

Ontario Association of Library Technicians



NEWSletter NOUVELLES

Association des bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario

NEWSletter/NOUVELLES

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President's Message

I'd like to welcome members to what promises to be an exciting year for OALT/ABO. Members' suggestions and the 1999 Brainstorming session provided the executive with a full slate of new projects including introducing a Corporate Fundraising Program, a "Centralized Office," a Mentoring Program and redesigning the Provincial Website. These new projects reaffirm our commitment to OALT/ABO's mission and membership.

Over the summer, we have produced the 1999 Salary Survey and implemented Centralized Membership. A special thanks to Pam Casey, Alexandra Bertram, Chris Carmichael and Janet Iles for their hard work and ensuring that these initiatives were successfully completed for the start of the 1999 membership year.

Pam Casey and I represented both Library Technicians and OALT/ABO at OLA's Restructuring session in August. OLA has not made a final decision about how to change their current divisional structure. However, they have made some great strides towards transforming themselves into a dynamic association that will benefit all of its members. We are committed to maintaining a close partnership with them and believe that

regardless of how they restructure, it will have an impact on OALT/ABO.

OALT/ABO intends to continue taking a proactive rather than reactive role in the library and information industry, which encompasses our relationship with other associations, organizations and stance on pending issues and legislation.

Finally, I would like to invite all members to attend Provincial Executive meetings and teleconferences. Our minutes and meeting locations will be posted on the website and listserv. We encourage you to contact your regional director or any member of the executive if you have any questions or would like additional information.

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



Around the Regions

Halton-Peel

September 15th

Halton-Peel was happy to encourage all Students of the final Sheridan L.I.T. year to join our association. OALT/ABO member Maggie Weaver joined us and spoke of the values and personal gratification association involvement can offer. This gesture is designed to encourage students and young professionals to participate in Halton-Peel Region. We waived the \$8.00 regional portion of the \$20.00 student membership fee. This offer stands for the remainder of the 1999/2000 year and applies to all full-time, part-time or Con-Ed students that wish to join OALT/ABO under Halton-Peel Region. E-mail for more information: info@oaltabo-hp.on.ca

September 28th

Halton-Peel hosted its annual Shop Talk event. Twenty-eight OALT/HP members met up at the Ramada Inn in Oakville and enjoyed an evening of fine food and social networking. Highlights of the Shop Talk event include the presentation of the Regional Award of Recognition. Last year's winner Pam Casey presented Sean Crowe with this honour. This was followed by a short business meeting.

As always, Halton-Peel would like to invite all OALT/ABO members to any of our regional events at member prices. You can find out more about our regional events at: www.oaltabo-hp.on.ca Please click on "upcoming events".

Huronian

October 23, 1999

Grand Valley Public Library - presentation by librarian Shann Leighton on Disaster Management.

Lohania

November 27, 1999

Christmas meeting and lunch

Thunder Bay Region

23 September 1999

7:00 pm at Westmount Public School General meeting and tour of school library with library technician Bev Proctor talking on the role of the IST (Information Services Technician) within the school.

19 October 1999

7:00 pm at Ecole Gron Morgan Public School
Workshop using PrintArtist graphic program. There is a fee of \$10.00 for members (\$20.00 for non-members) which buys each participant their own CD-ROM of the program and instruction booklet. Valerie Welsch will be presenting the workshop.

7 December 1999

7:00 pm at Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. General meeting and Jingle Mingle

TALTA

October 26, 1999

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Toronto Reference Library

Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium West

Elizabeth Sissakis (Toronto Economic Development Office)

Achieving Extraordinary Customer Relations

November 20, 1999

Proposed HTML workshop (details to follow)

December 14, 1999

Holiday Social @ Young Lok (details to follow)

January/February 2000 (details to follow)

Tim Tripp

Spar Aerospace

Intranets

March/April 2000 (details to follow)

Annual Business Meeting

(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.)





Maggie Weaver at the breakfast for the "Library Technicians Interest Group" at CLA June '99



Pam Casey and Susan Morley at CLA '99

Public Relations and displaying at CLA

For the past 2 years, the Provincial Executive and Board of Directors' have made Public Relations one of their main goals in order to raise public awareness of our Association. Over the past several years, not only have membership numbers been dwindling but also attendance at our annual conferences, and our Association cannot survive if these trends continue to grow.

