session topics include: using the library's catalogue and intranet; searching and contributing to the firm's precedent collection; refreshers by external trainers for subscribed databases; a joint seminar on legislative research delivered by a librarian and a research lawyer. The librarians also coordinate tours of the courthouse libraries in Vancouver and Calgary. All of these occur over a period of weeks.

Apart from tours, most of the formal sessions are delivered in a hybrid of in-person and remote formats, generally with the Vancouver and Calgary students joining as groups from their boardrooms, and others joining from their offices. We used remote training for our Calgary students before the pandemic, and since then it has been normalized to offer training in hybrid form so it is available as an option to in-person, for everyone. When we do use presentation decks, those are stored and shared on the intranet for future reference, under Learning & Development. The library also participates in an annual orientation for associates who joined the firm or were promoted from student during the previous year.

Through a "welcome from the library" email that contains links and attachments, we offer training to new legal support staff, and to lawyers joining us from elsewhere. In our daily work, the library team often delivers one on one coaching on the use of our databases and print materials for real-time specific needs. Our HR team recently launched monthly Welcome Wednesdays for support staff who have come on board since the prior month, and the library team has a slot to meet the new staff and tell them in-person what the library can do for them in their roles.

In collaboration with the Legal Talent team and associates from the research & opinions practice group, the library reviews training materials annually. A survey is often sent to students at the end of their articles, to gather feedback for improving training for future cohorts. The training program has evolved over my decade at Lawson, in terms of format (all in-person, to hybrid), in scale (four-fold increase in number of articling students, doubling of firm size by lawyer), and in internal resources (more trainers, more admin support for booking, etc.) What hasn't changed is the library team's role as the centre for training on use of the firm's research resources.

Librarians keep up to date with training techniques and library instruction methods by participating in professional development opportunities organized by VALL, CALL, and AALL, engaging more informally in knowledge sharing with colleagues, and following industry blogs and experts.

Advice? Be sure to coordinate with the professional-development team, plus the technology trainers you have in-house, and those provided by your vendors. It takes a village.

Column: From the Web Editor's Screen

Hello from the VALL Web Editor!

You may be aware that [our website has a blog](#). Here you'll find membership announcements and event details, and you can publish job postings or other items of interest for members to read. [Our job posting policy is here](#).

I want to ensure you know these blog posts will not automatically be mailed to you. You can find [the RSS feed for the blog right here](#), or via the RSS icon at the bottom of the website.

Please me know if you have any issues reading or posting to the blog, or any questions about the website generally.



Source: <https://unsplash.com/s/photos/fall>

Member Announcements

VALL is pleased to welcome the following new members!

Brianna Henshaw, Justice Institute of BC

I am the new Outreach and Copyright Librarian at JIBC, and the liaison for the School of Criminal Justice and Security (what a mouthful!). I graduated from the MLIS program at UBC in 2022 and have worked at several post-secondary libraries in Vancouver, as well as a brief role as a practicum student at Blakes where I was first introduced to legal research. I'm excited to dive even deeper into the world of legal information as I support JIBC faculty and students and various public safety personnel across BC. In my spare time I enjoy taking dance classes, testing my sewing skills with more and more ambitious projects, and playing a video game or two.

Ivy Yu, McMillan

Hello, VALL members! I'm Ivy Yu, an Information & Knowledge Management Assistant at McMillan LLP. I moved from Hong Kong to Vancouver in 2022 and hold a master's degree in Knowledge Management. I'm still fairly new to both Canada and this field, and I'm excited to learn and grow alongside all of you. When I'm not focused on research or organizing information, you'll likely find me tending to my indoor plants or trying out new recipes in the kitchen. I'm excited to be part of the VALL community and look forward to connecting with you all!

News from CLEBC

Adam Simpkins, *Marketing Manager*

New Resource: Child and Family Services Law and Practice

Child and Family Services Law and Practice, recently published by CLEBC, is a comprehensive reference tool designed to assist in navigating the complexities of child and family services law. This manual offers in-depth analysis of both substantive law and procedural nuances, making it a valuable addition to legal research collections.

