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NEWSletter NOUVELLES.

ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHECHNICIENS DE L'ONTARIO

EDITORIAL

This issue wraps up another year for *Newsletter/Nouvelles*. We include a farewell message from our president, an article on the joys of working in a special library, and news about various conferences coming up.

This issue also marks the end of my involvement as editor

of our publication. My tenure has been gratifying and I encourage others to contribute their time and talents to OALT/ABO. There are many rewards to be gained by service.

I want to give credit to the executive and board members who supported a proposal to revamp the newsletter three

years ago. I also thank those members who have since written articles and helped in various other ways to produce *Newsletter/Nouvelles*.

The best of luck to those who take on the job for next year.

Linda Davis
Newsletter Editor

1992-1993 OALT/ABO Executive

Bette Gore President

A Cambrian College graduate, Bette has been an active member of OALT/ABO for many years. She has also completed her B.A. and a course in conversational French. Bette is presently employed as the Reference Technician at the Sudbury Board of Education's Media Centre.

Suzanne Orlando Vice-President

Suzanne is a graduate of Sheridan College and most recently served as Director for the Halton-Peel Regional Branch of OALT/ABO. She works for the Peel Board of Education as a Library Automation Technician troubleshooting ILLAS database and software problems, co-ordinating hardware repairs, and automating new school libraries as they open.

William Land Secretary

Bill is a Cambrian College graduate and an active Sudbury Branch member, having edited *Apropos* for the past two years. He worked at libraries in Elliot Lake before joining the Ministry of Correctional Services Staff Library in North Bay in 1990. Bill also collects juvenile series books and writes for a collectors' club.

Theresa Kennedy Treasurer

Theresa holds a B.A. from the University of Western Ontario and a Library Technician diploma from Lakehead University. She is currently the Assistant Librarian at Weir and Foulds, a Toronto law firm. Theresa also does community volunteer work and is an active member of the Toronto Association of Law Libraries (TALL).

Marsha Hunt

Public Relations Co-ordinator
Marsha is back for her fourth and final executive term. She is a graduate of Sheridan College and McMaster University and is the chairperson for the 1994 OALT/ABO conference sponsored by the Halton-Peel Regional Branch. Marsha is employed as a Library Resources Technician at the J.A. Turner Professional Library (Peel Board of Education).

REFLECTIONS '93 REFLECTIONS '93

OALT 20th Annual Conference / ABO 20^e Conférence annuelle

Welcome to Ottawa! / Bienvenue à Ottawa!

May 10 - 14, 1993 / du 10 au 14 mai, 1993

Carleton University / Université Carleton

Conference packages

1: Monday to Saturday Breakfast
(includes accommodation, meals, workshops
and evening activities)
Member \$580.00
Non-Member \$675.00

2: Monday to Friday
(includes lunches, workshops and evening
activities. NO ACCOMMODATION.)
Member \$365.00
Non-Member \$475.00

3: Daily Registrants
Tuesday to Friday
1/2 day \$50.00
1 day (with lunch) \$100.00
Banquet \$60.00

Plans de conférence

1: lundi au déjeuner samedi
(inclus logement, repas, ateliers et activités
de soirée)
Membre 580,00 \$
Non-membre 675,00 \$

2: lundi au vendredi
(inclus les diners, ateliers et les activités de
soirée. SANS ACCOMMODATION.)
Membre 365,00 \$
Non-membre 475,00 \$

3: Enregistrements journaliers
mardi au vendredi
1/2 jour 50,00 \$
1 jour (avec le dîner) 100,00 \$
Banquet 60,00 \$

Tentative Workshop Topics: Deacidification/Permanent Paper; Customer Services in the Library; Ottawa Public Library's Dial-In Access On-Line Catalogue; Depository Services Program; National Library of Canada - Interlibrary Loans; Contract Work as a Library Technician; CISTI; Acces to Information.

Note: The Annual Business Meeting is Wednesday Evening, May 12, 1993

Conference Co-ordinators: Susan Bourdeau (613) 943-8940 - days, Danielle Amat (613) 998-8299 - days.
P.O. Box 5182, Station F, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3H4.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It is a strange feeling knowing this is the last time I will write this column in my role as president of OALT/ABO. Like many presidents before me and many (I'm sure) to come, I feel this is a time to reflect upon our accomplishments. To list them here, however, might seem petty to those who are unfamiliar with work at the provincial level where the separate decisions of seven regions usually evolve into one united voice. To be an active participant in this process is a joy, indeed.

One of the more difficult challenges of my tenure was the reduction in the length and frequency of face-to-face meetings. Over the past two years we have experimented with teleconferencing, reducing overall costs and time. These changes were a direct result of frequent late night discussions with other administrative members (while supposedly trying to get a good night's

sleep in preparation for an early Saturday board meeting). We have our former secretary, Diana Doxtdator, to thank for providing the information and contacts necessary to make the teleconference meetings a success. Thank you, Lady Di!

