2015 CALA Mid-Year Professional Development Taskforce Report

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Committee Roster:

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Committee Charge: Primary Goal and Action Plan 2015-2016 :

To create learning opportunities and a support system for CALA members to improve their research skills and increase their research output with focus on scholarship of research for promotion, specifically on research design and publishing.

A. One collaborative ALA Workshop and one online webinar training with the recordings and handouts for both trainings to be posted on the CALA web site.

B. Resource List: We will also make a resources list about the topic to post it on CALA’s web site for the members to use.

C. Mentorship: We will also reach out to Mentorship Committee of CALA to promote each other's programs and share resources on professional development.
Goals and Objectives Accomplished:

a) Identified and booked seminar speakers: “Practical Research Designs for Librarians” by Dr. Yin Zhang on Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

Dr. Yin Zhang is a Professor at the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) at Kent State University (KSU). She received her Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and her B.S. and M.S. in Information Science from Wuhan University, China. Her research and teaching areas include user information-seeking behavior, information uses and services, research methods, information systems, and information organization. She has published over 50 articles and collaborated with librarians. Her papers have won Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition Award and Methodology Paper Competition Award.

This webinar will provide an overview of research design principles with an emphasis on choosing a research topic, formulating research questions (and hypothesis), selecting methods, and developing a plan to collect data to answer the questions. Practical tips and examples will be provided to illustrate where to begin and how to define and carry out a research project.

b) Have the resource template created

“A Brief Annotated Guide on Professional Development for Early Career Librarians” was created, including sections on "Guide books", "Selected Library professional organizations", "Scholarships/Grants for Early Career Librarians/Library School Students", and "Other Online Resources for Research Librarians"

Goals and Objectives to Be Completed:

January/February

a. Create the web page for the resource list
b. Identify the workshop speaker
March/April

a. Book the workshop speaker
b. Workshop planning

May/June

a. Archive all the workshop and webinar materials on the web
b. Post Resource list on the web
c. Organize another program on professional development topic workshop at the ALA annual conference during June 23-28 in Orlando, FL with cooperative effort.

Budget Requirements or Reimbursement Requests (if any): $50

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the Board (if any):

It seems too many committees in CALA. Some committees with similar tasks or have overlapping duties could be merged, such as Membership Committee/Recruitment of Young Generation Committee/Mentorship committee; Leadership training Academy Task Force/Professional Development; several Award and Grant Committees, etc. Some committees can be combined to reduce duplicate efforts.

Also there seem to be no clear policies and procedures for some of the things, say for the speaker reward and speaker contract, etc.

Summary Paragraph: In a few sentences, highlight your achievements, concerns, or suggestions that you mostly want addressed. This should be the main point of your committee report.

As the professional development needs for librarians can vary widely, the taskforce decided to just focus on the common need of all various types of librarianships this year: scholarship of research for promotion, specifically on research design and publishing, considering librarians are often lack of confidence and/or skills in conducting a research project.

We also have been trying to work with CALA Mentorship Program Committee and web committee in order to promote each other's webinars (on professional development related topics) and try to work on a brief online guide on selected library professional development resources to be posted on CALA website. It will be nice if the Professional Development Task Force could also work with the Leadership Training Academy Task Force on leadership training issues and/or collaborate with Membership Committee/Recruitment of Young Generation Committee on promoting CALA and outreach to library school students, etc.