The book is structured to provide a holistic understanding of the legal landscape, beginning with the foundational laws and principles that shape child and family services. It highlights Indigenous approaches and perspectives, an increasingly important area of focus in legal practice, particularly in British Columbia.

In addition to its analysis, the publication includes the full text of key legislation, such as An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families and the Child, Family and Community Service Act, complete with detailed annotations and relevant case law. These annotated texts are intended to help researchers identify key cases and legal interpretations efficiently.

The book also covers broader contextual issues, such as cultural humility, trauma-informed practice, and the impacts of colonial history on child and family services, providing the context necessary for informed legal research. These sections are particularly helpful for supporting those who work in this area of law.

The practical resources included—checklists, forms, and precedents—further enhance the value of this publication, supporting efficient case management and procedural work.

The book is available online (as a yearly subscription) or in print. For more information or to add Child and Family Services Law and Practice to your collection, visit <https://www.cle.bc.ca/808> or call our Customer Service team at 604.893.2121.

We extend our thanks to all of the contributors and CLEBC staff who made this publication possible.

News from Courthouse Libraries BC

Caroline Nevin, CEO

Courthouse Libraries BC (CLBC) has received \$2M in special funding from the Law Foundation of BC to enhance its print and digital Collections, and \$1M each from the Law Foundation and Notary Foundation of BC to fund IT infrastructure and digital services. This investment was provided in recognition of the hyper-inflationary costs in legal publishing and the evolving costs of delivering IT-dependent services across the province.

Thanks in part to our funders' support, we have been able to expand materials available remotely to lawyers through vLex (now includes Emond's Criminal and Immigration Law digital collections) and Hein Online, which now includes access to UK and Irish Nominative Reports (case law from the UK and Ireland spanning 1585–1899). And our partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General Court Services Branch is being renewed for 2025, ensuring that all of our clients continue to have no-fee access to public court documents through CSO e-search on all 100 public computers in our 30 branches.

We officially re-launched the new [Clicklaw digital service](#) which offers legal information geared to the public, selected and organized by law librarians. This is a great place to learn more about the basics of any area of law. Of special note, the Clicklaw Wiki Book [Legal Information for Indigenous People](#) has recently been updated by the Bella Coola Legal Advocacy Program.

Got an odd question? Check out our [Legal Knowledge Base](#), a digital collection of legal research questions answered by our knowledgeable staff. We add to this list each year, so bookmark the page!

News from InfoAction

Ronit Landon, *Manager InfoAction*

Ronit Landon returned to her position as Manager in July, and we welcomed Kelty Roberts in her permanent new role as Assistant Manager in August!

InfoAction really felt the impacts of the economic conditions of 2023. Due to a decline in activity on the junior markets, many of our clients experienced a slowdown in transactions that normally require the due diligence background searches that we provide. Even our city directory searches dropped slightly as development projects experienced a slow down due to increased costs and banks toughening on lending for developers and other businesses. However, we've seen an increase in self-employed and small business research requests over the last few months, which has allowed us to dig into some fun research like the history of junk drawers, market research on artist housing, and the music distribution industry. We hope that with interest rates dropping and inflation cooling, markets will rebound and we'll be back to doing our professional sleuthing for law firms and their clients soon!

VPL also launched two new platforms this summer: Palace Project (an all-in-one e-reading platform) and Virtual Vault (digitized collection of rare and historical books). Additionally, please note that Special Collections will be temporarily closed on Mondays from October 21st until further notice. If you need something from our Special Collections and are unable to access it, you can contact infoaction@vpl.ca to submit an order request.

News from King's Printer

Neal Yonson, *Manager of Projects and Legislation*

The King's Printer recently moved to a new location, bidding farewell to our home of nearly 100 years. Located just south of the BC Legislature, the building at 563 Superior St. had been purpose-built in the 1920s to house the King's Printer. It is now designated as a heritage building and its Art Deco façade was protected and retained through multiple internal renovations over the years. The building will continue to be used for government offices, and a new tenant will be taking over the space shortly.

