

WINTER 2021

OCLA ACCESS POINT

The Newsletter of the Ontario Courthouse Libraries Association



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A note from Jennifer Walker, Chair, OCLA

Welcome to the Winter 2021 edition of OCLA Access Point! After another exceptional year, I hope you're all able to enjoy some downtime this holiday season and spend a little time away from legal databases and courthouse-approved masks, and more time with warm drinks and fuzzy PJs. After these last two years, we've certainly earned it!

This issue has some truly wonderful submissions from OCLA members that I hope you'll enjoy reading as much as I did. Also, thank you to everyone who responded to the questions on page 15. That was fun, and I'm delighted to

learn I'm not the only person who prefers staying warm inside with a hot chocolate over going outside to play! It's so nice to learn more about OCLA members, even though we've not been able to see each other for over two years.

On that note, I'd like to wish everyone well for the coming year. I hope many OCLA members will be able to gather in Montreal in May for the CALL/ABCD Conference, and again for COLAL in the Fall. It will be wonderful to see each other and connect in person after such a long time.

All the best to you during the holiday season,

Jen



OCLA Executive

Chair:

Jennifer Walker

Vice Chair:

Stacey Zip

Treasurer:

Michelle Gerrits

Secretary:

Chris Wyskiel

Member-At-Large:

Mary-Jo Petsche

Past Chair:

Pia Williams

Tech Tips: Calming Google Aesthetics Edition

By Brenda Lauritzen,
County of Carleton Law Association

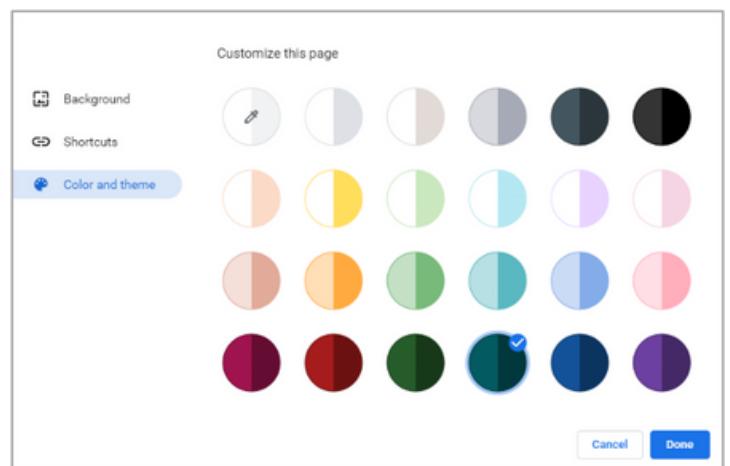
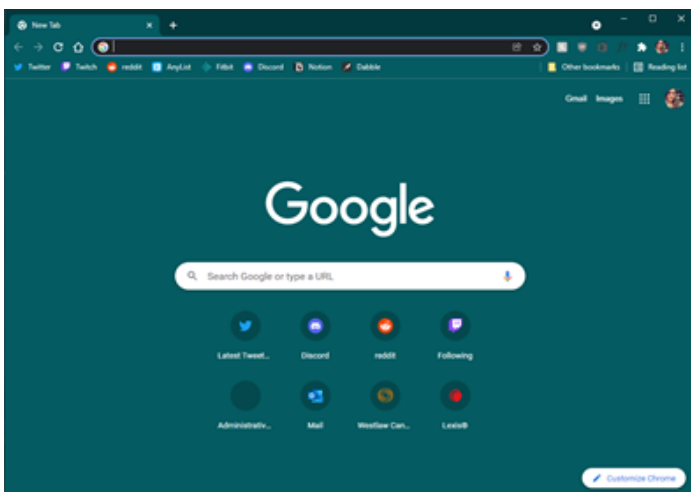
We all spend far too much time on our computers and digital devices; that's a given at this point. What gets talked about less often is that the default colours and fonts of many programs can be harsh and overly aggressive (why are you screaming at me, Google calendar??), and there's a lot to be said for looking at more calming things all day.

