

85
242
JE
SC



NEWSletter NOUvelles

Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

NEWSletter/NOUvelles

is published 3 times per year, in the Fall, Winter, and Spring, and is available with membership in the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

Abbey Market P.O. Box 76010
1500 Upper Middle Rd. W.
Oakville, Ontario
L6M 3H5

Volume 23
Number 1
ISBN 0229-2645
November 1998

Contents

- President's Message
- Around the Region
- OALT/ABO Provincial Update
- Listserv
- PR Coordinator Report
- The Role of the Library Technician
- OALT/ABO Executive Fulcrum '98
- Job Liason Contacts
- COLT Conference Report
- From The Editor
- LTs and the Corporate Libraries Challenge

President's Message

Earlier this summer, it was announced that Sheridan College would be permanently closing its Library & Information Technician program in 2000. As a Sheridan alumni and technician, I was not only shocked and saddened by this news but I also wondered whether this was the beginning of the end of Library & Information Technician programs in Ontario. After conducting some research and through discussions with colleagues and Marion Wilburn, I believe that this is not the beginning of the end but an evolution in the professional development of Library & Information Technicians.

The main reason for Sheridan closing its LIT program is reductions in student enrollment and staffing. In 2000, there will be 4 colleges (Algonquin, Fanshawe, Lakehead and Seneca) dispersed throughout Ontario offering full time LIT programs. Mohawk College can facilitate students unable to attend a full time LIT program through their part time distance education program.

To date, four colleges have closed their full time LIT programs. Of the colleges who have closed, two

currently offer postgraduate programs that have aspects of the LIT curriculum. Niagara's post graduate diploma in Computer Network Operations and Ryerson's Professional Course Series for Online Searchers. Pending approval, Georgian College will be offering a postgraduate Web Developer program in September 1999. Marion Wilburn also plans to investigate postgraduate programming at Sheridan.

These innovative programs will provide LITs with new skills and knowledge that will empower us to pursue lucrative careers in traditional and emerging workplaces. OALT/ABO intends to monitor these developments by working closely with the colleges and other associations. We are also investigating new programming for our membership and welcome all of your suggestions and feedback. Please contact your regional director or a member of the executive if you have any ideas, questions or concerns. By working together, we can ensure that LITs are equipped to handle the challenges and take advantage of the exciting opportunities facing us in the future.

Around the Regions

(Editor's Note: This column is intended to inform OALT/ABO members of what is going on in other regions. Since the publication schedule of the newsletter is only three times per year, often dates of events have passed.)



Halton-Peel Regional Branch

- September 16 Shop Talk with Maggie Weaver
- October 20 Town Hall Meeting with Marion Wilburn, LIT Coordinator at Sheridan College
- Jan. 31 The annual Super Saturday Event

Hurononia

- October 3 Fall Colour Tour of Libraries, -tour of Stayner Public Library, travel to Creemore, lunch and tour at Creemore Public Library.

Christmas Meeting and Social-Collingwood

Lohania

- September 26 Meet other Lohania Region members as well as the 1998-99 executive, ,1998 Fanshawe College Stan Skrzyszewski
- October 17 "Entrepreneurial Library Technician" Fanshawe College
- November 28 Pot Luck Christmas Lunch, home of Sharon Engel, Secretary, 520 Wellington St., London

Ottawa

- September 22 Annual Business meeting

Sudbury

- October 17 Dessert and Coffee Welcome Event (Network North)
- November 7 2,1 Fall Workshop
- December 5 Winter Social

Thunder Bay

- September 14 Information session re: OALT for new Library Technician students at Lakehead University
- September 15 General meeting, and a tour of the newly renovated Chancellor Paterson Library with Gisella Scalse

Thunder Bay continued...

- October Tour of the new Chapters book store
- November Chef Don Harris will host a workshop on Christmas hors d'oeuvres at the West Arthur Comm. Centre
- December General Meeting and Jingle Mingle

TALTA

- September 15 Job Search Strategies for the Information Professional, speaker Karen Melville, at the Toronto Reference Library(Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium West)
- October Susan Merry "Copyright Issues for an Electronic World"
- November Arlene Chan " Internet Search Engine Workshop"
- December TALTA Holiday Season Social

OALT/ABO Provincial Update

One of the suggestions at the 1998 Brainstorming meeting was a request for updated provincial information to association members. We would like to introduce a new column in the newsletter that will summarize initiatives and projects that the OALT/ABO executive and committees have recently completed or are currently working on.