While we are sad to be leaving the building that has been synonymous with the King's Printer for so long, we are excited to be co-located with all our colleagues in the Ministry of Citizens' Services. Our mailing address will remain the same, but please update your records with our new physical address.

Mailing Address:

Kings Printer for British Columbia
C/O Ministry of Citizens' Services
PO Box 9452 STN Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8X 9V7

Physical Address:

Kings Printer for British Columbia
C/O Ministry of Citizens' Services
4000 Seymour Pl
Victoria, BC V8X 4S7

News from LexisNexis

Felix Evans, *Senior Team Manager, Mid/Large Law*

With the launch of Lexis+ AI™ over the summer, we wanted to prepare Canadian legal practitioners for this technological shift. For those unfamiliar with Lexis+ AI™, the tool offers advanced AI capabilities that streamline legal research, writing, and review processes, freeing up valuable time and allowing users to focus on delivering exceptional service to their clients. It has been developed in partnership with data scientists and subject matter experts, is grounded in LexisNexis's exclusive and reliable legal content, and has been refined through extensive and ongoing customer testing.

In training sessions, our Product Adoption and Learning (PAL) team has focused on teaching how to interact with Lexis+ AI™, particularly to Canadian law school faculty and staff, who have been granted access to the tool. That said, the PALs continued to emphasize traditional legal research skills to Canadian law students within Lexis+™ Canada as the foundation for understanding and applying the law.

Lexis+ AI™ Brings a New Approach to Training

We have created a unique training experience regarding how users interact with the tool. Unlike traditional legal research platforms, which rely on constructing natural language, Boolean, or segment search strings, Lexis+ AI™ relies on crafting a well-thought-out prompt to get high quality responses from our AI Assistant. To help users understand the prompting process, the PAL team is teaching the [5P Prompting Methodology](#).

- Prime: Provide relevant background and context of the legal matter, like jurisdiction and client's circumstances.
- Persona: Define the desired personality and tone of AI Assistant's response, e.g. who you are representing in the legal matter, who your client is, and the tone of the response (professional, succinct, detailed, etc.)
- Prompt: Tell the AI Assistant what you want it to do. Ask a question or use a clear verb to indicate what is needed.
- Product: Specify the desired format of the AI Assistant's response, e.g. [an email](#), [a legal memo](#), [a case summary](#), [a document summary](#), [an answer to a legal question](#) in less than 300 words.
- Polish: After the initial prompt, you can ask follow up questions or provide additional details to get the desired response.

Please [click here](#) to download our 5P Prompting Methodology user guide. You can also watch the [Prompting for Legal AI webinar](#) that we hosted on September 25, 2024 with Hannah Rosborough (Instruction & Scholarly Communications Librarian at Dalhousie University) and Katarina Daniels (Research Lawyer, Library Services Lead at Davies Ward Philips & Vineberg).

Requesting Training and Finding Training Materials

All our users can request training from the PAL team. This is applicable not just to Lexis+ AI™, but any product that they subscribe to. All training is complimentary and qualifies for CPD hours in all Canadian jurisdictions where CPD is required.

- Reach out to us at training@lexisnexis.ca. We will connect you with a trainer that can arrange a personalized session just for you or for your organization.
- If you know the name of your trainer, please feel free to email the trainer directly.
- Go to our [Public Training Calendar](#) to register for a session.
- For training videos, user guides, and tip sheets, please visit our [Documentation and Training Resources page](#) and select the product you are interested in.
- Specifically for Lexis+ AI™, you can access the training materials [here](#). To see Lexis+ AI™ in action for different legal areas of practice, click the links below:
 - [Family Law](#)
 - [Personal Injury Litigation](#)
 - [Securities](#)
 - [Real Estate](#)

Programming Review

Alexandria Everitt, Library Services Manager | Harris & Company LLP
Kate LeBere, Research Coordinator | Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Chelsea Merkl, Legal Research Analyst | Borden Ladner Gervais

October – VALL Coffee Morning & Joint Library Tour

VALL's first networking event of the 2024-2025 season was the VALL Coffee Morning & Joint Library

Tour at the Stack, the new home of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP and DLA Piper. Attendees met in one of Blakes' boardrooms early on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 for morning coffee and pastries. They were then guided on tours by Kate LeBere, Sean Sallis-Lyon, Jen Brubacher, and Susannah Tredwell to see Blakes' and DLA Piper's libraries. Attendees also got to visit the Stack's rooftop patio where they saw a 360-degree view of downtown Vancouver! Thank you to everyone who attended and to Blakes for providing the refreshments.