These might seem silly, but believe me - little things go a long way! So if you use the G-suite at all, here are some quick and free tips you can do to make your digital time less stressful through simple aesthetic changes.

Google Chrome: Customize Your Colours

In the bottom right corner of your new tab homepage in Google Chrome there's a link to "Customize Chrome". From here you can change your background, add shortcuts to your homepage, or change your colour and theme.

I'm a big fan of the pastels, which are delightfully light and cheery. I've also recently been using this dark teal combination (seen below), which can help reduce eye strain during the darker months.

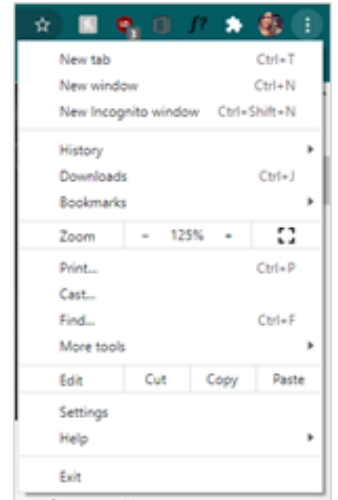


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Google Chrome: Use the Zoom

We tend to take in a lot of information on our big monitors, consciously and unconsciously, and it can get overwhelming. So make your text larger!

Click the three dots in the top right of your Chrome window and use the Zoom tool to make your text bigger (or smaller). I find setting it to 125% can make a big difference. If you're staring at long cases or articles all day, don't strain your eyes reading or skimming small text for no reason.



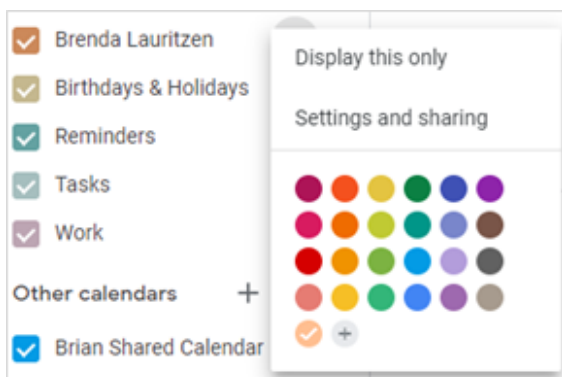
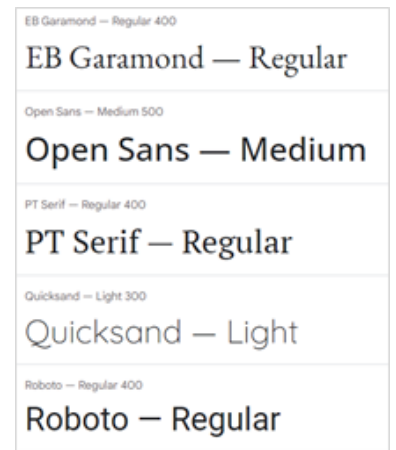
Google Fonts

Calibri is tiring and Times New Roman is old-fashioned!

Thankfully, Google has [a wealth of free, modern fonts](#) available for you to download and use. Installing is easy – once downloaded, just double click on the font name and click "Install" in the top left. The font will now be available for you to use in your desktop applications.

You can now also curate collections of Google fonts and share them with other people! When browsing the page above, clicking "Select this Style" will add it to a collection for you to download or share.

For example, here's a [link](#) to some of my favourite fonts!



Google Calendar

Last but not least, change the colours on your Google Calendar(s)! The default colours are quite loud, searing, and aggressive. You can add your own colours by clicking on the three dots next to your calendar name. Click the plus sign near the end of the default colours to add your own.

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Here are some more calming hex codes you can use:

HEX #FFBF91

HEX #E67C73

HEX #97C1A9

HEX #ECD5E3

HEX #8FCACA

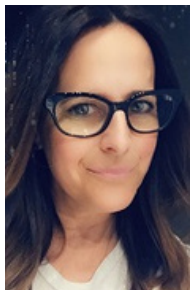
HEX #FFFFB5

I'd also highly recommend creating additional Google calendars to have a separate one for different tasks! For example, have a separate calendar for Home, and Work, and Appointments. You can even subdivide further; for example have a separate calendar for 'Meetings', or for specific projects. That way, you can easily look at the different colours to differentiate what is on the schedule for that day.