Gislaine Janveaux has enlisted the services of a pro bono lawyer for OALT/ABO. Her name is Julie Thibault and she is employed at Emond Harnden and will assist OALT/ABO with contracts and answer questions regarding employment law.

Email addresses for the OALT/ABO executive have been added to the website. Please contact any member of the executive with suggestions and/or questions.

Pam Casey and Nanci Abbondanza represented OALT/ABO at (Ontario Library Association) OLA's Strategic Planning week-end which provided us with an opportunity to provide feedback to OLA from the perspective of both OALT/ABO and as library technicians; to learn about the benefits of strategic planning within an association and to learn about and work with other



Canadian & Provincial library associations.

Penni Lee is currently developing a provincially sponsored workshop for our upcoming conference Perspectives 1999 in Sudbury.

Nanci Abbondanza
President, Ontario Association of Library Technicians/
Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario

Listserv

It was announced at Fulcrum that OALT/ABO in conjunction with Faxon Canada has formed a new discussion and information listserv for association members. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Faxon Canada for their generous sponsorship of this endeavour.

We would also like to thank Ronn Cheney for volunteering to be the listserv's moderator. Members are welcome to join and post job opportunities, new developments and offerings in education & professional development, regional events & meetings and to discuss issues and emerging trends and their impact on library technicians.

To subscribe send a message addressed to:

oaltabo-request@faxon.ca

Leave the subject line blank & write: subscribe in the body of your email

OR

Send a message addressed to:

majordomo@faxon.ca

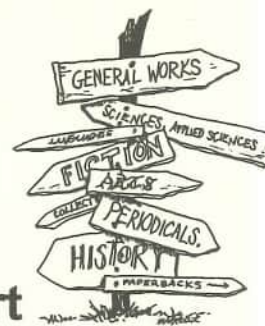
Leave the subject line blank & write: subscribe oaltabo in the body of your email

You will receive an email message confirming that you are subscribed to the listserv.

To post a message address it to:

oaltabo@faxon.ca

Nanci Abbondanza
President, Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des bibliothécaires de l'Ontario



PR Coordinator Report

A number of issues have been dealt with since May of this year. The PR Consultant that OALT/ABO hired decided to terminate her contract with us in June. The association has been without professional consultation since then. Your Board of Directors, Executive and PR Committee are currently in the process of formulating guidelines and objectives for our campaign and will be requesting proposals from three consultants. They will be chosen at the next Executive and Board meeting in November. The focus of our campaign has changed from public relations to marketing. This was determined at the Roundtable Discussion and Brainstorming sessions held at the Fulcrum '98 Conference. As Nanci Abbondanza has mentioned, we have retained the pro bono services of an employment lawyer in Ottawa and Julie will be of assistance when we hire a consultant.

One idea issued at the conference for our marketing campaign was to publicize our 25th anniversary and we have done so in most publications, both local and national. We are unfortunately at a standstill until we hire someone in November, but we are anxious to get started. We would like to hear from the members about any concerns or ideas. Please contact your regional representative or myself. If you are interested in participating as a representative yourself, please contact me. I can be reached electronically at gislaine.janveaux@ccla.ottawa.on.ca

Your regional committee representatives are:

Ann Censner, Ottawa

Jane Motz, TALTA

Marg Bushell, Lohania

Linda Bukovy, Thunder Bay

Tracy Morgan, Halton-Peel

Gislaine Janveaux

PR Coordinator, OALT/ABO



The Role of the Library Technician in the secondary (high) school

In today's time, the role of the library technician is forever changing.

Because of the budget cuts in education and the funding shortfalls, libraries are struggling to provide current relevant information. The high school library seems to be the last area updated technologically, which is ironic considering that most high school students will be going to university or college when they graduate and they will be expected to be able to use the current information retrieval services that are available. Some high schools do not have Internet access in their libraries for their library staff or their students and some of the computer equipment is very outdated, Commodore is still a common name for their computer(s) in some high school libraries.

A library technician must have excellent technical skills so that the new materials (as rare as they are these days) can be processed properly and efficiently and placed on the shelves for use in the library. A lot of the material arriving in the secondary school library is from donations or free materials (articles, newsletters, brochures, etc.).