November – VALL Collections Management Panel

VALL's first substantive session of the 2024-2025 season, the Collections Management Panel, was held at lunch on Zoom on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. In this session, attendees got to learn about their colleagues' collection management and weeding projects at their libraries. Tracy McLean (Manager of Information Services at Courthouse Libraries

BC), Lesley Dobin (Manager of Information Resources at Courthouse Libraries BC), Bri Turner (Technician, Library Collections and Procurement at Borden Ladner Gervais), and George Tsiakos (Head of the UBC Law Library) recounted their experiences managing and weeding their collections, including their approaches to collection development policies, how to deal with space and budget constraints, and challenges encountered during recent collection management projects. The presentations were followed by a lively Q&A period where the panelists answered the audience's questions and questions collected via the event's sign-up form. Approximately 30 people attended the talks. Thank you to everyone who participated!

December – VALL Holiday Networking Lunch

The VALL Holiday Networking Lunch took place on December 5, 2024, marking VALL's last event of 2024. To make the holiday lunch more accessible to our members, the event was held at Steamworks Brew Pub with a lower ticket price than previous years. Attendees were served a hot, festive buffet-lunch and were able to mingle and connect with each other and the VALL community. Before the lunch, VALL President Kurtis Kolthammer made a speech noting that applications for the Peter Bark Bursary will open in January, that there is behind-the-scenes work being done in collaboration with TALL and CALL regarding a salary survey, and that the Program's Committee will be organizing a brown bag lunch in the new year. The event had a full turnout, with all 40 tickets being sold! Special thank you to Thomson Reuters, LexisNexis, and Quickscribe for sponsoring the event and contributing to the many door prizes.



1 Library at DLA Piper



VALL Winter Networking Social, December 5, 2024 @ Steamworks

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, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Operating Account				
Operating total including member shares as of July 1, 2023				\$10,071.08
INCOME		Estimated¹	Actual	Difference
	Membership fees 2023/2024	\$3,200	\$2,400 ²	\$800
	Bank interest & dividends	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Sponsorship ³	\$2,000	\$1,850	\$150
	Event registrations	\$2,500	\$3,110	\$610
EXPENSES		Estimated¹	Actual	Difference
	Zoom Account	\$224	\$299.04 ⁴	\$75.04
	Mail box renewal	\$200	\$214.20	\$14.20
	Website renewal	\$100	\$101.92	\$1.92
	Honoured Member Attendance	\$250	\$0	\$250
	Peter Bark Bursary 2023/2024 ⁵	\$1000	\$827.82	\$172.18
	Executive expenses (e.g. thank you cards, stamps, etc.)	\$100	\$0	\$100
	Programs expenses (speakers, venues, prizes, etc.)	\$6,500	\$7,632.03	\$1,132.03
NET INCOME		\$7,700	\$7,360	\$340.00
NET EXPENSES		\$8,374	\$9,075.01	\$701.01
	Member shares	\$158.78	\$158.78	\$0
Operating total including member shares as of June 30, 2024				\$7,887.25

¹ Based on the previous year's amounts.

² Includes \$40x35 renewals from last year and \$50x20 renewals from this year so far (membership renewal overlap between the current and previous year).

³ Before PayPal fees deducted.

⁴ Usual annual fee of \$224.00 but an additional \$75.04 for a 1 month Zoom upgrade.

⁵ Another amount for \$ 529.55 was also awarded in 2023/24 but was only paid out in 2024/25.