With the success of our display at OLA in February, our attention turned to CLA, which was being held in Toronto, June 16th to the 20th. This could not have happened without the help of many volunteers, and sponsorship from: Alberta Association of Library Technicians (AALT), Algonquin College LIT Program, CLA Library Technician Interest Group, Glaxo Wellcome, Lakehead University LT program, LOHANIA Region of OALT/ABO, Manitoba Association of Library Technicians (MALT), and Seneca College LIT Program. To cut some of the cost of our display we shared a booth with the "Canadian Deaf Heritage Literature". Once again we held several draws which included a free membership, and a golf shirt. We invited all attendees of CLA to join with a \$10 discount on membership. The Lohania branch contributed money to purchase much needed display stands for the many information brochures sent by the Library and Information Technician programs at Algonquin, Mohawk, Seneca and Thunder Bay. We also displayed a general information package of the duties of a Library Technician and pamphlets from some of the other provincial Library and Information Technician associations.

OALT/ABO has purchased both a conference display, and a banner sign, to use at conferences and trade shows. These 2 purchases will last for years, and will help with our goal of promoting ourselves, enlisting new members and attracting attention.

I attended CLA to volunteer on the booth, and to attend the breakfast and session with CLA's Library Technicians Interest group, and was in awe of how huge the trade show was. It didn't seem to matter how many times I traveled down the rows of booths, I was always able to find something new and interesting. What was truly amazing were all the goodies everyone seemed to be handing out, pens, bookmarks, pads, coffee mugs. An added bonus was that the Canadian Booksellers' Association was hosting their trade show next to CLA, and attendees were able to enter. This allowed us to gather up more goodies, which included books, more pens, and posters. We were also wined and dined with baked goods, wine, and blue martinis. What can I say but... what a weekend!

I wish to thank all the volunteers who helped in this endeavor; from the beginning, with seeking donations, buying the display and other necessities, contacting CLA, and the Canadian Deaf Heritage Literature, to setting up the display, manning the booth and answering questions, we couldn't have done it without you.

This year our main goals are to continue promoting the Association, seek affiliation with other library associations, and enlist new and former members. But, we need your help. This association needs volunteers to accept executive positions, both regional and provincial, sit on a committee, or volunteer your time and expertise in other areas. If you are interested in volunteering please contact a member of the Provincial executive, or your regional director.

Diana Brown Public Relations Coordinator
Jill Anderson Regional Director for LOHANIA

Public Relations Committee
Tracy Morgan Halton-Peel
Brigitte Gravelle TALTA
Ann Censner Ottawa
Stacy Goddard TALTA
Marg Bushell Lohania
Linda Bukovy Thunder Bay



Advanced Internet Workshop Review

In April of 1999, the Ottawa Regional Branch of OALT/ABO attended the Advanced Internet Workshop. We were over capacity, but Griffin Computer Training & Consulting accommodated us. The session was one full day with dedicated terminals for all participants. Our instructor was Grant Johnson and he covered topics such as URL's, the WWW, NewsGroups, Internet Relay Chat, Telnet, FTP, and Listservs. Our group was rather advanced and kept Grant on his toes with their informed questions. I have many years of experience searching the Internet and I found this workshop informative and interesting. Continuing education is always valuable and should be of particular interest to Library and Information Technicians as the technical aspects of our profession are constantly changing and advancing. I hope to attend more educational workshops held by the Ottawa Regional Branch in the future.

Gislaine Janveaux.

Get to know your executive! OALT/ABO Executive Bios

Nanci Abbondanza, President

Nanci graduated from Sheridan's Library & Information Technician Program in 1994 and is employed in the Investments Library at Ontario Teachers Pension Plan Board. Prior to joining the provincial executive in 1997, she was secretary of Halton-Peel Region. She is currently completing a part time Bachelor of Commerce- IT Management Degree at Ryerson Polytechnic University. Nanci lives in Oakville with her husband, daughter and cat and enjoys gardening, cycling and camping.

