



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

John Fink is named recipient of the CLA Alan MacDonald Mentorship Award 2015

(Ottawa, April 20, 2015) The Canadian Library Association/Association canadienne des bibliothèques, is pleased to announce that the recipient of CLA's 2015 Alan MacDonald Mentorship Award is Mr. John Fink, Digital Scholarship Librarian at McMaster University. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to mentoring activities either within their workplace or in an association and is generously sponsored by the [Canadian Electronic Library](#).

John has, over many years, consistently provided mentoring to students, job seekers, and fellow professionals, new and "seasoned", in an approachable, accessible, and meaningful way. Whether within the library, at a conference, during an event, or on Twitter, John has always been willing to share his experiences, advice, and ideas to help others move ahead.

This CLA Award is named after Alan MacDonald, who was a natural mentor. Always positive, always receptive to new ideas, always ready to see potential, he inspired those around him to strive for and realize their dreams. As beneficiaries of Alan's spirit, the founders of the Canadian Electronic Library are proud to sponsor this award.

Widely known for being a professional and engaging mentor, John has gone above and beyond at the OLA Super Conference Career Centre, been an active member of the Ontario Library Association's Mentoring Committee, participated as a mentor at Speed Networking, encouraged participation in THAT (The Humanities and Technology) Camp, and enthusiastically lent his experience and advice on the programming committee for the Access Conference.

John has also coordinated an informal mentorship program at McMaster University Libraries, initiated the Co-Op Professional Development Program at McMaster with a colleague, and assisted with mock interviews organized by student groups at Western University. An active user of Twitter and social media to provide mentoring and career advice, John has taken the approach of inclusivity and equality, where, he says, he learns as much from the people he is mentoring as they do from him. Dedicated, tenacious, ingenious, and supportive are some of the words used to describe John's contributions to the profession through his mentoring. John cares deeply about the library profession and those within it and goes out of his way, at work and in a voluntary capacity, to meaningfully connect with everyone he meets, and help them advance and enjoy.

This award, will be presented at the opening ceremonies being held on Thursday, June 4 during the CLA 2015 National Conference and Trade Show in Ottawa, Ontario.

The Canadian Library Association/Association canadienne des bibliothèques is Canada's largest national and broad-based library association, representing the interest of public, academic, school and special libraries, professional librarians, library technicians, library workers, and all those concerned with enhancing the quality of life of Canadians through information and literacy.

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