Peter Bark Memorial Fund Account		
	As of June 30, 2023	As of June 30, 2024
Business Investment Savings Account	\$1,756.08	\$1,756.08
Escalating Term Deposit 3Y <i>Matures: September 7, 2024</i>	\$8,580.75	\$8,670.85
Non-Redeemable Annual Term Deposit <i>Matures: September 7, 2024</i>	\$3,000	\$3,112.50
Escalating Term Deposit 3Y <i>Matures: September 9, 2025</i>	\$1,000	\$1,033.50
NET	\$14,336.83	\$14,572.93
Member shares	\$197.65	\$197.65
PBMF Total including member shares	\$14,534.48	\$14,770.58

VALL Program Survey Report – 2023-2024

INTRODUCTION

The Vancouver Association of Law Libraries Executive is pleased to present the annual results for the Programming Feedback & Suggestions survey for the season 2023 - 2024. This survey captured event attendance by the VALL membership, and collected data for upcoming 2024 - 2025 events. Respondents returned the survey between June 25 and July 12, 2024 using Google Forms.

We received 34 responses from members, who answered 13 questions regarding VALL programming and interest in a VALL Salary Survey.

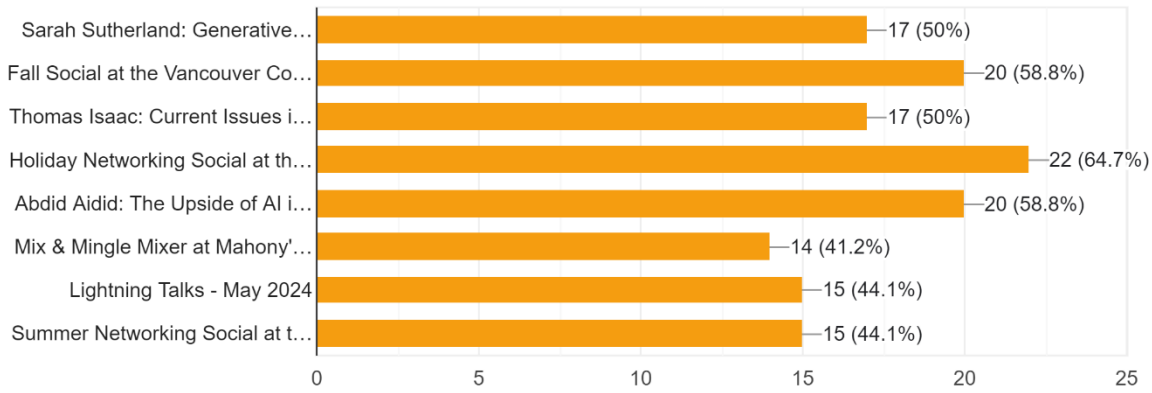
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 34 respondents, up from 30 in the 2022-2023 season
- Highest attended events of respondents were Holiday Networking Social and a tie for second place between the Fall Social at the Vancouver Courthouse Library and Abdi Aidid on the Upside of AI in the Legal Profession.
- Members indicated scheduling conflicts as the top reason for not attending events. Programming committee may need to consider scheduling events at different times.
- The VALL Executive committee was sensitive this year to rising costs associated with obtaining venues for social events. Most members did not indicate that higher tickets prices prevented them from attending these events.
- The large majority of respondents were satisfied with the variety of social and substantive events for the 2023-2024 season.
- However, members also indicated that more substantive events and more informal events, such as the mixer at Mahoney's, would be welcome.
- Library Management Topics and Best Practices Regarding Instruction and Training garnered the most interest for substantive topics.
- Members also indicated a high amount of interest in a BC-specific salary survey.

Most members seemed happy with the variety of programs offered this season but would also embrace more informal social events and opportunities to network and share information. Rising venue costs did not deter most members from ticketed events, but the Programming Committee may need to prioritize donated or public spaces for future events. In addition, a sub-committee of the VALL executive will be established to discuss a salary survey.