To add a new calendar, simply click the plus sign next to "Other Calendars" on the left-hand side of your screen, and then click "Create Calendar".

Hopefully one or more of these tips is helpful for you! Happy to help if you have any questions: blauritzen@ccla-abcc.ca.

OCLA Member & Library Profile



OCLA Member: Mary-Jo Petsche

Library: Welland County Law Association, R. Boak Burns Law Library

Tell us a bit about your association and city!

The Welland County Law Association has been in existence since 1884. It is an association of approximately 140 members. The county is comprised of seven geographical municipal locations including the City of Welland, the City of Niagara Falls, the City of Port Colborne, the City of Thorold, the Town of Pelham, the Town of Fort Erie, and Township of Wainfleet.

The R. Boak Burns Law Library is named in honour of the late R. Boak Burns, Q.C. and former President of the Welland County Law Association. The law library is located in the Welland County Court House, 102 East Main Street, Welland, ON. The Welland County Court House dates back to 1856.

What are the most important titles/research products at your library?

We have a large family law bar in Welland. A simple tool like the Ontario Family Law Practice (the burgundy bible) is a necessity. It's a solid starting point for many family law issues and provides the language for further online research. "Anger & Honsberger: Law of Real Property" is a helpful resource for real estate law. Margaret Rintoul's "Ontario Estate Administration" and "The Practitioner's Guide to Estate Practice in Ontario" are two titles with valuable information for practical estate issues. For our online research - Quicklaw and O'Brien's Online forms are vital and used on a daily basis. Our membership is always looking for precedents. It would be cool if we could develop an in-house precedent database. Unfortunately, finding the time and/or energy in a one-person library is definitely an obstacle to getting big projects done.

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What do you like the most about being a library technician?

I've worked at the WCLA for 20 years now and I'm always learning something new. The research and assistance that I provide to my members and their support staff is rewarding. It feels good to have helped someone with a reference question or point them in the right direction. It is satisfying to work in an environment where you are appreciated.

What projects are you currently working on?

The pandemic and uncertainty about library funding put a pause on purchasing new books for our collections in 2020/2021. I'm currently getting our collections up-to-date and promoting the new titles to our members. So many projects were put on hold when the library shut down in March 2020. Prioritizing those projects is next on my "to-do list".

What keeps you busy outside the library?

I try to stay physically active by running or going to the gym (now that they have re-opened). Long walks with music in my headphones are definitely beneficial at the end of the day to decompress and get some fresh air. I like to sit down at the piano after dinner and write music or relax with a good book. The pandemic actually helped me find time to read again and the curbside pick-up at the local library was a blessing. Exploring new restaurants and wineries in Niagara has kept me busy this summer as well. I'm working through a list of places to enjoy before I hibernate for the winter!

OCLA Member & Library Profile

OCLA Member: Pia Williams

Library: Waterloo Region Law Association

Tell us a bit about your association and city!

The Waterloo Regional Law Association (WRLA) is an area law association comprised of 620 members in in Waterloo Region. Waterloo Region is a mid-sized community located in the heart of southwestern Ontario's greenbelt and includes Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, New Hamburg, North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, St. Jacobs, Woolwich and Elmira. The Waterloo Region has a population of approximately 623, 930, and the WRLA is located in the city of Kitchener, which is situated on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Haudenosaunee (Ho-deh-no-show-nee) and Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-nah-bay) peoples.



The region is home to the Kitchener Oktoberfest, St. Jacobs' market, the Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics, the Centre for International Governance Innovation, the Kitchener Rangers, Laurier University, the University of Waterloo, Conestoga College, and notable people such as William Lyon Mackenzie King, Mike Lazaridis, Lennox Lewis, David Bauer, and Jamal Murray.

