The Council of Atlantic University Libraries – Le Conseil des bibliothèques universitaires de l’Atlantique is composed of post-secondary institutions from the Atlantic Canada Region.

We are a dynamic community of librarians and library staff bringing valuable experience and a willingness to ensure the best quality of service to meet user needs. All of our members are actively involved in pursuing innovative and cost-effective ways to benefit our faculty and students. Collaboration maximizes benefits to, and builds capacity within, our member institutions.

Much of our work is done through our Committees, Working Groups, and Board of Directors. Membership is reflective of staff from all aspects of library service.

Our regional Collections Committee brings value to member libraries by providing a venue for collaboration and discussion of issues related to development and management of collections in all formats. This includes projects such as developing a CAUL-CBUA Licensing Information Module (LIM) / E-Resource Management System (ERMS); developing a strategy for dealing with offers/product evaluation; and developing a discussion topic and webinar series.

Our Document Delivery Group coordinates the shared document delivery/interlibrary loan services among our member libraries and beyond. It provides timely, cost-effective resource sharing through a well-synchronized network of interlibrary loans specialists at each member library. In the most recent year for which figures are available, our document delivery service processed over 80,000 requests.

Libraries play a key role in education and advocacy efforts, protecting and promoting the interests of post-secondary institutions through a balanced copyright ecosystem, by ensuring that fair dealing and other education provisions in the Copyright Act are preserved. Our Copyright Committee provides guidance and support to our member community on copyright issues and best practices as well as research and advisory support to the Board of Directors in developing copyright policy. The Committee is currently updating a draft statement on the 2017 Review of Canada’s amended Copyright Act.

Our Digital Preservation and Stewardship Committee fosters and advances a culture of digital preservation and stewardship among our members; it also guides and enhances the capacity to undertake digital initiatives in the Atlantic region. The Committee is currently developing an inventory of software, skills, equipment, and services within the Atlantic Region for digital preservation, as well as a consortium-wide education program related to Research Data Management (RDM).

Our Scholarly Communications Committee provides support to our member community in the areas of open access and new models of scholarly communication. It assesses existing and proposed scholarly communications activities within our institutions, recommends and develops best practices, and coordinates member Open Access Week events. Recently the Committee, through its Open Textbooks Survey Working Group, developed and administered a survey to determine interest in, or experience with, open textbook adoption at post-secondary institutions in Atlantic Canada.

Our Collaborative Research & Innovation Grant Award Committee administers a grant of the same name, to support new or established librarians at our member institutions, who aspire to or are actively engaged in research. In 2015 Suzanne van den Hoogen, Public Services Librarian at St. Francis Xavier University and Kristel Fleuren-Hunter, Children’s Services Librarian at Pictou Antigonish Regional Library were awarded $1,000 to help support their project, At Your Leisure: Providing leisure reading materials to a university community through an academic and public library initiative.

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