There is a terrific feeling of satisfaction when a job is successfully completed and I have had the honour of working with many bright and talented people in OALT/ABO. Some of you will remember being approached to run for an executive position and feeling totally inadequate for the post. Yet you not only got the job done, but excelled, while stretching your wings and discovering a new world of confidence and opportunities. What a pleasure to see the growth; what a delight to have gotten to know you better!

It is tempting to list all those people with whom a close affinity has developed, but there are so

many. Some are no longer members of OALT/ABO for various professional or personal reasons, but the benefits of having known them and worked with them are eternal. Thank you all!

It must be evident that OALT/ABO has been and will always be a major part of my life. It is a professional organization which has grown and changed and overcome many difficulties. With your help, your input, your caring, you can keep this unique professional association working for you. Whatever you do to help will always be felt and appreciated.

I wish the incoming administration a year in which they meet new challenges successfully and continue to build important networks for all library technicians.

A final wish for one and all, "May the wind always be at your back."

Bette Gore
President

Looking to the Year 2000: Information Professionals Chart the Course

The Special Libraries Association's 84th annual conference will take place on June 5-10, 1993 in Cincinnati, Ohio. SLA is the third largest information-related association in the world. The group encompasses 55 geographical chapters throughout the U.S.A., Canada and Europe. As well, there are 27 subject specific divisions.

I am looking forward to attending this year's conference as there is an excellent array of workshops, programs, and exhibits planned. All OALT/ABO members should encourage their employers to send them to library conferences. Professional development is an essential part of keeping current on new trends in the library world. Continuing education benefits both employees and employers.

Some of the planned continuing education courses at the SLA conference include: Advance Topics in Managerial Decision Making; CD-ROM: Local and Wide-Area Networks; Competing Abroad: Acquiring European Company Information; Corporate Library Excellence; Introduction to Internet; Practical Indexing and Abstracting for In-House Databases.

A tremendous opportunity exists for all OALT/ABO members to share their combined experiences. If you attend a conference, continuing education course, or seminar, let us know. Take the time to write a brief review of the highlights which are of value to all technicians.

Brady Leyser
TALTA

Summary of OALT/ABO Board Meeting

A Board of Directors/Executive Meeting took place February 6, 1993. This was a teleconference meeting at various sites.

All reports were accepted with the exception of Lohania's due to the director's absence.

A revised master list of members will be produced for regions to duplicate as needed. A regular column of additions and changes will appear in *Newsletter/Nouvelles* beginning in September.

The Association will translate the annual reports of the Board of Directors/Executive and the minutes of the 1992 ABM.

Marsha Hunt (PR) will investigate OALT/ABO's participation in the CLA conference (Hamilton, June 1993). There will be no involvement in the OLA conference in November.

The greeting cards collected during *Reflections '93* will be donated to the Hamilton branch of the Canadian Cancer

Society on behalf of OALT/ABO. There will be a contest for the best-decorated card collecting box.

The Library Technician Bibliography project is almost completed. The list will be annotated.

Work continues on the OALT/ABO constitution with important revisions necessary. Judy Koenig (Huron) and Toni Ariganello (TALTA) will assist Susan Morley in recruitment of volunteers to help on this project.

The Annual Business Meeting, at *Reflections '93*, has been moved from Monday afternoon to Wednesday evening (May 12). Conference packages to be mailed mid-March.

The next executive/board meeting takes place Saturday, April 3, 1993 at the Richview Public Library in Toronto.

William Land
Secretary

Internet?

Is your library connected to the Internet system? If so and you have any tips or tricks for navigating the system or searching the various catalogs and databases, please send suggestions to me at the address below:

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159 Cedar Street
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P3E 6A5

Professional Development

Ontario Library Association
100 Lombard Street
Suite 303
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1M3
(416) 363-3388
(416) 941-9581

Spring Break
(OCULA-Ontario
College & University
Library Association)
April 22-23, 1993
Delta Chelsea, Toronto.

Tra La La La
Ontario Library Association's Children's
Services Guild
May 20, 1993
North York Public
Library, North York

Continuing Education
Faculty of Library and
Information Science
University of Toronto
140 George Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A1
(416) 978-7111
(416) 971-1399 fax
Contact direct for
complete schedule

Simplified Cataloguing
With Jean Weihs
April 30, 1993
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Indexing Special Collections and Databases
With Michele Hudson
May 14, 1993
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Questionnaire Design for Information Professionals
With Prof. Joan Cherry
May 28, 1993
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

The Internet-Do You Cruise It, Surf It or All of the Above
With Laine Ruus
June 12, 1993
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Toronto Chapter
Special Libraries
Association
740 Huron Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 2W3

Looking to the Year 2000: Information Professionals Chart the Course
The Special Librarians Association 84th
Annual Conference
June 5-10, 1993
Cincinnati, Ohio
Various workshops
planned-see feature
article.