The WRLA was originally founded in Berlin (now Kitchener) in 1895 by a group of nine lawyers as a professional association aimed at providing access to a law library to its members. Today, the WRLA Practice Resource Centre (PRC) is a community hub for those practicing law in the region. The PRC serves the legal informational needs of WRLA members and any law society licensee by facilitating access to our collection of print and electronic resources, providing legal research assistance and instruction, hosting events, networking, and providing continuing professional development to our members.

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What is the coolest / best / most unique feature of your library?

The coolest feature of the WRLA library is the information desk. This desk was designed by Catherine Melvin, the former Library Manager. The outside of the information desk includes old legal texts that were built into the desk.

Another cool feature of the library is that we have an art curator who changes the art in the library every three months. The art curator connects with local artists and sets up a display/exhibit of their work in the library and lounge. Over the past years, we have exhibited some wonderful local artists who have even sold pieces of their art to our members, visiting counsel or courthouse staff.



Do you have a favourite kind of research? What is it?

I absolutely do have a favourite kind of research! I particularly enjoy legislative history research. I delight in the detective work of tracking the history of a statute and amendments and reading historical versions of statutes. It is a great feeling to be able to help lawyers and paralegals when they run into a statutory roadblock.



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What do you like the most about being a librarian?

I have been a librarian for over 20 years. In those 20 years, I have worked in private libraries (law, healthcare, and fundraising), academic libraries and public libraries and in all those libraries I love that there is something new to learn and teach every day. As a librarian I am given the opportunity to be an educator, organizer, and innovator while enhancing my creativity in ways that will benefit the community I am serving. It is a thrill to connect people to the information they are looking for and help people find things they want and things they didn't even know they wanted.

What are you currently working on?

Sarah and I have undertaken a large weeding and shifting project in the library and along with implementing and organizing our collection in the Libib catalogue. One of the more challenging and satisfying projects we have been working on is to offer our members access to electronic resources remotely.

What keeps you busy outside the library?

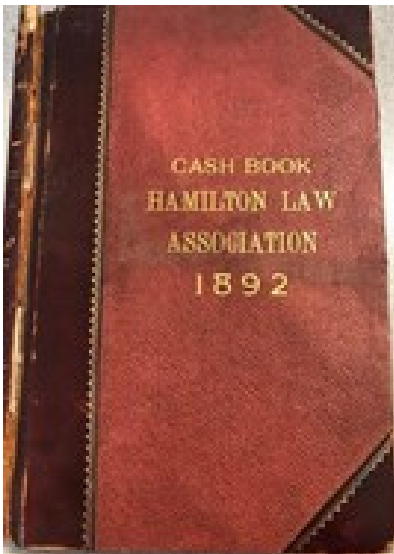
When I am not in the library, I enjoy spending time with my husband, two children, my dog, and friends. As with most people who work in libraries, I take pleasure from reading and listening to audio books. I also enjoy running, traveling and soccer – Go TFC, Tottenham Hotspur and Kitchener U17 Rep soccer!



In the Beginning: The Hamilton Law Association at the Turn of the Century

By Nicole Strandholm,
The Hamilton Law Association

This past summer, The Hamilton Law Association took advantage of being fully staffed while our members were slowly trickling back into the courthouse. During this time, we reorganized our library front to back, including our stacks, files, and our storage rooms. In the dark recesses of one of our storage rooms, we found archival material written by library staff dating as far back as The Hamilton Law Association's establishment in 1879. In that pile of old books, (many of which were in pieces), we came across two bound notebooks: a cash book from 1892, and a legal diary from 1902.



The earlier of the two notebooks was the cash book, maintained by Mr. W. F. Burton, who was the Treasurer of The Hamilton Law Association at the time. Mr. Burton recorded that as of February 13, 1892, the Association had 66 members, the annual membership fee was \$5, and the annual grant from the Law Society was \$422.50.

Some notable Hamiltonians and HLA members at this time included: Mr. Edward Martin - President of the Association between 1888 - 1904, Mr. F.R. Waddell, Mr. William Lees, and Mr. J.A. Ogilvie.