Pam Casey, Vice President

Pam has been with OALT/ABO since 1994 and graduated from Sheridan College in the Library & Information Technician program in 1996. 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.

Valerie Barten, Secretary

Valerie graduated from the Library and Information Studies program at Lakehead University in 1993. She is employed by the Lakehead District School Board as an Information Services Technician. She has held the positions of Treasurer and Regional Director of Thunder Bay Region. Valerie and her husband Paul live in the village of Hymers and are enjoying the "empty nest" syndrome.

Chris Carmichael, Treasurer

Your treasurer for a third term, Chris is a 1982 graduate of the Library Technician program at Fanshawe College. She has been employed for the past 11 years as the Technical Services Coordinator of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library. During her more than 10 year membership, Chris has held the positions of president, secretary and director of the Huronia Regional Branch. 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.

Janet Iles, Membership Co-ordinator

Janet Iles is an active member of Huronia Branch holding the positions of archivist and newsletter editor/publisher. For the last 25 years she has been employed at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library and is currently the Public Services and Systems Co-ordinator. When Janet finds free moments, she delves into her family history.



Report on COLT (Council On Library/Media Technicians) Conference

Diana Brown, Public Relations Coordinator

Diana graduated in 1983 from Algonquin College. She is currently working at the National Library of Canada. Since 1991 Diana has served on the Executive of the Ottawa Regional Branch/ Section régionale d'Ottawa as Treasurer and Director. Her hobbies include: reading, movies, games and dried flower arrangements.

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diana.brown@nlc-bnc.ca

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

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

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

It had been decided at our 1998 ABM to send our provincial public relations coordinator to the COLT conference, however if that person was unable to attend, then a substitute would be sent. As it happened Gislaine Janveaux just started a new job and thus, could not attend. Nanci Abbondanza applied to the listserv for a substitute and I seizing the opportunity, volunteered. Since our OPEIU union was talking of a potential strike I figured I would utilize this unforeseen absence from work constructively. Nanci had asked me to check transportation costs and bring such information to the next administrative board meeting, where a decision as to my attendance of the COLT Conference would be voted upon. Through much research it was decided that the most economic route was by flying to Toronto, catching a train to Windsor, and finally a taxi to land me on the front steps of the hotel in Detroit. With this new twist on the classic planes, trains and automobiles, my travel costs would come to \$514.00. Living in Thunder Bay, you learn to plan far in advance and of course pray for seat sales. This time however, I had a mere ten days and this was the very best I could do. At the Board meeting on 27 March 1999, it was voted in that I would attend the COLT conference in Gislaine's place.

Since COLT encompasses the entire United States, most attendees had their way paid and appeared to be heavily involved in their association. Each day started with an en masse session followed by three workshop sessions-- attendees had a possible of six workshops to choose from. From the six choices people went to a workshop in either Room A or Room B. This meant only two meeting rooms were rented for the two days and the workshop presenters were ensured a good group size. Dr. Maurice Wheeler, Detroit's chief librarian was the keynote speaker. He spoke on the social, economical and technological facets of Detroit's libraries. He advised that 50% of what we know to date will be obsolete-- however we do not know which 50%! He noted as well, that his library board supports life-long learning by providing \$600.00 per employee for training classes. After Dr. Wheeler's inspirational talk, I attended the workshop presented by Dorothy Morgan. She provided an overview of the movement to certify library support staff. It was hard for me to grasp the enormity of such a task in an attempt to set a standard for an entire nation. I developed a greater, intrinsic appreciation for what our founding members of OALT/ABO have accomplished.



After lunch, I attended the workshop on creating a newsletter for your library. Speaker, Missy Anderson, using solely the template in Word (same as in WordPerfect), showed how to pull in graphics, change fonts, and generally add spice to a newsletter. I must admit, I did make a point of providing her with a copy of NEWSletter/NOUvelles. After the break, I attended the "Troubleshooting your PC" workshop by Robbie Weaver. Robbie explained that there were simple troubleshooting steps one can attempt before calling for help. Maintenance of course being a key component. In his computer lab, the covers are taken off and the CPU vacuumed every three months. Using the *Curtis Clean Mouse* kit, the mouse balls are cleaned monthly. Using *texwipe*, the keyboards are cleaned monthly. By doing this simple maintenance work, he maintained that it greatly reduces the number of problem calls. We definitely need someone like Robbie in Thunder Bay! I am trying to use his suggestions with my computer at home and at work. His session was very practical and applicable. The treat for the evening was a trip across the border to tour the Windsor Casino.