Are you a Cambrian College Library Technician Graduate?

This year marks the 25th anniversary of
Cambrian College.
All Alumni are invited to attend the

Library Technicians 25th Reunion Dinner Dance

Saturday, June 5, 1993

at the Barrydowne Campus

This event will be a wonderful opportunity for all
alumni to meet with former colleagues and friends!

In order to update our alumni list
and for ticket information, please fill out this form
and return it to

Fondation Cambrian Foundation
62 Frood Road, Sudbury, Ontario P3C 4Z3

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____

_____ (fax) _____

Graduating Year _____

(please check one)

_____ I plan to attend (number of tickets requested _____)

_____ I do not plan to attend

Notes & News

The 3rd edition of *Developing a Career Information Centre* is now available. This practical, easy-to-use handbook covers all aspects of setting up, automating and marketing a career information centre. To order, send \$19.95 to: Canadian Career Information Association, P.O. Box 84, Station P, Toronto, M5S 2S6.

Fitweek '93 takes place May 28-June 6, 1993. Free posters and brochures are available

from Canada's Fitweek Secretariat, 1600 James Naismith Drive, Suite 202, Gloucester, Ontario, K1B 5N4. Call 1-800-267-0820 or fax 613-993-6089.

International Special Librarians Day is April 22, 1993.

Remember to bring your greeting cards with you to Reflections '93 in Ottawa. The Canadian Cancer Society will be the recipient of our collection.

COLT's 26th Annual Conference

The Council on Library/Media Technicians, Inc. (COLT), an Affiliate of the American Library Association will hold its 26th Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana from June 24-26, 1993 at the Clarion Hotel. COLT is an international organization of and for support staff personnel within libraries, media and information centres.

Theme: *Your Future is Now... "Good Morning"*. Two days of workshops will be followed by a business meeting and visits to ALA exhibits.

The program includes:

Serials Claiming and What's New in Serials Publication - how to work effectively with your vendor.

Writing for Publication - Importance of writing for Library Support Staff and methods by which support staff can be published.

Government Publications - What is out there and how to tap into its resources. Includes new technologies in delivery and efficient processing.

Stable Relationships in Unstable Times - is your library job safe in an era of downsizing, right-sizing and retrenchment as libraries seek more economical ways to function, such as the use of brokered services?

Conference Fee \$95 (\$110 after May 1) \$55 for one day session. For information or registration write COLT Inc., P.O. Box 951, Oxen Hill, Maryland 20750, Attention: Conference Chair, or call Beverly Patton, President at 1-800-428-5072 extension 7519, or Linda Owen, Vice-President, (714) 787-3237.

Professional Reading

Beard, Christel and Betsy Wiesendanger, "Are You Connected? The Market-er's Guide to Online Databases." *Sales & Marketing Management* Jan. 1993. pp. 36-41, 86.

This article offers a good introduction to key databases for those working in advertising, sales, marketing and public relations firms. Inexperienced online users will benefit from the overview of the CompuServe, Dialog, Nexis and Dow Jones Retrieval databases.

The authors forewarn the novice user that librarians, information brokers and other search specialists are better qualified to perform online searches.

There is one major flaw in this article. The author deems it necessary to take a few cheap shots at libraries and admits illegally removing library materials. Under no circumstances can this type of behaviour be condoned.

Tillman, Hope N. "The Internet - Use It Now." *Specialist* March 1993. p. 1.

Many OALT/ABO members may already be using or may be familiar with the global network of computers known as the Internet. This article gives an excellent overview of the Internet and focuses on features such as remote login, file transfer, and E-mail.

The author states "The Internet has a broad potential for all information professionals. Each time you use the Internet, you are helping increase the visibility of the special librarian community."

The Internet is currently available in 102 countries and the number of users is doubling each year.

Should you want more information about how it can help you, please refer to the workshop being offered by the University of Toronto entitled *The Internet - Do You Cruise It, Surf It, or All of the Above*.

A Day in the Life of... Old Fort William Library

A library technician working in the library at Thunder Bay's Old Fort William is an immensely fortunate individual. As soon as you leave your car in the morning to walk to the East House where the library is housed, you realize this. The walk is about five minutes through a poplar forest, past the palisade, on to the reconstructed site.