Miss G. C. Counsell was noted as the Librarian for the Association for the duration of when the Cash Book was being used (1892-1906). As per the salary records, she earned \$30 monthly and was granted a \$5 raise in 1904. This is equivalent to her earning about \$900-\$1000 monthly in 2021. As a woman, Miss Counsell, likely did not earn as much as her male counterparts, if there were any, however, she would only be supporting herself during this time, as she was unmarried and likely had no children.

As per the Cash Book, while Miss Counsell was on vacation, the substitute Librarians would only earn \$2 weekly, making it seem that Miss Counsell was actually handsomely paid for her role at the Hamilton Law Association, additionally earning several bonuses throughout the year.

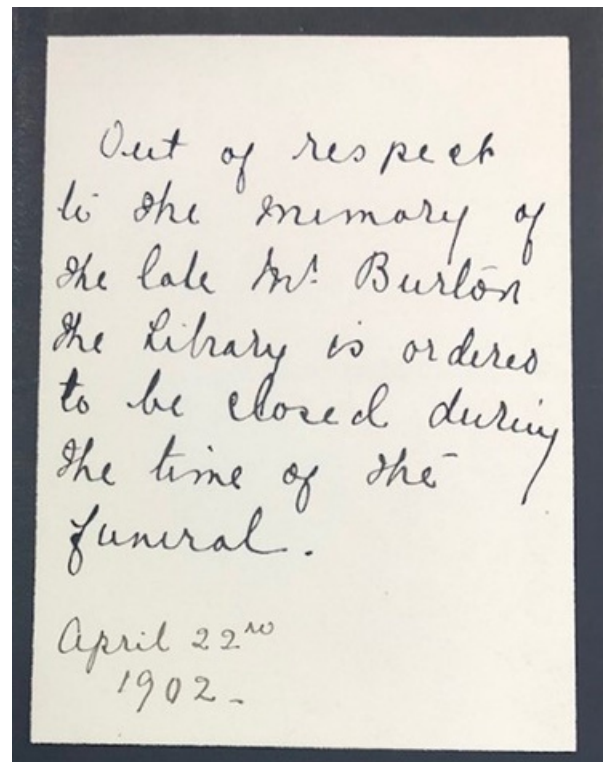
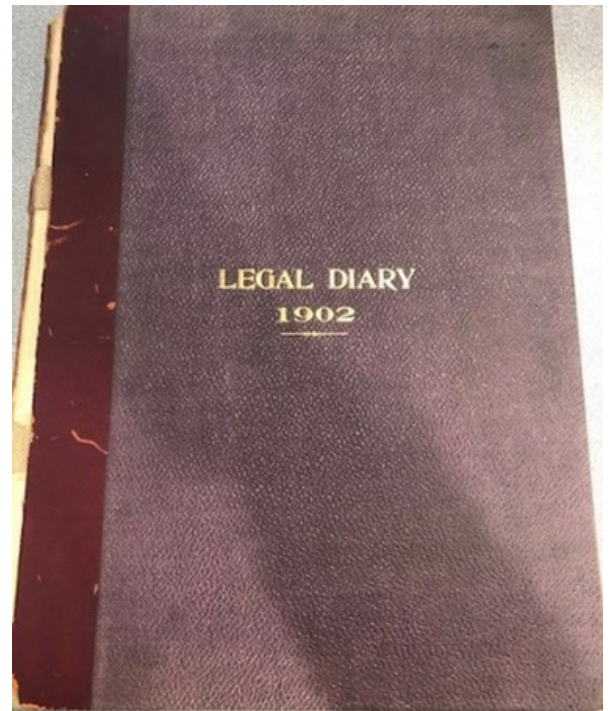
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The second notebook, the 1902 Legal Diary, was maintained by the HLA Librarian, whose name was never documented in the diary, but is now known to have been Miss Counsell. It contains postal information, advertisements and classifieds, notable dates for the legal community, and of course, a daily journal for the year. During the year, Miss Counsell kept a record of the weather, attendance, and any notable happenings of the day.