Day two proved just as interesting as the first. The day began with a general membership and business meeting. This was where I was able to thank them for paying my conference fees and I also used this time to provide them with information on OALT/ABO. I presented their president, Diane Welsh, with an anniversary golf shirt. Pam Casey and I were both wearing ours and proudly represented our association. I must add at this point, that Pam Casey attended the COLT conference last year as the OALT/ABO representative, but attended this year as a COLT member. She had certainly paved the road of acceptance for me. Margaret Barron (from Cleveland) who had attended OALT/ABO conferences, spoke highly of our association (and of Doug Wilford).

Next was a workshop presented by the publisher and editor of *Library Mosaics*. After the completion of the brainstorming ideas, that consequently will be turned into an article for the January 2000 issue, they handed out activity booklets that posed such questions as "Why do you find it difficult to write?" and "What are the things you feel you need to write?" This led to

the next activity of "Where and what type of work do you do?" This activity was then collected and photographs were taken so they could present these articles, complete with pictures, in future issues of *Library Mosaics*. This workshop was followed by Lisa Schultze who presented practical tools and techniques for publishing a newsletter on the web. In summation, I found the COLT workshops to be more hands-on and practical than what I am used to. I felt I could apply something from every session I attended to my everyday life and to the procedures of the OALT/ABO.

Their conference closed with a jam session where beefs and bouquets were discussed, followed by an awards banquet.

I thank everyone for my attendance at the COLT conference. For two days, I promoted the professionalism and direction of our association. If I can provide you with any further information on anything, please feel free to ask.

Valerie Welsch
Thunder Bay Region

L'amorce d'une carrière: comment trouver un emploi en gestion de l'information et de la documentation...et le conserver!

My colleague at Glaxo Wellcome Inc and a member of our association based in Montreal, Quebec, Marie-Jésus Senas, has written a book, which is based on her personal professional development. The author shares with the specialists of the documentation/information field her point of view about the initiation of a career and its development within the actual job market. The generic content of some of the sections shows that this guide has been intended also for those who need an answer to questions about job seeking, the evolution and the requirements of the job market. Also, it brings an important number of original ideas and topics for thought, to all of people who want to make the field of documentation/information their main field of activity and anyone who is still on training, looking for a job or already working. *L'amorce d'une carrière: comment trouver un emploi en gestion de l'information et de la documentation...et le conserver!* It examines questions like job seeking, strategies of



action to put in place when planning and managing a career in documentation/information; best ways to obtain, keep and develop a career in documentation/information; the future of the profession in the public and private sectors and finally, consideration about becoming his/her own boss in the field. This French-language book proposes a specific approach, easy to put to work but, above all, realistic.

We have been given a copy of this book for the association and if anyone is interested in reading it, then please let me know. Also you can purchase this book as well and if anyone is interested in that, then let me know as well.

Pam Casey
Vice-President



Listserv Update

The listserv has been operating now for a full year thanks to the superb efforts of Ronn Chenny, our list manager. The list has 207 subscribers and since it is open to non-members as well as members, we are now getting postings from Stephen Abrahms, Karen Melville, Virginia Roy and Susanne Baker. We are getting jobs posted on it from all libraries and it is becoming a wonderful tool. Again we appreciate that Faxon Canada - a Rowe Com company - is hosting our listserv. Remember if you need instructions for subscribing to the listserv; please check out our website where you can find the needed information.

Thanks again to everyone for making our name known out in the world through the listserv.