At 8:00 in the morning, the slanting rays of the sun colour the tops of the trees on the opposite bank of the Kaministiquia River. The site is quiet, yet resonant with the ghosts of the past. The only sounds at this time of day might be the bleat of the sheep as they graze, the distant call of a lone raven, or the occasional softly muted moo from the farm. The feeling of being a witness to a life long gone is strong. The twentieth century is, for a few minutes, a fading reality as you stand in quiet contemplation of the lives of all those who lived, worked and played at Fort William so long ago. A very meditative way to start the day.

However, the twentieth century comes back into focus in the East House with the sounds of the photocopier, telephones, printer and typewriters. Even here though, it doesn't take long to realize that this is a library with a difference. Perhaps the

weathered moose skull with the four-foot span of antlers resting in the fireplace is the first clue. The squared beams, the snowshoes hanging above the mantel, or the first glimpse of a person in the historic costume of a native woman, or a voyageur, all conspire to make the visitor aware that there is a unique ambience here—an ambience that speaks to our special collection and to all the people who have helped in accumulating the resources over the years.

The library was developed primarily for the use of the Old Fort William's permanent and seasonal staff, and the volunteers. It houses an extensive research collection drawn from a wide range of sources. While its early purpose was to ensure the authenticity of the reconstruction, the collection has been expanded to provide documentation for the development and implementation of the interpretive and furnishings programs. Currently it is used mainly by the summer seasonal staff and by a small but very loyal group of patrons including historical re-enactors, history teachers and students, and history buffs of all ages.

The collection is concentrated on fur trade history, primarily the pre-Confederation period. However, we have very well-developed areas

beyond that, including the period trades such as coopering, blacksmithing, tinsmithing, etc.; cookery and material culture such as the fine arts, silverware, porcelain, etc. of the time; and native culture and crafts.

A summer day in the life of this library is a daily adventure. While the normal library duties must be accomplished, the priority is to be of help to anyone who walks through our door. That can include a sick youngster, tired tourist, or innumerable costumed interpreters. During the summer, the staff of the library increases 300% to include the technician (me), plus a research student and a library assistant. During the rest of the year, I must be very comfortable with my own company, because it is only the technician's position which continues on through the seasons.

It is especially exciting when visitors or costumed rendezvous participants stop in. They all have their stories to tell and I truly enjoy the human contact that is all part and parcel of my job. It can be surprising, however, when you look up and see a client standing there in nothing but a breechcloth and leggings. It sometimes takes a good deal of focus to maintain a professional demeanour.

There are real cycles of activity at

Old Fort William Library and they are intimately connected to the cycles of nature. The activity begins to increase in the spring with the return of the summer students for orientation, bringing with them all kinds of positive energies, like sap rising in the trees.

During the summer, the library resembles Grand Central Station some days. Then, in the fall, as the students slowly trickle back to their other lives, the site and the library become, once again, more relaxed and sedate, less frantic. The winter is the time for the long term projects—the time to settle in, keep warm and, on the moderate days, ski the river at lunch time.

There is a natural reality to these cycles that is restful to the soul and timeless in its constancy. The imperatives of each season may have changed in 200 years but at OFW Library, there is a parallel through time that exists in fewer and fewer places in the twentieth century.

Perhaps that is why this is not so much "a day in the life of Old Fort William Library" as it is a description of the ambience and rhythm of life as it is experience here. And, I suppose that's what it's all about in the end—libraries, life and loving what you do.

Shawn Allaire
Thunder Bay



I've got a great idea! Why don't we change the name of the Association's newsletter to read *Information Bulletin* because in essence that is exactly what it is.

For example, in the latest edition there were 2 (count 'em "2") articles that could be remotely classified as being newsworthy. Boring! Boring! Boring!

I enclose for your perusal a copy of *Library Mosaic*, a newsletter magazine produced by C.O.L.T. in the United States. *Mosaic*, which is a bi-monthly publication, carries a theme for each published edition and at the same time is not afraid to go out and charge for advertising space.

In conclusion, until this *Information Bulletin* presents a more professional array of newsworthy articles I shall continue to deposit it in my circular file.

Doug Willford
Halton-Peel

Information to Contributors

The editor welcomes any articles or news items of interest to the Library Technicians of Ontario. Contributions should be typed on one side of the paper only. Include your full name, telephone number, and regional affiliation. French translation of official executive business is provided. Otherwise, publication will be in the language of submission.

NEWSLETTER/NOUVELLES
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(416) 239-5646

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Work Telephone /
Téléphone bureau

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Signature

Please complete and mail to: Membership Chairperson, OALT/ABO, Abbey Market P.O. Box 76010, 1500 Upper Middle Road West, Oakville, Ontario, L6M 3H5
Veuillez remplir ce formulaire et le faire parvenir à la: Présidente, Comité d'adhésion, OALT/ABO, Bureau de poste Abbey Market C.P. 76010, 1500 Upper Middle Road West, Oakville (Ontario) L6M 3H5