There are many fascinating happenings recorded in the book, but there is one that connects the two artifacts. On Saturday April 19, 1902, the Librarian recorded that the weather was 'Fair - Mild'. The attendance was at five people that day, and it was later logged that Mr. W. F. Burton, Treasurer of The Hamilton Law Association, had passed away. The notice that was posted on the message board that week was enclosed.

On Monday June 2, 1902, the Board of Trustees elected Mr. J. A. Culham as the new Treasurer at their Board meeting, a day after the South African War ended. The day was listed as 'Warm - Rain - to Fair', and a celebration of peace to mark the end of the war took place that afternoon.

Though just some of the gems The Hamilton Law Association has been documenting, these two particular notebooks have been a great way to delve into the daily ongoings of The Hamilton Law Association at the turn of the 20th century. The books act as an interesting looking glass into the budding legal community of Wentworth County and the lives that established the community that we are proud to be a part of today.





18 MONTHS LATER: Reflections on COVID-19

By Rannah Sopha,
Sudbury Law Association

When the pandemic first struck in our community of Sudbury, there were two employees of the Sudbury District Law Association law library. Nina, the library assistant had previously indicated she would retire at the end of May 2020. As a work arrangement for the first few weeks of the pandemic, Nina and I alternated days in the office of the law library. The staff desks are way too close in proximity; even without a pandemic, you really have to like the person you are sitting three feet away from day after day, week after week!

When Nina officially retired, the pandemic had been a reality for more than two months. Nina moved “home” to northern Alberta to be close to her sister and brothers, all of whom still lived in the geographic area of their birth and growth. Nina, as anyone who knows her, is the adventurer/traveler.

Being the lone staff person over the past 17 months has been an experience. Talk about being the one person library, along with office staff duties. I have been fortunate that the association thought that a staff presence in the court house throughout the pandemic was necessary.

Over the past 18 months, I have had numerous learning experiences and enjoyed most of my time here. For example, being able to shut the law library door entrance from the court house hallway limited the walk-in traffic to lawyer members only. I have been conversing mainly with lawyers and their staff for over 16 months! I think I am still sane?

I have learnt the majority of lawyers and their staff are easy to please. Most times they know what they are looking for and can give you the reference points you need to conduct a thorough search to provide their requested results. And more often than not they are so very grateful for the assistance.

I have discovered that this courthouse law association office fields all types of calls for the local association and is an integral part of both the court house and community as a whole. I have learnt that the last testaments of elderly parents seem to go missing just when the family needs

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the will most. I have fielded calls weekly over the many months from distraught, concerned family members. I have been happy to assist. Most have had successful results.

I have come to realize that lawyers consume a lot of coffee when they are physically here day after day waiting for court appearances. Not so when you are providing service to the group via email and office runners.

I have watched as a superior court murder jury trial ran six weeks in length, at the 17 month mark into the COVID-19 outbreak. The jury trial was complete with out of town defense counsel who then remarked that my assistance and presence here in the law library were both invaluable to them and their client. I have watched with amusement as lawyers ponder the benefits of the "Covid-19 rapid test" nasal swabs, who then go onto to test themselves, laugh about the process and then cheer about the negative results.

I am sure I have much more to learn, but do wish for the day when I once again hear the sound of lawyer feet at my door! And the familiar query of "Do you have coffee?"

Remembrance Day Volunteering

As a volunteer for our local Museum, I researched and created a WWI banner with 259 names of local returned, wounded & KIA soldiers and nurses. It was supported financially by the Rogers family in Uxbridge (Durham County) whose grandfather was born and raised in Vankleek Hill where I live.

- Michelle Landriault, Prescott-Russell Law Association



"At the November 7th Remembrance Day Ceremony in Vankleek Hill, the WWI Banner of the Vankleek Hill Museum was inaugurated. The banner contains the 259 names of nurses and soldiers from the district who returned, were wounded, & those Killed in Action.