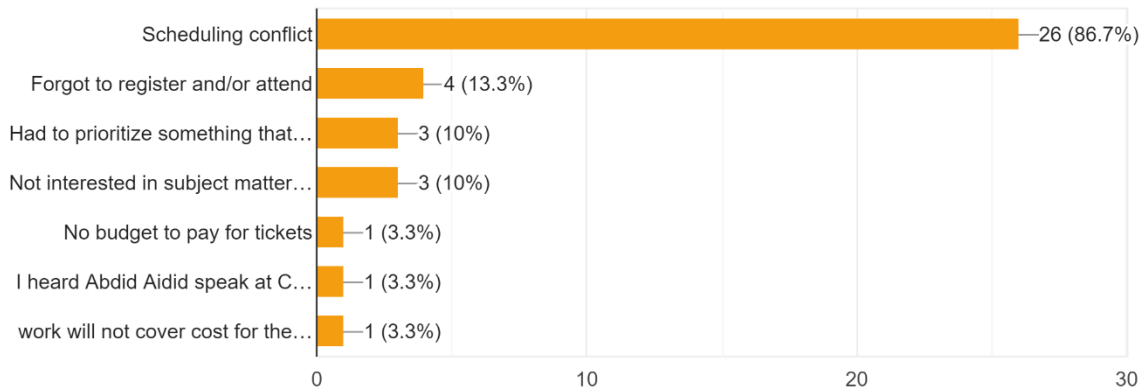
1. Of the 4 substantive sessions and 4 social events offered by VALL this year, which events did you attend?

34 responses



2. If you did NOT attend one or more of the substantive events, what was your MAIN reason for not attending?

30 responses



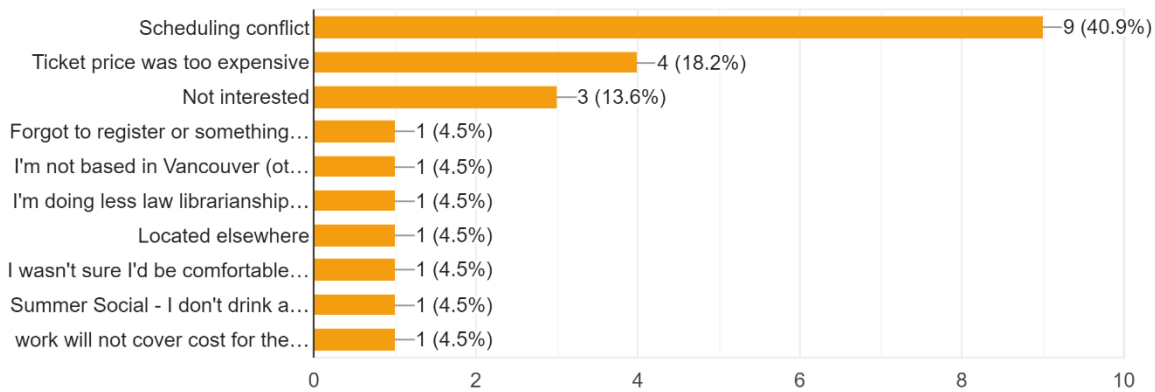
3. If applicable, please specify the **substantive event** topic(s) you were not interested in:

5 responses

- AI sessions
- I also felt the Sarah Sutherland and Abdid Aidid sessions seemed too similar in topic, I would have liked a different topic
- Mahony's Tavern mixer
- I am interested in Aboriginal law from a personal standpoint, but did not attend because my firm does not work a lot around legal issues from the Indigenous community.
- Sarah Sutherland - repetitive from other presentations she has done.

4. If you did NOT attend one or both of the two ticketed social events (Holiday Social and Summer Social), what was your MAIN reason for not attending:

