# Progressive Librarians Guild Bulletin

Volume 2, Issue 8/9 August/September 2013

## Registration Open for Organize and Assemble III: Precarious Labour

Registration is now open for the 2013 PLG Edmonton Symposium: Organize and Assemble III! The Symposium will be hosted on October 26 at the City of Edmonton Archives.

Register online and check out our excellent lineup of speakers at our new website: <a href="http://plgedmonton.ca">http://plgedmonton.ca</a>

Registration will close on October 18.

#### Radical Archiving and Cataloging as Social History

On the evening of September 25, PLG member Lincoln Cushing gave a presentation to a standing-room-only audience on "Radical Archiving and Cataloging as Social History" at the Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics in San Francisco. Accompanied by two members of the Freedom Archives, the talk and discussion explored some of the opportunities and challenges of radical repositories and the role that nontraditional archives play in the preservation and interpretation of peoples' history. Topics included:

- What defines a radical archive?
- What can be productive relations between community-based or independent archives and more established (and establishment) institutions?
- What tools and processes are making it easier to document, catalog, and share oppositional cultural objects?
- What is the role of ordinary people in building useful collections?

For more about this presentation, see <a href="http://www.shapingsf.org/public-talks/index.html">http://www.shapingsf.org/public-talks/index.html</a>

Have an update you'd like to see included in next month's bulletin?

Send it to sarahbarriage@gmail.com

### Update from PLG London

In May, the PLG London chapter took on the campaign to end the agreement between the University of Western Ontario and Access Copyright with renewed vigor. A banner was created and hung in North Campus Building (the home of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies), remaining there for several weeks. A petition on Change.org was also circulated, gathering signatures from concerned faculty, students, and other members of the university community.



Photo credit: Lukas Miller

In June, we wrote a letter to then Heritage Minister James Moore, urging for the appointment of Librarian and Archivist of Canada to be filled by someone familiar with the unique environments of libraries and archives who would act as an advocate, cultivating opportunities for dialogue between these communities and LAC.

We also met with Alan Weedon (UWO's Vice-Provost for Policy, Planning and Faculty) to articulate our concerns about a renewed contract with Access Copyright and address the problematic issue that students, faculty, and other stakeholders were not receiving any communication regarding negotiations or alternative developments. Two members also wrote a statement detailing some of the issues with the Access Copyright deal, and expressing concerns with the development that small organizations were setting the tone for larger ones.

#### **Update from PLG London (continued)**

In July, we held an Access Copyright Roundtable with copyright experts Dr. Sam Trosow, Ph.D. student Lisa di Valentino, and faculty member Lou D'Alton. It was extremely well-attended, with students, librarians, and independent researchers present. We also held a Coffee-house to discuss LGTBQ issues in the library and in library school. The outcome of this meeting was the creation of a Subject Guide with appropriate resources. We shared this Subject Guide with the general community at a table at the London Public Library, which we set up during London's Pride Week. For the first time ever, the PLG London Chapter marched in the Pride Parade, as we thought making our support for all members of the community visible was a priority.



In August, it was a relatively quiet month, as we were focused on elections and wrapping up our terms. We composed a letter for the 2013 Western Libraries review. Although we never received acknowledgment from the administration, several librarians and library science students thanked us for articulating many of the issues plaguing Western Libraries. We also finished our second food drive for the London Food Bank. Although not as successful as our December 2012 drive, we still managed to collect 78 pounds of food.