Because of the budget cuts and funding shortfalls, libraries are struggling to continue to provide their periodical subscriptions. These sources are important to students because they provide one of the few affordable sources of current information. Most of the library budget is "eaten up" by purchasing the a periodical index on CD-Rom. This trade off is made for students at the expense of purchasing new books in order to give students quick and easy access to articles / materials that they can use to complete their assignments. The library

Chris Carmichael, Treasurer **carmichc@owensound.library.on.ca**

Your treasurer for a second term, Chris is a 1982 graduate of the Library Technician program at Fanshawe College. She has been employed for the past 10 years as the Technical Services Coordinator of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library. When not at work, Chris keeps busy as a mother of two, as a Guide leader and, in any remaining spare time, sewing and doing needlework. (Huron)

Debbie Squier-Bernst, Newsletter Editor **sc_fwili@lake46.lhbe.edu.on.ca**

Debbie Squier-Bernst is the current newsletter editor for 1998/1999. She has been a member of OALT since 1992. Debbie graduated from Lakehead University in 1994 from the Library and Information Technician program. Currently employed as a library technician by the Lakehead District School Board, she works in a secondary school library. At home in Thunder Bay, Debbie and her husband Alex have a blended family, (3 boys, 1 girl), and Max the dog. For fun and relaxation, Debbie coaches her daughter who is a goalie in the Tween division of the Thunder Bay Ringette Association. (Thunder Bay)

Gislaine Janveaux, PR Coordinator **gislaine.janveaux@ccla.ottawa.on.ca**

Gislaine graduated from the Library and Information Technician Program at Algonquin College in 1995. Gislaine has worked for the County of Carleton Law Association Library for three years. Previously employed as a bookkeeper, small business owner, office clerk and customer service representative, she truly enjoys working as a Library and Information Technician. Gislaine has lived in Ottawa for eight years and grew up mainly in Northern Ontario. She hopes to continue her education in the high tech field. (Ottawa)

OALT/ABO Executive



OALT/ABO Executive from Left to Right Valerie Welsch, Chris Carmichael, Nanci Abbondanza, Pam Casey, Gislaine Janveaux, Penni Lee



continued from page 4

tries to give them access to magazines because it can't afford to give them access to new books.

Library technicians must possess trouble shooting skills when dealing in the area of computers, because it seems that everyone in the school assumes that they know what is wrong with the computer, printer or any other paraphernalia attached to the computer. It must be the "technician" part of the title that fools them everytime. They are not computer technicians, they are information retrieval specialists or information brokers who can probably retrieve the information on "how to" fix the computer, but they haven't been trained to "fix the computer".

Library technicians should have excellent memories and lots of patience because they need to be able to handle several interruptions in a day and still manage their assisted duties.

Even with all of these challenges library technicians remain efficient, capable education partners who assist teacher librarians. They are polite and pleasant most of the time and they will perform a wide range of duties whether it's getting resources or supplies, or assisting in retrieving information via computer, vertical file, card catalogue or from the stacks. Their goal is to assist high school teachers and students with their informational needs.

Debbie Squier-Bernst

Thunder Bay



Penni Lee displays OALT/ABO
25th Anniversary Golf Shirt



Happy 25th Anniversary OALT/ABO Display

FULCRUM '98

Impressions from the Outgoing President

Upon returning to work after attending Fulcrum '98, I was asked if it was a good conference, and my immediate reply was yes! I was then asked what made it a good conference: I ate too much, I drank too much, and I didn't get enough sleep.

All kidding aside, I want to thank Lohania for a very successful conference, from Thursday evening's opening reception, right through to Brainstorming on Sunday morning. It was a wonderful celebration of OALT/ABO's 25th anniversary.

I was very proud to be in the company of all of the past presidents who joined us on Saturday for the Presidents Luncheon, and I thoroughly enjoyed Doug Wilfred and Danielle Amat's version of the history of our Association. They brought us right back to our beginnings, and helped us remember those people who have made the Association what it is today. Saturday evening made me even prouder, when I had the opportunity to present our very first 25 year awards.

Now that I can call myself a past president, I can look forward to the next 25 years of OALT/ABO with pride, knowing that I have made a contribution towards making our Association one members want to belong to and can be proud of its accomplishments.

I wish the new executive every success this year, and I know that they will accomplish wonderful things.

Penni Lee



Dear OALT/ABO members:

It was with overwhelming honour and surprise that I accepted the Presidential Award following the Fulcrum'98 conference banquet. I sincerely appreciate this recognition of my participation in our Association.