22 responses



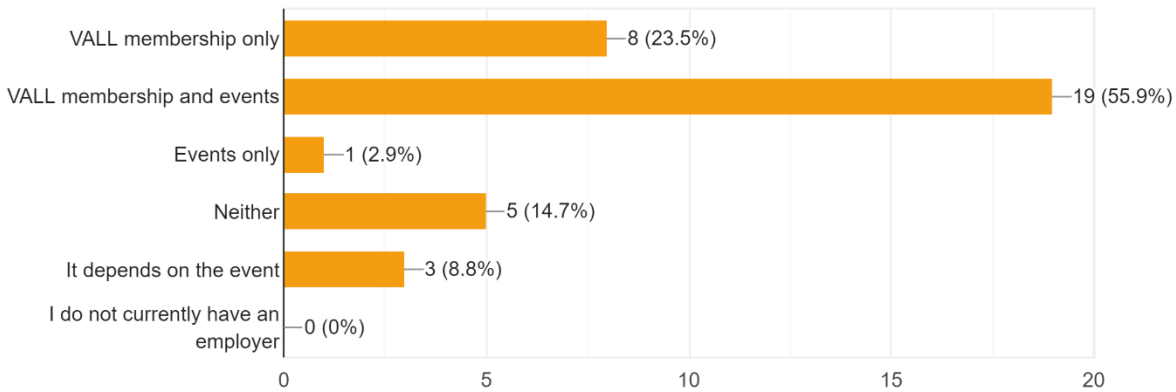
5. We are always looking for new venue suggestions for in-person events. If you have one in mind, please feel free to share it with us!

4 responses

- I like it when we visit the firms and see their libraries.
- Rooftop VPL, any park or beach
- Some buildings have large boardroom settings. For example: Bental 5
- Garden social at Van Dusen Gardens

6. Does your employer reimburse or subsidize the cost of VALL membership and/or events?

34 responses



7. Based on your answer to question 5 above, please explain what types of events your employer is most likely to pay for: 34 responses

Professional development

Unlikely to pay for any type of event.

All events, but much better if socials labelled as "networking" events

All events

Networking or any continuing education (substantive) events.

Networking / Business Development

Virtual learning webinars during work hours

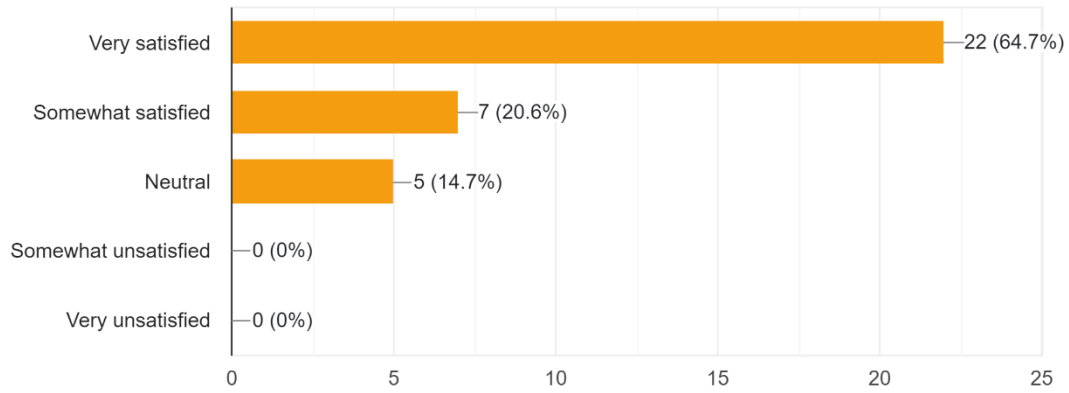
Legal research or topics affecting librarianship, like AI, floods, ILSs

Substantive learning opportunities rather than social events.

I would not ask my employer to pay for social events beyond the holiday lunch and VALL membership.

