

# Co-op Student Librarian at BC ELN & eHLbc

Laura Moberg | May – December 2022

## About BC ELN and eHLbc

The **British Columbia Electronic Library Network (BC ELN)** is an award-winning consortium of 34 private and public post-secondary libraries. BC ELN's purpose is to bring post-secondary libraries together to "collectively, and equitably, meet the expanding information needs of learners, educators, and researchers across BC and beyond" (<https://bceln.ca/about>).

The **Electronic Health Library of British Columbia (eHLbc)** is a consortium of 51 members from across the post-secondary, government, and health sectors. eHLbc's primary goal is to "provide BC's and Yukon's health care and post-secondary communities with equitable access to essential online health resources" (<https://ehlbc.ca/about-us>).

BC ELN and eHLbc are **sister consortia** who share an Administrative Centre in the WAC Bennett Library on the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Burnaby campus.



SFU's Burnaby campus in the fall. Photo credit: Laura Moberg.

## Experiences

As a Co-op Student Librarian, I supported key consortial services and operations:

- **Consortial licensing program**
  - Led renewals of consortially-licensed electronic information resources using the ConsortiaManager workflow tool
- **AskAway provincial chat reference service**
  - Provided virtual reference service to patrons from post-secondary libraries across the province
- **BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service**
  - Supported small sites with their digitization project planning and BC History Digitization Program (BCHDP) grant applications
- **Arca collaborative digital repository**
  - Ingested digitized objects; validated and processed metadata for ingest
- **Illume provincial interlibrary loan service**
  - Staffed the Illume Administrative Support Centre; brokered interlibrary loan (ILL) requests for BC Reading Centres
- **Communications**
  - Created a newsletter for eHLbc and a ConsortiaManager "Tip of the Month" series

## Skills Development

During my co-op work term, I gained **technical experience** using ConsortiaManager, LibraryH3lp chat reference software, Drupal, Islandora, SHAREit ILL software, and Constant Contact. I developed my **time management and multitasking skills** by balancing projects of varying scales. I also strengthened my **communication and interpersonal skills** in a collaborative office environment.

## Connections with Studies

My co-op position was a valuable opportunity to **practically apply** my course learning. Many connections surfaced between my co-op work and my studies at the iSchool:

- **LIBR 506: Human-Information Interaction and LIBR 535: Instructional Role of the Librarian**
  - These classes introduced me to best practices around information retrieval and library reference, which I was able to apply to my chat reference work on AskAway
- **ARST 556L/LIBR 514L: Metadata**
  - This class developed my skills and understanding of metadata, which I applied to perform metadata cleanup using OpenRefine for collections in Arca
- **LIBR 534: Health Information Sources and Services**
  - Through this class, I gained familiarity with health information eResources, vendors, and search strategies, which proved useful for my work with eHLbc

## Impact on Career Plans

My time at BC ELN and eHLbc strengthened my interest in working in **post-secondary library environments**. I was introduced to the wide range of career opportunities in this field and was able to gain experience in several areas.

The knowledge and skills I gained during this co-op position and my relevant academic studies will be valuable as I pursue my career goals in **academic librarianship**.



Bennett Library at SFU Burnaby – the BC ELN and eHLbc Office is located on the top floor. Photo credit: Laura Moberg.

## Recommendations

A co-op position with BC ELN and eHLbc offers iSchool students a **unique perspective** on the BC post-secondary library landscape. I would highly recommend this position to students interested in gaining experience with **province-wide library systems and shared services** while working in a collaborative, consortial environment.

## Want to Learn More?



BC ELN: [Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



eHLbc: [Website](#)