The creation of the banner was supported financially by the Rogers Family siblings: Guy, Doug & Lisa, all of Uxbridge (Durham County). Their grandfather, William Taylor McIntosh, was born and raised in Vankleek Hill. He appears in the photo on the banner, and he served in both WWI and WWII. Michelle Landriault (Prescott & Russell Law Library) researched the banner content and designed the banner. Ben Martin, a Museum director, digitally mastered the banner. Michelle is a founder of the Museum, and a longtime volunteer. "

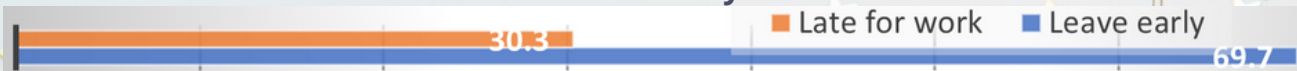
Holiday Quiz

Thank you to all 33 people who responded to our questionnaire! Here are the results of the multiple choice, as well as a few of the responses from the open questions.

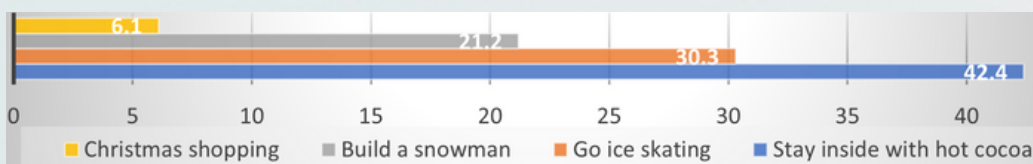
Do you prefer working from home or the library?



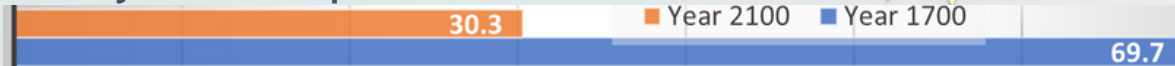
Is it better to be late for work or to leave early?



Would you rather build a snowman, go ice skating, Christmas shopping, or stay inside drinking hot cocoa?



Would you rather experience a Christmas in 1700 or in 2100?



What is the most unusual job that you have had?

- Prison librarian - Don Jail
- Working for an Olympic Show Jumper (Equestrian)
- Taxidermy assistant, butterfly interpreter / biological educator
- Chambermaid, you would not believe what you see and hear!

What do your family and friends think you do all day?

- Read books and surf the Internet
- Swivel in my chair
- Oh, they have been EDUCATED on what a librarian actually does
- They think I'm a glorified lawyer babysitter
- Drink coffee

What is a holiday tradition that you participate in every year?

"On Christmas Eve we take our dog to run on our local beach - which we are not technically supposed to do, but most people in our town do this, so it ends up being a big dog party on the beach."

"Holiday tradition is purchasing a new ornament for a life event that happened over the year, example: Work from home "COVID" ornament."

OCLA Libraries' Holiday Hours



The **Great Library's** research assistance and document delivery service will be closed December 23rd - 28th and from December 31st - January 4, 2021. They will reopen on Tuesday, January 4th.

Carleton County (Ottawa)	Hamilton (Hamilton)	Middlesex County (London)
1-866-637-3888 info@ccla-abcc.ca <i>Closed from Friday, December 24 - January 3, 2022</i>	1-866-213-6867 reference@hamiltonlaw.on.ca <i>Closed Friday, December 24, 2021 – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Monday, December 27 – January 3, 2022</i>	1-866-556-5570 library@midlaw.on.ca <i>Closed starting at noon on December 24th, returning to regular staffing on January 4, 2022.</i>
Oxford County (Woodstock)	Prescott-Russell (L'Original)	Toronto (Toronto)
1-866-750-5169 oxfordlaw@ocl.net <i>Closed from Wednesday, December 22 - January 3, 2022</i>	613-675-2424 prescott.law@bellnet.ca <i>Closed the weeks of December 20th and December 27th</i>	1-866-258-8886 library@tlaonline.ca <i>Closed from December 27th to January 3rd, 2022</i>
Welland County (Welland)		
1-866-455-6489 wcla@execulink.com <i>Closed from December 23 - January 3, 2022</i>		