Faxon Canada's website www.faxon.ca
Rowe Com's website www.rowe.com

Pam Casey
Vice President

1998/1999 SALARY SURVEY UPDATE

Salary survey questionnaires were distributed to all members of OALT/ABO and to visitors to our booth at OLA and CLA. **Alexandra Bettram**, a summer student with Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board compiled the results. Her background in urban geography allowed us the unique opportunity to use her expertise. The report is wonderful. The survey results are now in a form that is more useful to our members. While compiling the results, it was decided to focus the report on salaries, job functions, library profiles and education & employment status. 2 questions were not reported on. These were:

1. Area of province worked
2. Job Title

I would like to give our many thanks to Lexy for all the hard work that she put into the report.

The salary survey is included with this newsletter and can also be found on our website.

Pam Casey
Vice-President

Golf Shirt Sale

This is your **last** chance to have the unique opportunity to buy an OALT/ABO golf shirt. The price has been **SLASHED to \$10.00 (\$12.50 with shipping & handling)**.

All sizes are available except Large.

This shirt is made of top quality material and is a wonderful way to represent our association at your place of employment or library function.

Get yours today.

Call or email Pam Casey for further details.

Phone (905)639-5621
Email pcasey1@home.com

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT DEAL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



25 year awards 1998

Liz Aldrey	Lohania
Bette Choquette	Sudbury
Pat Graham	Ottawa
LaRea Moody	Thunder Bay
Janet Tieman	Halton-Peel
Doug Wilford	Halton-Peel

25 year awards 1999

Danielle Amat	Ottawa
Muriel Armour	TALTA
Paulette Burton	Sudbury
Marg Bushell	Lohania
Barb Cope	Ottawa
Linda Landreville	Ottawa
Giesella Smithson	Halton-Peel
Theresa Talsma	Lohania

10 Year Awards 1999

Halton-Peel
Marsha Hunt
Elizabeth Shames

Huronian
Chris Carmichael
Pat Frook
Pat Henry

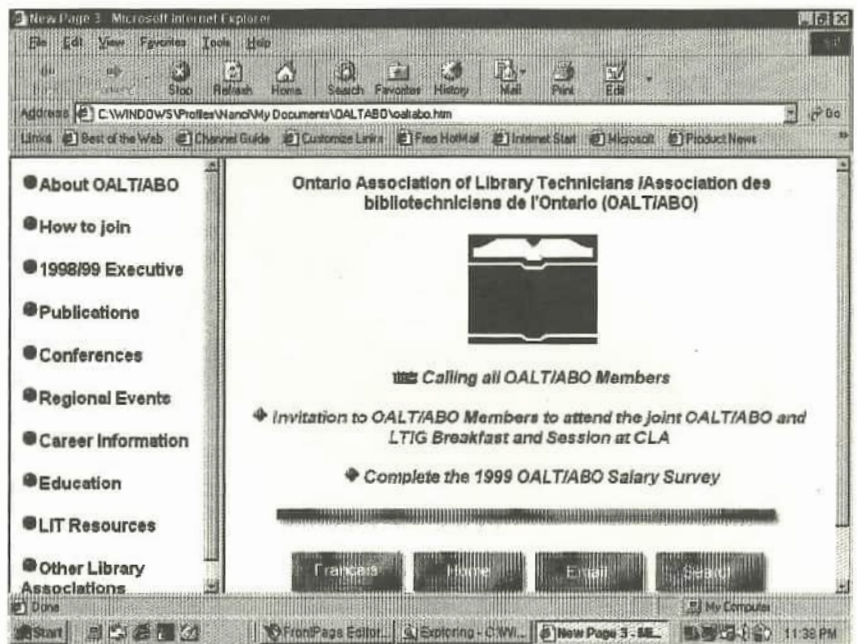
Thunder Bay
Linda Bukovy
Karen Cocks
Ella Uremovich

TALTA
Angela Carito-Walmsley
Maria Dranitsaris
Linda Ena
Kathryn Moore



2000 OALT/ABO Executive

Nanci Abbondanza	President
Pam Casey	Vice President
Valerie Barten	Secretary
Chris Carmichael	Treasurer
Janet Iles	Membership Coordinator
Diana Brown	Public Relations Coordinator



The 'new' look OALT/ABO

The mission of OALT/ABO is to advance our profession through:

- active membership
- education & professional development
- promotion & marketing
- partnerships & advocacy