

Legal Research Section Report 2018-2019

This year, the Legal Research Section organized eight events. In October, we held a session on “Plagiarism Pitfalls in Legal Research”, where speakers from the law school, the Law Society and active practice addressed potential problems with plagiarism in the legal research context. In November, we held an event at Robson Hall on “Free, Electronic Legal Research”, where law librarian Matthew Renaud presented to law students and practitioners on electronic research resources. We ended the year with a holiday party at Next Level Escapes escape room.

At the 2019 Mid-Winter Conference, our Section organized a panel discussion on “The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Canadian Legal Research”, featuring Benjamin Alarie from Blue J Legal, Colin Lachance from vLex Canada, and Dean Jonathan Black-Branch from the Faculty of Law. Our section also sponsored the Manitoba Law Reform Commission’s session on “Current Areas of Law Reform.”

In February, we held our first-ever Lightning Talks networking event, where practitioners, academics, and graduate students presented on current research projects in a fast-paced, lightning-round style. The event was a success and will likely return next year to showcase exciting and innovative research projects from Manitoba’s legal community.

In April, we heard from John Gillies of KM Standards on “Building and Maintaining a Precedents Collection”, which was presented as a webinar. In May, we hosted an event at the Great Library entitled “A Conversation about Current Awareness”, where law librarian Karen Sawatzky and section co-chair Melanie Bueckert discussed current awareness tools in an interactive format. Our final event of the year will be our annual wind-up, to be held on June 25, 2019 at Darla Rettie’s home.

As in past years, the Section also prepared 10 editions of its monthly newsletter, *The Law & Library Monthly*, for distribution to its members via e-mail. Thank you to all of our faithful contributors over the past year: **David Davis** (Davis Immigration Law Office), **Tanya Keller**, **Megan Spencer** and **Natasha Szach** (Sternat Manaignre Law Corporation), **Andrew Robertson** (Manitoba Public Insurance), **Karen Sawatzky** (Law Society of Manitoba – Great Library), **James Wood** (Kavanagh Wood Law Corporation), **Kristin Kersey** (TDS LLP) and **Elizabeth McCandless** (Manitoba Law Reform Commission). As always, Co-Chair **Melanie Bueckert** is responsible for putting together the newsletter and contributing to the content.

This year’s Section Executive was composed of the following members:

Co-Chairs:	Melanie Bueckert (Manitoba Court of Appeal) Elizabeth McCandless (Manitoba Law Reform Commission)
Vice-Chair:	Heather Fast (Graduate Student)
Members-at-Large:	Jennifer Bird (Workers Compensation Board) David Davis (Davis Immigration Law Office) Monique St. Germain (Canadian Centre for Child

	Protection) Virginia Torrie (University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law)
Student Members:	Kamilah Ahamed (Robson Hall) Carter Liebzeit (Robson Hall)
Past Chair:	Darla Rettie (Pitblado LLP)

Submitted by,
Elizabeth McCandless, Co-Chair, MBA Legal Research Section