

A Couple of Newbies @ the HLABC AGM & TipsandTricks Sessions!

On June 19, we experienced our first HLABC Annual General Meeting and subsequent Tips and Tricks Sessions in Vancouver. We were the lucky recipients of the Bill Fraser Grant, and it is only through this generous support of HLABC that we were able to attend at all! What a great day for us! Andrea has been in her job as Library Technician for three years, and Sarah has been growing into her position as Librarian over the last two years. In that time, we have seen every HLABC name at the bottom of an email or some correspondence, and on Friday, June 19, we put faces to those names – connected in conversation, and initiated new conversations that will build stronger ties in the future. The only thing missing from our experience was coworker Ruth Rochlin, whose presence would have made the teambuilding experience complete!

The Tips and Tricks sessions were fabulous – how often do we have professional development geared specifically to our type of library? Professional development is valuable if, upon leaving, one can see immediate application in daily work practice, and this was certainly the case in our experience. The sessions were led by Niki Baumann, Krista Clement and Shannon Long, all members of our Association, and their leadership and guidance through the afternoon showed what talent exists within the HLABC. In terms of content, the progression of the sessions from Niki's EBM Reviews searching to Krista's overview of how-to set up subject search alerts in Ovid or Ebsco and finally onto Shannon's RSS subject search blog illustrated a scope of possibility in program delivery within health libraries. The time flew, and the handouts available will help us refresh and retain what we learned on the day. Further, having met each presenter we know where to find expert answers to any questions that arise as we apply our newfound knowledge!

The Bill Fraser Grant is given in the spirit of leadership and support for health librarians and library staff throughout the province. Our day spent in your excellent company was a testament to both, and we were happy to be able to participate! Thank you!

Submitted by Sarah Murdoch Black & Andrea Bretherick