Membership in OALT/ABO has provided me with so much more than a membership card in my wallet. I've formed many valued friendships with colleagues across the province, acquired skills and knowledge from the workshops and meetings that I've attended in my region and at annual conferences, and shared the accomplishments of working as a member of the Executive and Board.

Thank you to my nominators and to the award committee. I am most honoured to be a recipient.

*Yours truly,
Marg Bushell*

Job Liason Contacts

Halton-Peel: Karen Redditt,
karen.redditt@sheridanc.on.ca
(w)905-845-9430

Huronia: Judy Koenig,
(h)705-444-1076 (w)705-445-1571

Lohania: Pat Brinkhof,
(h) 519-421-3607

Ottawa: Diana Brown,
(h)613-234-0718 (w)819-994-6920

Sudbury: Lise Desormeaux,
(h) 705-897-5708

Thunder Bay: Marsha Porter,
(w) 807-343-8420

TALTA: Kathryn Moore
(h) 416-482-3995

Nanci Abbondanza, President nabbon@inforamp.net

Nanci graduated from Sheridan College in 1994. She is an Associate Librarian at Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board and is working towards obtaining a part-time degree in Administration & Information Management from Ryerson Polytechnic University. Nanci has held the position of provincial vice-president and secretary of Halton-Peel Region. She lives in Oakville with her husband and daughter and enjoyed coaching her daughter's soccer team this past summer. (Halton-Peel)

Pam Casey, Vice-president pcasey@cgocable.net

Pam Casey is our current Vice President for 1998/1999. She has also held the position of Director of Halton-Peel from 1996-1998. She was interim PR Co-ordinator from February until May 1998. Pam has been with OALT/ABO since 1994 and during that time - 1996 graduated from Sheridan College in the Library and Information Technician program. During Pam's time with the association, she has earned two awards. In 1996 it was the Halton-Peel Eva Schnurr award for top con-ed. student of the year and in 1998 it was the Halton-Peel Regional Award of Merit for outstanding work for the association. Pam is currently employed with Glaxo Wellcome Inc. as an Information Specialist, working in their InfoCentre. At home Pam has 3 children (2 girls and a boy), a husband and 1 dog. She resides in Burlington. Pam is also the team captain for the annual Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Campaign in November. (Halton-Peel)

Valerie Welsch, Secretary vwelsch@lhbe.edu.on.ca

Valerie began her career as a teacher but diverged in 1985 when her husband was transferred to Thunder Bay. She went back to university to graduate in 1986 as a library technician. After a year of contract jobs at both the Thunder Bay Public Library and Confederation College, she started work at the Lakehead District School Board in the Instructional Materials Centre - a job that melds both careers.

Regionally Valerie has held the positions of Newsletter Editor, President, and Public Relations. Provincially, this is her third and final year as Secretary. Valerie is a strong believer that one only gets out of something what you are willing to put into it. (Thunder Bay)

OALT/ABO Executive



COLT

The Council on Library/Media Technicians) was founded in 1967, and its goal from the beginning has been the recognition and acceptance of library support staff as full members of the library team. This theme is just as relevant twenty five years later to OALT/ABO members as their goal for 1998/99 is to concentrate on marketing the role of the library technician, who they are and what they do. You can visit the COLT website at:
<http://library.ucr.edu/COLT/>

COLT CONFERENCE REPORT, September 1998

The Council on Library/Media Technicians(COLT) Conference this year was held in Washington, D.C. to coincide with the American Library Association (ALA) Conference.

The theme for the conference was: "Support staff building for the future: the Blueprint, the Tools, and the Power." Over the course of the conference I attended several workshops: I began with the workshop 1. "Assuring Rights-Enriching Lives"

which was presented by Ann K. Symons, President of American Library Association. This workshop was about the Internet and the rights of kids and parents. The other workshops were as follows: 2. "Millennial Age or Apocalypse? The Changing Roles of Professional and Paraprofessional Librarians," presented by Scottie Cochrane and Starr Smith, 3. "Helping Management Make the Most of Your Internet Reference Training" presented by Deborah Smith-Cohen, American Society of Association Executives,

4. "A Dialog on Certification: A Panel Discussion," by Dorothy Morgan, Liverpool Public Library

5. "Special Libraries — Special Clients," presented by Linda Owen and Kit Rollerson, University of California at Riverside and the final workshop presented was on "Tools for Developing Your Career," by Kitty Boyd, TeleSec Library Services.