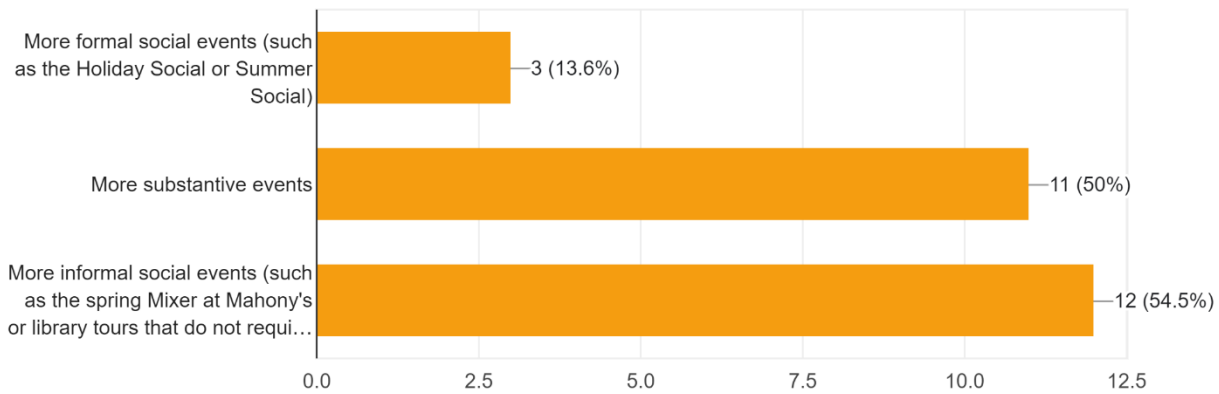
8. Were you satisfied with the combination of social events and substantive sessions offered this year?

34 responses



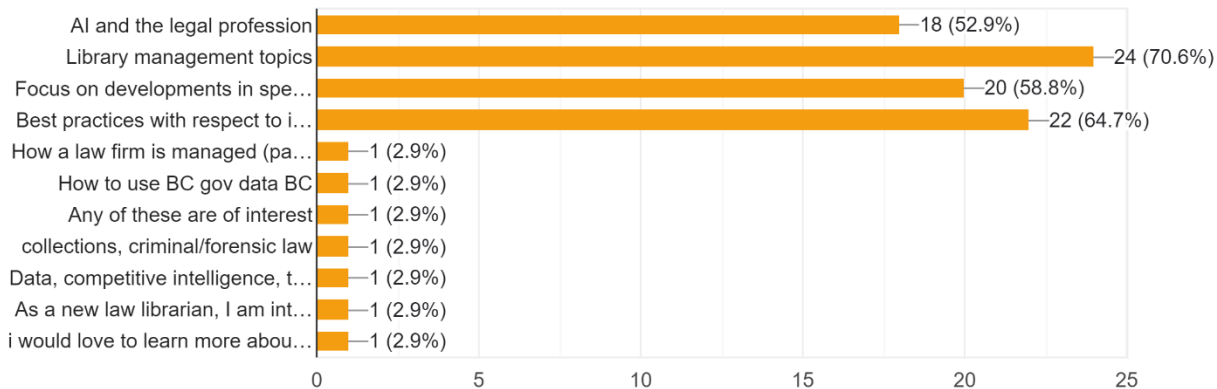
9. Based on your answer to question 7 above, what would increase your satisfaction level?

22 responses



10. What types of substantive events would you be interested in seeing next season?

34 responses



11. Tell us what you think! We welcome your general and specific feedback on this year's VALL programming. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us provide better content and networking opportunities for our members. 9 responses

A big thank you to the Program Committee, who did great work this year!

Absolutely wonderful programming this year, I only wish my schedule could have allowed me to attend them all!

Thank you!

Publisher's forum

I thought you did a great job this year. Thank you for your contributions to the community!

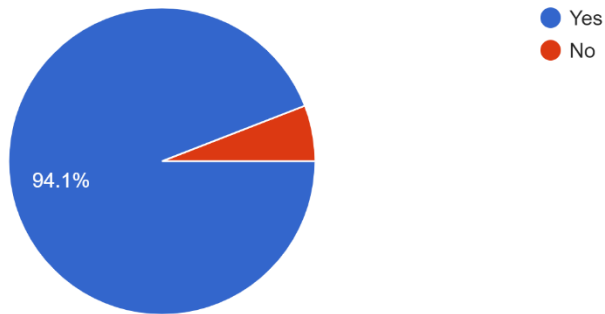
Thanks for all the work you do!

More opportunities to discuss issues and solutions

The event planning role takes a significant amount of time, often cutting into your personal time outside of work, so thank you for all your wonderful work to keep building our tight knit community! :)

12. Would you be interested in having access to an anonymous BC-specific salary survey administered by VALL?

34 responses



Thank you to all who completed the survey! Your responses will help us plan rewarding and relevant events for the upcoming year!