Informal Library Chat
Summary Notes
April 14, 2022

OLS Updates

- The **Annual Survey of Public Libraries** was launched on January 26. All CEOs should have received an email announcing the launch, along with supporting documents.
  - o Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2022
  - o Annual Survey page of the OLS website includes an FAQ, and the Section C stats for electronic resources (OLS OverDrive Consortium, OLS Cantook Consortium, and electronic resources purchased through OLS licensing)
  - o Annual Survey page on the OLS website: https://www.olservice.ca/funding-grants/annual-survey
  - o In GO-Secure, you can find a few more Help documents, including the Blank Survey and the Definitions document
- **Upcoming Networking**: CEO Networking Meetings will be held in May (registration is open on LearnHQ)
  - o Meetings page of the OLS website: https://www.olservice.ca/networking-meetings
- **Upcoming Training Opportunities:** The OLS Training Bulletin was released at the beginning of April. View the Spring 2022 Training Bulletin.
- **Ontario Library Service Newsletter:** The April 2022 edition of the OLS Newsletter was just released. View the April 2022 OLS Newsletter.
- **Municipal Election Policy:** OLS has developed a Trillium Public Library sample policy (OP-16 Library and Political Elections) to address elements around the library and municipal elections. By May 1st, local boards (including library boards) need to set rules for the use of board resources during the campaign period.

COVID-19 Snapshot of Library Services

- Those in attendance were polled on current service levels for their libraries
- This week's poll included new questions about physical barriers within the library space, changes to masking requirements for staff and patrons, the return of volunteers to the library, and changes to COVID-related policies.
- See the COVID-19 Snapshot of Library Services document for the poll results, as well as results from previous Informal Library Chat polls.
- Suggestions for revisions to the questions asked in this poll are welcomed and encouraged.

Discussion Topics

Seed Libraries

- CEOs discussed strategies for obtaining seeds and making seed libraries sustainable
- Some libraries partner with their local horticultural society for support (including seed donations)
- Some libraries hand out kits in the spring that include seeds with soil, pots, instructions and label sticks
- Some libraries participate in the [David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Project](#) whose mission is to plant native wildflowers in the community. Some library staff are Butterflyway Rangers.
- Some libraries partnered with their local food banks to give them seeds and they started small garden plots
- In terms of funds, some libraries consider their seed libraries to be part of their special collections, and some use some of their programming budget towards seed library initiatives.

Job Descriptions

- CEOs discussed updates to job descriptions and what prompts the need for job evaluation

Campaigning in Public Spaces

- CEOs discussed the section of the Canada Elections Act that states that "federal election candidates or their representatives are allowed to campaign in facilities that are available for free to the public" (Canada Elections Act, Section 81.1 (1)).