I attended and really enjoyed a wonderful dinner cruise on the Potomac River, the annual awards banquet, as well as a preliminary cocktail hour where we were all able to meet. After each of the organized functions, I socialized with several of the COLT members. We danced, toured the capital of Washington by cab and went crabbing. The most memorable and unforgettable

experience was the tour of the Library of Congress. This is a must for everyone whether they work in the library field or not. I visited the ALA exhibits at the ALA conference which was also a notable experience. During the conference I displayed some OALT/ABO memorabilia and made it available to COLT members' while it lasted. At the annual general meeting on Friday morning, I presented to Dorothy Morgan and Kent Slade, a Fulcrum '98 bag with some OALT/ABO items which included our golf shirts. I introduced myself, our association, and extended an invitation to each of the COLT members to attend our conference next May. While networking I had the opportunity to share ideas during the social times and begin friendships with the nicest bunch of people. While it was hard to say goodbye when the conference was over, there is always next year, Detroit here I come.

Pam Casey
Vice President, OALT/ABO

From The Editor

This issue would not have come to fruition if it wasn't for the dedicated Valerie Welsch and her ability to recruit the necessary volunteers to produce this newsletter. As newsletter editor I'm looking forward to helping Valerie with the many tasks that are involved with producing the newsletter. I would also like to thank Heather Houston for her expertise and help with the layout work for this issue. This issue of Newsletter/ Nouvelles acquaints you with the 1998/99 executive, highlights the 1998 COLT Conference in Washington, D.C. and the Fulcrum '98 Conference, the role of the library technician is high-lighted in some different types of libraries and settings throughout the community. Your contributions are important, please send them to the address below. Thank you to all who contributed articles, pictures, etc. for this issue.

Debbie Squier-Bernst



LTs and the CORPORATE LIBRARIES CHALLENGE

The demands placed on an LT in the corporate environment can vary tremendously, but are well worth the effort!

Susan Morley is the manager of the corporate library at the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Her library's services to CSA staff include information on standards, certification, business, engineering... The library also fields enquiries from all over the world. Susan also manages the corporate web sites, and is in charge of the archives. Her current challenge is the installation of a CD-ROM network.

Susan started as an LT at CSA, and survived a series of internal changes, during which CSA's recognition of her skills led to her promotion to coordinator and then manager.

Apart from the challenges of work, Susan rates high her four years as president of the Ontario association OALT/ABO. She notes that involvement with a professional association shapes you in what you do and where you are, in that your employer sees your involvement. She is justifiably proud that her colleagues at work recognized her worth by promoting her to manager.

Tracy Morgan is the Library Services Coordinator of the Pioneer Technology Centre for PCI Chemicals Canada. Tracy also "does everything" in a small special library. A Sheridan College Grad, she juggles other responsibilities as well as management of the library. For example, she was one of two non-technical staff chosen by her firm to be on the quality improvement team.

Tracy feels that you should never let anyone "put you in a box". Prove your worth, but re-

member to take little steps if you can't push the boundaries easily.

Since there's no MLS offered in her home province, Manitoba, **Kathryn Kern** took the Library Technologies diploma at Red River College, and doesn't feel the lack of an MLS qualification. Kathryn operates a one-person library for the BT Bank of Canada, where she has been for nine years.

In fact, she specializes in starting-up one-person libraries. She can remember setting up a library in a computing department when PCs were first introduced: the microcomputer was wheeled around to whomever needed it!

Like Tracy and Susan, Kathryn is a survivor of mergers, reorganizations, and pink slips. For example, she used a move to head office, along with executives and secretaries, as an opportunity to promote the idea of a library incorporating all the moved and amalgamated materials.

For Kathryn, a "challenge" is going to organizations where a library is needed. She has to get to grips with their needs, and this usually involves taking their vague ideas and perceptions and creating a viable library. Her reward is the respect she gains as a library professional.

Kathryn notes that flexibility and open-mindedness are important in the corporate world. Be aware of political lines within the organization, and work within those lines for survival.

Article by Sue Callaway for the LTIG Newsletter
reprinted with permission



Congratulations to Sean & Phillipa Crowe on the birth of their son Alexander William on October 3, 1998 at 15:48!

The editor welcomes any articles or news items of interest to the Library Technicians of Ontario. Contributions can be sent by post, fax or e-mail. Please 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 Editor, Debbie Squier-Bernst
c/o 512 S. Marks Street Thunder Bay ON P7E 1M7
Fax: (807) 622-9292 e-mail:
sc_fwili@lake46.lhbe.edu.on.ca*